

**ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN**  
**FOR**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2010**

EPIPHANY – JANUARY 3, 2010

# *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](http://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

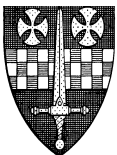
**LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES** (school building side entrance)

(724) 274-2547

**CCD & Youth Min.** - Karen Mueller

**Social Services** - Cathy Moxie

**Music Director/Organist** – Vickie Roof

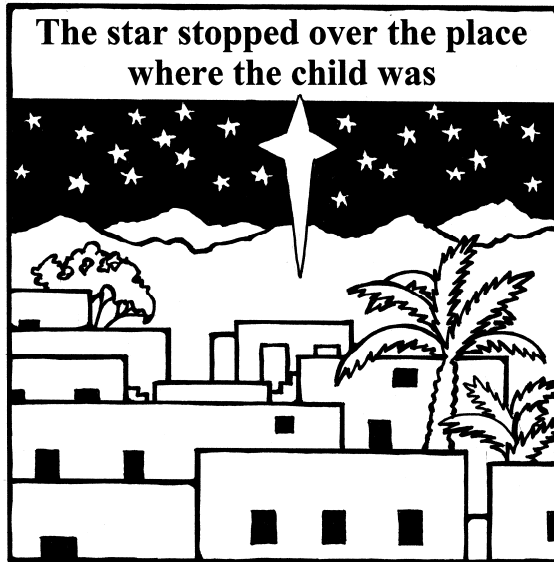


**New Parishioners:** We welcome new parishioners whether newly moved into the area or those who have fallen off through inactivity. Welcome! Register by calling or coming to the parish office. Become an active, attending and supporting member of the parish. And please let us know if you move away or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

**Church Hall Telephone:** ..... (724) 274-2547

**Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline** ..... 1-888-808-1235

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF  
PITTSBURGH  
VICARIATE  
NO. 4



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Epiphany, which we celebrate today, is Greek meaning "Manifestation" or "Showing Forth." In today's Feast, the Church emphasizes the fact that Jesus came among us, not to "hide," but to be "found." But he can be found only by those who are open to God's truth and to his revelation. If we pre-determine what God has to be like, if we set up the rules for his coming and are not open to God's plan, it is possible that we, too, will miss Christ when he appears in our time and in our lives.

The "wise" men in the Epiphany story are wise because they were willing to be led by the star. They, even though "Kings," were willing to get off their "high horses" ("high camels"?) and let the star of God's light lead them to where Jesus was. They were also wise because they went to learn from Jesus, and not to snuff out the light and kill Jesus, as the evil King Herod planned to do.

The wise men also represent the pagans, "outsiders," who ordinarily would not be thought very highly of by the Jewish leaders. And yet it was these outsiders who became the insiders, while the chief priests, scribes, elders and all the other "know-it-alls" who should have known better were left out in the cold. Thus, the saying, "The last shall be first and the first shall be last," was verified in their case.

As we rejoice today in the Manifestation or Epiphany of Jesus, let us thank God for showing us the light of his Son. But let us also be humble enough to let Jesus lead us through the troubles of this life so that we can someday see him face to face and be happy with him forever. Let us, as did the wise men, return to our homes, but by another way – changed people, all for the better, because we have followed the star and have seen the light.

-- Fr. Saladna

## SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

**MONDAY, JANUARY 4** – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious  
8:00 AM Michael J. Faith

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 5** – St. John Neumann, Bishop  
8:00 AM Olive Lukac

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6** – Blessed Andre Bessette  
8:00 AM Robert K. Abel

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 7** – No Mass scheduled for today

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 8** – Christmas Weekday  
8:00 AM James McMeekin

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 9** -- No Mass on Saturday morning  
5:00 PM [For Sunday] For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

**NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 10** – The Baptism of the Lord  
8:00 AM Agnes Anker  
11:00 AM Henry Zemenski (Birthday)

**CCD AND BABY JESUS SCHOOL** – CCD classes and Baby Jesus School will resume next Sunday, January 10, 2010.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH** – A thousand thanks to all of you who made our celebration of Christmas so wonderful and inspirational. We can never mention all of you who cleaned the Church, decorated it, served as liturgical ministers and musicians, ushers, etc., etc. We are especially grateful to the members of our scout troop who spent much time in getting the Church ready. Also, thanks to all who sent gifts, prayers, cards and greetings, and to the entire congregation who manifested their gratitude to Christ by supporting His Church through their regular and special envelope collections. May the good Lord bless and reward you all, and may you all have a truly blessed and holy new year 2010.

**SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE LADIES OF CHARITY** – also thank you for your assistance to the poor, hungry, lonely and sick through your donations for "Turkey Vouchers" and the Christmas Gift Tag Tree. Money donations were made to the Food Bank of the Lower Valley, and nearly 150 gifts from our parish alone were given at Christmas through your generosity.

