

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2009

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 29, 2009

Saint Alphonsus

Roman Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

750 Pittsburgh Street • Springdale, PA • 15144

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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

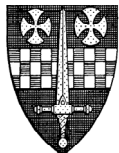
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(724) 274-2547

CCD & Youth Min. - Karen Mueller

Social Services - Cathy Moxie

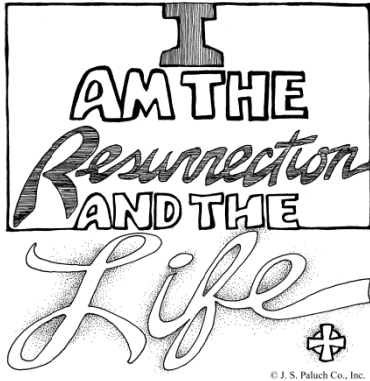
Music Director/Organist – Vickie Roof



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



The Gospel of St. John tells the wonderful story of Lazarus, the man Jesus brought back from the dead after he had been in his tomb for four days. We are all familiar with this Gospel selection since it is read at most of our funeral Masses, and it is certainly appropriate. There are two things that should capture our attention as we hear of the miracle, which Jesus performed for his friend, Lazarus.

First, even though what Jesus did was miraculous and supernatural – bringing a dead man back to life – it was not the “Resurrection,” such as happened to Jesus when he overcame his own death and which he promises to all his faithful followers who persevere to the end. The life Lazarus enjoyed after Jesus commanded him to “come out” (of the tomb) was the life which he enjoyed before he died. The “resurrection” which Jesus will accomplish for all at the end of time is mysterious and something known only to God. It is more than we can even dare to dream of or imagine. The “new” and “glorified” body is just not like the “old body.” And who would want to have the “old body,” anyway? Easter gives us the bright promise of immortality and resurrection of the body, and the miracle which Jesus worked in the Gospel today was simply one more sign that he had the power and the love to deliver on the great promise of true “resurrection.”

Secondly, the raising of Lazarus, though wonderful and spectacular, is no greater than the spiritual miracle of forgiveness of sins. When Jesus cries out, “Lazarus! Come out!” and when Jesus says, “Untie him, and let him go free,” the Lord could just as well be saying those words over sinners who turn to him and beg forgiveness. Who can raise the dead to life except God? Who can forgive sins except God? We can experience the life-giving work of Christ already in this season of reconciliation and love if we prepare ourselves to turn to the Lord in his holy Sacrament of Penance and hear him say of us, “Untie them! Let them go free!”

-- Fr. Saladna

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, MARCH 30 – Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Helen Pascarella

TUESDAY, MARCH 31 – Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Sophia Tady

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 – Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Nancy Lochrane

THURSDAY, APRIL 2 -- No Mass scheduled for today

FRIDAY, APRIL 3 – Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Rose Taylor

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross and
Benediction

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 – No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Hajduk Family

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 5 – Palm Sunday

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

8:00 AM Carmela Brogneri

11:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

Note: The principal Mass for **NEXT SUNDAY, Palm Sunday (April 5)**, will be the 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday evening. The palm will be blessed at this Mass and will also be available at each of the two Palm Sunday morning Masses.

2009 COMMUNITY LENTEN WORSHIP SUNDAY SERVICES AT 3:00 PM

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

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – two more in this season of Lent: a) Friday, April 3, and b) Good Friday, April 10 (No Benediction on Good Friday).

A CALL FOR ADULTS WISHING TO BE CONFIRMED

Confirmation will be administered this Fall (date to be determined later) in our Church to candidates from our CCD and also to young people from Our Lady of Victory.

Adults may also be confirmed at this ceremony. There are many adults who, for one reason or another, have never been confirmed. If you would like to receive this Sacrament of the Holy Spirit, please contact Father at 724-274-5084 so he can begin preparations with you. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

CONFESSIONS FOR EASTER:

In addition to our regular Saturday confession schedule on April 4, 3:30 to 4:30 PM, we will have two extra days for confessions on Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week, as follows:

Monday evening, April 6 – 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM (Fr. Saladna.

Tuesday evening, April 7 – 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM (Fr. Saladna, Fr. George Wilt and Fr. Robert Reardon).

Remember that we, too, are sinners, and we are not here to judge or condemn you, but rather to welcome you, help you and forgive you in the name of Jesus, the good shepherd.

