

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2009

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 24, 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.



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

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

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH
ALLEGHENY
VALLEY DEANERY

As you sent me, so I send them



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The Gospels in this Easter season have Jesus giving his last will and testament to his Apostles in the upper room, just before he was about to leave them. They are saddened to know that they will see him no more, but he tries to comfort them by news of the “Comforter” he would send, the Holy Spirit, the “Paraclete.”

Thus, St. John’s Gospel really contains “Good News,” which is what the Gospel means. It is “Good News” because it is a revelation of the intimate life of God, who is a “Holy Trinity,” and it is “Good News” because it talks about a certain kind of peace which only God can give: the interior peace of heart which belongs to all those who are in communion with God and with all men of good will.

Our faith in the Blessed Trinity is a gift from God. By letting us know about his own personal, internal life, God is admitting us into his own family. Jesus said that servants do not know what their master is about, and so he does not call us “Servants.” Instead, he calls us his “Friends.” What a friend we have in Jesus! He shows us not only himself by coming among us as our Brother in the flesh, but he also reveals the Father (of whom Jesus is the image) and the Holy Spirit of both Son and Father.

The Lord Jesus also promises us peace. He says he does not give us the kind of “Peace” which the world gives, but rather the peace of God. No one can take this inner peace from us. It is the peace which comes from knowing that God is our Friend and Helper, and that he is faithful to death and will keep his promises.

As we prepare to say farewell to the Lord and to receive the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, next Sunday, we, too, should be consoled by the knowledge that we belong to God’s Family and that we enjoy the peace which alone can make us happy.

-- Fr. Saladna

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, MAY 25 – Memorial Day

9:00 AM For all the deceased members of our parish and our families

TUESDAY, MAY 26 – St. Philip Neri

8:00 AM Andrew Strcula

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27 – Easter Weekday

8:00 AM Patricia C. Faith Drennen

THURSDAY, MAY 28 – No Mass scheduled for today

FRIDAY, MAY 29 – Easter Weekday

8:00 AM Mary Pulliam

SATURDAY, MAY 30 – No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Judy Wray (Anniv.)

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 31 – Pentecost Sunday

8:00 AM Deceased members of the Eiseman and Getz Families [This Mass will be attended by our graduating seniors]

11:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec. [This Mass will be attended by the Confirmation Class, making their Declaration of Intention to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Fall]

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 24 - The Holy Rosary: Fifth Decade of The Glorious Mysteries – the Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven
- May 31 - The “Memorare”

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.

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

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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 next weekend, May 30/31.

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YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:

ATTENTION ALL 9TH – 12TH GRADERS: CYES 2009 Service Charge, June 22-25, 2009. Applications are available for this summer's service charge now! The mission of a charge is to train young people to be leaders. Training is educational and experiential – educational because youth attend agency orientations and training sessions; experiential because youth participate in community service. This summer's service charge is centered out of North Catholic High School Center. Hurry and register – there are only 25 available spaces. Register now! Call Mrs. Mueller for application forms at 412-828-3007.

ATTENTION ALL GRADUATING SENIORS: BE NOT AFRAID, Surviving Young Adult Transitions. A retreat for recent high school graduates will be sponsored by the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at Gilmary Retreat Center, August 7 through August 9, 2009. This is your chance to gather with others to celebrate your recent high school graduation and to prepare for the future. Register now! Space is limited! Call Mrs. Mueller for applications forms at 412-828-3007.

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES 7-12: Please join St. Alphonsus Youth Ministry and the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh at PNC Park on Friday, August 21 for Catholic Youth Ministry Night at PNC Park. Tickets are \$10.00 (Section 331/Rows E-P). The Pirates are giving away 1979 Gold Pill Box Caps and there will be "dollar dogs" during the game! The tailgate party begins at 4 PM in the RED 6 LOT off General Robinson Street. Invite your family and friends. Hold this date! If enough people attend, we will order a bus. Ticket ordering information to come.

**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 you to contact
our Diocesan Assistance Coordinator
at 412-456-3060
or toll free at 1-888-808-1235**

LOOKING AHEAD:

- **ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC** – on our grounds: Sunday, August 2. Mark the date on your calendar, and reserve it. It is the closest Sunday to St. Alphonsus Feast Day (August 1).
- **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** – in our school building, five days: Monday through Friday, July 6-10, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.
- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – Monday, June 8, 7 PM.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Baby **Samuel Joseph Harvanek**, son of Brian Matthew and Sarah Marie (Hopkins) Harvanek, who will be baptized today, May 24, after the 11:00 AM Mass.

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.

