

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2008

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – NOVEMBER 16, 2008

Saint Alphonsus

Roman Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

750 Pittsburgh Street • Springdale, PA • 15144

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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.

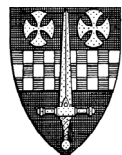
WEEKDAY: Mass held in Chapel next to Church. See bulletin each week or call Rectory for schedule of the 8:00 A.M. Mass which is not held every day (never on Sat morn).

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

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

Since you were
faithful in
small matters,
I will give you
great
responsibilities



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Today is the last regular Sunday of the Church year, for next week, November 23RD; we wrap up the calendar with the celebration of Christ the King.

St. Matthew, from whose Gospel we have been reading throughout this past year, once again has Jesus speaking of the "end." By the end, of course, he means the end of our life and the end of this world. But this is not the end of things, only the beginning, for real life starts for us when this world passes away.

Even though our journey toward God begins in this life, and even though we try to make the best of our present situation as "pilgrims" in this valley of tears, the Church is constantly telling us to "look up, to seek the things that are above." Jesus tells us that if we try to save our life here, we will end up losing the life that really means something, but if we give up our lives for him then we shall find eternal life, the vision of God which alone can make us happy.

Thus, today's parable in the Gospel speaks of servants who are given time and talent and opportunity, and who are asked to "invest" these gifts, to make them productive. Everyone receives these gifts, but not all in the same proportion. From those who are given more, more will be required. Others will receive less, and less will be required from them. But **EVERYONE** will have to account for what has been given to him. The main point of the story is that we will be judged on how well we make use of the gifts God gives us. And the best use of these gifts is using them for the benefit of others and for the honor and glory of God the giver.

The man condemned in today's parable is judged as a "worthless, lazy lout" by the Master because he did not want to take a chance. He buried the treasure the Lord gave him and thought it would be enough if he simply gave it back to the Lord at the time of reckoning.

As our life continues to pass through the hour-glass let us try to make the best use of our time, talent and opportunities so that we can hear those glorious words

from Jesus on judgment day: "Since you were dependable and trustworthy in a small matter, I will put you in charge of even larger affairs. Come, share your Master's joy."

-- Fr. Saladna



**SCHEDULE OF MASSES
FOR THIS WEEK
32ND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17 – St. Elizabeth of Hungary

8:00 AM Teophilo Scaramelli

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Rose Taylor

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 – Weekday
Celebration

8:00 AM Julia Tassotti

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20 – No Mass scheduled
for today

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 – Presentation of Mary

8:00 AM George Jardas

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22 – No Mass on
Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] John Kristoff

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 – Christ the King

8:00 AM Deceased members of the
Fenn and Kuchta Families

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

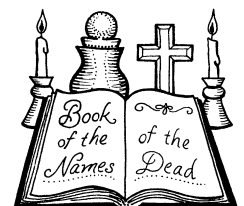
NEXT SUNDAY – CHRIST THE KING

(Devotions and Prayers in Honor of Christ the King will be part of each Mass next Sunday, as we profess our allegiance to the King of the Universe and the Savior of our Souls)

This year, on the Feast of Christ the King, 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.

THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

is traditionally dedicated to the memory of our beloved dead. There is a special book placed in the Church vestibule in which you are invited to write the names of the deceased for whom prayers will be said during all the Masses in the month of November.



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



GOING TO THE HOSPITAL FOR SCHEDULED SURGERY? It is fitting to be prepared not only physically, but also spiritually. Call Father if you would like to receive the Sacraments before you go to the hospital.

OPLATKY (CHRISTMAS WAFERS) – Oplatky will again be available this year through our Parish Social Services. A colorful packet of 10 wafers (8 white, 2 pink) is sold for \$5.00, with proceeds going to Social Services in their outreach to the elderly and sick. They will be sold in the Activity Room after all Masses each Sunday before Christmas, beginning the weekend of November 22/23. For those who want them earlier (to send out to friends), they can be obtained in the Parish Office any time.

