

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2009

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 15, 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

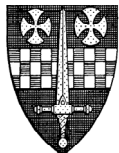
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(724) 274-2547

CCD & Youth Min. - Karen Mueller

Social Services - Cathy Moxie

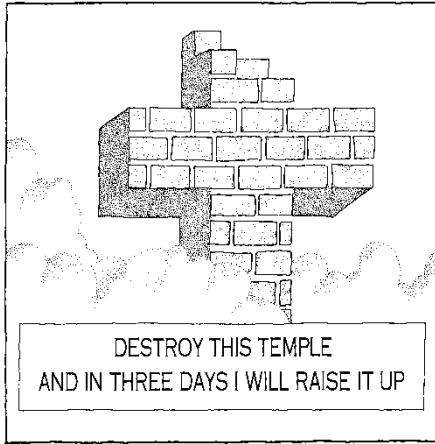
Music Director/Organist – Vickie Roof



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



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GIVE US A SIGN

In today's Gospel passage from St. John's Gospel, Jesus drives the money-changers from the Temple in Jerusalem, telling them not to make his Father's house a marketplace.

The Jews were upset (as were their tables!) and they complained. They demanded that Jesus show them a sign, to give them proof that he had the authority to do what he was doing.

Some of the signs were the "lesser miracles" (if we could call them that) which he worked, things like curing the blind, the crippled, the lepers, the deaf and the dumb. But Jesus speaks today of the greatest sign, the one sign which will be for everyone everywhere, the sign of his own Resurrection from the dead. What greater proof could Jesus give than to die and then rise from the dead. It shows that he is the author of life and the restorer of life, and this is why Saint Paul would write that if Jesus is not raised from the dead then we are the most foolish of all people. But if Jesus **IS** raised from the dead, then that is the ultimate proof that he is Almighty God and that everything he says and teaches and commands is true.

Once the "sign" of Christ's resurrection is given, there is no need for more proof. His resurrection is "once and for all." To demand more signs from Jesus is to insult him, for there could be no better proof. And yet we see (and always will see) people still running around looking for more signs, signs for their own day, signs for their own circumstances, before they commit to Jesus.

This is going too far, and this is why Jesus would say of such people, "A wicked and adulterous generation is always looking for a sign. But no sign will be given to it other than the sign of Jonah. Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the belly of the earth." And Jesus coming forth from that belly (of death) is **OUR** sign and we should accept it as enough for us. Rather than ask for more signs on top of that, we should be asking for the grace to trust Jesus and commit our lives to him, knowing that if we die with him we also will rise with him.

-- Fr. Saladna

Mass Intentions

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, MARCH 16 – Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Romano Vergerio

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 – St. Patrick, Bishop

8:00 AM Edward Skripets, Sr.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 – Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM William Armbrust

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 – St. Joseph, Husband of Mary

8:00 AM Joseph B. Tabacek

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 – Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Anna Evans (Birthday)

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross and
Benediction

SATURDAY, MARCH 21 – No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Irene Kushner (Birthday)

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 22 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

(Call the Rectory at 724-274-5084 if you wish to know the celebrant of our Sunday Masses)

8:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

11:00 AM Joseph Bosman (Birthday)

2009 COMMUNITY LENTEN WORSHIP SUNDAY SERVICES AT 3:00 PM

Today, 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.



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REST IN PEACE – The parish family of Saint Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Agnes "Nancy" Lochrane. Please remember the deceased and her family in your prayers.

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.

IS SOMEONE VERY SICK AT HOME OR HOSPITAL? Let us know (better early than late) so the Sacraments can be administered.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY THIS YEAR will be on May 17, at the 11:00 AM Mass.

SERVICE OF APOLOGY – At 7 PM on Tuesday of Holy Week, April 7, Bishop David Zubik will be leading a special Service of Apology at Saint Paul Cathedral in Oakland. If you, a loved one, a friend or a family member has been harmed in any way by the Church, please prayerfully consider attending. When we forgive and are forgiven, we are healed. And when we are healed, we are healthy, strong and able to truly celebrate Easter, able to live the mission that God designed for each of us.

