

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2009

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – JANUARY 18, 2009

Saint Alphonsus

Roman Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

750 Pittsburgh Street • Springdale, PA • 15144

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Web Page Address: www.stalphonsuschurch.com

Administrator: Rev. George E. Saladna, S.T.L., S.S.L.

Weekend Assistant: Rev. James P. McDonough, S.T.L., J.C.L



Parish Established September 9, 1901

Church Dedicated September 5, 1926

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY MASS: Sat. 5:00 P.M. and Sun. Morn. at 8:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

WEEKDAY: Mass held in Chapel next to Church. See bulletin each week or call Rectory for schedule of the 8:00 A.M. Mass which is not held every day (never on Sat morn).

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION: these days vary in time and obligation from year to year. See bulletin or call Rectory each time for details.

CONFESSIONS: Sat. from 3:30 to 4:30, and anytime by appointment.

MARRIAGE, BAPTISM: call parish office (six months before marriage).

COMMUNION CALLS AND OTHER SERVICES: call office for information.

PARISH OFFICES & STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER (RECTORY: former Convent building)

(724) 274-5084

Marsha Etzrodt, Secretary

Office Hours: Mon. - Thur.: 8 to 4, Fri.: 8 to Noon

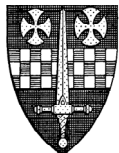
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(724) 274-2547

CCD & Youth Min. - Karen Mueller

Social Services - Cathy Moxie

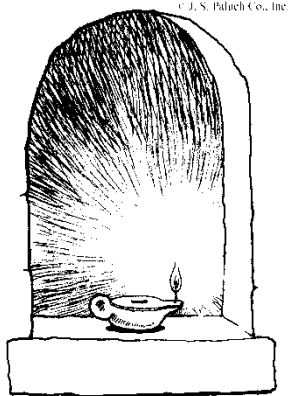
Music Director/Organist – Vickie Roof



New Parishioners: We welcome new parishioners whether newly moved into the area or those who have fallen off through inactivity. Welcome! Register by calling or coming to the parish office. Become an active, attending and supporting member of the parish. And please let us know if you move away or have your telephone or address changed. Thank you.

Church Hall Telephone: (724) 274-2547

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH
ALLEGHENY
VALLEY DEANERY



We have found the Messiah

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus getting down to business in his public ministry. The first thing he does is to get some help. He chooses men he would train and commission and "send" (apostles). He calls John, Andrew and Peter. This is one of the beautiful mysteries about how God acts in his dealings with us. In the coming of Christ as our brother in the flesh, God condescends and lowers himself, experiencing in the person of Christ who took on our human nature what it was like to be man. Now, in the ministry of the God-man, Jesus, we see God "lowering himself" again by relying on the help of other men to get his work done.

If it were up to us (especially with hindsight, knowing how one of the apostles would turn out) we would probably advise Jesus NOT to pick apostles, NOT to rely on sinful men to do the work of God. We would probably tell the Lord, "Look, Lord Jesus, if you want to get the work done right, do it yourself. After all, you're God, why should you have to get helpers in the first place?"

Pope Pius XII in his encyclical letter about the Mystical Body of Christ says that one of the great mysteries of our religion is that God wills to have the salvation of men depend on the ministry of other men. And this does not mean only the ministry of the ordained. It applies to the ministry of all those who are baptized. Everyone in the Church is called to be a minister in his own way, to witness by a good life, to preach the good news of salvation, and to reach out to the poor and needy, making our hands the hands of Jesus.

There is a great challenge here, because what we do not do will just not get done. On judgment day we will have to answer not only for our sins of commission, but also for the sins of omission – how we failed to be the helpers of Jesus, his heart, hands, mouth and feet.

