

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2009

ST. PAUL (THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME) – JANUARY 25, 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

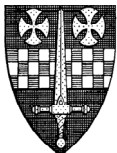
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(724) 274-2547

CCD & Youth Min. - Karen Mueller

Social Services - Cathy Moxie

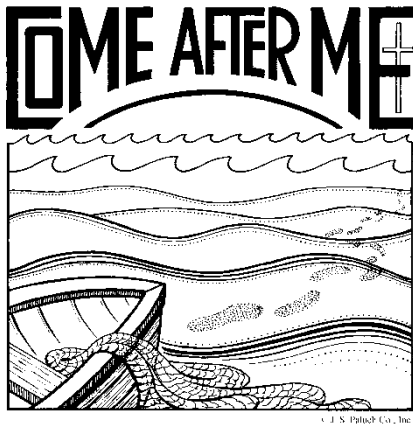
Music Director/Organist – Vickie Roof



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



Today we celebrate the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, the “Apostle to the Gentiles.” Most of the Saints are celebrated just one time on the Church’s calendar year, and that is usually on the day of their death, the day they entered into eternal life, which is the reward of all the Saints. But some great Saints have a second celebration – the commemoration of a special event in their life. For example, John the Baptist is celebrated twice: the Birth of John, and the Beheading of John; also Saint Joseph (husband of Mary) and Joseph again as St. Joseph the Worker; the many Feasts revolving around the life of Mary, the Mother of Jesus; and Saints Peter and Paul. Peter is celebrated twice, on June 29 with Saint Paul, and once alone extolling his authority (the “Chair” of St. Peter), with St. Paul also with Peter on June 29, and today’s celebration of Saint Paul’s conversion from a fanatic guardian of Jewish orthodoxy to a devout disciple of the Lord Jesus.

The Church’s tribute to Saint Paul in today’s celebration can be described as how “grace builds upon nature,” or how God uses the natural talents of his servants and then builds upon those talents with extra-ordinary gifts of grace.

Saint Paul is the perfect example of this. God equipped St. Paul with natural gifts which he would later put to good use in spreading the Gospel of Jesus. Paul was an educated and eloquent preacher and writer. He was a devout Jew and was engaged in persecuting those who were followers of Christ, since Paul considered them to be enemies of religion and traitors to Judaism. Paul had great energy which would be put to use as the untiring herald of the Gospel of Christ. And St. Paul was a Roman citizen, a gift which would give him access and privileges he could to use his advantage as an Apostle.

In this special year, dedicated to Saint Paul, as the Church celebrates his 2000TH Birthday, we marvel at how Almighty God fashioned this special man and gave him qualities which, even though initially used against the Church, would later become the qualities

Paul would need and put to good use in furthering the spread of Christianity, both in synagogues and in places where Roman gods were worshipped.

There is a lesson here for all of us. We are all given special talents and gifts in life, and every good gift can and should be put to use in helping us, too, to become “Apostles to the Gentiles.” St. Paul’s “conversion” did not mean that Almighty God had to fashion a completely different person to do his work. No, he just turned this man around, and pointed him, with all his natural talent, in the right direction, leading him and all those to whom he preached to the love of Jesus Christ.

-- Fr. Saladna



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**SCHEDULE OF MASSES
FOR THIS WEEK
(Third Week in Ordinary Time)**

MONDAY, JANUARY 26 – SS Timothy and Titus
8:00 AM Sharla Hatfield

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27 – Saint Angela Merici
8:00 AM Dolores Papale

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28 – St. Thomas Aquinas
8:00 AM Joseph Kobolka

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29 – No Mass scheduled for today

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30 – Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Sophia Tady

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 – No Mass on Saturday morning
5:00 PM [For Sunday] Frank Olearchick (Birthday)

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1 – Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time
8:00 AM Francesco Brogneri
11:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

In this special year, celebrating the 2,000TH Birthday of St. Paul, whose feast always falls on January 25, the Mass of the Conversion of Saint Paul replaces the regular Mass which would ordinarily have been celebrated (the 3Rd Sunday of Ordinary Time).