COME TO CONFESSION, especially if you have not been here for a long time. Remember that Jesus said, "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine who do not need to repent." (Luke 15, 7)

CLEANING THE CHURCH FOR EASTER – We plan to clean and decorate our Church for Easter on Saturday morning, April 11 (the day before Easter). We need all the help we can get. Last year, thanks to many helping hands, we finished in about one and a half hours. **PLEASE PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR** and join in the fun, beginning with coffee and donuts in the Church Hall at 8:00 AM. We thank you in advance for this service to your Church. Bring rags and buckets. (We provide the water!).

EASTER VIGIL – SATURDAY, APRIL 11, AT 8:30 PM. Please note that this year we will celebrate the Easter Vigil (the first Mass of Easter, on Saturday night) at 8:30 PM. We used to have this at 7:00 PM, but it is more liturgically correct to have the vigil when darkness arrives. So, plan ahead. If you are coming to the Vigil, remember that it will be at 8:30 PM. On Easter Sunday morning (April 12), we will have three other Masses: at 7:00 AM, at 9:00 AM and at 11:00 AM. All this is found in the special Schedule for Holy Week which you will find in the parish Bulletin and also in the mailing you will receive.

CCD NEWS

NEXT SUNDAY, PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5, IS THE LAST CCD CLASS day for this term. Since our weekly class lasts for one and a half hours we are able to finish the term earlier than parishes which have class for only one hour. Parents and guardians are reminded of their obligation to bring their children to Mass every Sunday, all through the year, even after CCD classes end. The next CCD YEAR will begin on Catechetical Sunday, the third Sunday in September, September 20, 2009.

THE EASTER EGG HUNT on Easter Sunday will be held on the Liguori lawn after the 9:00 AM Mass. In case of bad weather the hunt will be moved inside the classroom and halls of the Liguori Center. Must be under age 95 to participate.

BABY JESUS SCHOOL – We are happy to notice that we are getting more little kids attending Baby Jesus School on Sunday mornings during the 11:00 AM Mass. We will try to have Baby Jesus School EVERY SUNDAY through the summer and NOT just one Sunday a month as we did last year. This service, provided by our dedicated mothers, is a type of babysitting program, taking care of infants and toddlers while parents attend the 11:00 AM Mass. We hope that you will take advantage of this program which will enrich both you and our teenie parishioners.

YOUTH GROUP MEETING – next Sunday, the first Sunday of April. The Youth Group will meet in the Liguori Center at 9:15 AM. Please be on time.

PARISH PICNIC AND VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – We will soon be announcing the dates for our parish picnic (around the beginning of August, since August 1 happens to be the date of the feast of our Patron, St. Alphonsus Liguori). Our exact date to be chosen soon.

We will also choose the week for our Vacation Bible School as soon as we can check the calendars of other groups, so we have no major conflict.

LADIES OF CHARITY MEETING – tomorrow, Monday, March 30, at 7:00 PM in the Liguori Center. At this meeting the ladies will pick up the gifts they will take to our shut-ins.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS to these three ladies who were invested as new members of the Ladies of Charity by Bishop Zubik on Saturday, March 21, at St. Paul Cathedral: Meghan Benedict, Carol Finley, and Deborah Hickman.

EASTER MEMORIAL BOOKLET – We will be preparing our Memorial Booklet for Easter again this year. Use the special “Holy Week/Easter Decoration” envelope to indicate the name(s) of your beloved dead for the booklet. Please note: (a) Print names clearly to avoid confusion (b) There is absolutely no obligation to make a monetary offering (c) Write as many names as you wish (d) Any voluntary offering made will be used for decorations, with our Parish Share Program receiving surplus donations (e) Deadline for having names published is Monday, April 6 – any names received on or by that date can be included.



GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION – for the upkeep and protection of the holy places in Jerusalem and the Holy Land. This annual collection, taken up on the day the great events of our salvation happened in Jerusalem, reminds us of our duty to respect and honor the land where Jesus was born, raised, died and rose again for our salvation.

“800 YEARS OF PRESENCE, CARE AND SERVICE”
– The Franciscans have been in the Holy Land since 1217, walking in Jesus’ footsteps, caring for the poor, educating young people, providing scholarships, protecting the Holy Shrines, conducting pastoral ministries, and keeping Christianity alive. On Good Friday, all Christians are united in a special way to the land that was made holy by the presence of Jesus and Mary and His Apostles.



EASTER BLESSING OF FAMILIES – On Easter Sunday, April 12, Bishops David Zubik, Paul Bradley and William Winter will welcome families of the Diocese to their Annual Blessing of Families at St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland beginning at 3:00 PM.

As they greet and bless your family personally, they affirm and support you as a household of love and witnesses to your faith. All families, single parent, blended, extended, etc. are invited to come and experience the Bishops’ expression of appreciation for the gift that you are and the gifts that you bring to our Diocese. Each family attending will receive a special memento to take home and the children will receive a sweet treat.



