

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2009

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 10, 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

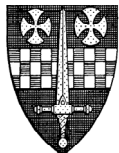
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(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



WHO'S A "BIRDBRAIN" ???
(Repeat from Mother's Day, 2004)

A robin is sitting on the roof of the parish house. She (I am just presuming the sex) is very excited, nervously jumping and flying around our little Christmas tree planted in front of the porch. When people come to and from the house or the chapel she seems to get even more upset, watching and chirping and pacing and flying.

I know the reason. She is building a nest for her eggs, for her children. She is determined to get it done in time, for nature does not wait. She is doing an unbelievable job on the nest. It looks like it was done in a factory, not by some little bird with nothing to work with and carry stuff except with her beak. When I first saw it under construction, I was going to thwart the project, since it can get messy and annoying, but the more I saw it and thought about it, the more I admired it. Almighty God, in creating this bird, gave her this magnificent instinct by which she glorifies her maker. If I took the nest out of the tree or smacked it down, the bird would be back, starting again from scratch, determined to prepare a place for her young ones. Her whole life had her destined to be a mother, and she was giving all she had and doing all she could for her young ones, yet to be born.

I just looked in the nest again. There's something in it now – little blue eggs, two of them. I don't have to wonder what they are or what they will soon be. They are now "in fieri," in the state of becoming, and soon they will be little bird babies, the pride and joy of Mamma Robin. If I were to choke them or step on them or crush their heads, I would be killing a bird. And if I would have smashed the eggs, even before they hatched, I would still be killing a bird. Imagine the anguish of the Robin if I had done that. She was worried and upset enough when I was just walking by the nest even before the eggs were laid.

One thing this robin would **NEVER** do is kill her own baby. In fact, she would die, if she could, to keep it from any harm, so that it could hatch and grow up to be another Mother Robin. No, this "bird brain" has enough innate sense to protect her young, to preserve them, and keep them from all harm. The thought of her getting rid of them would never enter her mind. It would be impossible.

Would that we, who are supposed to be superior to the birds and the other forms of life, could have enough sense. Would that all people would respect life. Would that those who have been given a free will by our Creator would always use it to choose the good, to choose life.

Happy Mother's Day, Lady Robin, and all human Mothers!

-- Fr. Saladna

**SCHEDULE OF MASSES
FOR THIS WEEK**

NOTE: our daily (weekday) Mass is held in the Chapel (part of the parish house building). Enter through the porch door.

NOTE: when we have a Funeral Mass in the Main Church, the weekday Mass is dropped in favor of the funeral Mass. The weekday Mass is usually celebrated at 8:00 AM. Funeral Masses are usually celebrated at 10:00 AM. When in doubt, give us a call at 724-274-5084. We had 3 funerals in a row last week.

MONDAY, MAY 11 – Easter Weekday

8:00 AM Jennie Ciamacco

TUESDAY, MAY 12 -- No Mass scheduled for today

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 – Our Lady of Fatima

8:00 AM Sharla Hatfield (Anniv.)

THURSDAY, MAY 14 – Saint Mathias, Apostle

8:00 AM Stella M. Clowes

FRIDAY, MAY 15 – Easter Weekday

8:00 AM John Kristoff

SATURDAY, MAY 16 – No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Deceased members of the Richey and Ryan Families

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 17 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM Rachel Carrigan and Stella Roofner

11:00 AM For our First Holy Communicants and all Parishioners

Our CCD Second Graders will receive First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 17, at the 11:00 AM Mass.

REST IN PEACE -- The parish family of Saint Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to the families of Mary Pulliam, Andrew Oravec, and Clara Gewax. Please remember the deceased and their families in your prayers.

ST. ALPHONSUS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

750 Pittsburgh Street

Springdale, PA 15144

Telephone: 724-274-5084

Fax: 724-274-7035

Rev. George E. Saladna, Pastor

SPECIAL MAY DEVOTIONS – In the month of May we will pay tribute to Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of the Church, at our Sunday Masses, with a “mini-devotion” at the Prayer of the Faithful or after Communion, as follows:

- May 10 - St. Alphonsus' Prayer of Consecration to the Blessed Mother
- May 17 - Giving the Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel to First Communion Candidates at the 11:00 AM Mass
- May 24 - The Holy Rosary: Fifth Decade of The Glorious Mysteries – the Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven
- May 31 - The “Memorare”

Epilogue

(taken from A Pastoral Letter to the Church of Pittsburgh on the Economic Crisis by Most Reverend David A Zubik)

There is a story about Pope John Paul II that was aired during the silver jubilee of his election to the papacy. Perhaps it was shared before that special event, but it was on the auspicious occasion that I heard it for the first time.

