

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2009

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JULY 12, 2009

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.

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

Diocese 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
ALLEGHENY
VALLEY DEANERY

**SAINT MARIA GORETTI –
MODEL OF PURITY AND CHASTITY FOR TODAY**

We often hear or use the term, "Sexual Revolution," to describe the violation of the sixth commandment in our day, which is truly a "revolution" – a revolution against nature and the God who is the author of nature. This revolution celebrates behavior which is, sadly, the order of the day: licentiousness and the other grave sins which Jesus speaks of in Matthew, Ch. 15. All of us are subject to these sins and temptations which make us slaves, not free, slaves to our passions and servants of the evil one who hates God and wants to ruin us. We need only to look at TV to find all this and much more. And this is called a "revolution" as though it were something good for us?

How about Maria Goretti for a model for our young people (and for us old people, too)? Last week on July 6 we celebrated her feast day. The story of the brief life of Maria Goretti is an inspiration for everyone.

Maria was born in 1890, the third of seven children. Her farmer parents were very poor, barely making a living in the small village of Ancona, not far from Naples, Italy. Her father died of malaria when Maria was nine, and Maria helped her mother to raise the younger siblings. She was a loving and devout little girl, receiving her First Holy Communion when she was eleven.

The Goretti family shared a home with their father's partner whose son, Alessandro at age 19, kept making advances toward Maria. She kept away from him as best as she could, but did not tell her mother about his wicked desires for fear of getting her own family in trouble. Finally, on July 6, 1902, Alessandro burst into her home, dragged her into a bedroom and tried to have his way with her. Maria refused him, saying, "No! This is a sin. God does not want it." Alessandro tried to strangle her so on one would hear her screams and then he finally killed her with a long dagger which passed completely through her body.

Maria did not die immediately, but she held on till the next day when she died in spite of what medical care could be given in those days. Before she died, she was given Holy Communion, and she said that she forgave Alessandro for what he had done. She said she would pray for him and hoped that he, too, would someday be in heaven. Maria Goretti died for the love of her Divine Lord for whom she lived rather than sin against him.

Alessandro was sentenced to 30 years in prison. For the first 7, he was bitter and unrepentant. However after 7 years Maria appeared to him in a dream saying she would pray for him. This caused a complete change of heart in him and Alessandro was released for good behavior after serving a total of 27 years.

The true story of Maria Goretti has a beautiful ending, truly remarkable. Maria was canonized a Saint by His Holiness Pope Pius XII on July 6, 1950. At the canonization in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome were Maria's mother, her brothers and sisters, and...yes, even Alessandro who, when he was finally released from prison, went straight to Maria's mother to beg her forgiveness.

MAY SAINT MARIA GORETTI PRAY FOR ALL OF US. AND MAY SHE BE THE TRUE ROLE MODEL FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY IN THIS AGE OF THE "SEXUAL REVOLUTION." SHE IS THE MODEL SAINT FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF TODAY.

**SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR
THIS WEEK**

MONDAY, JULY 13 – Weekday Celebration (15Th Week in Ordinary Time)

8:00 AM Paul Onufer

TUESDAY, JULY 14 – Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

8:00 AM Betty Poset

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15 – Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor

8:00 AM Eileen Zell (Anniv.)

THURSDAY, JULY 16 – Our Lady of Mount Carmel

8:00 AM Helen Pascarella

FRIDAY, JULY 17 – No Mass scheduled for today

SATURDAY, JULY 18 -- No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Parise and Mowen Families

NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 19 – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM [Fr. McDonough] For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

11:00 AM Ann and Sam Renaldi

GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATION – The Diocese of Pittsburgh is again planning its annual Golden Wedding celebration for the couples who have been married 50 years. This year's celebration will take place on Sunday, November 8, 2009 with a Mass at 3:00 PM at St. Paul Cathedral. Bishop Zubik will be the celebrant. A reception will follow in the lower hall of the Cathedral.

Any couple who has celebrated or will celebrate their 50Th Wedding Anniversary during 2009 is asked to submit their name, address and phone number to the pastor, as soon as possible. He will then forward the names from the parish to the Diocesan Office for Family Life and Catechesis and the Bishop will send the couple a special invitation.

**ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH PICNIC
SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2009
ON OUR PARISH GROUNDS**



The picnic will begin at 2 PM and end at 8 PM. There will **NOT** be a special picnic Mass on Picnic Day: our Masses will all be

in our Church, according to our normal Sunday schedule. Dinner at the picnic will be from 4 to 6 PM.



SCHEDULE

2:00 PM Earliest arrival time – Welcome!

ACTIVITIES THRU THE DAY:

Games – Children and Adults
Balloon Toss, Bingo, Cards

4:00--6:00 PM Dinner – Church Hall

6:00--8:00 PM Bingo and Games

Hamburgers/Hot Dogs/Beverages

provided by the Parish

Families asked to bring covered dish (salad, veggie, or dessert) and big spoon for serving. Bring to Church Social Hall.

Music by DJ Clem Lovasik

Reservations necessary for proper planning. Please return reservation form before Thursday, August 6.