TURKEY VOUCHER ENVELOPES – A wonderful Thanksgiving/Christmas tradition in the parish is the so-called **TURKEY VOUCHER**. Your donation in the “Turkey Voucher” envelope (found near the Church doors) will assist the hungry and the poor, especially during the holidays, either through our Parish Social Services Program and the Ladies of Charity, or through the Lower Valley Food Bank. Your name on the envelope is optional in case you wish to remain anonymous. Follow instructions on the envelopes. Thank you very much.

DECEMBER VACATION SWEEPSTAKES – As in the past, our parish, together with other parishes and Catholic Institutions, is participating in the “Vacation Sweepstakes,” throughout the month of December, with the daily drawing based on the PA Big Four Lottery Number. **Deadline to return sold Sweepstakes Tickets is Tuesday, November 25.**

DROTAR – The Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble presents Drotar “The Tinker” – a tale told through song and dance, on Sunday, November 23, at 2 PM, at the Antonian Theatre, Carlow University, Oakland. Tickets: \$10 (\$5 Seniors/Under 10). Call 412-373-3873 for more information.



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A CHRISTMAS TREE ALREADY? Next Sunday, in the Church lobby, you will see a Christmas tree with tags all over it. This is our way of announcing the annual **GIFTS FOR THE POOR** campaign. Through the Food Bank we are invited to get a gift for someone this Christmas season. If you do, the recipient will

not know who you are, nor will you know who gets your gift. Only the Lord knows of your generosity and thoughtfulness. The tags on the tree indicate, in general way, the person who would get your gift: adult male, teenage girl, etc., etc.

If you would like to help in this worthy holiday endeavor, please take a tag or tags from the tree, whichever one you wish. The gift you get should be returned to the Church lobby on or before Sunday, December 7, so that the gift can be given on the Food Bank’s distribution day. If you can help, someone will be blessing their “secret benefactor.”



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DIOCESAN ADULT FAITH FORMATION SERIES

An age old problem for human beings is to think of the body as something evil that must be transcended. However Catholics know better than that even if it remains a temptation. Sister M. Timothy Prokes, FSE will talk about this in the second installment of this year’s lecture series.

In her talk entitled “St. Paul’s Challenge: Glorify God in Your Bodies”, Sister Timothy will base her talk on this passage from 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

Sister Timothy is well qualified to speak on this topic as she has published a number of articles and a book on this topic. The book is entitled Towards a Theology of the Body and Mutuality: The Human Image of Trinitarian Love.

We invite you to join us for Sister M. Timothy Prokes’ presentation to be held at St. Paul’s Seminary Auditorium, Tuesday, November 18, at 7:30 PM. Continuing education credit is available for priests, deacons and catechists. The lecture is free -- all are welcome to attend.



JOIN ST ALPHONSUS YOUTH MINISTRY in fellowship and fun at Funfest Family Entertainment Center late Friday night, November 28 for a night of bowling, laser tag, pool and fun. You are welcome to join us and bring a friend! Reservation and permission forms can be found in the Activity Room of the Church. You must be registered to receive the special discounted price of \$16. Registration/payment must be received by Sunday, November 23. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Mueller at 412-828-3007.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Our next Youth Ministry meeting will be held in the Liguori Center on Sunday, December 7, at 9 AM. Our topics will include our attendance at the 36th Annual March for Life in Washington, DC, Youth Ministry t-shirt sizing and ordering, our winter snow tubing trip, and a special presentation by Mr. and Mrs. McCutcheon. Don't miss it!

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHRISTMAS SEALS

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus' Christmas Seal Drive, which benefits Saint Anthony School Programs and McGuire Home. While

you are undoubtedly familiar with the drive, what you may not know is that this year's effort will push the total revenue of the campaign over the \$5 million mark – an astounding level of support over the past half century for these two wonderful programs in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

The Knights will begin selling the Christmas Seals on Sunday, November 30. Not only does the drive benefit Saint Anthony School Programs and McGuire Home, it also helps to place images of the Incarnation of our God before thousands of people – on Christmas card envelopes, personal correspondence and other items. Christmas Seals are a wonderful means of evangelization and a testimony to the true meaning of Christmas.

