

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2009

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 8, 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

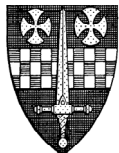
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(724) 274-2547

CCD & Youth Min. - Karen Mueller

Social Services - Cathy Moxie

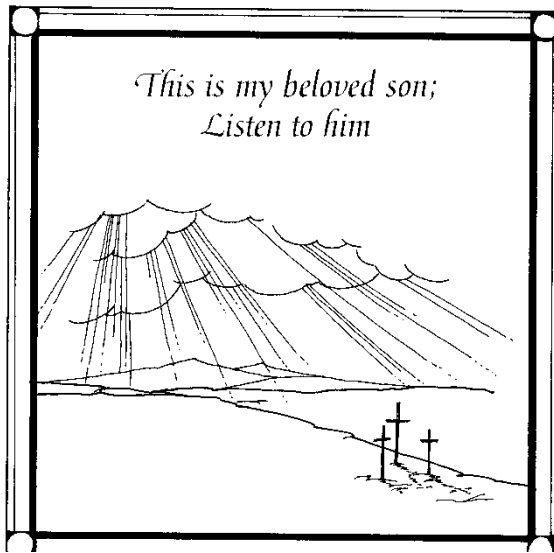
Music Director/Organist – Vickie Roof



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



NO ONE BUT JESUS

Jesus is the end of the line. Jesus is the last word. Jesus is the perfect prophet, for he not only speaks for God, but he **IS** God. Jesus is the perfect lawgiver, for he knows the path to the Father and glory. Jesus is the **SON** and the **SUN** – the image of the Father and the glory of his revelation. Jesus is everything, as we sing in that wonderful hymn, “Jesus, my Lord, my God, my All.”

“When they looked up they did not see anyone but Jesus.” This is the essence of today’s Gospel story about the Transfiguration of the Lord. Jesus takes three witnesses with him to the top of the mountain: Peter, James and John. There, on the mountain, appear two Old Testament figures with him --- Moses and Elijah. Moses is the lawgiver of old, and Elijah is the prophet of old. They were the best the Old Testament had to offer. Moses brought down the tablets containing the Ten Commandments. Elijah was a great, wonder-working prophet. But when they appeared with Jesus on the mountain of the Transfiguration, when they saw him in all his glory, when they heard the voice of God the Father from heaven saying that “Jesus is the one, listen to him,” Moses and Elijah bowed out of the picture once and for all. The Old Testament ends and the New Testament begins. Jesus did not come to abolish the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah). He came to bring them to perfection. And **HE** is the perfection of the Law and the Prophets.

Aren’t we lucky and blessed to be living in the time of Christ? Our calendars say 2009 A.D., “anno Domini,” “in the year of the Lord.” We have begun another millennium of light. We don’t have to settle for lesser lights, for lesser laws – we have seen the high priest, the Son and Sun of God.

This snapshot of the Transfigured Lord was kept in the hearts and memories of today’s witnesses. They have testified to us about it, through today’s Gospel. Let us treasure this picture of Jesus glorified. It will help us get through the trials and troubles of life until that happy day when we, too, will see him in all his glory.

- Fr. Saladna

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, MARCH 9 – Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Stella Clowes

TUESDAY, MARCH 10 – Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM George Jaros

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 – No Mass scheduled for today

THURSDAY, MARCH 12 – Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Frank Hrobak

FRIDAY, MARCH 13 – Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Jennie Patula

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross and
Benediction

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 – No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Agnes Urik

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 15 – Third Sunday of Lent
(Call the Rectory at 724-274-5084 if you wish to know the celebrant of our two Sunday Masses)

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

11:00 AM Mary Ann Seiler Durney

3:00 PM Lenten Ecumenical Service in our
Church (Rev. Gary Koch, preaching)

2009 COMMUNITY LENTEN WORSHIP SUNDAY SERVICES AT 3:00 PM

Today, 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.

WE ARE ON DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME – clocks were to be turned **AHEAD** one hour Sunday morning (today) at 2:00 AM.

PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN EIGHTH GRADE will meet in the Liguori Center **TODAY** with Fr. Saladna and Mrs. Mueller to discuss their children's preparation for **CONFIRMATION** which will be administered this Fall, on a day to be determined by the Bishop's office. The meeting will be at 9:15 AM today (Sunday, March 8).

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.