Yes, we plan to attend the Parish Picnic on Sunday, August 9

NAME _____

NUMBER OF ADULTS _____

NUMBER OF CHILDREN _____
(list ages)

Please drop this slip in the basket, or bring it or mail it to the Parish House by Thursday, August 6.



PLANNING MEETING FOR THE PICNIC -- Cathy Moxie (724-274-2547) is Chairlady for the Picnic. A planning meeting for the picnic is scheduled for

Monday, July 27, in the Church Hall at 7:00 PM.

Prizes ("White Elephant") for the Bingo can be brought to the Church vestibule (wrap them in newspaper). "One man's trash is another man's treasure."



REST IN PEACE -- The parish family of Saint Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to the families of Sam Renaldi and Olga Mehalic. Please remember the deceased and their families in your prayers.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND FRIENDS OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL AGED PARISHIONERS: The Youth Ministry program is in need of your ideas, enthusiasm and support in providing great social, service and spiritual opportunities for our young people in high school. We have established a skeleton schedule and are looking to include guest speakers, project helpers, social project chaperones and drivers. We need you! If you are interested in helping out please attend a brief meeting on Sunday, July 26 after the 8 AM Mass in the Liguori Center. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Karen Mueller (412-828-3007) or David and Jeannine McCutcheon (724-274-8987).

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY NIGHT AT PNC PARK – Ticket order forms for **ANGELS IN THE OUTFIELD: CATHOLIC NIGHT AT PNC PARK** are now available in the Activity Room of the Church. Catholic Youth Ministry Night is Friday, August 21st. The Pirates will be playing the Cincinnati Reds at 7:05 PM. Tickets are in section 331, rows E-P. Cost of the ticket is \$10.00. The Pirates will be giving away Gold Pill Box Caps as well as "Dollar Dogs" during the game. Come early for the Diocesan **TAILGATE PARTY** from 4-7 PM in the Red 6 Lot off General Robinson Street. Order your tickets now! All order forms are due by Sunday, August 3.

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IMPORTANT MESSAGE!

“PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN” PROGRAM –

For all those who are now receiving your clearance forms from the PA Department of Welfare (Child Protection) – the clearance comes in the mail from Harrisburg to your address. When you get it, please bring it to the parish office and we will make a copy for you. **THE ORIGINAL COPY MUST BE KEPT IN YOUR CLEARANCE FILE AT THE PARISH.** We thank all of you who have cooperated with these regulations of the American Bishops and our own Diocese for the protection of minors under our care.

VISITING MISSIONARY

Sister Nancy Barshick of the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart will speak to us at all the Masses this weekend concerning the missionary endeavors of her Community.

Founded in Baltimore, Maryland in 1890, the Mission Helpers serve in eighteen states as well as in Puerto Rico and Venezuela spreading the Word of God. They have distinguished themselves through services in missions, parishes, nurseries, hospitals, prisons, college and university chaplaincies, diocesan outreach, schools for the deaf, catechists training, counseling and the teaching of religion to the young, teens and adults.

Sister Nancy is a seasoned missionary and will share her missionary experiences and some of those of her Sisters and include the needs of her Community. Please support the work of the Mission Helpers with your prayers and your contributions. Thank you.

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, July 5, 2009

Offertory \$5,066.00
Parish Share \$362.00

POPE BENDICT’S NEW ENCYCLICAL ON CHARITY IN TRUTH

VATICAN CITY, 7 JUL 2009 - Given below is a summary of Benedict XVI's new Encyclical "Caritas in veritate" (Charity in Truth) on integral human development in charity and truth.

The Encyclical published today - which includes an introduction, six chapters and a conclusion - is dated 29 June 2009, Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles.

A summary of the Encyclical released by the Holy See Press Office explains that in his introduction the Pope recalls how "charity is at the heart of the Church's social doctrine". Yet, given the risk of its being "misinterpreted and detached from ethical living", he warns how "a Christianity of charity without truth would be more or less interchangeable with a pool of good sentiments, helpful for social cohesion, but of little relevance".

The Holy Father makes it clear that development has need of truth. In this context he dwells on two "criteria that govern moral action": justice and the common good. All Christians are called to charity, also by the "institutional path" which affects the life of the "polis", that is, of social coexistence.

The first chapter of the Encyclical focuses on the message of Paul VI's "Populorum Progressio" which "underlined the indispensable importance of the Gospel for building a society according to freedom and justice. ... The Christian faith does not rely on privilege or positions of power, ... but only on Christ". Paul VI "pointed out that the causes of underdevelopment are not primarily of the material order". They lie above all in the will, in the mind and, even more so, in "the lack of brotherhood among individuals and peoples".

"Human Development in Our Time" is the theme of the second chapter. If profit, the Pope writes, "becomes the exclusive goal, if it is produced by improper means and without the common good as its ultimate end, it risks destroying wealth and creating poverty". In this context he enumerates certain "malfunctions" of development: financial dealings that are "largely speculative", migratory flows "often provoked by some particular circumstance and then given insufficient attention", and "the unregulated exploitation of the earth's resources". In the face of these interconnected problems, the Pope calls for "a new humanistic synthesis", noting how "development today has many overlapping layers: ... The world's wealth is growing in absolute terms, but inequalities are on the increase", and new forms of poverty are coming into being.

