

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2012

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JANUARY 29, 2012

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

Rev. Kenneth E. Kezmarsky, Pastor



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 the main Church. See bulletin each week or call Rectory for schedule of the 8:00 A.M. Mass which is usually not held on Saturday morning.

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

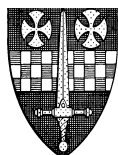
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(724) 274-2547

CCD & Youth Min. - Karen Mueller

Social Services - Cathy Moxie

Music Director/Organist – Vickie Roof

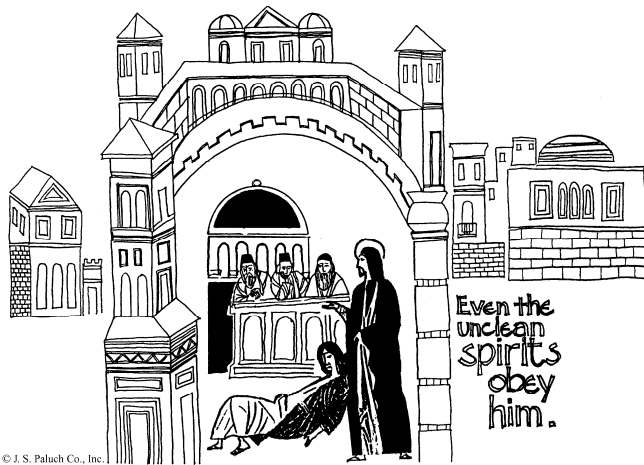


New Parishioners: We welcome new parishioners whether newly moved into the area or those who have fallen off through inactivity. Welcome! Register by calling or coming to the parish office. Become an active, attending and supporting member of the parish. And please let us know if you move away or have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

Church Hall Telephone: (724) 274-2547

Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline 1-888-808-1235

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH
VICARIATE
NO. 4



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Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

JESUS TAUGHT "WITH AUTHORITY"

That Jesus didn't teach like the scribes was very significant. After all, it was the scribes who taught the scriptures. They were the ones who knew the religious doctrine and taught it to the people. And though frequently criticized in the Gospels, they weren't bad people by definition. Many of them were probably generous, decent, truthful people.

But Jesus was a teacher of a different sort altogether. It was as though he didn't need to refer to the scriptures or to the teaching of anyone else at all. He had the authority himself. Imagine the unusual impression he must have made on his listeners!

It has been suggested that Jesus was reputed to teach "with authority" because the crowds instantly recognized the truth of what he said. Why? Because he spoke the truth that was already in their hearts.

GOD'S WORD IS ALWAYS BEING SPOKEN

Centuries earlier, God had promised through Jeremiah that "the days are coming . . . when . . . I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts" (Jeremiah 31:31, 33). Of course, "the days to come" are always here and now. The reign of God is always "at hand." So God's word is always being spoken.

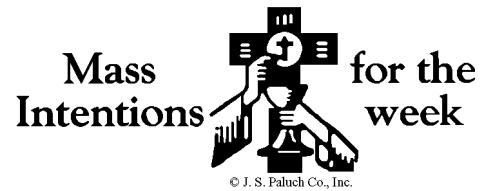
Usually, though, we miss God's word, as available as it always is. It's as if a movie, filled with wonder and excitement, were always playing away for our enjoyment; meanwhile, we manage to busy ourselves with other things—and eventually wander off—not willing to give our full attention.

What Jesus did was stir up a message that had been placed deep within his listeners before they were born, etched in their hearts by God. "Wake up!" he urged, and some people didn't wander off. They listened, "spellbound."

And what of us? Must we wait for a charismatic teacher to come and wake us up? Well, we may wait a

long time. Let's not give in to the old "homilies are stale" and "church is boring" excuses. God's word is always being spoken. If only we can learn to pay attention, we will be spellbound.

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SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, JANUARY 30 – Weekday

8:00 AM Ray and Rita Mickelic

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31 – Saint John Bosco, Priest

8:00 AM Connie Kiste

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1 – Weekday

8:00 AM Nettie Accorsi

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2 – The Presentation of the Lord

8:00 AM Frank Olearchick (Birthday)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3 -- Weekday

8:00 AM Helen Hrobak

NEXT SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4 – No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Living and deceased members of the Milbert and Dietrick Families

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Fr. Joseph Kopecky

11:00 AM For all Parishioners, Living and Deceased

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CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Mia Victoria Pesce, daughter of Joseph Robert and Carrie Ann (Knapton) Pesce, baptized at St. Alphonsus on January 22nd.

