

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2010

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JANUARY 31, 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

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.



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

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)

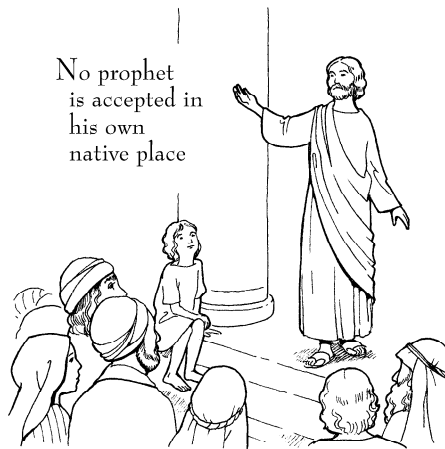
(724) 274-2547

CCD & Youth Min. - Karen Mueller

Social Services - Cathy Moxie

Music Director/Organist – Vickie Roof

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH
VICARIATE
NO. 4



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Today's Gospel from St. Luke picks up where last Sunday's left off. Jesus is speaking in his hometown synagogue at Nazareth. After finishing the passage about what the Messiah's mission would be like, Jesus told the audience, "Today, this passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

A few were impressed and believed in him, but the majority is indignant, for they do not believe that the Messiah could be someone they knew, someone they grew up with, someone from their own town. Jesus stirs them up further when he tells them that Elijah the great prophet was not sent to a Jew in the time of great famine, but rather to a pagan woman, and that Elisa the prophet cured Naaman the Syrian and now a Jew. In other words, he tells them that people "missed the boat" because they did not believe that God would work through someone they were familiar with. Likewise, Jesus implies, his own generation would fall short of the mark because they, through prejudice doubted him and asked, "Who does he think he is?"

Is it true that no prophet is without honor, except in his own country, among his own people? What a shame for those people of Nazareth! Jesus lived in their midst, and here they are, driving him from the town and trying to kill him.

Eventually their type would prevail. Jesus ended up being rejected and crucified by his own people. We, too, must not be blinded by our own prejudices, lest we miss the Messiah in our midst. Our goal in life is to find the will of God and the plan of God, and not try to make him fit the script we have written. Only when we are open and docile can we really let God have his way and rule in our lives. Let us, like the first humble believers, speak favorably of the Lord and the appealing discourse, which comes from his lips.

-- Fr. Saladna

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1 – Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Frank Olearchick

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 – Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

8:00 AM Alice Susa

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 – Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr

7:00 PM [in Main Church, with Blessing of Throats during the Mass. **NOTE SPECIAL TIME FOR MASS TODAY:** in the evening, at 7:00 PM] - Delbert Funkhouser

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4– No Mass scheduled for today

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5 – Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

8:00 AM Denise Horwatt

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6– No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Kate Werries

11:00 AM Domenica "Minnie" Mazzoli (Anniv.)

**LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
HERE TODAY AFTER EACH MASS**

More than a year ago the **LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR** who operate a home on the North Side of Pittsburgh (Benton Avenue) asked for permission to visit our parish over a weekend and to take up a collection for their work of charity to the homeless, sick and poor. We chose this weekend: **TODAY, Sunday, January 31.**

Of course, we could not have foreseen the terrible earthquake in Haiti which begged your charity, but at the same time we did not want to postpone the Little Sisters' appearance here, so **TODAY** after each of our Masses (including Saturday evening) the Sisters will speak very briefly at each Mass and then stand at the Church doors after Mass to ask if you would like to help in their work.

The Little Sisters' founder, Sister Jean Jugan, was just recently canonized a **SAINT** by our Holy Father, Pope Benedict. The Sisters enjoy great esteem from the people of Pittsburgh, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, and we urge you to consider them as they make an appearance here and ask for your kind help.



LENT IS COMING – The liturgical season of Lent is but a few weeks away. Its message and reality will be felt when, on Ash Wednesday, February 17, we hear the reminder of the Church, remember you are dust and to dust you shall

return. The Lenten call to repentance is a continuing challenge of the Gospels, so that we may grow and develop in our spiritual life. None of us should remain satisfied with our level of Christian awareness or the quality of our Christian living. The grace of God awaits us. We can let Lent pass unheeded or grasp it with faith and love. Since Lent retains its ancient appeal to the penitential spirit of the People of God, priests and deacons are asked to remind their people urgently and prayerfully to make the entire Lenten season a period of special observance and prayer.

