

**ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN**

**FOR**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2009**

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – NOVEMBER 15, 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](http://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

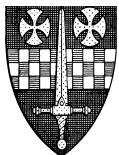
**LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES** (school building side entrance)

(724) 274-2547

**CCD & Youth Min.** - Karen Mueller

**Social Services** - Cathy Moxie

**Music Director/Organist** – Vickie Roof

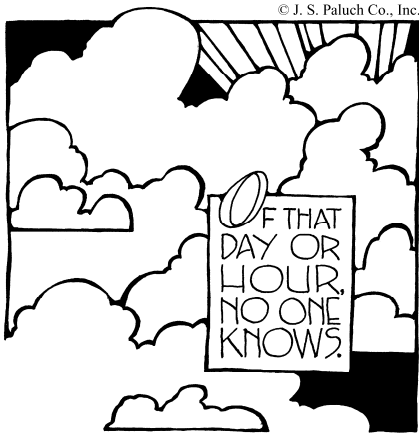


**New Parishioners:** We welcome new parishioners whether newly moved into the area or those who have fallen off through inactivity. Welcome! Register by calling or coming to the parish office. Become an active, attending and supporting member of the parish. And please let us know if you move away or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



### THE END IS NEAR

When we hear of people talking about the “end of the world,” or see cartoons with people carrying doomsday signs around which read, “the end is near,” we usually have a good laugh.

We should not laugh too hard, though, because in today’s Gospel from Saint Mark (Ch 13) we see that it is Jesus himself carrying the “end is near” sign. Jesus is the one who is talking about “doomsday.” So, we should not laugh, but pay attention.

Today we celebrate the last Sunday in Ordinary Time. Next Sunday we celebrate the wrap-up of the Church Year, as we proclaim Christ our King. Today’s Mass fittingly contains the Gospel passage from St. Mark because Jesus will come again, he will judge the living and the dead, he will lead his faithful followers into the heavenly kingdom. All this will be accompanied by great and fearful signs and wonders.

As we celebrate the Mysteries of the Lord year after year, from Advent through Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost, we realize that time is running out. This life and the life of this world are not running in a never-ending circle. No, it is on a straight line which will come to an end.

This is the message of today’s Mass: live right, trust in the Lord, be good and avoid evil. The Lord will return to demand an accounting from us. And of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Let us pray for the grace to be able to meet that day when Jesus returns with great hope and joy. Let us be ready when our Master returns. Let him find us waiting and ready to welcome him, so that he in turn can present us to his Heavenly Father in the Kingdom which will have no end.

-- Fr. Saladna

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### SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

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**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16** – Weekday Celebration  
8:00 AM Stella M. Clowes

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17** -- St. Elizabeth of Hungary  
8:00 AM Oliver and Julia Tassotti

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18** – Weekday Celebration  
8:00 AM Stephan Mosovsky

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19** -- No Mass scheduled for today

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20** – Weekday Celebration  
8:00 AM Rev. Joseph A. Kopecky

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21** – No Mass on Saturday morning  
5:00 PM [For Sunday] Paul Soulcheck, Jr.

**NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22** – Christ the King  
8:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.  
11:00 AM Ann Renaldi

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**NOTE:** on the **Feast of Christ the King**, next Sunday, November 22, in order to make special devotions available to the greatest number of people, we will incorporate Christ the King features into each of our three weekend Masses. There will be no special afternoon service.



your prayers.

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**REST IN PEACE** – The parish family of Saint Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Helen Zott. Please remember the deceased and her family in

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**PARISH MEMBERSHIP** – Those who choose to worship regularly with us are invited and welcome to formally join our faith community, offering your time, talent and financial support. Please come to the parish office to register.

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**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION** – “Sponsor Letters” are issued to practicing Catholics who are registered members of St. Alphonsus Parish for at least six months, who attend Mass regularly, have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, are married in the Church (if married) and who actively support the parish and its programs through the envelope system.

**OUR BELOVED DEAD** – We think and pray for them all the time, but in a very special way on **ALL SOULS DAY** and throughout the month of November. We have a special book, inscribed “**OUR BELOVED DEAD,**” in the Church lobby, and we ask you to sign the names of your deceased relatives, friends, neighbors and parishioners whom you wish to be remembered throughout the month of November. This book will be found in the Lobby and will remain there through the end of November.

**THOSE WHO ARE SICK AT HOME** and unable to attend Mass are invited to call the Rectory to arrange to receive Holy Communion at home. Also, people who are having major surgery and who know of this in advance should be anointed. Fr. Saladna will be happy to arrange for this to be done either in our own Church or at your home, since hospital stays are so brief and so hectic that it is almost impossible at times to have this done in the hospital with due privacy.

**TURKEY VOUCHERS** will be found in the **ACTIVITY ROOM** and in the **CHURCH VESTIBULE**. Through these envelopes you are invited to share in our outreach to the poor and needy at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Any donation you give through these voucher envelopes, which you can place in the collection basket at any time, will be used to provide assistance through the Community Food Bank and our own **PARISH SOCIAL SERVICES** outreach. Thank you for your assistance to the poor and needy of our own parish and local community.