-- Fr. Saladna

**Mass Intentions
For The Week**



**SCHEDULE OF MASSES
FOR THIS WEEK
(Second Week of Ordinary Time)**

- MONDAY, JANUARY 19** – Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Deceased members of the Mosovsky and Marietti Families
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 20** – SS Fabian and Sebastian
8:00 AM Michael J. Faith
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21** – Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr
8:00 AM Jennie Patula
- THURSDAY, JANUARY 22** – No Mass scheduled for today
- FRIDAY, JANUARY 23** – Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Deceased members of the Sobotka and Pearson Families
- SATURDAY, JANUARY 24** – No Mass on Saturday morning
5:00 PM [For Sunday] Delta Casasent
- NEXT SUNDAY, January 25** – Third Sunday of Ordinary Time
8:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv & Dec.
11:00 AM Special Intention of Richard and Eva Cavaliere



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WORLD MARRIAGE DAY is celebrated the weekend of February 7-8, 2009. There will be a diocesan celebration of World Marriage day on Saturday, February 7, 2009, at St. Maurice Parish, Forest Hills. It will begin with Mass at 5:00 PM in the Church with Bishop David Zubik as the presider and homilist. Following Mass there will be a wine and cheese reception in the parish hall. A presentation by Mike Clark of Chanel 4 News will follow. Donation is \$10/couple. To register please call the Office for Family Life and Catechesis at 412-456-3160.

ANNUAL PARISHIONER CONTRIBUTION REPORTS will be mailed to everyone after January 18. Some may need them for tax returns. Please do not call us for your 2008 tallies. We will send them to you as soon as they are ready, after January 18.

“PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN’ – IMPORTANT MEETING FOR ALL CHURCH EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, SPECIAL MINISTERS (Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Adult Servers, Choir, Ushers, etc., etc.) – Today, Sunday, January 18, from 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM, in our Church Hall, there will be an important training and “awareness session” about detecting and combating child abuse. This meeting and presentation is designed to make us all aware of the need, the necessity and the means to detect child abuse and combat it, if and where it presents itself.

A postcard notice has already been sent to all those to whom this applies either now or in the near future. Thank you very much for your service, and for your cooperation.

TODAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 – 12 Noon to 3:00 PM for all those who received the postcard notice. Attendance at this session is obligatory to satisfy the commitment made by our Diocese with the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

PROTECTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

The Diocese of Pittsburgh has been firmly committed for many years prior to the approval of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in 2002 to establishing policies and practices where the safety of young people is paramount. Policies in the Diocese of Pittsburgh were in force well before the bishops of the United States first collectively addressed this issue in 1993.

The Diocese of Pittsburgh has had strict policies in place since the 1980’s for dealing with clergy sexual abuse of minors. Since the very beginning of his administration in 1988, Bishop Wuerl established policies to ensure, in the words of Pope John Paul II, that “there is no place in the priesthood for those who would harm the young.”

The diocese has long been committed by policy to removing from ministry any priest, deacon or person who represented the Church and would harm a child.

Those policies and practices have been regularly and rigorously refined, updated and expanded to reflect best practices and recommendations as determined by those closely involved with this issue.

The Diocese of Pittsburgh has been committed to working closely with victims and their families to provide counseling and reconciliation.

The Diocese of Pittsburgh has had a Victim Assistance Coordinator in place since 1993. The Victim Assistance Coordinator, employed full time, meets immediately with all victims and proactively maintains ongoing contact.

Outreach programs, in-service for clergy and those dealing directly with the young, a diocesan Review Board and public communication policies have been in place long before the Charter required them.

Under diocesan policy, no priest or deacon who has abused a minor is transferred to another ministerial assignment in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, and it has been the clear, known and published policy of the Diocese of Pittsburgh well before the Charter that such clergy would be removed from the ministry.

Prior to 2002, the Diocese of Pittsburgh strongly recommended to those making allegations of sexual abuse of a minor to report such allegations to civil authorities. Since 2002, the Diocese of Pittsburgh itself reports all allegations of victims to civil authorities.

The diocese has offered outside counseling services and has recommended support groups and social service assistance to victims and their families well before such policies were mandated in 2002.

A direct toll-free line (888-808-1235) is provided and widely publicized for those seeking assistance. It is published on the home page of the diocesan website.