**LADIES OF CHARITY MEETING** – Monday, January 4, 7 PM.

## THE CHILD JESUS MAKES THE LOVE OF GOD MANIFEST

VATICAN CITY, 23 DEC 2009 - In his general audience, celebrated this morning in the Paul VI Hall, the Pope focused his remarks on the subject of Christmas.

At the beginning of his catechesis the Holy Father explained that "the Church's liturgical year did not initially develop on the basis of Christ's birth but on that of faith in His resurrection. Hence, the most ancient feast of Christianity is not Christmas but Easter. The resurrection of Christ is what founded the Christian faith, underpinned the announcement of the Gospel and brought the Church into being".

"The first person to make the clear affirmation that Jesus was born on 25 December was Hippolytus of Rome in his commentary on the Book of Daniel, written around the year 204", said the Pope.

"In the Christian world, the feast of Christmas assumed a distinct form in the fourth century when it took the place of the Roman feast of the 'Sol invictus', the sun unconquered. This highlighted the fact that the birth of Christ is the victory of the true light over the darkness of evil and sin. Yet the particular and intense spiritual atmosphere that now surrounds Christmas developed during the Middle Ages, thanks to St. Francis of Assisi who was profoundly enamored of Jesus the man, of the God-with-us".

"This particular devotion to the mystery of the Incarnation was the origin of the famous Christmas celebration in Greccio. ... St. Francis with his nativity scene highlighted the defenseless love, humility and goodness of God, Who in the Incarnation of the Word shows Himself to mankind in order to teach them a new way to live and love".

The Pope then went on to recall the fact that the first biographer of St. Francis, Thomas of Celano, recounted how, "on that Christmas night, Francis was granted the grace of a marvelous vision. He saw, lying immobile in the manger, a small child Who was reawakened from sleep by the proximity of Francis himself".

"Thanks to St. Francis, Christian people are able to understand that at Christmas God truly became the 'Emmanuel', the God-with-us, from Whom no barrier or distance separates us. In that Child, God became so close to each of us ... that we can establish an intimate rapport of profound affection with Him, just as we do with a newborn child.

"In that Child", the Holy Father added, "God-Love becomes manifest: God comes unarmed and powerless, because He does not intend to conquer, so to say, from the outside; rather, He intends to be accepted by man in freedom. God becomes a defenseless child to overcome man's pride, violence and thirst for possession. In Jesus, God assumed this poor and disarming condition in order to triumph over us with love and lead us to our true identity".

"His being a Child likewise indicates to us that we can meet God and enjoy His presence", the Pope concluded. "People who have not understood the mystery of Christmas have not understood the decisive element of Christian existence: that those who do not accept Jesus with the heart of a child cannot enter the Kingdom of heaven. This is what St. Francis wished to tell the Christian world of his time and of all times, even unto today".

- Vatican Information Service

**THE PITTSBURGH DIOCESE** is home to two nationally recognized educational programs for children with special needs: St. Anthony School Programs and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech (Formerly known as The DePaul Institute). A special collection to benefit these two organizations will be taken the weekend of January 17, 2009 at all Masses in every parish.

St. Anthony School Programs provide Catholic special education to children with development delays and autism in 10 schools within the Diocese and a college-age program located on the Duquesne University campus. DePaul School for Hearing and Speech teaches children who have moderate to profound hearing loss how to listen, learn and speak, so that these children may live without boundaries in our hearing and speaking world.

Your donation will help St. Anthony School Programs and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech to further their goals. Your generosity will help these organizations forever improve the lives of their students and families.

### MEMORIAL GIFTS

**Thank you for the following donations to the St. Alphonsus Memorial Fund:**

**IN MEMORY OF MARY DESMONE** by Phyllis and Ed Cowan; James and Andrea Dorwart; Rich and Eileen Miller; Dr. Stefan Lovasik and Family; Gilda Orfitelli; Judith Jenkins.

**IN MEMORY OF JOHN KOLESAR** by Brian Urik; M/M Frank Nicolazzo;

**IN MEMORY OF BOB KONDRAK** by John and Emma Bednar.

**IN MEMORY OF THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE LUKAC FAMILY** by Family.

**IN MEMORY OF ALEX MOCK** by Rose DeSantis; Dianne Costello; Buddy and Paula Holmes; Henrietta Eaton; Rich and Eileen Miller; M/M Fran Moxie; Andrew C. "Gal" Zilla; Vickie Roof; Tony DeSantis Family.

**IN MEMORY OF FATHER CHARLES PETERMAN** by Helen Sherrieb; Brian Urik.

**IN MEMORY OF ANDREW SUSA** by John and Helen Strama.

**IN MEMORY OF THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE ZYWAN FAMILY** by Family.

**IN MEMORY OF ANDREW AND HELEN ZYWAN** by Children.

### Our Ministry of Support

Contribution totals will be reported in the January 10 bulletin, due to early deadline for bulletin printing.

### PLEASE REMEMBER SAINT ALPHONSUS CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

The special second collection today, Sunday, January 3, will be the monthly collection for repairs and improvements to our Church. We thank you for your kind and generous support of St. Alphonsus Parish.