MEALS ON WHEELS – From now through April 30, 2009, Lower Allegheny Valley Meals on Wheels has an opportunity to have monetary donations proportionately matched by the Feinstein Foundation.

Donations are tax-deductable and checks should be made out to L.A.V. Meals on Wheels with a note in the lower left space, “Feinstein Challenge”. The contributions may be mailed to Meals on Wheels, 600 Pittsburgh St., Springdale, PA 15144.

DINNER/FOLK MUSIC CONCERT to benefit “Mining Memories” will be held on April 1ST, 6-10 PM at the Harmar House. Donation: \$10. To purchase tickets call: Helen at 724-274-8307 or Dorothy at 724-274-9128.

ALL YOU CAN EAT SPAGHETTI DINNER – Springdale V.F.D., 845 Lincoln Avenue (across from Veterans Field) on Saturday, April 4, 6-9 PM. Includes pasta, salad, bread, dessert. Eat in or take out. Adults: \$7, Children 3-6: \$4 and children 2 and under are free.

THE BENEDICTINE NUNS OF ST. EMMA MONASTERY, GREENSBURG invite single women, ages 16-40, to experience Holy Week through the tradition of monastic prayer, April 8-12. During these days, join the nuns in chanting the Divine Office, silence, personal prayer and Holy Week liturgies. Please contact Sr. Maria at 724-834-3060 or email vocations@stemma.org for additional information or to register.

DID YOU KNOW:

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank (GPCFB)

- Distributed over 18 million pounds of food in the 2005-2006 fiscal year
- GPCFB serves 11 counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Somerset, Washington
- GPCFB distributes food to approximately 350 agencies in the 11-county area
- GPCFB member agencies serve about 120,000 people
- Of that 120,000:
 - 37,000 people are under 18 years old
 - 16,000 people are over 65
 - 17,000 people have been laid off or are on disability
 - 35,000 households have at least one member working

**FOCA
(A Radical Threat to Human Life)**

We are facing the most serious threat to pro-life policies ever – the “Freedom of Choice Act”, or FOCA. This bill would create a right to abortion the government could not limit and bring about a national abortion policy far worse than the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision. For the first time, abortion would become an entitlement the government must fund and promote. Citizens would lose the freedom they now have to enact even modest regulation of the abortion industry. FOCA would:

- Eliminate regulations that protect women from unsafe clinics and unscrupulous abortionists
- Force American taxpayers to fund abortions
- Force every state to allow partial-birth abortions – its sponsors have said a primary purpose of the bill is to ensure that killing partially born children will again be permitted nationwide
- Run roughshod over the conscience rights of physicians, nurses and hospitals that oppose abortion on religious, moral or ethical grounds
- Strip parents of their right and responsibility to be involved in their minor daughter’s abortion decision

Simply put, if FOCA becomes law, it will put at risk all the widely supported laws that for 35 years have promoted women’s health, ensured informed consent, protected minors, ensured parental involvement, safeguarded rights of conscience, and respected the desire of most citizens not to support abortion with their tax dollars.

FOCA also explicitly encourages challenges in court against any law or regulation that protects unborn children and their mothers and families in the abortion context, promising a virtual cottage industry of lawsuits.

And FOCA’s tentacles would reach beyond federal policies to every state and local law or regulation having to do with abortion.

FOCA is without doubt the most radical abortion legislation ever considered in the United States.

Abortion supporters have been trying to pass FOCA since 1989 – and now we have a Congress more disposed than any in recent years to pass the bill, and a new President who has said he will sign the measure into law.

Your voice is needed more than ever! At this time of serious national challenges, Americans should unite to serve the good of all, born and unborn – not single out the most defenseless human beings for an expanded attack on their lives.

Please urge your federal elected officials to oppose FOCA or any similar measure and to retain laws against the federal funding and promotion of abortion. FOCA embodies the public policy goals of pro-abortion groups. These groups will promote the bill’s passage directly, and advance its agenda by working to reverse pro-life laws one at a time.

WHERE TO CALL: U.S. Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121. Ask for the offices of your Representative and two Senators.

