

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2011

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JULY 31, 2011

Saint Alphonsus

Roman Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

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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

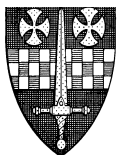
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(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



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A Free Lunch

There is no such thing as a free lunch. At least this is the unchanging principle of the commercial world. Somewhere along the chain of buying and selling, someone will have to pay. God's ways are different, of course. Grace is free. God's life is freely given. The readings today reiterate this revelation. We are told this in the poetry of Isaiah, a letter from Paul, and a story from Matthew.

Comment

The book of Isaiah is the work of at least three writers. Today we hear from "Second Isaiah," the prophet and author of the "book of consolation." The first Isaiah, "Isaiah of Jerusalem," had the odious task of warning Israel of impending disaster. Second Isaiah wrote 150 years later. His vocation was easier, if a prophet's vocation ever is. The disaster did indeed come to pass, and Israel was in exile in Babylon. It is from here that Second Isaiah writes his book of consolation, which comprises chapters 40 through 55. The exile was drawing to a close, and Isaiah announces the good news of God's deliverance. The Lord's chosen remnant are the blessed ones, says Isaiah. They are the beginning of a new creation, a new age, a new social order. The Lord promises them refreshing water, ample enriching food for body and spirit, a renewal of the covenant once made with David.

It is not difficult to make the leap from this first reading to the Gospel proclamation. We can easily imagine the view that greeted Jesus. A raggedy assembly who were so hungry for deliverance that they followed Jesus "... on foot." They sought him out; they pleaded for personal deliverance. They hung on his every word. They were heedless of the day, the hour, their distance

from home, from food and water. And finally they were hungry for simple physical sustenance. The compassion Jesus felt for the crowds readily translated into his action for their physical well-being. That came first.

We know the story of the loaves and fishes well. The people who gathered around knew the roots of the story well, too. They were people of the book—the Jewish Scriptures. They knew of manna in the desert, first recorded in Exodus. They sang of the abundance of necessary food in the psalms—16, 78, 145, to name a few. Banquets and suppers were everywhere images of the fullness of God. The crowds knew by heart the verses from Isaiah: "You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come ..." (55:1). The words once penned by Isaiah, were a reality in Jesus. The promises had come true.

Reflection

Paul, who is keenly aware of the helplessness of human beings, rhetorically asks how we will be delivered. His answer, of course, is that the love of Christ is our deliverance. We are not the source of our own deliverance. Paul has enough and more than enough experience of his own failings. His hope is not in the law and certainly not in himself, but in Christ and him crucified. Every now and then as we read Paul's letters, we see his words take flight. He bursts into these ecstatic utterances that are simply stunning. They are eloquent, and we love reading them. Paul's hymn to love found in 1 Corinthians 13 is an example of this. The second reading today is another. Here Paul flowers. He pours out his lyrical exaltation about the love of God in Christ Jesus.

We listen carefully to Paul today, for he knows whereof he speaks. He has endured persecution and hunger and nakedness and the sword. And the love of God has not let go of him. All who have kept faith can sing this song. The exiles in Babylon, who possessed no coinage to pay the ransom, were delivered by God's grace. The hungry in the deserted place in Palestine were healed and fed and sent home full. The angry, raging Pharisee named Paul was given the blinding vision of Jesus, who identified with his faithful. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5). Paul knew as we do that the love of God is fully revealed in Christ, who will not let us go, as God would not. This is quite a revelation! Nor must we let go of God. We are called to rise up from the banquet table this day fully fed and ready to take up their lives. We go on our way nourished by God's Word and by the Bread of Life.



C.C.D. Classes

REGISTRATION FOR CCD – 2011-2012 – IMPORTANT NOTICE

CCD classes begin on Sunday, September 18. Classes will be 1 ½ hours from 9:45 A.M. to 11:15 A.M. There will be a Mass (8:00 A.M.) before CCD and a Mass (11:00 A.M.) after CCD. Children and Catholic Parents are expected to attend Mass regularly. This is an obligation even greater than that of attending CCD. CCD program is for students of registered parishioners.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, AUGUST 1 – Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop

8:00 AM Deceased members of the Marietti Family

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2 -- Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM John Razdik

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Clair H. Faith

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4 – Saint John Mary Vianney, Priest

8:00 AM Mary Latini

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Albert Yelochan

NEXT SATURDAY, AUGUST 6 – No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Margaret and Lawrence Martin

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 7 – Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Stephen Puskar (Birthday)
11:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

- **FOR THOSE CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED CCD LAST YEAR AND WHO WILL BE RETURNING:** applications and information will be mailed to your home. Return applications back to us (follow directions included in the mailing). **Deadline is Friday, September 9.**
- **FOR NEW STUDENTS** who did not attend last year (small children now entering Kindergarten, children of families who recently moved into the area and who have registered in our parish): **CALL OR COME TO THE PARISH HOUSE** for information and application. **Deadline for registering is Friday, September 9.**



HOLY FAMILY ANNUAL FESTIVAL – will be held on Sunday, August 7, at the Syria Mosque. The Festival begins with a Noon Mass and continues until 8:00 PM. There

will be live entertainment beginning at 3:30 PM, raffles, bake sales, games and “Famous Food” items.

GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATION – The Catholic 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, October 9, 2011 beginning with a Mass at 2:00 PM at St. Paul Cathedral. Bishop Zubik will be the celebrant. A reception will follow in the lower hall at the Cathedral.

If you are a parishioner celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary in 2011, and would be interested in attending the celebration along with the other jubilarian couples, please call the rectory or drop a note in the weekly collection basket no later than August 7th. Invitations will be sent out after responses have been received.

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish For Sunday, July 24, 2011

Offertory \$3,692.00
Parish Share \$1,000.00

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, the first Sunday of the month, the special second collection will be the monthly collection for Capital Improvements to our parish. We thank you for your kind and generous support of St. Alphonsus Church.