

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2009

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 3, 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

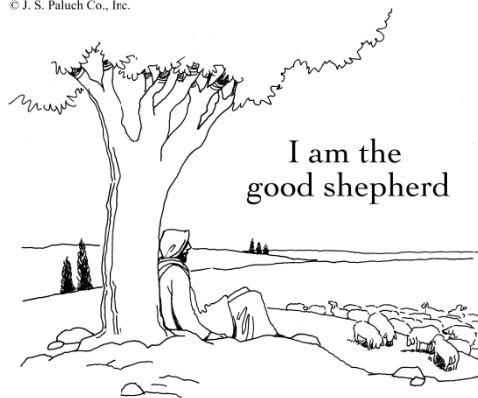


New Parishioners: We welcome new parishioners whether newly moved into the area or those who have fallen off through inactivity. Welcome! Register by calling or coming to the parish office. Become an active, attending and supporting member of the parish. And please let us know if you move away or have your telephone or address changed. Thank you.

Church Hall Telephone: (724) 274-2547

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH
ALLEGHENY
VALLEY DEANERY

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Today is Good Shepherd Sunday.

When we think of the word shepherd, we usually think first of Jesus, and then, if at all, about a shepherd in the literal sense – the person who actually raises and takes care of these animals.

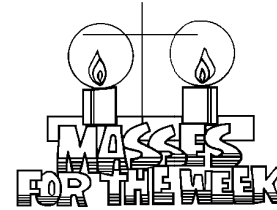
Recently, visiting a family living on a farm, I had the opportunity to see and observe some real sheep. Watching these animals, it brought home to me what the symbolism of the Gospel today is all about. The sheep we saw all stayed together. When one ran to look at something, the others all followed. When we appeared, they came running to us from all corners and from distant fields. “How gullible,” I thought. How easy it would be to lead them. And how easy it would be to lead them astray, too.

Jesus used the image of these animals and their shepherd to describe himself and us, and the relationship we should have with the Lord. He tells us that he is the Good Shepherd, that he would never lead us astray. All we have to do to find happiness is stick with the Lord, the Good Shepherd. He knows us and we know him. We hear his voice and we recognize it. There are marauders about who would like to harm us and lead us astray, but the Lord tells us to stick with him and not be fooled by wicked shepherds who have no true concern for us and who look out for their own advantage, not ours.

Jesus proves what kind of shepherd he is by the way he ended his life. He stayed with us to the very end, giving his last breath and the last drop of his blood to prove that he cares. Let us pray for the grace to realize that we will find happiness by being good sheep – followers, not leaders, of the Lord. We must decrease, so that he can increase. And he will lead us to safety and happiness.

O Jesus, Our Good Shepherd, help us to be Good Sheep!

-- Fr. Saladna



SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, MAY 4 – Easter Weekday

8:00 AM Strama Family

TUESDAY, MAY 5 – Easter Weekday

8:00 AM Leskovic Family

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 – Easter Weekday

8:00 AM John Kristoff

THURSDAY, MAY 7 -- No Mass scheduled for Today

FRIDAY, MAY 8 – Easter Weekday

8:00 AM Joseph Ciamacco

SATURDAY, MAY 9 – No Mass on Saturday morning

2:30-3:30 PM – Confessions for First Holy Communion children. After Confessions: brief practice for First Communion Sunday (Communion Sunday will be May 17, at the 11:00 AM Mass)

5:00 PM [For Sunday] For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 10 – Fifth Sunday of Easter - (Mother's Day)

8:00 AM George and Maryellen Simpson (Anniv.)

11:00 AM Helen Pascarella

CONGRATULATIONS TO BILL AND MARY LOU CHAMBERLAIN who will celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary next weekend, Sunday, May 10. They were married on May 12, 1984, at St. Nicholas Church, Millvale.

FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN: Confessions on Saturday, May 9, at 2:30 PM in the Church, followed by **PRACTICE** for First Holy Communion ceremony. First Holy Communion Mass is on Sunday, May 17, at 11:00 AM.

BABY JESUS SCHOOL EVERY SUNDAY – “Baby Jesus School” is a sitting and learning service for little kids during our 11:00 AM Sunday Mass. Drop children off at the side door of the school and let our dedicated volunteer ladies and girls watch and entertain them.

THERE IS NO MEETING OF THE LADIES OF CHARITY THIS MONDAY. The date of the next meeting will be announced later.

