

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2011

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD -- JANUARY 9, 2011

Saint Alphonsus

Roman Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

750 Pittsburgh Street • Springdale, PA • 15144

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Administrator: Rev. George E. Saladna, S.T.L., S.S.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 usually not held on Thursdays and never 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

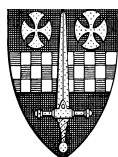
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(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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Here is my servant whom I uphold

SIGNS OF OUR LIFE

Today, we celebrate the **BAPTISM OF THE LORD**. Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan River and introduced to the people by John and by the Holy Spirit who descends on him in the form of a dove.

A lot of people ask why Jesus was baptized. After all, he was God and had no need to repent or reform. This is true, and even John protests, saying, "You should be baptizing me, and not the other way around." However, Jesus tells John to let it happen, for in doing all these things, even though it was not necessary, Jesus is giving us an example of obedience to the will of God.

An even better question would be, "Why are **WE** baptized?" Why do we receive **ANY** of the Sacraments? Why do we have to confess our sins to the priest? Why do we have to have hands imposed on our heads and be anointed with oil when we are Confirmed? Why do we have to receive Holy Communion? Why do we have to go through a ceremony when we are married in the Church?

It all has to do with **SIGNS**. We need signs in our lives because we cannot see the mind or the heart or the spirit of our God. We need to be reminded through visible signs of the presence of the healing, of mission and other abstract concepts. These notions are beyond the body, and signs are representations of them. For example, at a wedding, the couple exchange not only vows but also give rings, and when they place the ring on each other's finger, they say, "Take this ring, which is a **SIGN** of my love for you and my faithfulness."

This is what **BAPTISM** is and what **ALL THE SACRAMENTS ARE**: signs. Signs (ceremonies, words, actions) which represent and actually produce and cause the effect they signify.

To get back to our original question, why do we have to be baptized? – the answer is so **WE** can know and feel and experience the presence of God in our souls and our lives. We who are made up of body and soul, and whose soul comes to know things through the body...we need to have **SIGNS** (Sacraments) that these things are happening to us.

So let those who complain and say, "We don't have to confess our sins to the priest," also say, "We don't have to have Baptism for our babies," or "We don't have to have anointing for our bodies," or "We don't have to have Communion for our souls."

Accepting the **SIGNS** of the Church is the same as accepting the will of Christ for us. And Jesus gives us all these Sacraments for our benefit and convenience, not for his. He doesn't need them. We do.

Let us renew our own Baptism vows today as we celebrate the Baptism of Christ by John.

-- Fr. Saladna



SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, JANUARY 10 – Weekday Celebration
(First Week in Ordinary Time)

8:00 AM Deceased members of the
Mosovsky Family

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Katie Meyers (Birthday)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12 – Weekday
Celebration

8:00 AM Henry Kiste

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13 – No Mass scheduled
for today

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Fr. Joseph Kopecky

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15 – No Mass on Saturday
morning

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16 – Second Sunday in Ordinary
Time

8:00 AM John Bednar

11:00 AM Nancy and Catherine Pillitteri

NOTE: For Lectionary readings at Mass we follow:

- a) On Sundays: Year "A"
- b) On weekdays: Year 1

CCD CLASSES AND BABY JESUS SCHOOL class resume today, Sunday (January 9). Baby Jesus School is held every Sunday during the 11:00 AM Mass.

OUR BABY JESUS SCHOOL will resume on Sunday, January 9. Parents with infants, toddlers, and children of any age who are too young to appreciate Mass, and who would enjoy the company of other little kids, can have an hour of their own while parents are at our 11:00 AM Mass on Sundays. Parents in the program who have little kids will take an active part in Baby Jesus School, much like "car pooling," with the children being watched and entertained by parents, including their own, on a rotating basis.

BABY JESUS SCHOOL JANUARY SCHEDULE

Today, January 9 – Fitzgerald Family, Jeff and Lisa (724-275-7707)

January 16 – Len Roof Family (724-335-3987)

January 23 – Tabacheck Family (724-980-4204)

January 30 – Wallander Family (724-274-5488)

**Mrs. Karen Mueller – 412-828-3007
Parish Office – 724-274-5084**

ARE YOUR ENVELOPES LATE? A lot of parishioners' envelopes did not yet arrive (for January/February) or are arriving late. This may be due to the bad weather or the Christmas rush. Do not panic. When this happens just use any plain envelope and put your name and/or number on it and it will be sufficient. Thanks for your patience. (The envelopes are mailed from Massachusetts).

PLEASE LET US KNOW if you have moved or will be moving, or if your address/phone contact have been changed. We like to keep our contacts up to date.

Young people who have finished schooling (college) and who have become (independent or married) adults should register with the parish. Once they have moved out into the "real world" they should be properly registered on our parish database, single or married, if they would like to remain as parishioners. If they have moved into the territory of another parish, they should register in their new location. This will avoid conflicts over jurisdiction as they begin a new life, and/or family.