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Many thanks to all those who came to Mrs. Mueller's presentation concerning the Protection of God's Children, designed to understand, detect and combat the abuse of minors. This presentation was held in our Church Hall last Sunday. Eighty people attended – a few from outside the parish but most from St. Alphonsus, in order to be updated and to be able to serve in ministries of the parish. We are especially grateful to Karen Mueller for her great effort and time in preparing and presenting the program.

SPEAKING OF MINISTRIES IN THE PARISH

Thanks to those who, in the past few months, indicated a willingness to serve as might be needed in the various ministries of the parish such as Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Greeters, Lectors, etc., etc. We are updating our list of all persons involved in these ministries. We would like to give some of our older parishioners a break and give them a chance to retire, especially those who have served so faithfully and admirably for so many years. Also, we have to make room for younger people, so that they can realize that they, too, are needed and welcome to serve the parish in so many ways and that these ministries are not hoarded by some kind of elite group.

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 Knight 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.

EMAIL – Computer use, including email, etc, is becoming more and more common, even by older people who might ordinarily be suspicious of “new-fangled contraptions” like computers. If you would like to be added to our emailing list for the weekly Bulletin, just drop a note with your email address and we will make sure you are a recipient of the Bulletin each Wednesday (for the following Sunday). And, speaking of “updating,” please let us know if your phone number changes (especially with so many people moving to cell phones) or your address, or whatever, so we can have a way to contact you when necessary.

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.

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 individuals 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 and 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.

PARISH SHARE PROGRAM
What does my money do?

The annual Parish Share Program supports a myriad of diocesan ministries that transcend the individual parish. Below are just a few highlights of these ministries which are made possible through your generous support:

- Parish Share supports the formation of our diocesan seminarians along with continuing spiritual and educational formation of diocesan priests and deacons. Your Parish Share donation also cares for those who have given their lives in service as diocesan priests and are now retired or physically ill.
- The Parish Share program supports various types of ongoing evangelization efforts by the diocese, such as the diocesan electronic newsletter and weekly radio commentaries.
- Through Parish Share you play a vital role in Catholic education in fidelity to the teachings of Christ and His Church. More than 85,000 young Catholics receive a firm grounding in their faith through parish-based religious education programs and in our Catholic schools.

NEXT SUNDAY – 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 will go to help our neighbors in need through the Lower Valley Food Bank. Thank you.

AND MAY OUR STEELERS BE SUPER FOR THE SIXTH TIME!

CATHOLIC VISION OF LOVE

The Church has good news to proclaim about the family and about human love and sexuality. This good news is important for our children to learn as they are bombarded with many mixed messages from contemporary culture, media and a variety of other powerful voices. Catholic sexuality education helps one to understand that sexuality is a gift from God, a precious dimension of human life that requires reverence and care. It sets forth the call to chastity and recognizes the critical importance of the family and particularly parents in the education of their children in human sexuality. Unless the family inculcates the right attitudes, unless the root values and beliefs of the faith are established in early years in the home, other forms of Christian education can scarcely be effective.

In helping parents with this immensely important responsibility, the Diocese of Pittsburgh has implemented **The Catholic Vision of Love**, a program of human sexuality catechesis for children in grades 5-8. The Catholic Vision of Love program is unique in that it is catechetically centered and can be totally integrated into the religious education curriculum.

All parents of students in grades 5-8 are invited and encouraged to attend a Parent Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 22, in the Liguori Center beginning at 9:30 AM. Father Saladna and Mrs. Mueller will be present to discuss the program, outline the curriculum materials, explain the parent’s role, and answer any questions or concerns that you might have.

YOUTH GROUP MEETING – The February meeting of the Youth Group will take place **NEXT SUNDAY**, February 1, at 9:15 AM, in the Liguori Center. (Meetings will always be on the first Sunday of the month). Please plan to attend if you are in the High School grades.