RESTING IN GOD – The Diocesan Department for Person with Disabilities invites Parents and Caregivers of Children and Adults with Disabilities to pause, rest and be renewed in God, Saturday, April 25 at St. Thomas More Church, Bethel Park. The morning of prayer and fellowship begins at 9:30 AM and ends with Mass at 11:30 AM. Deacon Tim Killmeyer will offer his reflections on “Striving for Holiness” and guide the group to consider: “Can those of us who live normal, everyday lives, be called to holiness?” And, as caregivers, “What does it mean to be holy?” to walk in the footsteps of Jesus who says, “Be holy as I am holy.” For more information and to register for this event, please contact Sue Sunderland at 412-456-3119 x1 or email ssunderland@diopitt.org.

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-free 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.

“HEROIN: LIVES FOREVER CHANGED” is a powerful documentary with straight-forward, unrehearsed interviews of people whose lives have been forever changed by heroin. No narration, no laundry list of meaningless statistics, no “talking heads”, no advertisements, nothing but straight talk from an addict, grieving parents, an undercover detective and a prosecutor.

The film is designed for teens, young adults, parents, grandparents, teachers, clergy, concerned citizens, law enforcement and anyone who cares for the well being of a person aged 12 and up.

The message of the video is simple! If you try heroin:

- You **WILL** become addicted
- You **WILL** ruin your relationships with your family and friends
- You **WILL** ruin your life and that of your family
- You **WILL** sell your possessions, steal, sell your body, and do anything for heroin
- You **WILL** be arrested at some point along your life of misery
- You **WILL** die before your time

The video will be shown, free of charge, on Wednesday, March 11, 10:30 AM, Lower Burrell Church of God, 273 Chester Drive, Lower Burrell. Call 724-226-9996 to make a reservation or if you have any questions.

OUR CCD AND BIBLE STUDY PROGRAMS are 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.

GRADUATE COLLEGE FAIR – hosted by Duquesne University on Sunday, March 29, 1:30 PM – 4 PM, Duquesne Union Ballroom. Meet with a diverse group of representatives from over 50 Graduate/Professional Schools. For more information, please visit: www.admissions.duq.edu/vstEvt.html.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST – St. Januarius Church, Plum Boro on Saturday, March 21, 8 AM – 11:30 AM. Adults:\$6, children 12 and under: \$3. Menu: pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, juice and coffee.

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.

ANGELS: LARGE PART OF THE GOSPEL AND SIGN OF GOD'S PRESENCE

VATICAN CITY, (1 MAR 2009) - Today, the first Sunday of Lent, Benedict XVI presided at the praying of the Angelus with faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square.

Before the Marian prayer the Pope reflected upon the passage from the Gospel of St. Mark which describes how Satan tempted Jesus in the desert. "In the desert - a place of trial, as evinced by the experience of the People of Israel - the truth of the 'kenosis' becomes dramatically evident: that is, the 'emptying' of Christ Who divested Himself of divine form. He, Who did not sin and could not sin, subjected Himself to trial and so was able to share our weakness".

"Against this dark and shadowy figure who dared tempt the Lord, stand the angels, luminous and mysterious beings" who are "counterpoints to Satan. 'Angel'

means 'messenger'. Throughout the Old Testament we find these figures who, in the name of God, help and guide mankind. ... At the beginning of the New Testament Gabriel is sent to announce ... the joyful events that begin our salvation. ... A choir of angels brings the shepherds the good news of the birth of the Saviour, and it is angels who announce to the women the joyous news of His resurrection".

"If we were to disregard these beings sent by God we would remove a considerable portion of the Gospel", said Pope Benedict. "They announce His presence among us and are a sign thereof. Let us, then, call upon them often that they may support us in the task of following Jesus and identifying ourselves with Him".

The Holy Father concluded his remarks by calling upon the angels to watch over him and his collaborators in the Roman Curia as they perform their annual Lenten spiritual exercises, which are due to begin this evening.

- Vatican Information Service

TO RENEW WHAT IS BROKEN BY ABUSE

"The Church, by its very nature, is the continuing presence of Christ in the world. Our response, therefore, is always spiritual and pastoral. That is the heart of who we are. So we must respond in prayer. Jesus asks us to pray and we, as the Church, need to pray. We pray, first of all, for those who have suffered, for any victim in this terrible scandal. We need to pray for that person's healing, that person's wholeness. We need to pray for that person's continuing place in the life of the Church. We also need to pray for that person's family. Families have felt deep pain and need our prayer and our support."