On his first trip back to his homeland of Poland following his election, Pope John Paul faced many challenges, perhaps the greatest being the calculated resistance against his visit by the Communists who held political power at the time and who were foolish enough to think that they could hold power over Christ and the Pope, the Vicar of Christ on earth.

But the one challenge that snuck up on John Paul, the challenge that he didn't see coming until it was actually upon him, occurred as he was being driven to the airport to fly back to Rome, It was the end of his first pilgrimage to his homeland.

He was with a good friend in the car. He quickly came down with a heavy dose of “homesickness.” He realized he was leaving his “former” home to go back to his new “home” in Rome. John Paul was uncharacteristically quiet in the car. He said nary a word to his friend. His friend knew why. When his friend turned to John Paul, the friend saw the symptoms of the homesickness – tears rolling down the Pope's cheeks. When he got out of the car, the Pope climbed the stairs to the plane, never looking back with the tears still gently lining his face.

Later the Pope would reflect on those tears borne out of love for his people. But in those tears, he would

recall the many tears of people all over the world, and not just in Poland, who needed him – to be the Vicar of Christ, to be Christ's voice, to be Christ's hands, to be Christ's heart, and to challenge the Church as the Body of Christ to do and be the same.

It can be said that humanity's greatest hope—and greatest fear—is that Jesus meant exactly what He said. He said that we must love God and show that love to our neighbor.

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me’” (Matthew 25:31–36).

Remember how they responded, those good people. They looked around, stunned. They had no memory of doing such things.

“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?” (Matthew 25:37–39)

The point of Jesus' teaching?

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least ones, you did for me” (Matthew 25:37–39).

My sisters and brothers of the Church of Pittsburgh and beyond, look around with me. Look into the eyes of everyone whom you meet. These are people whose tears are looking for the compassionate and sharing response of Jesus through you, through me.

Join with me in sharing, a divine activity, the action of Jesus Himself through His Body the Church. And when we are bold enough and caring enough to look into the eyes of those in need, may we treat them as if they are Christ; may we treat them as if we are Christ—in and through *The Church Sharing*

-Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh

A TRIBUTE TO OUR PARISHIONER SENIORS, CLASS OF 2009 – Every year we honor our parishioner High School Graduates with a Mass for them and a breakfast in our Church Hall. We have chosen Sunday, May 31, for this recognition day. In order for us to prepare for the day, we ask all parish seniors who would like to be invited to the affair to let us know by Wednesday, May 27. Call 724-274-5084.

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY in Pennsylvania is Tuesday, May 19. Good citizens exercise their right and privilege of voting. Sadly, too many fail to vote and then complain about the quality of politicians. Primary elections are very important since it is in these elections that people begin to surface in public service. Study the issues and candidates and use your vote wisely. Since we have a say in who serves in government, we deserve what we get.

Declaration of Intention to Receive the Sacrament of Confirmation by our current eighth grade candidates – Sunday (Pentecost), May 31, at 11:00 AM Mass.

MANY PEOPLE LOVE AND WATCH THE TV CHANNEL EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network). In our Activity Room you will find copies of the U.S. and Canada ETWN Program Highlights. This single page listing contains EWTN favorites, summer specials, Sunday night live with Fr. Benedict Groeschel, and many other inspiring and thought-provoking offerings. Take a copy for you and friends from the Activity Room and become acquainted with EWTN, the Global Catholic Network.

MARRIAGE AND SAME SEX MARRIAGES

Questions and answers about this current and controversial topic, from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Q. Why is it so important to society that marriage be preserved as the exclusive union of a man and a woman?

A. Across times, cultures, and very different religious beliefs, marriage is the foundation of the family. The family, in turn, is the basic unit of society. Thus, marriage is a personal relationship with public significance.

Marriage is the fundamental pattern for male-female relationships. It contributes to society because it models the way in which women and men live interdependently and commit, for the whole of life, to seek the good of each other.

The marital union also provides the best conditions for raising children: namely, the stable, loving relationship of a mother and father present only in marriage. The state rightly recognizes this relationship as a public institution in its laws because the relationship makes a unique and essential contribution to the common good.

