

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2008

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – NOVEMBER 2, 2008

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



**IT IS A HOLY AND WHOLESOME THOUGHT
TO PRAY FOR THE DEAD (II Macc 12, 38-45)**

Today we celebrate what could be called the Church's **MEMORIAL DAY**, our **ALL SOULS DAY**. Following immediately after All Saints Day, this Catholic Memorial Day provides the church family with the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of life and death, to realize that our home is not here, and that we are pilgrims on the way to eternal life.

In this context, we remember and pray for our beloved dead, not just those from our own families, but for the Christian family – our parish and the church universal, all those who accepted the invitation of Jesus to believe and trust in him and have the hope of eternal life.

Someday, sooner or later, all of us will be on the other side of this line of prayer. We will be among those who have moved through the gate of physical death and see what our heavenly Father has prepared for those who love and serve him.

We are all sinners, only God is perfect. This is the fundamental fact behind our prayers for the dead. In the second Book of Maccabees, soldiers who valiantly fell in battle were found by those who gathered their bodies for burial to have broken the law by having images of idols on their person, in violation of the prohibition to abstain from pagan ways. Judas Maccabees and his soldiers nonetheless sent offerings of silver to have sacrifice offered for these slain soldiers, that God would not hold this sin against them.

Verses 43, ff, tell us:

“Judas did this noble thing because he believed in the resurrection of the dead. If he had not believed that the dead would be raised, it would have been foolish and useless to pray for them. In his firm and devout conviction that all of God’s faithful people would receive a wonderful reward, Judas made provision for a sin offering to set free from their sin those who had died.”

May our deceased brothers and sisters rest in the peace of Christ. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

-- Fr. Saladna



**SCHEDULE OF MASSES
FOR THIS WEEK**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3 – St. Martin de Porres
8:00 AM Wilbert Hurley

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 – St. Charles Borromeo
8:00 AM Minnie Monaco

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 – Weekday Celebration
(31st Week in Ordinary Time)
8:00 AM Stanley Sabot

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6 – **No Mass scheduled for today**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 – Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Frank Olearchick (Anniv.)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 – **No Mass on Saturday morning**
2:00 PM Wedding Mass – Carlee DePoli and Daniel Hallo
5:00 PM [For Sunday] Len Roof (Anniv.)

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 – Dedication of the Pope’s Cathedral
8:00 AM Deceased members of the Walsh and Werries Families
11:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.



**PRAYER FOR OUR
BELOVED DEAD**

November is the month of All Souls, a time when we especially remember our beloved dead. It is a holy thought to pray for the dead, that they might be released from their sins through the infinite love of Christ.

We have placed a book in the Church vestibule in which you are asked to list the names of the deceased you hold close in your heart and memory. They will be remembered in all the Masses in the month of November, and especially today, All Souls Day.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. **TODAY IS ALL SOULS DAY, NOVEMBER 2**
– This falls on SUNDAY this year, and the celebration of All Souls replaces the Sunday liturgy. We follow our regular Sunday schedule.
2. **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.

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 beginning November 3.

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.

PARISH SOCIAL SERVICES, on behalf of the needy, thank you very much for your kind donations of selected items of clothing donated to the clothing drive. All your gifts were delivered to those designated to receive them. May God bless you all for your concern and generosity.

ELECTION DAY – this Tuesday, November 4. As citizens, we have an obligation to exercise our right to vote. As Catholics, we should realize our duty to choose officials who represent and reflect our values and principles. Make sure you are an educated voter, studying the candidates and their positions on critical issues. Remember that tyrants and despots hate to see people vote, and the right to vote in free elections is the first thing taken away from a complacent people.