IRA ROLLOVER FOR 2010 AND 2011
Through passage of a bipartisan tax compromise which was signed into law on Friday, December 17, 2010:

Individuals over 70 1/2 years of age may once again make direct distributions from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to charities, parishes, schools, etc., of up to \$100,000 per year. A special provision allows interested donors to make distributions that will be treated as being made in 2010 if completed by an extension date of January 31, 2011. Please instruct your IRA custodian (broker, bank, etc.) to transfer funds directly to your parish by this deadline to escape taxation on funds withdrawn from your IRA for this purpose. It may be too late this year (2010) to direct your minimum distribution as a gift. However, you may include your minimum distribution or any amount up to \$100,000 per person in next year's giving by making your 2011 IRA donation by December 31, 2011. For more information please call Paul Stabile, Diocesan Director of Planned Giving at 412-456-3055.

Your Ministry of Support	
Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish for Christmas and Sunday, December 26, 2010 and January 1 & 2, 2011	
Offertory, 12/25 & 12/26	\$10,195.31
Parish Share	\$5,295.00
Christmas Charities.....	\$4,136.00
Offertory, 1/1 & 1/2.....	\$5,399.00
Parish Share	\$1,895.00
PLEASE REMEMBER SAINT ALPHONSUS CHURCH IN YOUR WILL	
<p>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 16 at all Masses.</p> <p>St. Anthony School Programs provides Catholic special education to children with development delays and autism in 7 schools within the Diocese and one college-age program located on the campus of Duquesne University. DePaul School for Hearing and speech teaches children who have moderate to profound hearing loss how to listen and speak without the use of sign language so they may transition to the mainstream of education and live without boundaries in their respective communities.</p> <p>Your donation will help St. Anthony School Programs and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech to further their goals of providing quality educational programs and services for their students. Your support is critical. Your generosity will help these organizations forever improve the lives of their students and families.</p>	

OUR PARISH BULLETIN can be found every week on our parish website: stalphonsuschurch.com. It is posted every Wednesday afternoon (for the following Sunday). Go to the website and click on "Bulletins."

PROM FASHION SHOW – Springdale High School is hosting a Prom Fashion Show on January 30 at 2 PM in the Marshall Auditorium. Tickets are \$6.00. There will also be a bake sale, 50/50 raffle and Chinese Auction. For more information contact Sherry Kaminski at 724-274-9730

MAY THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOR BRING PEACE TO THE WORLD

VATICAN CITY, 25 DEC 2010 – On Christmas Day, the Holy Father pronounced his traditional Christmas Message. Extracts of the Message are given below:

"Dear brothers and sisters listening to me here in Rome and throughout the world, I joyfully proclaim the message of Christmas: God became man; He came to dwell among us. God is not distant: He is 'Emmanuel', God-with-us. He is no stranger: He has a face, the face of Jesus."

"This message is ever new, ever surprising, for it surpasses even our most daring hope. First of all, because it is not merely a proclamation: it is an event, a happening, which credible witnesses saw, heard and touched in the person of Jesus of Nazareth!"

"'The Word became flesh'. Before this revelation we once more wonder: how can this be? The Word and the flesh are mutually opposed realities; how can the eternal and almighty Word become a frail and mortal man? There is only one answer: Love."

"God does not change; He is Love. Only those who are open to love are enveloped in the light of Christmas. So it was on that night in Bethlehem, and so it is today. The Incarnation of the Son of God is an event which occurred within history, while at the same time transcending history."

"And what do our hearts, in effect, seek, if not a Truth which is also Love? Children seek it with their questions, so disarming and stimulating; young people seek it in their eagerness to discover the deepest meaning of their life; adults seek it in order to guide and sustain their commitments in the family and the workplace; the elderly seek it in order to grant completion to their earthly existence."

"The proclamation of Christmas is also a light for all peoples, for the collective journey of humanity. 'Emmanuel', God-with-us, has come as King of justice and peace. We know that His Kingdom is not of this world, and yet it is more important than all the kingdoms of this world. It is like the leaven of humanity: were it lacking, the energy to work for true development would flag: the impulse to work together for the common good, in the disinterested service of our neighbor, in the peaceful struggle for justice. Belief in the God who desired to share in our history constantly encourages us in our own commitment to that history, for all its contradictions. It is a source of hope for everyone whose dignity is offended and violated, since the One born in Bethlehem came to set every man and woman free from the source of all enslavement."

"May the light of Christmas shine forth anew in the Land where Jesus was born, and inspire Israelis and Palestinians to strive for a just and peaceful co-existence. May the comforting message of the coming of Emmanuel ease the pain and bring consolation amid their trials to the beloved Christian communities in Iraq and throughout the Middle East; may it bring them comfort and hope for the future and bring the leaders of nations to show them effective solidarity. May it also be so for those in Haiti who still suffer in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and the recent cholera epidemic. May the same hold true not only for those in Colombia and Venezuela, but also in Guatemala and Costa Rica, who recently suffered natural disasters."