Laws play an educational role insofar as they shape patterns of thought and behavior, particularly about what is socially permissible and acceptable. In effect, giving same-sex unions the legal status of marriage would grant official public approval to homosexual activity and would treat it as if it were morally neutral.

When marriage is redefined so as to make other relationships equivalent to it, the institution of marriage is devalued and further weakened. The weakening of this basic institution at all levels and by various forces has already exacted too high a social cost.

Q. In light of the Church's teaching about the truth and beauty of marriage, what should Catholics do?

A. There is to be no separation between one's faith and life in either public or private realms. All Catholics should act on their beliefs with a well-formed conscience based on Sacred Scripture and Tradition. They should be a community of conscience within society. By their voice and their vote, they should contribute to society's welfare and test its public life by the standards of right reason and Gospel truth. Responsible citizenship is a virtue. Participation in the political process is a moral obligation. This is particularly urgent in light of the need to defend marriage and to oppose the legalization of same-sex unions as marriages.

Married couples themselves, by the witness of their faithful, life-giving love, are the best advocates for marriage. By their example, they are the first teachers of the next generation about the dignity of marriage and the need to uphold it. As leaders of their family—which the Second Vatican Council called a "domestic church" (*Lumen Gentium*, no. 11)—couples should bring their gifts as well as their needs to the larger Church. There, with the help of other couples and their pastors and collaborators, they can strengthen their commitment and sustain their sacrament over a lifetime.

DUQUESNE FEST 2009 – Discover Duquesne University on Sunday, June 14. Registration begins at 8 AM.

- Learn about applying for admission.
- Meet other high school and college students.
- Discover the many facets of financial aid.
- Explore majors and career options.
- Become “in the know” about what college life is like
- Experience the spirit of Duquesne University.

Register for Duquesne Fest at www.admissions.duq.edu.

Vocation and vocation

As we have already reflected, Jesus called the early Apostles to be instruments of His important mission. One of the practical ways that the work of Jesus continues in each of our lives is through the Vocation that God shares with us—God’s call of what He designs us to be and how He wants us to live. Longstanding in our tradition as Catholics, we have come to appreciate the four distinct calls of Christ in our lives: the Vocation to the married life; the Vocation of the single life; the Vocation of the consecrated life; and the Vocation to the ordained life.

There can be very little doubt that we as a secular society have lost an appreciation for the value of Vocation. How else could it possibly be that statistics would show that a high percentage of marriages end in divorce? How else could it be that many single people feel slighted and forgotten, second class citizens in the world? How else could it be that the numbers of women and men answering the call to consecrated life and men answering the call to priesthood would be on the wane? If we choose not to follow the will of God, we choose the selfish desire.

But God still calls. And God expects an answer. The believer’s ability to respond through our human nature to God’s call is how we begin to experience the Kingdom of God on earth. Was this not the preaching of Saint John the Baptist—the Kingdom of God is at hand! Vocation is how we live our faith for the good of others and for building up the Body of Christ.

- Bishop David A. Zubik,
Pastoral Letter, “The Church Alive!” ,
June, 2008

A Mother's Love

There are times when only a mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappoints
And calm all of our fears.

There are times when only a mother's love
Can share the joy we feel
When something we've dreamed about
Quite suddenly is real.

There are times when only a mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence
We need from day to day.

For a mother's heart and a mother's faith
And a mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the angels
And sent from God above.

- Author Unknown

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!

MOTHER TERESA, ON THE COMPASSION OF JESUS

See the compassion of Christ toward Judas, the man who received so much love, and yet betrayed his own Master, the Master who kept the sacred silence and would not betray him to his companions. Jesus could have easily spoken in public and told the hidden intentions and deeds of Judas to the others, but he did not do so. He rather showed mercy and charity; instead of condemning him, he called him a friend. If Judas had only looked into the eyes of Jesus as Peter did, today Judas would have been the friend of God’s mercy. Jesus always had compassion.

- Mother Teresa of Calcutta
(Mother Teresa died in 1997. She won the Nobel Peace Prize and founded the Missionaries of Charity)

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, May 3, 2009

Offertory	\$5,650.15
Parish Share	\$325.00

The special second collection next Sunday, May 17, is the annual collection for Latin and Central America, Eastern Europe and Africa. Thanks for your kind assistance to the Church in areas where there is great need.