The White House: 202-456-1111.

WHERE TO WRITE:
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

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A LITTLE MORE LEVITY

- I asked my wife if old men wear boxers or briefs? She said Depends.
- Senior’s Campbell’s Soup: New Large Type Alphabet Soup.
- I’m so old..I don’t buy green bananas.
- I was at the beauty shop for nearly two hours. That was only for the estimate.
- Florida – God’s Waiting Room.
- Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

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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.

PAUL HARVEY SAYS:

Our Bible tells us to pray without ceasing. Now a handful of people and their lawyers are telling us to cease praying.

Our parents and grandparents taught us to pray before eating; to pray before we go to sleep.

The silent majority has been silent too long. It's time we let that one or two who scream loud enough to be heard that the vast majority don't care what they want. It is time the majority rules! It's time we tell them, you don't have to pray; you don't have to say the pledge of allegiance; you don't have to believe in God or attend services that honor Him. That is your right, and we will honor your right. But by golly, you are no longer going to take our rights away. We are fighting back, and we WILL WIN!

God bless us one and all especially those who denounce Him, God bless America, despite all her faults. She is still the greatest nation of all.

God bless our service men who are fighting to protect our right to pray and worship God.

May this be the year the silent majority is heard and we put God back as the foundation of our families and institutions...and our military come home from all wars.

"And that's the rest of the story"

(Mr. Harvey died a few weeks ago)

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, March 8, 2009

Offertory \$5,059.75
Parish Share \$2,009.00

Next Sunday's second collection is (a "triple-header"); (1) Catholic Campaign for Human Development to assist people across the nation in breaking the cycle of poverty. **(2) Catholic Home Missions Appeal** supports the Home Missions – places in the United States (Appalachia, the Deep South, the Southwest, the Rocky Mountain states) where the Catholic Church struggles just to keep parishes open. **(3) National Collection for Black and Indian Missions** assists with the evangelization of Black and Native American communities in parishes throughout the nation.

HOLY EUCHRIST

"The Real Presence of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist" – Q & A from a Statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This is a continuation of an abridged version which appeared in the bulletin on February 1, 2009. This is the second installment.

Q. What are appropriate signs of reverence with respect to the Body and Blood of Christ?

A. The Eucharist is treated with the greatest reverence both during and after the celebration of the Eucharist. For example, the tabernacle where the consecrated hosts are kept is placed in a conspicuous and beautiful place, inspiring prayer. Tradition dictates that when possible one should genuflect in the presence of the tabernacle or, as in the Eastern churches, to make the sign of the cross and bow profoundly. Other marks of respect for the Lord present in the tabernacle are the absence of unnecessary or loud talking, and the fasting expected of the faithful before the reception of communion, of at least one hour (unless illness prevents one from doing so).

Q. If someone without faith eats and drinks the consecrated bread and wine, does he or she still receive the Body and Blood of Christ?

A. Yes, but a lack of faith on the part of the person eating and drinking the body and blood of Christ cannot change what these are, but it does prevent the person from obtaining the spiritual benefit, which is "communion" (or "oneness" with Christ). Such an empty reception of the Blessed Sacrament would be in vain, and if done knowingly, would even be sacrilegious. Reception of the Blessed Sacrament is not an automatic remedy which can be obtained without a conscious and correct love and desire.

Q. Does the bread cease to be bread and the wine cease to be wine?

A. Yes, that is exactly what happens when the words of Jesus Christ are pronounced by the priest at the Consecration. That, in short, is what is described in the Q/A above. Of course we cannot understand how this happens, for it is truly beyond our understanding and beyond our own power to do.

Q. Is it fitting that Christ's Body and Blood become present under the appearance of bread and wine, and are the consecrated bread and wine merely "symbols"?

A. Yes, to the first question, since Jesus comes to feed and nourish our spirits, and what better means to illustrate His presence than in the actions of eating and drinking. To the second question, the Church has always believed and taught that the presence of Christ in the Eucharist is not merely symbolic, but real and true, as Christ at the Last Supper indicated: this **IS** my Body and this **IS** my Blood.