At a cultural level, the Encyclical proceeds, the possibilities for interaction open new prospects for dialogue, but a twofold danger exists: a "cultural eclecticism" in which cultures are viewed as "substantially equivalent", and the opposing danger of "cultural levelling and indiscriminate acceptance of types of conduct and lifestyles". In this context Pope Benedict also mentions the scandal of hunger and express his hope for "equitable agrarian reform in developing countries".

The Pontiff also dwells on the question of respect for life, "which cannot in any way be detached from questions concerning the development of peoples", affirming that "when a society moves towards the denial or suppression of life, it ends up no longer finding the necessary motivation and energy to strive for man's true good".

Another question associated with development is that of the right to religious freedom. "Violence", writes the Pope, "puts the brakes on authentic development", and "this applies especially to terrorism motivated by fundamentalism".

Chapter three of the Encyclical - "Fraternity, Economic Development and Civil Society" - opens with a passage praising the "experience of gift", often insufficiently recognized "because of a purely consumerist and utilitarian view of life". Yet development, "if it is to be authentically human, needs to make room for the principle of gratuitousness". As for the logic of the market, it "needs to be directed towards the pursuit of the common good, for which the political community in particular must also take responsibility".

Referring to "Centesimus Annus", this Encyclical highlights the "need for a system with three subjects: the market, the State and civil society" and encourages a "civilizing of the economy". It highlights the importance of "economic forms based on solidarity" and indicates how "both market and politics need individuals who are open to reciprocal gift".

The chapter closes with a fresh evaluation of the phenomenon of globalization, which must not be seen just as a "socio-economic process". Globalization needs "to promote a person-based and community-oriented cultural process of world-wide integration that is open to transcendence" and able to correct its own malfunctions.

The fourth chapter of the Encyclical focuses on the theme: "The Development of People. Rights and Duties. The Environment". Governments and international organizations, says the Pope, cannot "lose sight of the objectivity and 'inviolability' of rights". In this context he also dedicates attention to "the problems associated with population growth".

He reaffirms that sexuality "cannot be reduced merely to pleasure or entertainment". States, he says, "are called to enact policies promoting the centrality and the integrity of the family".

"The economy needs ethics in order to function correctly", the Holy Father goes on, and "not any ethics whatsoever, but an ethics which is people-centered". This centrality of the human person must also be the guiding principle in "development programs" and in international co-operation. "International organizations", he suggests, "might question the actual effectiveness of their bureaucratic and administrative machinery, which is often excessively costly".

The Holy Father also turns his attention to the energy problem, noting how "the fact that some States, power groups and companies hoard non-renewable energy resources represents a grave obstacle to development in poor countries. ... Technologically advanced societies can and must lower their domestic energy consumption", he says, at the same time encouraging "research into alternative forms of energy".

"The Co-operation of the Human Family" is the title and focus of chapter five, in which Pope Benedict highlights how "the development of peoples depends, above all, on a recognition that the human race is a single family". Hence Christianity and other religions "can offer their contribution to development only if God has a place in the public realm".

The Pope also makes reference to the principle of subsidiarity, which assists the human person "via the autonomy of intermediate bodies". Subsidiarity, he explains, "is the most effective antidote against any form of all-encompassing welfare state" and is "particularly well-suited to managing globalization and directing it towards authentic human development".

Benedict XVI calls upon rich States "to allocate larger portions of their gross domestic product to development aid", thus respecting their obligations. He also expresses a hope for wider access to education and, even more so, for "complete formation of the person", affirming that yielding to relativism makes everyone poorer. One example of this, he writes, is that of the perverse phenomenon of sexual tourism. "It is sad to note that this activity often takes place with the support of local governments", he says.

The Pope then goes on to consider the "epoch-making" question of migration. "Every migrant", he says, "is a human person who, as such, possesses fundamental, inalienable rights that must be respected by everyone and in every circumstance".

The Pontiff dedicates the final paragraph of this chapter to the "strongly felt need" for a reform of the United Nations and of "economic institutions and international finance. ... There is", he says, "urgent need of a true world political authority" with "effective power".

The sixth and final chapter is entitled "The Development of Peoples and Technology". In it the Holy Father warns against the "Promethean presumption" of humanity thinking "it can re-create itself through the 'wonders' of technology". Technology, he says, cannot have "absolute freedom".

"A particularly crucial battleground in today's cultural struggle between the supremacy of technology and human moral responsibility is the field of bioethics", says Benedict XVI, and he adds: "Reason without faith is doomed to flounder in an illusion of its own omnipotence". The social question has, he says, become an anthropological question. Research on embryos and cloning is "being promoted in today's highly disillusioned culture which believes it has mastered every mystery". The Pope likewise expresses his concern over a possible "systematic eugenic programming of births".

In the conclusion to his Encyclical Benedict XVI highlights how "development needs Christians with their arms raised towards God in prayer", just as it needs "love and forgiveness, self-denial, acceptance of others, justice and peace".