Published guidelines are available in English and Spanish on the diocesan website (or by mail) that outline procedures for making complaints concerning sexual abuse and for prompt assistance to victims.

In addition to being available on the home page of the diocesan website, notification of the means of accessing diocesan policies, guidelines and procedures is regularly published in the Pittsburgh Catholic and made known to all through secular media.

The diocesan Review Board, which includes the parents of victims, has been in place since 1989. With a majority lay membership not employed by the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Review Board advises the bishop on all allegations of sexual misconduct and suitability for ministry.

All priests in the Diocese of Pittsburgh have been provided with the published Code of Pastoral Conduct that outlines standards of ministerial behavior. That Code has been widely publicized within the entire community.

All involved in ministry with young people in any form, lay, religious or clergy, employed or volunteer, at any level within the Diocese of Pittsburgh are required to have a formal criminal record check, the Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance and “Protecting God’s Children” Awareness Seminar.

- Policies and Practices of the Diocese of Pittsburgh

**YEAR OF ST. PAUL
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION SCHEDULE**

To honor the life of Saint Paul, "Apostle to the Gentiles," each parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh has been asked to schedule two days on which the Blessed Sacrament is to be exposed for adoration, giving thanks to God for the blessings in the church through Christ's Apostles, especially SS Peter and Paul.

One of our days will be **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2009**. The daily Mass at 8:00 AM will be followed by Exposition, and parishioners will be invited to visit through the day until closing at 7:00 PM.

This period of Adoration on February 4 will take place **IN THE CHAPEL**, NOT in the main Church. Please think and pray about this wonderful opportunity to honor Christ present in the Sacrament of Love, and plan to spend some time in prayer for the parish, the Diocese and the Universal Church, asking St. Paul to continue to intercede for our needs.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, Father David Emery Council 5021 will have their first meeting of the new year on Tuesday, January 27, at 7:30 PM in the Knights of Columbus Room, St. Alphonsus School. Please use the Lincoln Avenue entrance. Start this new year off right by attending this meeting.

WOMEN'S RETREAT – Saturday, February 7 at Mount Alvernia; Theme: Franciscan Solitude; Cost \$50 includes lunch and supper with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; Reconciliation and Sunday's Liturgy. Call 412-215-7708 to register or email: guidance@nauticom.net.

JOIN THE COMMITMENT TO CARE AT HEALTH SOUTH HARMARVILLE – At Health South Harmarville Rehabilitation Hospital (Guys Run Road, Pittsburgh) volunteers serve in a variety of ways. Our volunteers serve as escorts, in our gift shop, assist our patients in the dining room, and help in many areas throughout the hospital. If you have a few hours a week to share, please call the Volunteer Office at 412-826-4929. Free meal and parking provided.



REST IN PEACE -- The parish family of Saint Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Trisha Panzino. Please remember the deceased and her family in your prayers.

**2009 PARISH SHARE PROGRAM
TO BEGIN ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2009**

The annual **PARISH SHARE PROGRAM** begins its 30TH year on Sunday, February 22, 2009.

The PSP is the diocesan-wide appeal to members of the Church of Pittsburgh (Diocese) for the support of the Bishop and all the programs of the Diocese, programs which are not able to be sustained by individual parishes.

Thus, each parish is assessed a certain amount, depending on its annual income from the previous year, which assists the Bishop as chief shepherd as administrator of all these programs and institutions operated by and in the name of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

You will be hearing more in the weeks to come about this great collection for the Diocese. Our own parish "share" for this year is **\$44,929**. Our people have always been generous not only to the parish but also to the Diocese, and we are certain that you will once again do your best to help us meet our goal and even to exceed it.

SOUPERBOWL OF CARING

February 1st marks 20 years since a Youth Group in North Carolina addressed the issue of hunger in their community with this Super Bowl Sunday prayer:

"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl Football Game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."

This prayer so inspired this group of young people that they invited 21 other congregations to join them in collecting \$5,700 which was donated to local charities that provide assistance to those in need.