**DECEMBER “VACATION SWEEPSTAKES”** -- we encourage you to participate. Basically, the Sweepstakes helps us raise money to help finance our Social Services. The Sweepstakes gives you an opportunity to make a donation to this worthy cause of the Church, to have a chance in doing so of winning a prize, and to support the particular goals of other Catholic Parishes and Institutions that join us in the Sweepstakes. Thank you.

**HOLIDAY DECORATION OFFERING ENVELOPES** – In your envelope packets you will find the traditional envelope for Holiday Decorations, with a place to mark the name of someone you would like to remember by your offering. Our special Christmas Day bulletin insert for December 25 will contain the names of these “memorials.” In order to be published, they must be received here no later than Friday, December 18. Please mark the names clearly (print rather than script).

**OPLATKY** (Christmas Wafers) will be available through the Ladies of Charity beginning the weekend of November 28/29 all the way through December 24. Available in the Activity Room, \$5.00 for a colorful packet of 10 wafers. Available also from Marsha at the Parish Office during her hours (see bulletin cover).



**GIFT TREE** -- On Thursday, November 26, the “**GIFT TREE**” will be placed in the Church Lobby. We invite you to take a tag or tags from the tree in order to purchase a Christmas gift for some needy person, known either through our Social Services or through the Food Bank. Tags will tell about some anonymous person who would love to receive a gift: the age, size, gender, etc. Your gift should be returned to the Vestibule of the Church on or before Sunday, December 13<sup>TH</sup>, so it can be given to the recipient in time for Christmas. Someone, known only to them and to God, will be delighted by the “secret gift” you will have provided for them. Thank you.

**ENTERTAINMENT DISCOUNT/COUPON BOOKS** for 2010 are being sold by the Parish Social Services (Ladies of Charity). They are available at \$20 after Sunday Mass in the Activity Room, or at the Parish House during office hours. There is a limited number for sale this year, so if you are really interested it would be wise to get them early. Proceeds from the sale go toward the works of the Ladies of Charity.

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

**ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH:** Join St. Alphonsus Catholic Youth Ministry for a night of fun at Funfest on Friday, November 27, from 11 PM to 2 AM. Bring your school ID, movie ticket stub or game ticket and the cost is only \$12. You must pre-register for this event. Registration and permission slips are available in the Activity Room. Deadline for registration is November 22<sup>ND</sup>. Any questions? Call or text Mrs. Mueller at 412-841-2017.

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND:** November 20-22 at the Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg. Are you exercising and dieting, jogging or swimming to stay fit and trim? What are you doing to keep your marriage in good shape? The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held November 20-22 at the Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg. For more information or to register, contact Mary and Lou Locante at 412-635-7775 or check us out on the web at [wwme-pittsburgh.org](http://wwme-pittsburgh.org).

## HEALTH CARE REFORM IS ABOUT SAVING LIVES, NOT DESTROYING THEM

- Abortion is not health care because killing is not healing.
- For over 30 years, the Hyde Amendment and other longstanding and widely supported laws have prevented federal funding of elective abortions.
- Yet health care reform bills advancing in Congress violate this policy.
- Americans would be forced to subsidize abortions through their taxes and health insurance premiums.
- We need genuine health care reform – reform that helps save lives, not destroy them.
- Keep the “Hyde Amendment” in any and every version of proposed Health Care Reform bills.

**TELL CONGRESS (BOTH HOUSES): “REMOVE ABORTION FUNDING AND MANDATES FROM NEEDED HEALTH CARE REFORM” AND KEEP THEM OUT!**

Visit [www.usccb.org/action](http://www.usccb.org/action) to send your e-mails today.

**ON THIS CRUCIAL ISSUE**, there are three essential points to remember:

1. The Catholic Church in the United States has been and continues to be a leading voice for real health care reform – reform that guarantees that all citizens have access to affordable health care.
2. Any health care reform must **not include federal funding of abortions, either directly or indirectly**. Widely supported restrictions on the federal funding of abortion and abortion coverage already exist and have existed for years (the so-called “Hyde Amendment”). Health care reform must maintain the same policies. The House of Representatives narrowly passed a bill on November 7, which kept restrictions on federal funding of abortion, but it is feared that these restrictions will be thrown out if and when the Senate passes its version and the two are to be reconciled in the final law.
3. Any health care reform must **allow for freedom of conscience protection**. Otherwise, Catholic health care facilities will be in great jeopardy. Also, conscience protection already exists in other federal programs to protect health care workers who cannot morally take part in abortions. This provision must be maintained.

### ADULT DIOCESAN FAITH FORMATION SERIES FOR SPRING 2010

The first Adult Lecture Series for Spring 2010 will feature Reverend Dwight Longnecker, author, and regular contributor to *First Things*, *This Rock*, and *National Catholic Register*. Ordained an Anglican priest, Fr. Dwight and his family were received into the Catholic Church in 1995. He was later ordained as a Catholic priest for the Diocese of Charleston in 2006 under the special pastoral provision for married former Anglican clergy. Join us for Father Dwight’s presentation, *St. Benedict and St. Therese: The Little Rule and the Little Way* to be held at St. Paul Seminary Auditorium, Tuesday, February 2<sup>ND</sup>, at 7:30 PM. The lecture is free – all are welcome. Bring a friend.

