

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2010

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — MAY 9, 2010

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

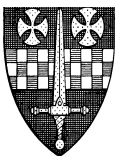
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(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

Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline 1-888-808-1235

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH
VICARIATE
NO. 4



Today we celebrate Mother's Day. The role of Good Shepherd and Mother is the same: a life of love and service.

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, says that he knows his sheep and they know him, and that he lays down his life out of love for them. A mother says the same thing about her children: she knows them and loves them, and she lays down her life for them.

It is sad and disturbing in our day that there is an often not-too-subtle attack on motherhood by those who see service and sacrifice as an outrageous infringement on our freedom and our liberty. In the past, most women viewed marriage and the motherhood which went with it as a great vocation and a great honor. Today, bearing and raising children is seen as a threat to women's freedom and happiness, and every kind of excuse is given to avoid bringing children into the world as the ultimate gift one could give to another.

Most of us "old-timers" came from large families. Most of our brothers and sisters and relatives who married raised big families, and it was so natural and good to live a life which included the big extended family of many cousins, aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces.

But now, sad to say, things are very different. Young people who marry now see children as a threat to their finances, to their freedom, to their happiness, to their health, and to any other thing they can think of. Parents talk about having a baby like they were shopping for a car or a house, as though the baby was just a "possession" or even a toy. Sometimes the baby will even be given up so the house or the car might be bigger or better.

The Scriptures tell us on the other hand that those who are open to life will be blessed in this life and in the next.

Children in a home will be like olive plants around a man's table, and he need not fear anything in this life or judgment in the next because he trusted in the Lord.

Today we pause to thank our own mothers for the gift of life and love they gave us. We pause to thank God our Father for the gift of motherhood and fatherhood, and for the gift of his only Son, our Good Shepherd.

We pray that our people will always be open to life and realize that the greatest good they can do on earth is to be instruments of the Almighty in giving and sharing life. This is one of the primary goals and fruits of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

HAPPY MOTHER'S (AND FATHER'S DAY)! AND MAY THE GOOD SHEPHERD LEAD US ALL IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

-- Fr. Saladna

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

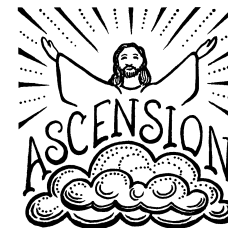
MONDAY, MAY 10 – Easter Weekday

8:00 AM Pascarella and Durket Families

TUESDAY, MAY 11 – No Mass scheduled for today

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12 – Easter Weekday

8:00 AM Nancy Lochrane



THURSDAY, MAY 13 – ASCENSION OF THE LORD
– HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

THREE MASSES, ALL ON THURSDAY

6:30 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

12:00 Noon Sharla Hatfield

7:00 PM Andrew Oravec

FRIDAY, MAY 14 – St Matthias, Apostle

8:00 AM Alice Susa

SATURDAY, MAY 15 – No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] John and Catherine Jancech and Family

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 16 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM Helen Ann (Buntova) Mikus (Birthday)

11:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

ST. ALPHONSUS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

750 Pittsburgh Street
Springdale, PA 15144

Telephone: 724-274-5084

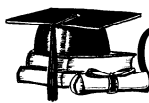
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Rev. George E. Saladna, Pastor

OUR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be held at 7 PM on Monday, May 17, in the Church Hall.



Graduation

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PARISH HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS' BREAKFAST –

Our parish traditionally hosts a breakfast for our graduating Seniors around graduation time. This year we have selected Sunday, May 30. Seniors will attend the 8:00 AM Mass and the breakfast will be served in the Church Hall after Mass. We ask all parish seniors to give us a call or drop us a note so we can send invitations to you with more details about the event and so we can determine who will attend.

MOTHER'S LOVE

A Mother's love is something
that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish
and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
or take that love away...
It is patient and forgiving
when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters
even though the heart is breaking...
It believes beyond believing
when the world around condemns
And it glows with all the beauty
of the rarest, brightest gems...
It is far beyond defining,
it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret
like the mysteries of creation...
A many-splendored miracle
man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence
of God's tender guiding hand.

-- Anonymous

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

“WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU NEED IT: A DISCUSSION OF CATHOLIC TEACHING ON ADVANCED DIRECTIVES” will be offered on Wednesday, May 19, at 7 PM at Mt. St. Peter Parish, New Kensington. This seminar will consist of two talks: (1) An explanation of Advance Health Care Directives: Living Will and Health Care Power of Attorney as written by the Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania (2) Gaps and Myths in End of Life Care as well as discussion on the value of hospice care.

This seminar will be an excellent educational opportunity for family caregivers, home health aides, health care professionals, ministers to the homebound, older adults and anyone interested in learning more about the difficult decisions that can be made before a health crisis occurs. For more information call Pat Policastro at 724-335-9877, Ext. 117.

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

TODAY, SUNDAY, MAY 9, IS MOTHER'S DAY. Our Parish Social Services Department is planning a "Diaper Drive" for W.I.N. (Women in Need). If you would like to help, please bring items listed below to the Church vestibule on Mother's Day: Diapers in small sizes (especially sizes 2 7 3), baby wipes, baby care items like Desitin, baby oils, baby bath items and shampoo. These items will be much appreciated by Women in Need and, above all, by their dear little babies. Thank you.

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish for Sunday, May 2, 2010

Offertory \$5,093.50
Parish Share \$767.00

PLEASE REMEMBER SAINT ALPHONSUS CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND, MAY 15-16: Catholic Relief Services Collection is an important opportunity to express Christian compassion and generosity. Funding from this collection provides the foundation of support for the work of five major Catholic agencies working on: international relief and development, immigration services and resettlement, advocacy for the poor, peace, reconciliation and justice. These agencies are: Catholic Relief Services; Migration and Refugee Services Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.; Social Development and World Peace; and the Holy Father's Relief Fund.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE

Q. Why does the Church teach that marriage is a sacrament?

A. Because it is sacred. Marriage is to be a union of love, and the sacraments make Christ, the author of all love, present in our midst. For this reason, marriage between two baptized persons is a sacrament. Like the other sacraments, marriage is not just for the good of individuals or the couple but also for the community as a whole. The Old Testament prophets saw the marriage of a man and woman as a symbol of the covenant relationship between God and his people. The permanent and exclusive union between husband and wife mirrors the mutual commitment between God and his people. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians says that this union is a symbol of the relationship between Christ and the Church.

Q. Why does a Catholic wedding have to take place in a Church?

A. Marriage is not just a private or family event but also a Church event. For this reason, the Church teaches that marriage should be celebrated in the midst of the community, like in the parish church of one of the spouses. Only the local bishop can permit a marriage to be celebrated in another suitable place.

Q. Is it required that a wedding celebration have expensive flowers, clothes, and other accompaniments?

A. The Rite of Marriage makes no reference to any of these cultural elements. The focus of the couple should be on the celebration of the sacrament. Many priests and deacons repeatedly emphasize that a couple does not have to postpone celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage because they cannot afford such things.

Q. Does the Church offer any programs to help couples to improve their marriage?

A. Yes. Peer ministry for married couples is widespread. Many couples participate in Marriage Encounter (www.weme.org), which offers a weekend experience and ongoing community support. Many couples meet in parish-based small groups; ministries such as Teams of Our Lady, and Christian Family Movement also use the small group approach. Some parishes sponsor a retreat day or evening of reflection for married couples. Others offer a mentoring system that matches older couples with younger ones. Retrouvaille (www.retrouvaille.org) offers a life-line for troubled marriages that has proven itself effective. For information about any of these programs, call the Office for Adult and Family Faith Formation at 412-456-3160.

For helpful resources consult the Diocese of Pittsburgh web page at www.diopitt.org.

--Diocese of Pittsburgh
Office for Adult and Family Faith Formation

NEW EDITION OF THE STATISTICAL YEARBOOK OF THE CHURCH

VATICAN CITY, 27 APR 2010 - The Vatican Publishing House has recently released a new edition of the Statistical Yearbook of the Church, comprising information on the main aspects of Catholic Church activity in various countries for the period 2000-2008.

Over these nine years, the Catholic presence in the world has grown from 1,045 million in 2000 to 1,166 million in 2008, an increase of 11.54 percent. Considering the statistics in detail, numbers in Africa grew by 33 percent, in Europe they remained generally stable (an increase of 1.17 percent), while in Asia they increased by 15.61 percent, in Oceania by 11.39 percent and in America by 10.93 percent. As a percentage of the total population, European Catholics represented 26.8 percent in 2000 and 24.31 percent in 2008. In America and Oceania they have remained stable, and increased slightly in Asia.

The number of bishops in the world went up from 4541 in 2000 to 5002 in 2008, an increase of 10.15 percent.