Over the past 20 years, more than \$50 million has been raised for organizations that fight hunger. The Souper Bowl of Caring has become a powerful nationwide movement that touches more lives each year.

Be a part of this movement that begins in our own backyard and reaches across the nation, sharing God's love with those who need our compassion and care. Please give generously as our youth collect donations on Super Bowl Sunday, February 1, 2009. Every penny collected here will go to help our neighbors in need through the Lower Valley Food Bank. Thank you.

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, January 11, 2009

Offertory \$4,509.00
Parish Share..... \$603.00

**PLEASE REMEMBER SAINT ALPHONSUS
CHURCH IN YOUR WILL**

**SPECIAL COLLECTION TODAY, SUNDAY,
JANUARY 18**

DEPAUL SCHOOL FOR HEARING AND SPEECH (Formerly DePaul Institute) – DePaul School for Hearing and Speech was founded in 1908 by the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill to provide education for deaf children. The school continues in that tradition today. DePaul is now located in Shadyside in the newly renovated Sacred Heart High School.

DePaul for Hearing and Speech is a tuition-free, State Approved Magnet School, for children newborn through age 15, dedicated to teaching children with moderate to profound hearing losses to speak clearly and to understand spoken language with confidence.

DePaul School for Hearing and Speech is the only program of its kind in Southwestern Pennsylvania. It is strongly endorsed by the medical community in Pittsburgh as the premier school for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

AND ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL PROGRAMS – Provides inclusive Catholic Special Education to students with intellectual disabilities and autism in environments with their same age general education peers from the ages of 5 through 21.

St. Anthony School Programs help both Catholic and non-Catholic students with developmental disabilities to live their life to its fullest potential intellectually, socially, academically, vocationally and spiritually.

POPE BENEDICT CELEBRATES THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

POPE BAPTIZES THIRTEEN INFANTS IN THE SISTINE CHAPEL

VATICAN CITY, 11 JAN 2009 (VIS) - Today, as is the tradition on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Pope administered the Sacrament of Baptism to thirteen newborn infants in the Sistine Chapel.

In his homily the Holy Father described Baptism as "the bridge God built between Himself and us, the path by which He makes Himself accessible to us. It is the divine rainbow of our life, the promise of God's great 'yes', the doorway of hope and, at the same time, the sign indicating the way to follow, actively and joyfully, in order to meet Him and to feel we are loved by Him".

Through Baptism, he said, "we give back to God that which came from Him. A child is not the property of its parents, but is freely ... entrusted to their responsibility by the Creator that they may help it become a free child of God. Only if parents achieve such an understanding can they strike the right balance between the desire to dispose of their children as if they were a personal possession, forming them on the basis of their own ideas and desires, and a libertarian attitude expressed in allowing children to grow up in complete autonomy satisfying their every desire and aspiration in the belief that this is a way to cultivate their personality.

"Although with this Sacrament", he added, "the newly-baptized become adoptive children of God, object of His infinite love which protects them and defends them from the dark forces of evil, it is still necessary to teach them to recognize God as their Father and to behave towards him as children".

When "children are baptized, introducing them into the light of God and of His teachings", the Holy Father explained, "they are subject to no violence, rather they are given the richness of divine life in which the true freedom of children of God is rooted; a freedom which then has to be educated and formed over the years, that they may become capable of making responsible individual decisions".

Turning to address godparents, the Pope said: "Be aware of the gift you have received and ceaselessly thank the Lord Who, with today's Sacrament, introduces your children into a new family, larger and more stable, more open and numerous than your own: I am referring to the family of believers, the Church, a family that has God for Father and in which all consider themselves as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

"Today, then, you entrust your children to the goodness of God Who is power of light and love; and they, though amidst the difficulties of life, will never feel abandoned if they remain united to Him. Ensure", he concluded, you educate them in faith, teaching them to pray and to grow as Jesus did and, with His help, 'increasing in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor".