

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2009

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 1, 2009

Saint Alphonsus

Roman Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

750 Pittsburgh Street • Springdale, PA • 15144

Phone: 724-274-5084 • Fax: 724-274-7035 • e-mail: stalphonsus@verizon.net

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.

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

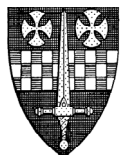
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(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

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH
ALLEGHENY
VALLEY DEANERY



“OBEDIENCE, NOT SACRIFICE”

Today, we observe the First Sunday in the Season of Lent. This season, a time of grace, is given to us by the Church as a time of training and preparation, a time to get in better spiritual shape, to focus our hearts and energy on the greater things, to make our eternal salvation our top priority, as it is also with our Heavenly Father.

The word “sacrifice” is always associated with Lent. People talk about “giving up” things. People ask us what we are “giving up.” As this Lent rolls around again, it is important for us to think about “sacrifice,” and what it means and what we are going to “give up” in this time of grace.

The first and most obvious thing we must be ready and willing to give up if we are to really observe Lent and, indeed, be Christians in the first place, is **SIN**: sins which offend God and which hurt us, habits of sin and occasions of sin, and attitudes which lead us deeper into sin.

All this is done by obedience, obedience to the will of our loving Creator and Father. We are to make our will conform with the will of our Lord. This is the greatest sacrifice, to find out the will of God for us and to have the courage to carry it out in our lives. What good is it to make other so-called “sacrifices” like “giving up” meat, or candy, or movies, or **ANYTHING** if we are not determined to give up **SIN**, the thing which destroys us and offends God.

When the Old Testament King Saul disobeyed God by taking loot from a defeated enemy, in violation of God’s command, Saul tried to justify his disobedience by claiming that he “took the loot so he could bring it back and sacrifice it to the Lord.” The prophet told the King that God rejected him, that God did not want his sacrifices. What God wanted was obedience.

Are we going to go through Lent playing games, pretending to be practicing religion, hiding behind our so-called sacrifices, giving up trivial things while refusing to give up sin and what leads us into sin? Are we going to focus on God’s will for us and try to follow it by sacrificing our own will? Or are we going to go

through yet another Lent refusing to give up the sins? Sins we should be focusing on as evils to be rooted out of our life are, for example, things like cohabitation without marriage, hatred of people and carrying on feuds with no intention of every trying to reconcile, receiving Holy Communion sacrilegiously without first having confessed serious sins, failure in our obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, letting sex, drugs and other addictions control our lives, etc. One could go on and on. Each person has to identify what the self-imposed barriers to grace are in his own life. But **THESE** are the things that we have to consider when we talk about Lent and sacrificing and giving up things. Jesus is not interested in the candy or meat or other such things in our life. He wants us first to root out the sin, to turn to him, to be determined to repent and change our life, and to let the grace of God enter where sin once reigned.

This is what the Ashes of Lent are about. Doing our will is not the way. We have sinned, we have failed. We turn away from ourselves completely and ask Jesus for the help we need to let him rule our lives completely.

- Fr. Saladna

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, MARCH 2 – Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM James M. Cagna

TUESDAY, MARCH 3 – Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Patricia C. Faith Drennen

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 – Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Joseph Kobolka

THURSDAY, MARCH 5 – No Mass scheduled for Thursday

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 – Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Joseph Bosman

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 – No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Len Roof (Birthday)

Note: Turn clocks AHEAD one hour before bed Saturday night.

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 8 – Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM (Fr. S) Peter Ortoleva and Mario Camerota

11:00 AM (Fr. McD) For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.



REST IN PEACE – The parish family of Saint Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to the families of Stella Clowes and Joseph Ferko. Please remember the deceased and their families in your prayers.

LOOK WHAT'S BACK AGAIN! – Daylight Saving Time. DST begins on Sunday, March 8 (next weekend). When you go to bed on Saturday night, March 7, turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour. The new DST begins at 2:00 AM, Sunday, March 8, and everything here will be on the “new time.” Congress extended the DST period last year, to begin earlier and to end later. On Sunday, November 1, we will switch back again.

LADIES OF CHARITY hold their monthly meeting in our Church Hall on Monday, March 2, at 7:00 PM.

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 8, THE PARENTS OF CCD 8TH GRADE STUDENTS WHO WILL BE RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION THIS FALL will meet at 9:15 AM with Fr. Saladna and Mrs. Karen Mueller. Please be on time for this very important meeting.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE TO MISS SUNDAY MASS because they have no way of coming to Church. Please let us know. Perhaps we can help you by matching you with someone who is able and willing to give you a ride. Call us or drop us a note (Name, address, phone number). Once we see who and how many are in need of such assistance we can move on to the next step of trying to find some good Samaritans.



ONE OF THE MINISTRIES OF OUR LADIES OF CHARITY is to take Holy Communion to the shut-ins, elderly, disabled, etc. Please let us know if you would like us to put your name on the list of those who would like to receive Holy Communion at your home.

GOING TO THE HOSPITAL? If you would like to be anointed before reporting to the hospital for scheduled surgery or treatment, give us a call and we can arrange for you to receive the Sacrament of the Sick beforehand here, in our Church or Chapel. These days hospital stays are brief and very busy, often with little or no privacy. Thus, when possible, it is better to do the Sacraments in privacy and peace before you report to the hospital.

IS SOMEONE VERY SICK AT HOME OR HOSPITAL? Let us know (better early than late) so the Sacraments can be administered. Sadly, too often we find that a parishioner has died with no one notifying the priest. We can know these things only if you tell us. We can come to the hospital or notify the Catholic Chaplain of hospitals who have a chaplain. Do not neglect this important element in caring for the sick – their spiritual health.

A FEW WEEKS AGO, after a parishioner asked me why Fr. McDonough does not have a daily or “weekday” Mass here every day, it dawned on me that many people think that Father McDonough lives here, or that he has the position of “assistant Pastor” (parochial vicar).

Father McDonough lives at St. Mary of the Mount Church on Mt. Washington, and he has a full-time job working every day in the Diocesan Judicial Center (the “Tribunal”) working on marriage cases (annulments, etc.) He was kind enough to come to help us when I had my knees operated on, and he was able to continue coming every Sunday for one of the two Sunday morning Masses. He helps out in other parishes, too, and he is able to help us at one Mass. If someone wants to talk briefly to him or consult him for some reason, it would have to be after his Sunday morning Mass. So you can know when he is here, we will indicate each week in the Mass schedule who the celebrant of each Mass will be. We appreciate having him as our “weekend assistant.”



OUR YOUTH GROUP will hold their next meeting, today, Sunday, March 1, in the Liguori Center, beginning at 9:15 AM.

OUR CCD PROGRAM is in need of specific “recyclables” for use in our program. We need egg cartons and paper half-gallon milk cartons. (We have enough peanut butter jars.) Please place these materials in the blue bin in the Activity Room. Your help is appreciated. Thank you very much.

EASTER NUT ROLL SALE – SS Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Tarentum will hold its Annual Easter Nut Roll Sale on April 1, 2 and 3. Nut, Apricot and Poppy Seed Rolls will be available. Cost is \$10 per roll. Please place your order by calling Lynn between the hours of 10 AM and 8 PM at 724-352-0031.

OUR 2009 LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH, SPRINGDALE, PA

ALL SUNDAYS (Mass Schedule)

5:00 PM Saturday evening (Vigil Mass for Sunday)
8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross and Benediction



CONFESSIONS

Saturdays – 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Special confessions for Holy Week:

- a. Monday, April 6, 6:00-7:00 PM, one priest
- b. Tuesday, April 7, 5:30-7:30 PM, two priests

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

1. **SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2009 – PALM SUNDAY.** Masses will be like an ordinary Sunday (Saturday evening at 5:00 PM, and Sunday morning at 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM). Palm will be blessed at the Saturday evening Mass and available at all three Palm Sunday Masses.
2. **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week (April 6, April 7 and April 8)**
Morning Mass at 8:00 AM
3. **HOLY THURSDAY – Thursday, April 9, 2009**
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 PM
4. **GOOD FRIDAY – Friday, April 10, 2009**

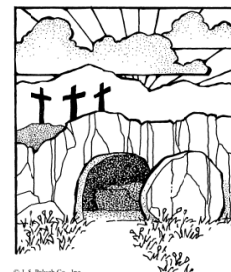
12:00 Noon	-	Public Recitation of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary
12:30 PM	-	Stations of the Cross
1:00 PM	-	Period of Meditation (Silent)
1:30 PM	-	Good Friday Liturgy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Liturgy of the Word b. Veneration of the Cross c. Holy Communion Service d. Jesus is taken down from the Cross and placed in the tomb

7:00 PM -- Evening Stations of the Cross
1. **HOLY SATURDAY – EASTER VIGIL – SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2009**

12:00 Noon	--	Blessing of Easter Food Baskets
8:30 PM	--	Easter Vigil (First Mass of Easter)
2. **EASTER SUNDAY – Sunday, April 12, 2009**

7:00 AM	--	Easter Mass
9:00 AM	--	Easter Mass
11:00 AM	--	Easter Mass

Easter Egg Hunt for kiddies after the 9:00 AM Easter Mass, on the Liguori Center lawn (inside the building in case of bad weather).



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PLEASE TAKE NOTE ON THE LENTEN SCHEDULE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE:

SPECIAL TIMES FOR CONFESSIONS IN HOLY WEEK : Monday evening, April 6, with one priest hearing from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Tuesday evening, April 7, with two priests hearing, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.

NOTICE THE SPECIAL TIME FOR THE EASTER VIGIL, on Saturday, April 11 – 8:30 PM. The Diocesan Worship Office writes:

“The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil takes place at night. It should not begin before nightfall. This rule is to be taken according to its strictest sense. In keeping with this norm, a parish may celebrate the Easter Vigil only once. Multiple services (even in different churches of one parish) are not permitted. **In the Diocese of Pittsburgh, celebrations of the Easter Vigil may not begin before 8:30 PM.** It is presumed that parishes of the Diocese will consider this norm as they make their preparations for the Easter Vigil.”

2009 COMMUNITY LENTEN WORSHIP SUNDAY SERVICES AT 3:00 PM

March 1, Springdale United Presbyterian Church, Pastor Don Frye, speaker.

March 8, St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Rev. David L.H. Carlisle, speaker.

March 15, St. Alphonsus Church, Rev. Gary F. Koch, Sr., speaker.

March 22, Cheswick Presbyterian Church, Fr. George Saladna, speaker.

March 29, Open Bible Church, Pastor Karen L. Prescott, speaker.

April 5, Springdale United Methodist Church, Dr. Henk Bossers, speaker.

DIOCESAN ADULT LECTURE SERIES – This past summer we witnessed the drama of the Olympics. We see that St. Paul uses the analogy of a race to illuminate the deeper drama of the life of Faith. On March 4, Dr. Anthony Esolen will talk on Catholicism: The Last Hope for a Dying Culture about the Pauline passage of 2 Timothy 4:7, “I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.” We invite you to join us for Dr. Esolen’s presentation to be held at St. Paul’s Auditorium on Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 PM.

COMMUNITY FISH FRY – sponsored by Transfiguration Church and St. Victor Church. Every Friday during Lent including Good Friday, 3 PM – 7 PM at St. Victor Church Activity Hall. Eat in or take out. Call 724-265-4017 for more information.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Thank you for the following donations to the St. Alphonsus Memorial Fund:

IN MEMORY OF ANNA B. DESANTIS by Barbara Simpson.

IN MEMORY OF ANNA EVANS by children, Chuck and Millie.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM GOLEBIESKI by M/M John Palenski; Charles and Cindy Gibson; John and Brenda Crowe; Elizabeth and John Rumble.

IN MEMORY OF OLIVER AND JULIA TASSOTTI by the Tassotti Family.

IN MEMORY OF ROMANO VERGERIO by Jim and Janice Dugan.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The Holy Father usually marks the solemn opening of the Lenten fast with a procession and Mass on Ash Wednesday evening. He walks from the Benedictine monastery, San Anselmo, down the Aventine hill to the Dominican monastery of Santa Sabina. This very old tradition was revived by Pope John XXIII in the late 1950s. Have you ever wondered who gives the pope his ashes? It’s the cardinal who has been given the protectorate of the church of Santa Sabina. The pope’s homily at this Mass states his theme for Lent.

Santa Sabina dates from the fifth century, and is one of the most beautiful churches in Rome. One of the panels on its main doors features the Crucifixion, a scene not normally depicted in art until much later. In the year 1219 the pope gave the church to Saint Dominic for his new religious order, the “Order of Preachers,” commonly called the Dominicans, and it remains their world headquarters to this day. That pope, Honorius III, was a member of the Savelli family, and this church was their personal family chapel. Sabina was a wealthy Roman lady who became a Christian and was martyred, and whose home became a place of prayer. Later, the church built on that spot was dedicated to her memory.

—Rev. James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish For Sunday, February 22, 2009

Offertory \$4,185.00
Parish Share \$7,165.00

PLEASE REMEMBER SAINT ALPHONSUS CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

TODAY’S SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION will be the monthly collection for Capital Improvements to our Parish and to complete our pledge for repairs and renovations to St. Paul Cathedral in Oakland. We thank you for your own kind and generous support of our Church and our Diocese. This month’s payment to the Cathedral will complete our pledge of \$4,500.