

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2009

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JUNE 28, 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



DECLARATION OF DEPENDENCE
Every day is "Dependence Day"

PSALM 2

The Universal Reign of the Messiah

Why do the nations rage
 and the peoples utter folly?
 The kings of the earth rise up,
 and the princes conspire together
 against the Lord and against his anointed:
 "Let us break their fetters
 and cast their bonds from us!"

He who is throned in heaven laughs;
 the Lord derides them.

Then in anger he speaks to them;
 he terrifies them in his wrath;
 "I myself have set up my king
 on Zion, my holy mountain."

I will proclaim the decree of the Lord:
 The Lord said to me, "You are my son;
 this day I have begotten you.
 Ask of me and I will give you
 the nations for an inheritance
 and the ends of the earth for your possession.
 You shall rule them with an iron rod;
 you shall shatter them like an earthen dish."

And now, O kings, give heed;
 take warning, you rulers of the earth.
 Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice before him;
 with trembling pay homage to him,
 Lest he be angry and you perish from the way,
 when his anger blazes suddenly.
 Happy are all who take refuge in him!

On Saturday, July 4, we Americans celebrate what is known as "Independence Day," the commemoration of the declaration by our Founding Fathers that they wanted to be independent of British rule and that their claim was founded on the principle of a God-given right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Part of our national identity, therefore, is this fierce "spirit of independence," that this is a "free country," and that "no one can tell us what to do, say or believe." This is all well and good, politically speaking, and we should all be grateful that we live in such a nation, but we should at the same time be cautious lest we let this spirit carry us too far, even to the point where we feel

we can challenge the existence and rule of the creator and lord of all the universe.

Psalms 2, above, describes the folly of men who rise up against the Lord and strive to "break their fetters and cast their bonds from them," men who consider God to be an enemy and who try to become "independent of God." Almighty God, from whom we derive our existence and our very being, is not an oppressor but a sustainer.

He made us and all things out of love, because he is good, and our happiness is to know our place in the order of beings. The word "religion" comes from a Latin word meaning "to tie," "to be dependent upon," and the wise man realizes that it is in acknowledging this truth of his total dependence on the Creator that he can find fulfillment and happiness in life.

In the description of sin found in the book of Genesis, the evil one, the devil, that cunning liar, tells man that disobedience and rebellion from God will make him happy, but the story ends up with man in ruins because he "declared his independence" from his Creator and went out on his own, instead.

So, as we celebrate our national holiday as Americans, rejoicing in the beginnings of our beloved country, let us not get too big for our britches. Let us acknowledge our place in the order of things, and ask God our Father to make us always aware of our dependence on him, as children safe and happy in the bosom of our mother, knowing that tied to God and obeying God we will come to that happy day when we see him face to face and thank him forever for letting us have a place in his plan of creation.

-- Fr. Saladna

**SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR
 THIS WEEK**

MONDAY, JUNE 29 – SS Peter and Paul, Apostles

8:00 AM Elizabeth "Liz" Gruden

TUESDAY, JUNE 30 – First Holy Martyrs of Rome

8:00 AM Loretta Martin

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1 – Blessed Junipero, Priest

8:00 AM Ruth Benjamin

THURSDAY, JULY 2 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Deceased members of the
 Skripets Family

FRIDAY, JULY 3 – **No Mass scheduled for today**

SATURDAY, JULY 4 -- **No Mass on Saturday morning**

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

NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 5 – Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Peg Blank and Kathi Wagle
 11:00 AM Romano Vergerio

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.



PARISH PICNIC – SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2009

OUR PICNIC will follow the same format as previous years:

PLACE: on our Church grounds and in the Church Hall

TIME: 2:00 PM -- earliest arrival
 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM - Games
 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM - Dinner
 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Bingo
 8:00 PM – Closing

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.”

MARK THE NEW DATE ON YOUR SOCIAL CALENDARS: Sunday, August 9.

Music by DJ Clem Lovasik. For dinner, bring covered dish of salad, dessert or veggie. We’ll supply everything else.



OUR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held in our Liguori Center during the week of July 5. Monday (July 6) through Friday (July 10), from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM each evening. Forms to register kiddies can be found in the Activity Room.

There is **NO** charge or fee, but all kids must be pre-registered and must have parental permission forms properly signed.

These 2 forms can be found in the Activity Room. Look for them there now.