PASTOR'S NOTES

After all the snow and cold temperatures we are still here. It is amazing how easily we panic in today's world. We really need to take a serious look at what we as a people are doing in today's world. We should refocus our energies and efforts in a healthier way. Although following the ways of the Lord is much harder, sometimes we must be open to the possibilities that God offers to us each and every day.

The great numbers of young people and people in general who traveled to Washington, D.C. for the Pro-Life March still is inspiring to me, especially to watch the Mass from the National Shrine.

So to gather around the table of the Lord is so important to us, for our spiritual strength and nourishment. Again, the more people who attend Mass here and sing and pray, makes the celebration such a powerful experience. It is what we put into the celebration first; then can we reap any benefit from it. I am always grateful when I hear our people sing and pray together.

Most of the cookies are gone, and now I long await the season of Lent so that I can get rid of my extra temple pounds. I did enjoy all the goodies that were given to me.

Once again I wish to thank our people for being so generous financially to our parish.

May the Lord bless our parish and our efforts as well continue to build up one another as we journey together on the path of faith.

Fr. Ken

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SPRING 2012 DIOCESAN ADULT LECTURE SERIES

The Spring 2012 Diocesan Adult Lecture Series will begin on February 15. The first speaker will be Bob Rice speaking on *"Things that make us Catholic"*, from 7:30-9:00 PM at O'Connor Hall, St. Paul Seminary. You walk into a Church and instinctively reach for Holy Water. Someone puts ashes on your forehead and you leave them there all day. These are things that Catholics do, but is there more to what Catholics are?

Bob Rice desires to share the love of God using every talent he has been blessed with. He ministers to over twenty thousand people each year by hosting conferences, giving talks, teaching workshops, leading worship, and performing original music. Bob has written numerous articles, has a popular blog, and wrote a novel titled, "Between the Savior and the Sea," which tells the Gospel story from Simon Peter's point of view. Bob's creative use of humor, personal stories, and extensive knowledge of the Faith have made him an internationally sought after speaker for people of all ages. He is an Assistant Professor of Catechetics at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, where he lives with his wife Jennifer and six children.

This faith formation series is free and is intended for all adults. Continuing Catechetical Education credit is available for priests, deacons, catechists and Catholic school teachers.

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PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOPS will be offered on Saturday, February 4TH, from 9 AM – 12 Noon at St. Victor Parish, Bairdford and on Wednesday, February 8TH, from 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM at St. Alphonsus Parish. To register, please call Karen Mueller at 412-828-3007.

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Your Ministry of Support	
Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish for Sunday, January 22, 2012	
Offertory	\$3,900.16
Parish Share	\$1,515.00

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS showing the total contributions to St. Alphonsus Church for 2011 are available. If you would like to have a copy of your statement for use in preparing your income tax return, please fill in the lower portion of this bulletin, clip off, and deposit in the collection basket. Your statement will be mailed only if you request it.

Please mail my Financial Statement for 2011	
NAME	_____
ADDRESS	_____
ENVELOPE NUMBER	_____

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH

SPRINGDALE, PA

2012 PARISH SHARE

To Parishioners and Friends of Saint Alphonsus Church:

Once again, it's Parish Share Program (PSP) Time

WHAT IS IT? A special, once a year, campaign to raise money for the ordinary and extraordinary works of the **CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH** of which our own parish of Saint Alphonsus is an integral part, and is thus called upon to give its own "parish share" or "fair share."

WHAT IS THE GOAL? WHAT IS OUR SHARE? The overall **DIOCESAN GOAL** is approximately \$15 million. Two-thirds of the expenses of the Diocese of Pittsburgh come from this very important annual appeal, the "parish share program."

Our own **PARISH GOAL** this year is \$39,689, and is based on our last year's "assessable income," with each parish "taxed" at the same rate. Some parishes pay less, some pay more, but the rate is the same (about 17.5%) for all parishes.