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, January 18, 2009

Offertory	\$4,175.80
Parish Share	\$1,338.00
St. Anthony School	\$1,025.75

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

NEXT SUNDAY’S SPECIAL COLLECTION is the monthly collection for capital improvements to our parish and to help pay our pledge to the Cathedral for repairs and renovations. We thank you for your kind and generous support of the parish and the Diocese. By the way, our pledge to the Cathedral (\$4,500) will be fully paid after the first Sunday of March, thanks to your kindness.

THE CHURCH, SIGN AND INSTRUMENT OF SALVATION

VATICAN CITY, 19 JAN 2009 (VIS) - This morning in the Vatican, Benedict XVI received an ecumenical delegation from Finland for the occasion of today's Feast of St. Henry, patron saint of that country.

Addressing the group in English, the Pope noted that "The Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue Commission in Finland and Sweden continues to consider the 'Joint Declaration on Justification'. This year we celebrate the tenth anniversary of this significant statement, and the commission is now studying its implications and the possibility of its reception. Under the theme 'Justification in the Life of the Church', the dialogue is taking ever fuller account of the nature of the Church as the sign and instrument of the salvation brought about in Jesus Christ, and not simply a mere assembly of believers or an institution with various functions".

Noting that the group's pilgrimage to Rome coincides with the Pauline Year, the Pope expressed the view that "St. Paul reminds us of the marvelous grace we have received by becoming members of Christ's Body through Baptism. The Church is this mystical Body of Christ, and is continuously guided by the Holy Spirit; the Spirit of the Father and the Son.

"It is only based on this incarnational reality", he added in conclusion, "that the sacramental character of the Church as communion in Christ can be understood. A consensus with regard to the profoundly Christological and pneumatological implications of the mystery of the Church would prove a most promising basis for the commission's work"

- Vatican Information Service

BE A PART OF THE 2010 CENSUS TEAM – Every ten years, a census of our population is conducted. The results help determine how federal funds are spent in our community on things like roads, parks and other public services, as well as your representation in government. As a census taker, you'll help to make sure that everyone in your community is included. **BE A PART OF THE 2010 CENSUS TEAM!** Earn good pay, work flexible hours, receive reimbursement for authorized mileage and other expenses. Apply today – call to schedule an appointment to take the test and apply for a job. For more information call 1-866-861-2010.

IS YOUR MARRIAGE TEARING YOU APART?

- Do you feel lost and alone?
- Are you frustrated, hurt, or angry with each other?
- Are you constantly arguing or fighting?
- Have you thought about separation or divorce?
- Do you have no time or desire to communicate?
- Does talking about it only make it worse?

THE CHALLENGE OF RELATIONSHIPS

Someone once said, "marriages may be made in heaven, but they sure take a lot of work on earth."

In our society, with the pressures on conflicting demands and too little time, personal relationships are often taken for granted. With all the distractions, we easily forget that strong, caring, loving relationships take work.

Without attention and care, marriages wither. Couples slowly and quietly drift apart or are being torn apart by terrible words and actions. Many are married in name only, or just stay together "for the sake of the kids." For many, it has been ages since they knew the joy of a loving relationship.

When infidelity, alcohol abuse, or drug dependency is involved, the situation may seem even more hopeless. Retrouvaille is helping couples put the pieces back together and rebuild loving relationships.

A COMMON DENOMINATOR

All ages of couples come to Retrouvaille from many walks of life and ethnic backgrounds. Some have already separated or divorced, but want to try again. Many are struggling to stay together. What all these couples have in common is a sincere desire to build a stable, loving marriage.

Retrouvaille is Catholic in origin and orientation, but is open to all married couples regardless of religious background. The focus is on rebuilding your marital relationship.

RETROUVAILLE WEEKEND

Retrouvaille begins with a weekend experience in which husbands and wives are helped to re-establish communication and to gain new insights into themselves as individuals and as a couple.

This part of the program is presented by three married couples and a priest. The team couples, who have experienced disillusionment, pain, anger, and conflict, offer hope as they share their personal stories of struggle, reconciliation and healing. You will find courage and strength in the realization that you are not alone in your struggle.

For more information on Retrouvaille call 800-470-2230 or 412-277-3434.