

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2009

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 17, 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

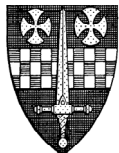
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(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

Diocese Victim Assistance Hotline..... 1-888-808-1235

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH
ALLEGHENY
VALLEY DEANERY

Love one another as I love you



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WHO ARE JESUS' FRIENDS?

In today's Gospel from Chapter 15 of St. John, Jesus says a very important thing, and he says it twice. Jesus is speaking to his disciples at the Last Supper, giving them a "farewell address" of sorts. He says to them,

"You will live in my love if you keep my commandments." Later he says to them, "You are my friends if you do what I command you."

Note the essential connection Jesus makes between love and friendship, on the one hand, and keeping commandments (obeying law) on the other. Keeping commandments is the way, the only way that we show or prove our love for the Lord. What good is it if we merely say we love him and do whatever we want? Friendship with Jesus is more than just "saying" we love him. Friendship with him is making our lives conform to his life, being in true communion with him.

Some years ago the KKK came to Pittsburgh to hold a rally. Everyone knows what the KKK stands for: hatred, bigotry and all kinds of un-Christian attitudes and policies. Yet, the KKK leader claimed to be a "Catholic." Well, he can claim what he wants, but if he is not doing what Jesus commands, he is no friend of Jesus. At that time, a church spokesman said that "to be a Catholic requires both sacramental initiation into the Church, ongoing participation in the sacramental life of the Church, and acceptance of and adherence to the teaching of the Church."

There are many people who claim to be "Catholic" who are not keeping the commandments of Jesus and his Church, even though they might not be as blatantly un-Christian as the KKK. These are people who always try to separate Jesus from law or commandments. They act as though Jesus is against law, against commandments, even though the Lord in today's Gospel says, "You will live in my love **IF** you keep my commandments." And all Jesus' commandments are given to us for our own good. All God's laws are like signs, pointing toward our true goal, eternal life. Every time we obey a law from God we benefit, not God.

Every time **WE** keep a commandment we take another true step on the path which leads to heaven.

Jesus is good and kind and merciful, and he wants to and does forgive us. But he always tells us to change our lives, to follow him, and believe in the Gospel. When he forgave the woman taken in adultery, he told her, "do not commit this sin anymore, lest something worse happen to you." In these days of radio talk shows with unfounded opinions of every kind being wisely disseminated, we hear Jesus described as someone who came to love and does not care whether he is loved in return. But Jesus says, "You are my friends if you do what I command you."

St. Paul tells us that there are many people who are enemies of the Cross of Christ, who worship themselves and follow their own will, not that of God. There are Catholics who live a life alien to the commandments and teaching of the Lord and his Church.

It's who **JESUS** says we are that really counts, not what we say of ourselves. And Jesus' description of us will be based on what we **DO** and not on what we **SAY** of ourselves.

-- Fr. Saladna

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, MAY 18 – Easter Weekday
8:00 AM Jerome and Anna Jane Mazurowski

TUESDAY, MAY 19 -- Easter Weekday
8:00 AM John A. Bohna

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 – Easter Weekday
8:00 AM Joseph Ciamacco

THURSDAY, MAY 21 – Ascension of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)	
6:30 AM	Carol Pascarella Creghan
12:00 Noon	Sharla Hatfield (Anniv.)
7:00 PM	For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

FRIDAY, MAY 22 – Easter Weekday
8:00 AM Delta Casasent

SATURDAY, MAY 23 – No Mass on Saturday morning
5:00 PM [For Sunday] Mr. & Mrs. Raymond E. Carrigan

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 24 – Seventh Sunday of Easter
8:00 AM Harry Paul
11:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

TODAY'S 11:00 AM MASS will be the Mass for the First Holy Communion children. At the Communion Mass the youngsters will be invested in the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, placed under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel will be the Marian feature for this third Sunday in the month of May, the Month of Mary.

REST IN PEACE -- The parish family of Saint Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Loretta Martin. Please remember the deceased and her family in your prayers.

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 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”

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 EWTN 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.

VISITING MISSIONARY FOR THIS SUMMER

Our visiting missionary this year will be a representative of the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart. Sister Nancy Barshick has chosen the weekend of July 11/12. She will speak at all our Masses that weekend, describing the work of her community, and making her appeal. We look forward to welcoming her in July.