MAKE A CHARITABLE GIFT THROUGH AN IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER – If you are over the age of 70 1/2, you must take a required minimum distribution from your IRA. Normally, this money is taxed as ordinary income. However, federal tax legislation enacted on October 3, 2008 permits you, for the remainder of 2008 and throughout 2009, to make a direct gift from your IRA to your parish, or other qualified charity. This gift counts toward fulfilling your required minimum distribution.

For each of the years 2008 and 2009 you can exclude up to \$100,000 from your gross income for distributions made directly from your traditional IRA to a qualified charity. For married couples, each spouse can make a distribution from his or her IRA under the same provisions.

The distribution must be from your IRA, not a 401(k) or other retirement plan. However, consult with your financial or tax advisor about the possibility of transferring funds from one of these other plans to establish an IRA, with the distribution to charity coming from the newly established IRA.

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THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Gracious and generous God,

We come before you today with grateful hearts.

In the beauty and bounty of creation
We seek the work of your hand;
In the loving faces around us
We know your own love for us.

May this meal nourish us and strengthen us,
So others may know your plenty
In our kindness,
And see your care and concern
In our witness.

Let us live true lives of gratitude,
As we pray in thanks to you, our God
Who live forever and ever. Amen.

MORE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS FACTS



- Of the 696 religious institutes that provide data to the National Religious Retirement Office, almost 24 percent (164 institutes) have the capacity to pay less than 20 percent of projected retirement costs.
- Of the 528 institutes that receive RFR grants, 91 are monasteries for contemplative prayer. Earnings are less than 50 percent of expenses.
- Religious institutes must provide for their own retirement costs, separate from diocesan financial structures.
- Less than five percent of donations are used for administration and promotion.
- While the average cost of skilled nursing care in the United States averages \$145 per day, religious institutes have kept the average cost of skilled care for frail elderly to \$126 per day.
- The average Social Security benefit for religious women and men is approximately one-third that paid to the average U.S. beneficiary.
- Almost 33,000 women religious and 5,522 men religious in the RFR database are past age 70.
- Religious women and men generally work long past the age of 65 in compensated ministries that help support their communities and only “retire” in the sense that compensated work ends. For as long as they are physically able, they visit the sick, tutor children, and volunteer in parishes and among refugee populations.
- The cost of care each year exceeds the total amount raised during the 17-year RFR appeal.

FOR THOSE WITH INTERNET ACCESS – our parish has its own website. Our website address is: www.stalphonsuschurch.com. Once you arrive at the site, make it a “bookmark” or “favorite” and avoid having to punch in the address each time. On the site you will find the weekly bulletin, which is posted each Wednesday for the following Sunday. You will also find other news of the parish, such as the church photo, the history, staff, Mass schedules and programs. If you have difficulty reading the bulletin, download the free Adobe Acrobat Reader which can be found at www.adobe.com. In addition to communicating with us via regular mail, phone, fax, you can also email us anytime at stalphonsus@verizon.net. Let us know if you have trouble getting to our website.

A PRAYER FROM BEYOND

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
 I am not there; I do not sleep.
 I am a thousand winds that blow.
 I am the diamond glints on snow.
 I am the sunlight on the ripened grain.
 I am the gentle autumn’s rain.
 When you awaken in the morning hush,
 I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet
 birds in circled flight.
 I am the soft star that shines at night.
 Do not stand at my grave and cry.
 I am not there; I did not die.
 Amen.

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
 For Sunday, November 9, 2008

Offertory	\$5,496.00
Parish Share	\$416.00

**PLEASE REMEMBER SAINT ALPHONSUS
 CHURCH IN YOUR WILL**