MASS INTENTIONS in our Church for the year 2009 are now being accepted. No requests or reservations over the phone. Use the forms that can be found in the Activity Room of the Church. Remember that we have only one resident priest and so the number of Mass Intentions that are accepted has to be severely limited. Those who will be celebrating special Wedding Anniversaries (Silver and Golden) should get their reservation taken care of **NOW** lest the date be taken by someone else

CCD AND YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

YOUTH GROUP MONTHLY MEETING – today, Sunday, November 2, in the Liguori Center at 9:00 AM. **New members are welcome!**

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAITH RALLY – Friday, November 7, Saturday, November 8. The Diocese is pleased to present: “Our God The Great I Am”, featuring Jamie Dillon and Cooper Ray. This faith rally is designed for students in grades 6-8 as well as their parents. Come join others from across the Diocese of Pittsburgh in this fun and exciting evening of music, laughter and storytelling. To register, call Mrs. Mueller at 412-828-3007. Information and registration forms are available in the Activity Room.

THE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS (C D of A) are raising money to buy **PHONE CARDS** for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Keeping in touch with folks at home is a great morale booster for our fighting men and women. Any donations you care to make to this cause will be greatly appreciated. There is no set goal: all the money raised for this cause will be used to purchase the phone cards and they will be sent overseas. Our parish is represented in the military now serving our country. To take part, put whatever donation you are able to make in an ordinary envelope and mark it **“PHONE CARDS FOR TROOPS.”** Thank you.

CD OF A CANDY SALE – today, Sunday, November 2, members of the CD of A will be taking orders for Joe Clark Candies, in the Church vestibule.

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.**

LADIES OF CHARITY will have their monthly meeting on Monday, November 3, in the Church Hall at 7 PM.

ANYONE HAVE ROSARIES, OLD OR NEW? If you have a spare or spares, put them in the Activity Room. The people at the Nursing Home who recite the Rosary in common with the lead of the Ladies of Charity or the Knights of Columbus will be happy to have them.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

IN MEMORY OF RITA WILT FILSON by Paul and Erma Jean Lutz.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN GRINDER by Fran and Cathy Moxie.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN KRISTOFF by Theresa Cutrara; Mike and Ann Hamorsky; John and Emma Bednar; Irene Turner; Nell Harsacky; John and Helen Strama; Joe, Debbie and Marissa Kandziolka; Peter Catanese and Family; Ray and Eleanor Hajduk.

IN MEMORY OF MINNIE MONACO by son, Charles Monaco.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Carlee DePoli and Daniel Hallo who will be married in our Church this coming Saturday, November 8, at 2:00 PM.

AQUINAS ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE – Aquinas Academy invites your family to a Pre-K through 12TH Grade Open House today, Sunday, November 2, from 2 to 4 PM. Meet the faculty, administration, parents, coaches and students. Aquinas Academy is located at 2308 W. Hardies Road in Hampton Township (at the former location of St. Catherine of Sweden Church).

ST. VINCENT COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE – High School juniors and seniors and their families are invited to a Get Acquainted Day Open House at St. Vincent College, Latrobe, on Sunday, November 9. Registration is from 11:30 to 11:45 AM, followed by an introduction to St. Vincent College and a student panel as well. The day will conclude at 3 PM. Find out more about this top-ranked Catholic, Benedictine, liberal arts college. Listen to financial aid and admission presentations, meet faculty, administrators and coaches and take a campus tour. For information or reservations, phone 1-800-782-5549, email admission@stvincent.edu, or register online at www.stvincent.edu. Future Get Acquainted Days Open Houses are scheduled for Sunday, January 18, Sunday, April 19, Saturday, July 11, Sunday, August 9 and Sunday, August 16.

The Year of Saint Paul the Apostle 2000TH Anniversary of His Birth 2008-2009

O Saint Paul,
Apostle to the nations,
in this two thousandth
anniversary of your birth,
inspire the clergy, religious, and faithful
of our Diocese
to manifest the universal Church –
one, holy, Catholic and apostolic.
Through the proclamation of the Word
and celebration of the Eucharist
and by your intercession,
make us genuine instruments
of the presence of Christ in the world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DIOCESAN ADULT FAITH FORMATION SERIES

An old age 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.

HOPE AND TRUST IN LIFE!