The Adult Lecture Series continues with Teresa Tomeo, an award-winning radio reporter and news anchor, first received recognition for her work from the Associated Press, the Detroit Press Club, and the American women in Radio and TV. After making the move to TV news in 1988, her assignments took her across the country covering some of the most significant stories of the 1990’s including the Oklahoma City Bombing and the 1995 visit to the U.S. of Pope

John Paul II. An author, syndicated Catholic talk show host, professional speaker, and media consultant, she was invited to Rome to be one of only 260 international delegates to participate in the 20<sup>TH</sup> anniversary of Mulieris Dignitatum, a “Congress on Women.” Join us for Teresa Tomeo’s presentation, *10 Things I’ve Learned about Living a Godly Life*, to be held at St. Paul Seminary Auditorium, Thursday, March 4<sup>TH</sup>, at 7:30 PM. The lecture is free – all are welcome. Bring a friend.

The final presentation of the Diocesan Adult Faith Formation Series will be given by Mr. Ralph Martin, Director of Graduate Theology Programs in Evangelization and assistant professor of theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in the Archdiocese of Detroit. He is also president of Renewal Ministries, an organization devoted to Catholic renewal and evangelization. Renewal Ministries is the sponsor of “The Choices We Face,” a weekly Catholic television and radio program throughout the world. Mr. Martin’s presentation, *Responding to the Call to Holiness with the Wisdom of the Saints*, will take place at St. Paul Seminary Auditorium, Thursday, April 15<sup>TH</sup>, at 7:30 PM. The lecture is free – all are welcome. Bring a friend.

**THE ROLE OF PRIESTS IS IRREPLACEABLE**

VATICAN CITY, 17 SEP 2009 - This morning in Castelgandolfo the Holy Father received a group of prelates from the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil (Northeast 2), who have just completed their "ad limina" visit.

Highlighting the functions of the various members of the Church, the Pope explained how "the particular identity of priests and laity must be seen in the light of the essential difference between priestly ministry and the 'common priesthood'. Hence it is important to avoid the secularization of clergy and the 'clericalization' of the laity".

"In this perspective", he went on, "the lay faithful must undertake to give expression in real life - also through political commitment - to the Christian view of anthropology and the social doctrine of the Church. While priests must distance themselves from politics in order to favor the unity and communion of all the faithful, thus becoming a point of reference for everyone".

Benedict XVI indicated that "the lack of priests does not justify a more active and abundant participation of the laity. The truth is that the greater the faithful's awareness of their own responsibilities within the Church, the clearer becomes the specific identity and inimitable role of the priest as pastor of the entire community, witness to the authenticity of the faith, and dispenser of the mysteries of salvation in the name of Christ the Head".

"The function of the clergy is essential and irreplaceable in announcing the Word and celebrating the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist.. For this reason it is vital to ask the Lord to send workers for His harvest; and it is necessary that priests express joy in their faithfulness to their identity".

The Pope made it clear that "the shortage of priests must not come to be considered as a normal or typical state of affairs for the future". In this context he encouraged the prelates "to combine efforts to encourage new priestly vocations and find the pastors your dioceses need, helping one another so that all of you have better-trained and more numerous priests to support the life of faith and the apostolic mission".

Referring then to the 150th anniversary of the death of the "Cure of Ars", which the Church is currently commemorating with the Year for Priests, Benedict XVI indicated that St. John Mary Vianney "continues even now to be a model for priests, especially in living a life of celibacy as a requirement for the total giving of self, expressed through that pastoral charity which Vatican

Council II presents as the unifying centre of a priest's being and actions".

The Holy Father concluded by assuring the prelates of the existence of "many signs of hope for the future of particular Churches, a future that God is preparing through the dedication and the faithfulness with which you exercise your episcopal ministry".

- Vatican Information Service



**CHRISTMAS NUT ROLL SALE** – SS Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, Tarentum, will be holding its Annual Christmas Nut Roll sale on December 2, 3 and 9, 10. Nut, Apricot and Poppy Seed Rolls will be available. Cost is \$10 per roll. Please place your order by calling Lynn, between the hours of 10 AM and 8 PM at 724-352-0031. Please note: a limited number of orders will be taken, so please place your order early.



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**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS** – this special collection (mainly) for Religious women (Sisters) will be taken up throughout the

USA next weekend, November 21/ 22. It is our way of saying **THANKS** to the devoted nuns who taught in our school for 90 years, 1904 to 1995. In the church vestibule you will find a flyer describing this annual collection and the financial difficulties that the sisters face.



**THE FUTURE**

The future starts today, not tomorrow.

- Pope John Paul II

**Your Ministry of Support**

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish For Sunday, November 8, 2009

Offertory ..... \$4,439.05  
Parish Share ..... \$530.00

**PLEASE REMEMBER ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH  
IN YOUR WILL**