AN INDIVIDUAL GOAL of \$150 is suggested and encouraged for wage earners, a minimum pledge/gift. Many will be able to, and **SHOULD** pledge more, as in previous campaigns. We hope and pray that everyone will participate in some way. A pledge of \$150 a year for the many good works and important programs provided by our **DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH** through the Parish Share Program amounts to **LESS THAN THREE DOLLARS A WEEK**. This small sacrifice become even easier when the pledge is honored in payments stretched out over the next ten months.

WHEN DOES THIS CAMPAIGN BEGIN?

Sunday, February 19, 2012. Actually, the PSP never really ends, for once one campaign year ends, a new campaign year begins. Parish Share has been around since 1979, thirty years. Like love and charity, giving never ends, and our devotion to our parish is like devotion to our families...it is always ongoing.

You will soon receive your personalized gift/pledge card in the mail, with instructions, together with other descriptions of the annual Parish Share Program. In this way, we are reaching out to you, asking you to support wholeheartedly this great campaign for our Bishop and the works of our Diocesan Church.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE? Participate by letting your gift be a sacrifice of love. A gift of \$150 is less than \$3 per week. We urge you to consider the importance of this great annual collection and how much our Bishop and our Diocese depend on it. We ask you to consider, also, how easy it is to do so much when everyone does his own little bit. We urge you to make a pledge, a \$150 minimum gift, with a down payment on Sunday, February 19, 2012, and the balance to be paid through the rest of the year.

Your ordinary monthly envelope packets which you receive throughout the year will also contain a "**Parish Share Envelope**", one for each month, by which you can follow up on your pledge or continue to make PSP gifts without any specific pledge.

Outright contributions (no pledge "installments") will, of course, be welcomed and gratefully accepted, but the "pledge system" will enable you to give more and at the same time make the small sacrifice even easier.

Please be generous. Thank you all very much.

Fr. Ken

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

SOUPERBOWL OF CARING

Starting with one youth group in a single church deciding to see if they could raise money to help the needy on a Super Bowl Sunday, the Souper Bowl of Caring, since going nationwide in 1993, has raised more than \$33 million for people in need. In the Diocese of Pittsburgh, youth ministry and catechetical program participants began participating in 1997. This year, young people will be at the doors of their churches after each Mass on the weekend of February 4 & 5 collecting for local food banks, soup kitchens and numerous other social organizations. This year, St. Alphonsus Youth Ministry will be collecting to assist the Lower Valley Food Bank. At our three Masses next weekend, the young people of our parish will stand at the doors of our church with a soup pot asking for donations for the Lower Valley Food Bank. We thank you for your generosity to the Souper Bowl collection next Sunday.

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LOVEWALK FOR THE POOR

The 22ND Annual Lovewalk for the Poor, sponsored by the Diocese of Pittsburgh will take place on Sunday, February 12, at 2:00 PM at Sacred Heart Church in Shadyside. All are welcome to attend! You are asked to bring diapers, baby wipes and formula for Catholic Charities Rosalia House and non-perishable food items for the East End Cooperative Ministry Soup Kitchen. What make the Lovewalk unique is participants carry collected items after Mass with them on a one mile walk as a way of experiencing the hardships of the homeless who must carry their possessions with them at all times. Registration and permission forms for youth ministry members are in the back of church. For more information, please contact Karen Mueller at 412-841-2017. Everyone is welcome!

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MIDDLE SCHOOL NET RETREAT

Saturday, March 3, 2012 1:00 PM and Sunday, March 4, 2012 -- 4:00 PM

HIGH SCHOOL NET RETREAT

Friday, March 9, 2012 7 PM and Sunday, March 11, 2012 -- 11 AM

Gilmary Catholic Retreat Center

In response to an urgent need to proclaim the Gospel to youth, 90 NET (National Evangelization Team) volunteers ages 18 to 28 are sent out in vans each year across the United States in teams of 10 to 12. The retreat teams share their faith during retreats and will encounter 60,000 youth, while the parish teams focus on building up individual parishes from September to May. Each team invites all they meet to give their lives to the only one who can satisfy their hungry hearts – Jesus Christ. The NET Team provides our young people with a more intense retreat experience by taking them out of their regular environment and helping them to think more seriously about their relationship with God.

Information and registration forms can be found in the back of the Church. Please call Mrs. Mueller if you have any questions at 412-841-2017.