THE YOUTH GROUP will hold its **MAY** meeting today, May 3, at 9:15 AM, in the Liguori Center.

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.

SPECIAL MAY DEVOTIONS – In the month of May (beginning today) 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 3 - Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 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”

LOOKING AHEAD:

- **Parishioner High School Seniors' Mass and Breakfast** – Sunday, May 31 (8:00 AM Mass).
- **Declaration of Intention to Receive the Sacrament of Confirmation** by our current eighth grade candidates – Sunday (Pentecost), May 31, at 11:00 AM Mass.

CHRISTIAN FAMILIES: SCHOOLS OF OBEDIENCE AND FREEDOM

VATICAN CITY, 23 APR - At 7.30 a.m. today, Benedict XVI celebrated Mass in the Vatican's "Redemptoris Mater" Chapel with members of the organizing committee of the Sixth World Meeting of Families, which was held in Mexico City, Mexico, last January. Among those present at the Eucharistic celebration were Cardinal Ennio Antonelli, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, and Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera, archbishop primate of Mexico.

Commenting on the reading from the Acts of the Apostles in which St. Peter affirms that "we must obey God rather than any human authority", the Pope noted in his homily: "The Word of God speaks to us of an obedience that is not mere subjection, nor simply an obeying of orders. Rather, it arises from an intimate communion with God and consists of an interior vision capable of discerning that which 'comes from on high' and 'is above everything'. It is the fruit of the Holy Spirit which God grants without measure".

"Our contemporaries", he went on, "need to discover this obedience, which is not theoretical but essential. It means opting for specific forms of behavior which are based on obedience to God's will and which make us fully free. Christian families, with their domestic, simple and joyful lives, in which day by day they share their joys, hopes and concerns, and live in the light of faith, are schools of obedience and environments of true freedom. They know this well who over many years have enjoyed marriage in accordance with God's plan, experiencing the goodness of the Lord Who helps and encourages us".

- Vatican Information Service

CONGRATULATIONS to Laura Gajdosik who was nominated by our Parish for the Saint Timothy Award, from the Allegheny Valley Deanery. Nominees are young people of high school age who show Christian Leadership in the improvement of their own Youth Group or youth group in general, and who exemplify the qualities of moral integrity, prayer and good works.

Unfortunately, not all young people who were nominated from all the parishes in our Deanery could be chosen for the award. Another youth from the Allegheny Valley Deanery was chosen this year.

We are proud of Laura and grateful to her for her contribution to the parish, and we salute her and her family for service well-done and greatly appreciated.

BIBLE: DIVINE INSPIRATION AND CHURCH TRADITION

VATICAN CITY, 23 APR - This morning the Pope received thirty representatives of the Pontifical Biblical Commission who have just held their plenary assembly, dedicated to the theme: "Inspiration and truth in the Bible". The president of the commission is Cardinal William Joseph Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Benedict XVI began by underlining the importance of the chosen theme, which "concerns not only believers, but the Church herself, because the Church's life and mission necessarily rest upon the Word of God, which is the soul of theology and, at the same time, the inspiration of all of Christian life". Moreover, "the interpretation of Sacred Scripture is of vital importance for Christian faith and for the life of the Church".

"From a correct approach to the concept of divine inspiration and truth in Sacred Scripture derive certain norms that directly concern its interpretation", said the Pope. "The Constitution 'Dei Verbum', having affirmed that God is the author of the Bible, reminds us that in Sacred Scripture God speaks to mankind in a human manner. For a correct interpretation of Scripture we must, then, carefully examine what the sacred writers really sought to say and what God was pleased to reveal with their words".

The Pope then recalled how Vatican Council II had identified "three perennially-valid criteria for interpreting Sacred Scripture in accordance with the Spirit that inspired it. In the first place, great attention must be given to the content and unity of the whole of Scripture. Indeed, however different the books it contains may be, Sacred Scripture is one by virtue of the unity of God's plan, of which Jesus Christ is the centre and the heart.

"In the second place", he added, "Scripture must be read in the context of the living Tradition of the entire Church. ... In her Tradition the Church carries the living memory of the Word of God, and it is the Holy Spirit Who provides her with the interpretation thereof in accordance with its spiritual meaning. The third criterion concerns the need to pay attention to the analogy of the faith; that is, to the cohesion of the individual truths of faith, both with one another and with the overall plan of Revelation and the fullness of the divine economy enclosed in that plan".