CCD ATTENDANCE THIS PAST YEAR

Please find below the attendance record from our Religious Education classes for the 2008-2009 CCD year.

All absences were excused absences.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE:

Kindergarten/First Grade – Victoria Calhoun, Kelly Dugan

Second Grade – Andrew Alese, Isaac Kern

Fourth Grade – Matthew Alese, Connor Fitzgerald

Sixth Grade – Michael Antoniono

Seventh Grade – Kate Dugan, Elise Fitzgerald

Eighth Grade – Joe Antoniono, John Kern, Melissa Kokoski

ONE MISSED CLASS:

Kindergarten/First Grade – Matthew Haus, Dominique Knauer

Third Grade - David Antoniono, Justin McClafferty, Zachary Wilhelm

Fifth Grade – Ian McCutcheon

Sixth Grade – Joey Dwyer

Seventh Grade – Marissa Kandziolka, Keely Mager

Eighth Grade – Ian Farley, Dylan McKaveney

TWO MISSED CLASSES:

Kindergarten-First Grade – Marina McCutcheon, Alexis Arce

Third Grade – Jimmy Dugan

Fourth Grade – Cheyenne Kern

Fifth Grade – Taylor Smajda

Sixth Grade – Michael Iacovino

Seventh Grade – Laurie Kern

Eighth Grade – Anthony Iacovino, Mark McClafferty, Sydney Smajda

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

For further information, we invite to contact our
Diocesan Assistance Coordinator
at 412-456-3060
or toll free at 1-888-808-1235



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Holy Martyrs Parish
353 W. Ninth Avenue,
Tarentum, PA 15084

May 5, 2009

Dear Fr. Saladna,

LOOKING AHEAD:

MEMORIAL DAY is Monday, May 25. Our Mass that morning will be celebrated at 9:00 AM.

DIAPER DRIVE – Our parish is asked to help, through Catholic Charities, the **WOMEN IN NEED** program. The **WIN** program helps families with basic baby needs and more (diapers, baby wipes, lotions and powders, formula, etc.). Diapers in small sizes, all things for infants and very young children. Those who would like to provide such baby care items are asked to bring them to the Church vestibule the weekend of May 30/31.

MAY SWEEPSTAKES – For those who purchased tickets, be reminded that there is no need for you to monitor your numbers. The computer will do it for you. When someone wins, we automatically notify them and send their reward, whether they were following their ticket(s) or not. Thank you for supporting Catholic causes through the sweepstakes.

MANY HAVE REMARKED ABOUT OUR BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS – the grass, the hedges, the flowers, etc. We are grateful to Mr. Gary Petitto who takes care of the grounds, and also to our two “Flower Girls,” Karen Mueller and Anna Marie Killian who plant and tend to the flowers you see here and there.

ALL YOU CAN EAT SPAGHETTI DINNER – Springdale V.F.D., 845 Lincoln Ave, (across from Veterans Field) on Saturday, May 30th, 3:30 – 8 PM. Includes pasta, salad, bread, dessert. Eat in or take out. Adults: \$7.00, children 3-6: \$4.00. Children 2 and under are free.

SPAGHETTI DINNER BENEFIT for Jeffrey Stuckley, age 9, who has been battling a serious illness for the past six years – today, Sunday, May 17 at Holy Family Church, Creighton, 12 noon to 5 PM. Dinner includes: spaghetti and meatballs, salad, roll and dessert, ice tea or coffee. Adults: \$9.00, Children: \$5.00.

Sunday, June 14, marks the Feast of Corpus Christi – the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. We at Holy Martyrs invite you and your parishioners to be an important part of it.

If you would be so kind as to invite your parishioners via your parish bulletin to make a sawdust carpet in the church parking lot on that day. Some people will be starting to make carpets as early as 7:30 AM. Others will gather around 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM.

There will be Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 11:00 AM Mass until the closing ceremony at 4:00 PM. Monsignor James T. Gaston, Pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Lower Burrell, PA will be the celebrant for the 4:00 PM ceremony. You are cordially invited to concelebrate the ceremony which will include Procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the church and into the parking lot where the beautiful sawdust carpets will be displayed, and back into the church for Benediction and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Please bring an alb and white stole.

Following the 4:00 PM service, you and your parishioners are invited to the parish social hall for some refreshments and fellowship. Our parish would be honored by your presence.