The number of priests also increased slightly over this nine-year period, passing from 405,178 in 2000 to 409,166 in 2008, an overall rise of 0.98 percent. In Africa and Asia their numbers increased (respectively, by 33.1 percent and 23.8 percent), in the Americas they remained stable, while they fell by 7 percent in Europe and 4 percent in Oceania.

The number of diocesan priests increased by 3.1 percent, going from 265,781 in 2000 to 274,007 in 2008. By contrast, the number of regular priests showed a constant decline, down by 3.04 percent to 135,159 in 2008. Of the continents, only Europe showed a clear reduction in priests: in 2000 they represented 51 percent of the world total, in 2008 just 47 percent. On the other hand, Asia and Africa together represented 17.5 percent of the world total in 2000 and 21.9 percent in 2008. The Americas slightly increased its percentage to around 30 percent of the total.

Non-ordained religious numbered 55,057 in the year 2000 and 54,641 in 2008. Comparing this data by continent, Europe showed a strong decline (down by 16.57 percent), as did Oceania (22.06 percent), the Americas remained stable, while Asia and Africa grew (respectively, by 32 percent and 10.47 percent).

Female religious are almost double the number of priests, and 14 times that of non-ordained male religious, but their numbers are falling, from 800,000 in 2000 to 740,000 in 2008. As for their geographical distribution, 41 percent reside in Europe, 27.47 percent in America, 21.77 percent in Asia and 1.28 percent in Oceania. The number of female religious has increased in the most dynamic continents: Africa (up by 21 percent) and Asia (up by 16 percent).

The Statistical Yearbook of the Church also includes information on the number of students of philosophy and theology in diocesan and religious seminaries. In global terms, their numbers increased from 110,583 in 2000 to more than 117,024 in 2008. In Africa and Asia their numbers went up, whereas Europe saw a reduction.

- Vatican Information Service

GIVING TO YOUR PARISH

As you plan your giving for 2010, consider that there are ways to make irrevocable or revocable planned, outright, or deferred gifts to the parish besides outright cash. Here are some options to consider.

Wills

When you make your will, please make a provision for your parish.

Bequest Intention Document

If you don't have a will, you may complete a one-page legal document to make a provision for your parish. If you have a will with no provision in it for the parish, this document can make the provision. You may cancel or change the Bequest Intention Document at any time. There is no cost to do this.

Cash Gifts

A cash contribution can lower your tax payment to the Federal Government. Use your envelope so your gift will be verified for income tax deduction purposes.

Gifts of Life Insurance

The cash value of paid up policies may be donated to generate a tax deduction. See your insurance professional to initiate this process.

A Gift of Stock – Provides Tax Advantages

A gift of appreciated stock can provide you with the best tax advantages. You will get a charitable deduction for the fair market value of the stock, just as you would if your gift was made with cash, and you don't incur capital gains tax on the appreciation. If you can't use all of the income tax charitable deduction resulting from the gift, you can carry it forward for as many as five years! You can also sell stock that has lost value, contribute the proceeds of the sale and receive a capital loss tax break. Stock gifts may also be used to fund a charitable gift annuity.

How to Transfer a Gift of Stock

Call 412-456-3055 to facilitate a transfer of stock. You will be asked if your gift is being restricted for a certain use such as a building fund, scholarships, parish share or is unrestricted for the parish's greatest need.

Establish a Named Endowment Fund

Your current donation or a future gift through your will can establish a named fund in the Diocesan Foundation or Common Fund Trust that will benefit your parish forever.

Charitable Gift Annuities

Charitable Gift Annuities provide for your own and your family's financial future with a dependable, secure, and unchanging life income. You write a check or donate securities to the Diocese of Pittsburgh for the benefit of your parish, school or other diocesan ministry. You will be paid a fixed income for as long as you live at a rate far above those paid by banks, and most of that income is tax free.

The chart below indicates the approximate annuity payment based on a single life:

AGE	RATE
90	9.5%
85	8.1%
80	7.1%
75	6.3%
70	5.7%
65	5.3%
60	5.0%

On a gift of \$50,000, a person 75 years old could expect to receive an annual payment of \$3,150 (6.3%), of which \$2,252 is tax free, and an immediate income tax deduction of \$22,080. Distributions may be direct-deposited on a monthly or quarterly basis to your account. The minimum amount required to establish a Charitable Gift Annuity is \$5,000. For a two-life annuity, the minimum is \$10,000. The average gift annuity is \$40,000. You may also initiate a deferred gift annuity which pays a higher rate. For a free prospectus, call Paul Stabile at 412-456-3055.

- Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh



"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

—1 Corinthians 9:10-11