FESTIVAL OF PRAISE – A CELEBRATION OF FAITH FOR YOUNG CATHOLICS – MONDAY, JUNE 29, 6:30 – 9:00 PM. All are welcome: High School, College, 20s, 30s! O’Connor Hall, Saint Paul Seminary, 2900 Noblestown Road, Pittsburgh. Bishop Zubik and Pittsburgh Seminarians are hosting a Festival of Praise at Saint Paul Seminary, where young Catholics and priests from all over the Pittsburgh Diocese will gather for a night of:

**Praise and Worship
 Adoration and Confession
 Food and Friendship**

This event is free of charge and requires no RSVP.

HOLY FAMILY ANNUAL PARISH FESTIVAL – Sunday, August 2, at the Syria Mosque Pavilion in Cheswick. Outdoor Mass at Noon. There will be lots of delicious homemade foods including potato pancakes, stuffed cabbage, pierogies, haluski, pickles, kielbasa and hot dogs w/sauerkraut, French fries, funnel cakes, baked goods and much more. Games for adults include chuck-a-luck, poker, and prize raffle. There will be live Italian music with Mirella from 1:30 to 3:30 PM and Jack Tady and the Tady Bears from 3:30 to 8:00 PM. Everyone is welcome!

**ST. ALPHONSUS ROMAN
 CATHOLIC CHURCH**
 750 Pittsburgh Street
 Springdale, PA 15144

Telephone: 724-274-5084

Rev. George E. Saladna, Pastor

BEST POEM IN THE WORLD

*I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its décor.*

*But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp –
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.*

*There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor
Who never said anything nice.*

*Herb, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.*

*I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take,
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.*

*'And why's everyone so quiet,
So somber – give me a clue.'
"Hush, child," He said, "they're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you."*

JUDGE NOT.

Remember, just going to Church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.

Every saint has a **PAST**
Every sinner has a **FUTURE**

—

VISITING MISSIONARY FOR THIS SUMMER

Our visiting missionary this year will be a representative of the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart. Sister Nancy Barshick has chosen the weekend of July 11/12. She will speak at all our Masses that weekend, describing the work of her community, and making her appeal. We look forward to welcoming her in July.

LETTER TO CLERGY FOR THE YEAR FOR PRIESTS

VATICAN CITY, 18 JUN 2009 - The Pope has sent a Letter to the priests of the world for the occasion of the Year for Priests, which has been called to mark the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Mary Vianney.

Dear Brother Priests,

On the forthcoming Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Friday 19 June 2009 - a day traditionally devoted to prayer for the sanctification of the clergy - I have decided to inaugurate a "Year for Priests" in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birthday of St. John Mary Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests worldwide. This Year, meant to deepen the commitment of all priests to interior renewal for the sake of a more forceful and incisive witness to the Gospel in today's world, will conclude on the same Solemnity in 2010. "The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus", the saintly Cure of Ars would often say. This touching expression makes us reflect, first of all, with heartfelt gratitude on the immense gift which priests represent, not only for the Church, but also for humanity itself. I think of all those priests who quietly present Christ's words and actions each day to the faithful and to the whole world, striving to be one with the Lord in their thoughts and their will, their sentiments and their style of life. How can I not pay tribute to their apostolic labors, their tireless and hidden service, their universal charity? And how can I not praise the courageous fidelity of so many priests who, even amid difficulties and incomprehension, remain faithful to their vocation as "friends of Christ", whom He has called by name, chosen and sent?

I still treasure the memory of the first parish priest at whose side I exercised my ministry as a young priest: he left me an example of unreserved devotion to his pastoral duties, even to meeting death in the act of bringing viaticum to a gravely ill person. I also recall the countless confreres whom I have met and continue to meet, not least in my pastoral visits to different countries: men generously dedicated to the daily exercise of their priestly ministry. Yet the expression of St. John Mary also makes us think of Christ's pierced Heart and the crown of thorns which surrounds it. I am also led to think, therefore, of the countless situations of suffering endured by many priests, either because they themselves share in the manifold human experience of pain or because they encounter misunderstanding from the very persons to whom they minister. How can we not also think of all those priests who are offended in their dignity, obstructed in their mission and persecuted, even at times to offering the supreme testimony of their own blood?