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

ON SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS will be standing at the doors of the Church to ask for a donation, if you are able and willing, for the Lower Valley Food Bank. On this day when people celebrate the SUPER BOWL with good food and drink, we are asked to consider the needy and hungry and help them provide SOUP for themselves and their families.

The collection at the doors next Sunday will be given directly to the treasury of the Lower Allegheny Valley Food Bank. We thank you for whatever help you can give them.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE: A RETREAT FOR GRIEVING SINGLES – Were the holidays difficult? You are not alone. There are others who must walk this hard road as well. Come be among us. We know the pain. No masks required. The Beginning Experience weekend program is presented by a team of people who have suffered the loss of a spouse and are willing to share their own experience to help others.

The next weekend will be held March 19-21 at the Gilmary Center in Moon Township, PA. Payment arrangements and possible financial assistance are available. For more information, contact the Office for Adult and Family Faith Formation at 412-456-3160, or familylife@diopitt.org or make a confidential call to Susan Ackerman at 724-980-4757.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY has been changed to Sunday, May 2, with Holy Communion for five young girls at the 11:00 AM Mass. The April 25 date has been moved to May 2.

LADIES OF CHARITY MEETING will be held on Monday, February 1, at 7:00 PM, in the Church Hall.

THE SPRINGDALE HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR CLASS will hold a Prom Fashion Show at Marshall Auditorium today, Sunday, January 31, at 2:00 PM. Admission: \$6.00.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND- Married Couples – would you attend a seminar to enhance your job or to increase your salary? Why not give your marriage the same attention? Enhance your good marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held February 19-21 at the Toffress Resort, State College, PA. For more information or to register contact 412-635-7775 or check us out on the web at wwme-pittsburgh.org.

BOUQUET PARK SWIMMING POOL – The pool is currently taking membership applications for the 2010 summer season. Pay by May 1, 2010, and for as little as \$300 per family membership, your children can enjoy swimming with school friends while you relax in the sun. Why not consider “vacationing” at the pool this summer? For more information and the 2010 member applications and fee schedule, check out the website at <http://www.bouquetpark.com>. Lastly, the pool is currently searching for a Pool Manager. Please contact Bob Zastawniak at 724-274-7855 for more information.

Our Ministry of Support
 Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
 For Sunday, January 24, 2010

Offertory	\$4,233.00
Parish Share	\$1,535.00
Haiti Collection	\$4,245.00

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

2010 PARISH SHARE PROGRAM

WE ASK YOU TO PLEDGE A MINIMUM GIFT OF \$150 TO THE 2010 PARISH SHARE PROGRAM

WHY SUPPORT THE DIOCESE?

A Diocese is not simply a group of individual parishes which come together in some artificial way or which exist simply for the convenience of the individual parishes, which make it up. A Diocese is a grouping of people and Churches around a Bishop, located in a particular geographic area, and officially and canonically established by the Holy Father. It is not an abstract entity. It is a living body made up of a Bishop, priests, religious, and people united as one in Jesus Christ. A Diocese is not an appendage to a parish. On the contrary, it is the center of all parishes in that area; the source of all sacramental and liturgical life in that place as well as the seat of governance for all the Faithful. In truth, the Diocese is the center, the home of the Bishop and the Cathedral or Bishop's Church. All other priests and parishes are extensions of the principal Priest and the principal Church. The Parish Share Program is our way of supporting our Bishop and our Bishop's program for our Diocese.

WHAT PROGRAMS ARE PROVIDED BY THE DIOCESE?

There are three general types of programs:

1. The daily, routine operation of the Bishop's office and the program for the entire Diocese. This includes programs for priests, religious, and laity; regular services to the parishes; routine work in marriage; education for those of all ages; chaplains for Catholic and other institutions, relations with other religious groups, public authorities, and other agencies.
2. There are programs which can be accomplished only by pooling the resources of the entire Diocese to provide for the life of the Catholic Community, such as homes for aged, hospitals, schools, for the retarded, the deaf, the blind, education of men for the priesthood; vocation programs for those aspiring to the priesthood or religious life. No single parish can handle these works, but together such undertakings can be done effectively. Thus, all share in the effort as all share in the good accomplished. And all these programs are necessary for a healthy and full life within the Catholic Community.
3. There is an entire area of social programs and activities, including both spiritual and corporal works of mercy, which are performed in the name of the Church and which provide both presence and witness for the Catholic community in the general community. This way programs and services are provided to the general community in the name of the total Catholic Community.