In April 2008, the United States was blessed by the pastoral visit of Pope Benedict XVI.

Americans discovered in our Holy Father a man of immense intellectual gifts, great wisdom and an unparalleled knowledge of today's geopolitical, social and cultural realities. They also discovered a kindly, gentle priest imbued with humility, with holiness and love. Still, he would be the first to say that the trip was not about him.

God sent Pope Benedict to us with a message, one that doesn't lend itself to the ten-second sound bites and rapid-cycling images of today's media. We Christians in the United States can benefit greatly from carefully reading his talks and homilies, from reflecting on his message and asking ourselves: "How does this message apply to my life?"

In his meeting with the Catholic bishops of the U.S., Pope Benedict affirmed that our country "is marked by a genuinely religious spirit," but this spirit is all too often confined to our places and times of worship:

The subtle influence of secularism can color the way people allow their faith to influence their behavior. Is it consistent to profess our beliefs in church on Sunday, and then during the week to promote business practices or medical procedures contrary to those beliefs? Is it consistent for practicing Catholics to ignore or exploit the poor and the marginalized, to promote sexual behavior contrary to Catholic moral teaching, or to adopt positions that contradict the right to life of every human being from conception to natural death?

The answers to these questions are obvious. But have we really considered the consequences of this gap between our profession of faith and our living it out? Under "America's brand of secularism," Pope Benedict explains:

Faith becomes a passive acceptance that certain things "out there" are true, but without practical relevance for everyday life. The result is a growing separation of faith from life: living "as if God did not exist." This is aggravated by an individualistic and eclectic approach to faith and religion: far from a Catholic approach to "thinking with the Church" each person believes he or she has a right to pick and choose, maintaining external social bonds but without an integral, interior conversion to the law of Christ. Consequently, rather than being transformed and renewed in mind, Christians are easily tempted to conform themselves to the spirit of this age (cf. Rom. 12:3). We have seen this emerge in an acute way in the scandal given by Catholics who promote an alleged right to abortion.

By treating religious faith as an isolated set of beliefs that is irrelevant to our personal and political decisions, Americans have allowed a culture of death

to take root and spread. While it is easy to cite politicians who publicly sever their "personal" religious beliefs from their voting behavior, each of us falls short of living out our beliefs perfectly and consistently.

What is meant by the expression "culture of death"? It is a pervasive attitude that accepts the intentional killing of an innocent human being as a solution to a social or economic problem. The broad acceptance of abortion, "mercy" killing, assisted suicide, population control measures, abortifacients marketed as "contraceptives," and the destruction of human embryos for research signal how far we still need to go to build a society where all understand that every human life is sacred because each of us is created, loved and redeemed by God.

Pope Benedict encourages us to be clear in our beliefs, act consistently with them, and be animated in our efforts to transform our culture. "The proclamation of life, life in abundance, must be the heart of the new evangelization," said Pope Benedict in his homily at St. Patrick's cathedral. "For true life-our salvation-can only be found in the reconciliation, freedom and love which are God's gracious gift."

Therefore, he continued:

"The Church is called to proclaim the gift of life, to serve life, and to promote a culture of life. This is the message of hope we are called to proclaim and embody in a world where self-centeredness, greed, violence, and cynicism so often seem to choke the fragile growth of grace in people's hearts."

Our Holy Father urged us to let our daily prayer to the Father – "Thy Kingdom come!" bear fruit in the way we lead our lives and build up our families and communities. He added; "Praying fervently for the coming of the Kingdom means overcoming every separation between faith and life, and countering false gospels of freedom and happiness. It also means rejecting a false dichotomy between faith and political life.

- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, October 26, 2008

Offertory \$3,950.81
Parish Share \$430.00

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

The special **second collection today, Sunday, November 2**, will be the monthly collection for repairs and improvements to our Church and to help pay our pledge for repairs to St. Paul Cathedral in Oakland. We thank you for your kind and generous support of St. Alphonsus Parish and our Diocese of Pittsburgh.