"In the name of this diocesan Church I reaffirm our profound regret that such acts of abuse have taken place and again apologize that this happened within the Church where one should find care and Christ's love not spiritual harm and abuse."

- Most Reverend Donald W. Wuerl
former Bishop of Pittsburgh (1988-2006)

To Heal, Restore and Renew

The Church in Pittsburgh continues to reach out to those who have been hurt by priests, religious or others involved with the Church.

If you are a victim of abuse, or a family member of a victim, the diocese wants to help, even if you have drifted away from the Church.

We offer assistance with counseling, spiritual direction and referrals to other supportive services. For information on any of these services, we invite you to contact our Diocesan Assistance Coordinator at 412-456-3060, or toll free at 1-888-808-1235.

THE VATICAN

Not long ago a lovely lady asked me about “that flag, the Pope’s flag, which is in the Church, and what does it mean?” What a coincidence, because this year, 2009, is the 80TH Anniversary of the so-called Lateran Treaty by which the **VATICAN** and the **GOVERNMENT OF ITALY** agreed to “terms of peace” between the two governments.

First, a bit about the **VATICAN** and then a bit about the **FLAG**. The **VATICAN** is the smallest “country” in the world, located in the city of Rome, occupying only 0.17 sq. mi. or 109 acres (you could put 16 Vatican Cities into one Springdale). This little country is called “Vatican” since it sits on territory in Rome by that name, and is the spot where St. Peter was martyred by being crucified in 64 A.D. It is the center and “headquarters” of the Catholic Church, the residence of the Pope, and its most famous building is St. Peter’s Basilica, built over St. Peter’s tomb. Saint Peter’s square is the great outdoor area in front of the basilica which extends its “arms” to greet and welcome pilgrims from all over the world.

The country now known as Italy, until the Risorgimento (“revolution”) under Garibaldi, was a collection of independent provinces, one of which was the “Papal States,” an area about a sixth the size of modern Italy, a slice through the middle of Italy from Rome to the Adriatic Sea. In the revolution to unite these provinces into one country the Papal States were annexed and the Pope’s temporal power was limited to what is now Vatican City. The Pope protested this seizure of the Church’s land, and from 1860 until 1929, the Pope considered himself a “prisoner of the Vatican,” never venturing outside the walls. This changed 80 years ago on February 11, 1929, when the historic Lateran Treaty (Concordat) was signed between the Italian Government (King Victor Emmanuel III) and the Vatican (Pope Pius XI), re-establishing the political power and diplomatic standing of the Catholic Church, which had been lost when Italy seized Rome (including the Vatican), the last of the Papal States, on September 20, 1870

Now, the **FLAG**. As a country, however small, Vatican City has the basic essentials of temporal government (about 800 people live in Vatican City): a Post Office, a Police Force (the ceremonial Swiss Guard..Italy provides real protection), a little train station, a city hall of sorts, the world-famous Vatican Library and Museum, and the giant Basilica of St. Peter, etc.) And this brings us to the Papal Flag, which you see in our Church, to the right as you look toward the altar. It is modeled after the earlier flag of the Papal States. It is a square flag with two vertical bands, one gold (representing the spiritual power) and the other silver

(representing the temporal power). In the white band you see the tiara (crown) and the crossed keys of St. Peter, to whom Jesus said, “I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.” (Mt. 16, 19) One key is golden and the other is white. A red cord connects the two keys. The tiara and crossed keys are also the Vatican City’s coat of arms.

And that is why our Church has in it not only our beautiful American flag, but also the Papal Flag, for we are blessed with citizenship not only of the United States, but we also have a spiritual allegiance to our Holy Father and the little country where he lives, as the Vicar of Christ.

SOMETHING ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

- The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending, and to have the two as close together as possible. – George Burns.
- Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year. – Victor Borge
- Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. – Mark Twain
- My wife has a slight impediment in her speech. Every now and then she stops to breathe. – Jimmy Durante
- Don’t worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you. – Winston Churchill
- I don’t feel old. I don’t feel anything until noon. Then it’s time for my nap. – Bob Hope

Your Ministry of Support
 Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
 For Ash Wednesday and Sunday, March 1, 2009

Offertory	\$8,555.40
Parish Share	\$5,740.50

**PLEASE REMEMBER SAINT ALPHONSUS
 CHURCH IN YOUR WILL**