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, May 17, 2009

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|-------------------------------|------------|
| Offertory | \$4,164.80 |
| Parish Share | \$1,182.00 |
| Catholic Relief Services..... | \$937.00 |

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT “PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN”

Dear Parishioners,

As almost everyone knows, or should by now, the Bishops of our country are responding to the abuse of minors which has been going on for a long time, perpetrators of which have included even clergy, religious men and women, and people from all walks of life who were engaged in church ministries or who, whether paid or volunteer staff, have had any kind of association or affiliation with the church.

This criminal behavior has been discovered not only in church personnel, and not only in Catholics, but can be and has been found in schools, sports leagues, and organizations of all kinds where minor children can be found.

Even though the actual number of child abusers is relatively small, when it is found existing in church ministries it is particularly horrible and unspeakable, for it is the betrayal of the fundamental trust which children are taught to have for clergy and all those involved in the ministry of the Gospel of Christ.

Many dioceses in our country, our own Diocese of Pittsburgh among them, have developed a very strict program to counter this evil of child abuse. It strives to make our people aware of the problem, its extent, its evil, and strives to eliminate it as far as humanly possible.

This program of our Catholic Bishops, entitled “The Protection of God’s Children,” started at the Diocesan level, setting up the protocols to be followed to discover weaknesses in our effort to protect our children, to make sure our church ministries do not include anyone who might be guilty of such abuse, and to provide a program for healing and restoration to victims.

We are now in the next stage of the Bishops’ program, this one at the parish level. This 2009 Audit for compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People will focus attention on parish compliance, and **OUR PARISH** will be among 30 parishes in our Diocese to be audited next month. Examiners will come from the Diocese to make sure we are following the precepts of the Charter – to see to it that we are and have been doing all the things we must do as a parish to implement the Bishops’ charter.

This audit presumes what it has the right and duty to presume: that we are serious about protecting the children who come under our care, and that we are willing and eager to do everything we can to keep them from predators. None of us should hesitate to comply with the requirements of this audit because it means that we are determined that children placed under our care, children who are even remotely connected with church personnel, deserve our every effort to make sure they are safe. This audit, and our complete compliance with it, means that we are focused on protecting our children, protecting our good name and the name of Christ’s church, and using common sense also in protecting ourselves from liability incurred by not doing all we could to follow the Charter.

In order to be in compliance with the charter, several steps must be taken by each and every person in our parish administration and ministry and organization, all those who can be viewed as “associated with and working for (paid or volunteer) St. Alphonsus Church”: pastor, office personnel, choir, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, sacristans, ushers, Religious Education personnel, Ladies of Charity, etc., etc. This is a rather large group of people, and a lot of work to make sure everyone is in compliance. However, for any single individual it does not require much effort, and it involves no expense. It **DOES** require a serious intention and effort to get these things done. Since it is so important, and since it is not difficult, those who do not complete the process cannot be allowed to have any parish ministry whatsoever. This is a direct command from the Bishop himself, not from the Pastor.

These steps include: (a) registration on the database, (b) getting a clearance from the Pennsylvania State Police and a clearance from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (Child Abuse Clearance), (c) signing acceptance of and commitment to Code of Pastoral Conduct, and (d) attending a workshop on "Protecting God's Children."

Some of our Staff/Employees/Volunteers in Ministry have already completed all the requirements. Some have never even done the registration on the database. Some are somewhere in between, having started but not quite finished.

Since the audit which our parish must undergo has to be completed by the end of June, it is **IMPERATIVE** that all the steps in the process for each individual be completed now. To make it possible for this to happen, all those who wish to remain in any parish ministry will have to finish everything by June 7.

Each individual will be receiving in the mail a notice of what has yet to be done in their case, and how and when to do it. This will suffice for our parish to have complied with the Diocesan audit.

IN A FEW DAYS YOU WILL RECEIVE IN THE MAIL A LETTER FROM US ON WHAT, IF ANYTHING, IS STILL MISSING IN YOUR APPLICATION, AND YOU WILL RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS ON EXACTLY HOW AND WHEN TO GET IT DONE.

On Sunday, June 7, after the 11:00 AM Mass, we will have the workshop on "Protecting God's Children" in the Liguori Center classroom, and we will have assistance and instructions on how to do all the other things: registration on database, clearances, Code of Pastoral Conduct, etc., etc.

MARK THE DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2009 –

12:00 Noon – in Liguori Center classroom – Instruction and assistance in preparing paperwork

12:30 PM – in Liguori Center classroom – WORKSHOP: "Protecting God's Children."

(For those who registered early in the process, the part about the clearances was just added by the Diocese this year, so the clearances will have to be done, too).

Once again, I thank you for your cooperation. Remember that this is being done for the sake of God's children, the little ones who are entrusted to us, that we may do our very best to keep them safe and sound and happy.

Thank you,

Fr. George Saladna