There are also, sad to say, situations which can never be sufficiently deplored where the Church herself suffers as a consequence of infidelity on the part of some of her ministers. Then it is the world which finds grounds for scandal and rejection. What is most helpful to the Church in such cases is not only a frank and complete acknowledgement of the weaknesses of her ministers, but also a joyful and renewed realization of the greatness of God's gift, embodied in the splendid example of generous pastors, religious afire with love for God and for souls, and insightful, patient spiritual guides. Here the teaching and example of St. John Mary Vianney can serve as a significant point of reference for us all. The Cure of Ars was quite humble, yet as a priest he was conscious of being an immense gift to his people: "A good shepherd, a pastor after God's heart, is the greatest treasure which the good Lord can grant to a parish, and one of the most precious gifts of divine mercy". He spoke of the priesthood as if incapable of fathoming the grandeur of the gift and task entrusted to a human creature: "O, how great is the priest! ... If he realized what he is, he would die. ... God obeys him: he utters a few words and the Lord descends from heaven at his voice, to be contained within a small host". Explaining to his parishioners the importance of the Sacraments, he would say: "Without the Sacrament of Holy Orders, we would not have the Lord. Who put Him there in that tabernacle? The priest. Who welcomed your soul at the beginning of your life? The priest. Who feeds your soul and gives it strength for its journey? The priest. Who will prepare it to appear before God, bathing it one last time in the blood of Jesus Christ? The priest, always the priest. And if this soul should happen to die [as a result of sin], who will raise it up, who will restore its calm and peace? Again, the priest. ... After God, the priest is everything! ... Only in heaven will he fully realize what he is". These words, welling up from the priestly heart of the holy pastor, might sound excessive. Yet they reveal the high esteem in which he held the Sacrament of the Priesthood. He seemed overwhelmed by a boundless sense of responsibility: "Were we to fully realize what a priest is on earth, we would die: not of fright, but of love. ... Without the priest, the passion and death of our Lord would be of no avail. It is the priest who continues the work of redemption on earth. ... What use would be a house filled with gold, were there no one to open its door? The priest holds the key to the treasures of heaven: it is he who opens the door: he is the steward of the good Lord; the administrator of His goods. ... Leave a parish for twenty years without a priest, and they will end by worshipping the beasts there. ... The priest is not a priest for himself; he is a priest for you".

St. John Vianney arrived in Ars, a village in southern France of 230 souls, warned by his bishop beforehand that there he would find religious practice in a sorry state: "There is little love of God in that parish; you will

be the one to put it there". As a result, he was deeply aware that he needed to go there to embody Christ's presence and to bear witness to His saving mercy: "[Lord,] grant me the conversion of my parish; I am willing to suffer whatever you wish, for my entire life!". With this prayer he entered upon his mission. The Cure devoted himself completely to his parish's conversion, setting before all else the Christian education of the people in his care. Dear brother priests, let us ask the Lord Jesus for the grace to learn for ourselves something of the pastoral plan of St. John Mary Vianney! The first thing we need to learn is the complete identification of the man with his ministry. In Jesus, person and mission tend to coincide: all Christ's saving activity was, and is, an expression of His "filial consciousness" which from all eternity stands before the Father in an attitude of loving submission to His will. In a humble yet genuine way, every priest must aim for a similar identification. Certainly this is not to forget that the efficacy of the ministry is independent of the holiness of the minister; but neither can we overlook the extraordinary fruitfulness of the encounter between the ministry's objective holiness and the subjective holiness of the minister. The Cure of Ars immediately set about this patient and humble task of harmonizing his life as a minister with the holiness of the ministry he had received, by deciding to "live", physically, in his parish church: As his first biographer tells us: "Upon his arrival, he chose the church as his home. He entered the church before dawn and did not leave it until after the evening Angelus. There he was to be sought whenever needed".

- Vatican Information Service

(..to be continued in a later bulletin)

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, June 21, 2009

Offertory	\$4,671.65
Parish Share	\$1,280.00

The special second collection at all Masses today, June 28, is the annual collection for the support of our Holy Father, the Pope. This collection, called "Peter's Pence," is taken up on the Sunday closest to the feast of SS Peter and Paul (tomorrow), and is used to help the Holy Father manifest works of charity in the name of our Savior. Next Sunday's second collection is the monthly collection for capital improvements to our parish. We thank you for your support of our parish and all the works of the universal church.