The task of scholars, the Holy Father went on, "is to contribute, following the above-mentioned principles, to a more profound interpretation and exposition of the meaning of Sacred Scripture. The academic study of the sacred texts is not by itself sufficient. In order to respect the coherence of the Church's faith, Catholic exegetes must be careful to perceive the Word of God in these texts, within the faith of the Church".

"The interpretation of Sacred Scriptures cannot be a merely individual academic undertaking, but must always be compared with, inserted into, and authenticated by the living Tradition of the Church. This norm is essential in order to ensure a correct and reciprocal exchange between exegesis and Church Magisterium. Catholic exegetes do not nourish the individualistic illusion that biblical texts can be better understood outside the community of believers. The opposite is true, because these texts were not given to individual scholars 'to satisfy their curiosity or to provide them with material for study and research'. The texts inspired by God were entrusted to the community of believers, to the Church of Christ, to nourish the faith and to guide the life of charity".

"Sacred Scripture is the Word of God in that it is written down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Tradition, on the other hand, integrally transmits the Word of God as entrusted by Christ the Lord and by the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and their successors so that they, illuminated by the Spirit of truth, could faithfully conserve, explain and spread it through their preaching".

"Only within the ecclesial context can Sacred Scripture be understood as the authentic Word of God which is guide, norm and rule for the life of the Church and the spiritual development of believers. This means rejecting all interpretations that are subjective or limited to mere analysis [and hence] incapable of accepting the global meaning which, over the course of the centuries, has guided the Tradition of the entire people of God".

- Vatican Information Service

LEGACY

Every character has an inward spring;
let Christ be that spring.
Every action has a keynote;
let Christ be that note.

--Henry Drummond

BASKET EXTRAVAGANZA – Holy Family Church, Creighton, today, May 3, 2-5 PM. Donation of \$20 includes lunch and 25 chances to win a variety of theme baskets. For tickets call Donna at 724-265-2793 or Dee at 724-224-9495.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – next meeting will be Tuesday, May 26, at 7:30 PM.

THE GOOD IRISHMAN, PADDY, was in New York.

He was patiently waiting and watching the traffic cop on a busy street crossing. The cop stopped the flow of traffic and shouted, "Okay, pedestrians." Then he'd allow the traffic to pass.

He'd done this several times, and Paddy still stood on the sidewalk.

After the cop shouted, "Pedestrians!" for the tenth time, Paddy went over to him and said, "Is it not about time ye let the Catholics across?"

AARP BUMPER STICKERS

- I'm retired. I was tired yesterday, and I'm tired again today.
- I'm in the *initial* state of my golden years: SS, CD's, IRA's, AARP
- Cremation? Think outside the box
- We got married for better or worse. He couldn't do better, I couldn't do any worse.

Your Ministry of Support
 Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
 For Sunday, April 26, 2009

Offertory	\$4,018.25
Parish Share	\$545.00

The special second collection today, Sunday, May 3, is the monthly collection for Capital Improvements to our parish, buildings and property. We thank you for your support of Saint Alphonsus Church.

THE PERFECT CHURCH

I think that I shall never see
A Church that's all it ought to be.
A Church whose members never stray
Beyond the straight and narrow way.

A Church that has no empty pews;
Whose pastor never has the blues;
A Church whose deacons always deak,
And none are proud, and all are meek.

Where gossips never peddle lies
Or make complaints or criticize.
Where all are always sweet and kind
And all to others' faults are blind.

Such perfect Churches there may be,
But none of them is known to me;
But still I'll work and pray and plan
To make our Church the best I can.

MEMORIAL FUND

Thank you for the following donations to the St. Alphonsus Memorial Fund:

IN MEMORY OF STELLA CLOWES by Paul and Erma Jean Lutz.

IN MEMORY OF SOPHIA DZIK by the Howard Meyers Family.

IN MEMORY OF ANNA EVANS by children, Chuck and Millie.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM GOLEBIESKI by Mary Fedus and John and Barbara Hetrick; Robert W. Krech.

IN MEMORY OF NANCY LOCHRANE by John and Helen Strama; Gary and Paula Knapo; Stephen and Joyce Smarick; Barbara Williams; Joan Meleski; Stan and Miki Gibbs; Scott and Linda Faust.

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL PASCARELLA by the Howard Meyers Family; Ann Werries and Family.

IN MEMORY OF ANN RENALDI by Rose Hrabos; Balawejder Family.

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.