WHAT WOULD BE A SUITABLE GIFT?

A suitable gift would be what you are able to give. Keep in mind that many people are unemployed or underemployed, and if we are to have a successful Campaign, those who can give more should give more. Some of your neighbors are unable to help as they usually do. Make a pledge rather than a single gift. A pledge means you will spread your gift over a period of months rather than putting it into a single payment. It is the American way of taking care of our responsibility. Be guided by these facts: a tank of gas costs about \$40.00, one carton of cigarettes costs about the same, one single night on the town costs quite a bit. Your gift to the Diocese – given only once a year – should be something very special. It should be a sacrifice.

**PLEASE DO YOUR SHARE ---
SUPPORT PARISH SHARE
2010 CAMPAIGN BEGINS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010**

**POPE BENEDICT'S COMMENTS ON THE
HAITI EARTHQUAKE**

**CATHOLIC CHURCH WILL ALWAYS STAND
ALONGSIDE HAITIANS**

VATICAN CITY, 23 JAN 2010 - Made public today were two telegrams sent by the Holy Father on 16 January to Rene Preval, president of the Republic of Haiti, and to Archbishop Louis Kebreau S.D.B. of Cap-Haitien and president of the Episcopal Conference of Haiti, for the earthquake which devastated the country on 12 January, killing and injuring hundreds of thousands of people.

Benedict XVI tells President Preval of his "profound sadness" at the tragic event and assures him of his "fervent prayers for all the people affected by this dreadful catastrophe. I also pray", the Pope continues, "that a spirit of solidarity may enter people's hearts and that calm may reign in the streets, so that the generous aid arriving from all countries may bring comfort to everyone, and that people who have today lost everything may be consoled by knowing that the international community is truly concerned about them".

The Holy Father expresses his appreciation for "the commitment shown by both Haitians and foreigners, sometimes at risk of their own lives, to do everything in their power to search for and rescue survivors". And he assures the president that the Catholic Church, "through her institutions, will remain - and not only in these moments of great commotion - alongside the people who have been so sorely tried by this tragedy, and will, to the limit of her powers, help them regain the chance to build a better future".

In his telegram to Archbishop Kebreau, the Pope mentions the tragic death in the earthquake of Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot of Port-au-Prince, and of many faithful, priests and consecrated people. "At this sad hour", he writes, "I invoke Our Lady of Perpetual Help that she may become 'Mother of tenderness', and that solidarity may triumph over isolation and individualism in people's hearts".

The Pope also praises "the rapid mobilization of the international community, collectively touched by the fate of Haitians", and reaffirms that, through her institutions; the Church "will not cease to make her contribution to the emergency efforts and to the patient reconstruction of devastated areas".

Our parish collection for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti amounted to **\$4,245**, which is an indication both of the terrible situation in that country and also the

generosity and goodness of the people of St. Alphonsus Church who were moved to such kindness.

God loves a cheerful giver, for He himself is charity and love personified. Those who give out of love, and especially out of love for God, will never lose their reward.

We say this because it seems that we are always asking for financial support for one thing or the other: support for our own parish, its special needs; support for our Diocese of Pittsburgh through the Parish Share Program; support for Haiti, for the Lower Valley Food Bank, for the Little Sister of the Poor and their work, and the Lord knows what other private charities we have. Our giving is a sign of our love, and it will never be in vain. Thank you.

- Vatican Information Service

ADULT LECTURE SERIES

Sponsored by the Diocese of Pittsburgh:

**St. Benedict and St. Therese: "The Little Rule and
The Little Way" Lecture**

by

Rev. Dwight Longenecker

on Tuesday, February 2, 2010

St. Paul Seminary Auditorium – 7:30 PM
2900 Noblestown Road,
West End Pittsburgh

Free Admission

More info: 412-456-3112

Fr. Dwight Longenecker is an American who has spent most of his life living and working in England. Though he was ordained an Anglican priest, Fr. Dwight and his family were received into the Catholic Church in 1995. He spent the next ten years working as a freelance Catholic writer, contributing to over twenty-five magazines, papers and journals in Great Britain, Ireland, and the United States. An author of ten books and a regular contributor to First Things, This Rock, and National Catholic Register, he was ordained a Catholic priest for the Diocese of Charleston in December 2006 under the special pastoral provision for married former Anglican clergy.