"May the birth of the Savior open horizons of lasting peace and authentic progress for the peoples of Somalia, Darfur and Cote d'Ivoire; may it promote political and social stability in Madagascar; may it bring security and respect for human rights in Afghanistan and in Pakistan; may it encourage dialogue between Nicaragua and Costa Rica; and may it advance reconciliation on the Korean peninsula."

"May the birth of the Savior strengthen the spirit of faith, patience and courage of the faithful of the Church in mainland China, that they may not lose heart through the limitations imposed on their freedom of religion and conscience but, persevering in fidelity to Christ and his Church, may keep alive the flame of hope. May the love of 'God-with-us' grant perseverance to all those Christian communities enduring discrimination and persecution, and inspire political and religious leaders to be committed to full respect for the religious freedom of all."

Following his Message, the Pope extended Christmas greetings in sixty-five languages and imparted his blessing "Urbi et Orbi" (to the city and the world).

- Vatican Information Service

CHOOSE LIFE – A publication of the National Right to Life Committee

Faithful Citizenship and the Gospel of Life

Politics is about values and issues as well as candidates and officeholders -- some issues involve principles that can never be violated, such as the fundamental right to life.

Abortion and euthanasia have become preeminent threats to human life and dignity because they directly attack life itself, the most fundamental good and the condition for all others. Abortion, the deliberate killing of a human being before birth, is never morally acceptable and must always be opposed. Cloning and destruction of human embryos for research or even for potential cures are always wrong. The purposeful taking of human life by assisted suicide and euthanasia is not an act of mercy, but an unjustifiable assault on human life.

Abortion – Abortion has been the greatest destroyer of innocent human life in the history of the world. The estimated death toll from abortion worldwide would probably exceed ONE BILLION and in the United States alone, since 1973, more than 52 million unborn babies have been killed. In a world of huge numbers, our society has become desensitized to the real scope of abortion. The Russian dictator, Joseph Stalin, stated that the death of one man is a tragedy but the death of a million is a statistic. We cannot let the unspeakable tragic death of even a single unborn child become lost in the impersonal statistics encompassing millions.

Post Abortion Syndrome (PAS) – While the actual number of women and men suffering from their participation in abortion is not known, thousands have come forward to express their grief and sorrow about their abortion experience. Many pastors who have publicly offered to counsel those sufferings from PAS, have been amazed at the number of women seeking help. Most dioceses and some pregnancy help centers offer programs to help post abortion victims.

Federal funding of abortion under the new Health Care Reform Act – The Health Care Reform Act has been strongly opposed by the Catholic Church because it allows for the use of federal funds to pay for abortion and to subsidize health plans that cover abortion, a sharp departure from long-standing federal policy. Despite the media hype, there is no language in the new law and no language in the President's March 24th executive order that will effectively prevent federal subsidies for abortion on demand under the new law.

Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide and Abortion of the Disabled – Increasingly in our society those with severe disabilities or debilitating illnesses are being killed because they are judged to have an insufficient "quality of life." Oregon, Washington and Montana already permit euthanasia or physician assisted suicide, and Maine, Hawaii, and Vermont have tried to pass similar laws. Of the children diagnosed with Down Syndrome prior to birth, 90% are killed through abortion. Individuals like Terry Schiavo who are in a permanent "vegetative" (or minimally conscious) state are being starved to death with the approval of the courts. Yet, Pope John Paul II has clearly stated, "the value of a man's life cannot be made subordinate to any judgment of its quality expressed by other men," and "Even our brothers and sisters who find themselves in the clinical condition of a 'vegetative state' retain their human dignity in all its fullness." (Address of John Paul II to the International Congress on "Life-Sustaining Treatments and Vegetative State: Scientific Advances and Ethical Dilemmas")

Health Care Rationing – As part of the Health Care Reform Act, an 18-member "Independent Payment Advisory Board" is given the duty, on January 15, 2015, to tell doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers just what diagnostic tests and medical care is considered to meet "quality" and "efficiency" standards – not only for federally funded health care programs like Medicare, but also for health care paid for by private citizens and their nongovernmental health insurance. And these will be "quality and efficiency" standards specifically designed to limit what ordinary Americans spend on health care. Treatment that a doctor and patient in consultation deem needed or advisable to save that patient's life or preserve or improve the patient's health but which the government decides is too costly – even if the patient is willing and able to pay for it – will run afoul of the imposed standards. In effect, Washington bureaucrats will enforce these standards by limiting what private citizens are allowed to spend on saving their own lives. We will also not be allowed to spend our own money on health care for members of our families and others we love.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BISHOP'S PROJECT – The Bishop's Seals Project is still going on. If you missed donating, you can still donate by writing a check made out to "The Knights of Columbus Bishop's Project for Exceptional Children", put it in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket at Mass next Sunday or any Sunday in January. Our Council, Father David Emery Council #5021, has collected \$70,231 over the past 50 years, donated by you, the parishioners of St. Alphonsus and Our Lady of Victory Churches. We and the children of the McGuire Home and St. Anthony School thank you for making this project a big success. Extra seals can be found in the Church vestibule.