I would very much appreciate if you would contact me at the rectory (724-224-0770) if you will be in attendance. Also, please have your parishioners call the rectory if they would like to reserve a space in the parking lot to make a carpet.

Looking forward to hearing from you! May God bless you in your ministry.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Aaron J Kriss, Pastor

Our “carpet coordinator” is Monica Zalepa. Call her if you would like to be in our St. Alphonsus group making a carpet(s).

CHRISTIANS CALLED TO OFFER RECONCILIATION AND FORGIVENESS

VATICAN CITY, 10 MAY 2009 - At 4.30 p.m. today, Benedict XVI travelled by car to the area of Bethany beyond the Jordan, located 50 kilometers from Amman on the border between Jordan and Israel. The precise location of Bethany remains unknown but it is believed to be located some 200 meters west of the Hill of the Prophet Elijah, in an area yet to be excavated.

On arrival the Pope boarded an electric car to visit the site. He was accompanied by King Abdullah, Queen Rani and Prince Ghazi, while an entourage followed in eleven other similar vehicles. As they went, the director of the al-Mughtas Centre explained the various features of the archaeological itinerary of the "Baptism Site" which concludes in an area where two churches are currently being built, one Latin and one Greek-Melkite. The purpose of the Holy Father's visit was to bless the cornerstones of the new buildings.

Having completed the itinerary, the Holy Father began his remarks by affirming that Bethany is "a place marked by many memorable events in biblical history. The prophet Elijah ... was from this area", he said. "Here the Spirit of the Lord called John the son of Zechariah to preach a conversion of hearts. John the Evangelist also places in this area the meeting between the Baptist and Jesus, Who at His baptism was 'anointed' by the Spirit of God".

"The foundation stone of a church is a symbol of Christ", Pope Benedict explained. "The Church rests on Christ, is sustained by Him and cannot be separated from Him. He is the one foundation of every Christian community. ... With Him, we too are living stones built into a spiritual house. ... The Church is in Christ a community of new life, a dynamic reality of grace that flows from Him".

The Holy Father then recalled how "we enter the Church through Baptism. The memory of Christ's own Baptism is brought vividly before us in this place. Jesus stood in line with sinners and accepted John's baptism of penance as a prophetic sign of His own passion, death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. ... May the Jordan always remind you that you have been washed in the waters of Baptism and have become members of the family of Jesus. Your lives, in obedience to His word, are being transformed into His image and likeness".

"May the prayerful contemplation of these mysteries", he continued, "enrich you with spiritual joy and moral courage. With the Apostle Paul, I encourage you to grow in the whole range of noble attitudes covered by

the blessed name of 'agape', Christian love. Promote dialogue and understanding in civil society, especially when claiming your legitimate rights. In the Middle East, marked by tragic suffering, by years of violence and unresolved tensions, Christians are called to offer their contribution, inspired by the example of Jesus, of reconciliation and peace through forgiveness and generosity.

"Continue being grateful to those who lead you and serve you faithfully as ministers of Christ", the Pope added in conclusion. "You do well to accept their guidance in faith knowing that, by receiving the apostolic teaching they transmit, you welcome Christ and you welcome the One Who sent Him".

Following the rite of blessing the cornerstones, Benedict XVI returned to the apostolic nunciature in Amman, where he spent the night.

- Vatican Information Service

RACHEL'S SUSTAINABLE FEAST – sampling the best of Western Pennsylvania, Sunday, May 24, 12:30-4 PM, Rachel Carson Homestead. Come learn about, buy and sample local, sustainable foods and goods. Best of Pittsburgh's chefs showcasing local sustainable agriculture. Lots of local Farmers' Markets. Kids' activities, special book signing. Tickets: \$10 per person (\$2 off if you bring your own beverage container for water). Kids under six get in free. Preregistration required. More information available on the website: www.rachelcarsonhomestead.org.

Your Ministry of Support	
Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish For Sunday, May 10, 2009	
Offertory	\$4,558.00
Parish Share	\$868.00
Today's special second collection at all Masses throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh will be the annual collection for Catholic Relief Services. This money is used to assist places in the world which experience major natural disasters such as earthquake, tsunami, flooding, etc. Some is also used to assist the struggling church in Central and South America, Africa and Eastern Europe. We thank you for your kind and generous support of the Church not only here at home but also those places which are truly in need of assistance at very special times.	