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.

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.



THE MONTH OF APRIL is the month when our parishioners are called on to volunteer at the VA Hospital in Aspinwall to help patients get to Sunday Mass. Call Liz Yanni at 724-274-6860 for more information.



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.

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.

Your Ministry of Support
Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, March 22, 2009

Offertory	\$3,908.00
Parish Share	\$1,020.00
Human Development	\$1,212.00

THE SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION next Sunday, the first Sunday of the month of April, is the monthly collection for capital improvements to our parish. Our pledge to Saint Paul Cathedral in Oakland has been met. One of our upcoming expenses will be for repairs/replacement of the roof on our school building which has been leaking and is in great need of attention. We appreciate your support of our own buildings.

BAPTISM ENABLES ALL BELIEVERS TO BE ONE IN CHRIST

VATICAN CITY, 21 MAR 2009 - At 10 a.m. today, Benedict XVI celebrated Mass at the church of Sao Paulo in Luanda, Angola. The church, built by the Capuchin Fathers in 1935, has been the property of the Salesians since 1982. The ceremony was attended by bishops, priests, religious, members of ecclesial movements and catechists of Angola and Sao Tome.

"St. Paul, the patron saint of the city of Luanda and of this splendid church, ... speaks to us from personal experience about this God Who is rich in mercy", said the Holy Father in his homily. "I feel great joy to be here today with you, my fellow-workers in the Lord's vineyard, where you labor daily to prepare the wine of divine mercy and to pour it out as balm on the wounds of your people who have suffered so many tribulations".

The decisive event in the life of the Apostle of the Gentiles, noted Benedict XVI, "was his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. ... The Apostle saw the Risen Jesus; and in Him he beheld the full stature of humanity. As a result Paul experienced an inversion of perspective; he now saw everything in the light of this perfect stature of humanity in Christ".

"Let us make haste to know the Lord', the Risen One!" he exclaimed. "As you know, Jesus, perfect man, is also our true God. In Him, God became visible to our eyes, to give us a share in His divine life. With Him a new dimension of being, of life, has come about, a dimension which integrates matter and through which a new world arises".

This new dimension "comes to each of us through faith and Baptism. This Sacrament is truly death and resurrection, transformation and new life. ... I live, but no longer I. In a certain way, my identity has been taken away and made part of an even greater identity; I still have my personal identity, but now it is changed and open to others as a result of my becoming part of Another: in Christ I find myself living on a new plane".

"Through this process of our 'Christification' by the working and grace of God's Spirit, the gestation of the Body of Christ in history is gradually being accomplished in us. At this moment I would like to go back in thought five centuries, to the years following 1506, when, in these lands, then visited by the Portuguese, the first sub-Saharan Christian kingdom was established, thanks to the faith and determination

of the king, Dom Alphonso I Mbemba-a-Nzinga, who reigned from 1506 until his death in 1543. The kingdom remained officially Catholic from the sixteenth century until the eighteenth, with its own ambassador in Rome. You see how two quite different ethnic groups, the Bantu and the Portuguese, were able to find in the Christian religion common ground for understanding, and committed themselves to ensuring that this understanding would be long-lasting, and those differences - which undoubtedly existed, and great ones at that - would not divide the two kingdoms! For Baptism enables all believers to be one in Christ.

"Today it is up to you", he added, "to offer the Risen Christ to your fellow citizens. So many of them are living in fear of spirits, of malign and threatening powers. In their bewilderment they end up even condemning street children and the elderly as alleged sorcerers. Who can go to them to proclaim that Christ has triumphed over death and all those occult powers? Someone may object: 'Why not leave them in peace? They have their truth, and we have ours. Let us all try to live in peace, leaving everyone as they are, so they can best be themselves'.

"But if we are convinced and have come to experience that without Christ life lacks something, that something real - indeed, the most real thing of all - is missing, we must also be convinced that we do no injustice to anyone if we present Christ to them and thus grant them the opportunity of finding their truest and most authentic selves, the joy of finding life. Indeed, we must do this. It is our duty to offer everyone this possibility of attaining eternal life".

"Let us enable human poverty to encounter divine mercy", the Pope concluded. "The Lord makes us His friends, He entrusts Himself to us, He gives us His Body in the Eucharist, He entrusts His Church to us. ... Let us embrace His will, like St. Paul: 'Preaching the Gospel ... is a necessity laid upon me; woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!'"

At the end of Mass, the Holy Father travelled back to the apostolic nunciature, where he greeted his hosts and dined with them.

- **Vatican Information Service**