

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2008

CHRIST THE KING – NOVEMBER 23, 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.

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

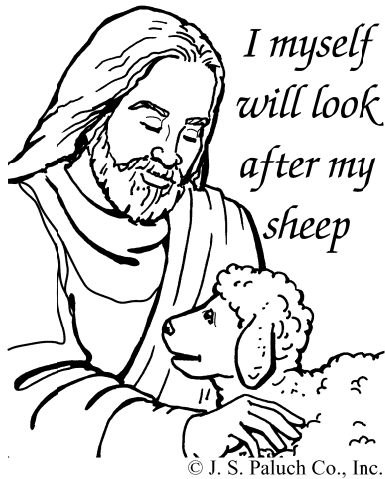
Music Director/Organist – Vickie Roof



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



Today we celebrate the Solemnity of **CHRIST THE KING**. We acknowledge Jesus as King of the Universe, not just in his divinity, for, as God, Jesus made the universe, but also in his humanity. Jesus, Son of the Most High, reigns over the whole world and all that is in it even through his human nature. Thus, we have a "friend in high places," who sits at God the Father's right hand and makes intercession for us who commit ourselves to his love and mercy.

Jesus did not look like a King, humanly speaking. Nor did he act like a King. In fact, the opposite was true, and he said, "My Kingdom is not of this world." Some lived with him and heard him and touched him and they never saw more in him than an ordinary person. Others saw in him God made flesh. Look at the two thieves from the Gospel (St. Luke) who died around him on Good Friday.

For one thief, Jesus became a stumbling block, while for the other Jesus became a Savior. The first thief tried to tell Jesus what to do. He said to Christ as they were hanging on the cross, "Aren't you the Messiah? Then save yourself and us!" He could not understand how or why a Messiah would die like a common criminal. The second thief, the "good one," saw the same person as his unfortunate partner, but his understanding of what he saw was totally different. He did not try to tell the King what to do. He submitted himself to the King, saying to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when you enter into your kingdom." Because he was willing to accept Jesus as Savior on Jesus' terms and not his own, he had the unspeakable joy of hearing Our Lord tell him at the moment of his death, "I assure you: this day you will be with me in paradise."

As we dedicate ourselves again today to Christ, our King, let us pray for the grace to always remember what kind of King he is and where he will lead us. Yes, we will die on the cross with him, but if we accept it as did the good thief we shall also enter the joy of his Kingdom.

The narrow-minded people who jeered Christ in the Gospel said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God." Jesus did not save himself from the Cross, and it was because of this that Our King was able to save everyone else.

-- Fr. Saladna

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24 – Korean Martyrs

8:00 AM Agnes Urik

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25 – Saint Catherine of Alexandria

8:00 AM John A. Bohna

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Catherine Pillitteri

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27 – THANKSGIVING DAY

9:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

(Note special time) Mass in the Main Church today

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28 – No Mass scheduled for today

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29 – No Mass on Saturday morning

2:00 PM Wedding – Albert Zell and Mary Ann Justham

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Laura Kandziolka

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 – First Sunday of Advent (Advent begins, new Church Year (Year "B" Sunday readings)

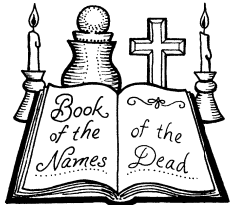
8:00 AM Deborah Strama Mann

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

CHRIST THE KING

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

REMEMBER THAT THANKSGIVING DAY MASS in our Church on Thursday, November 27, is at 9:00 AM. Please come and give thanks to God through Jesus and for Jesus. The "Eucharist" means "Thanksgiving," and the greatest gift from God is his only Son, Jesus, to whom we are eternally grateful. Mass will be in the Main Church.



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 this weekend.

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.**

CONGRATULATIONS to Albert F. Zell, Jr., and Mary Ann Justham who will be married in our Church on Saturday, November 29, at 2 PM.



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A CHRISTMAS TREE ALREADY?

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 a 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."

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 19. Please mark the names clearly (print rather than script). The money received will be used toward our Parish Share assessment.

NO CCD NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30. This will be our Thanksgiving Day holiday break. Classes will resume on Sunday, December 7.

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 returned today, 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!



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 distributing Christmas Seals next 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. Any amount you may wish to donate will be appreciated. Follow directions on the envelope. Even if you cannot donate, please keep the seals. Thank you.

WORLD OF JUSTICE CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT CHRIST

Vatican City, Nov. 12, 2008. In his general audience, held this morning in St. Peter's Square, the Pope turned his attention to St. Paul's eschatological teaching.

In his First Letter to the Thessalonians, said the Holy Father, "St. Paul speaks of the return of Jesus, an event known as the 'parousia' or advent". The saint describes this vividly 'using symbolic images that nonetheless transmit a simple and profound message: 'In the end we will be with the Lord forever'. Our future is 'to be with the Lord'".

Benedict XVI pointed out how in his Second Letter to the Thessalonians, the Apostle "changes perspective and speaks of the negative events that will precede the end. We must not allow ourselves to be deceived, he says, as if the Day of the Lord were truly imminent by some chronological calculation. The continuation of the Pauline text makes it clear that the coming of the Lord will be preceded by apostasy and by the appearance of a person identified only as 'the lawless one', the 'one destined for destruction', whom tradition came to identify as the Antichrist".

The Pope examined the fundamental attitudes a Christian must adopt in the face of the ultimate realities of death and the end of the world: "The first attitude", he said, "must be the certainty that Jesus rose and that, with the father, He remains with us forever. Secondly, the certainty that Christ is with me; and since the future world has already begun in Christ, this gives us the certainty of hope. The future is not an area of darkness in which no-one can find their way. Without Christ, the future is dark even today. Christians know that the light of Christ is stronger and hence they experience a hope that is not vain, a hope that gives certainty and courage to face the future".

The third attitude, the Pope went on, "is responsibility before Christ for the world and for our fellow man and, at the same time, the certainty of His mercy. We have to work to ensure this world opens to Christ, that it is renewed. We know that God is the true Judge, we are sure He is good, we know His face, the face of the risen Christ. For this reason we can be sure of His goodness and live our lives courageously".

At the end of his First Letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul "repeats a prayer of the early Christian communities of Palestine, putting it into the mouths of the Corinthians themselves: 'Marana tha! Our Lord, come! which is also how the Book of the Apocalypse ends. Can we pray like this today? In our lives, in our world, it is difficult to pray sincerely for this world to perish, for the coming of the New Jerusalem, the Final Judgment, Christ the Judge. Nonetheless, like the first Christian community we can say: Come Jesus! Of course we do not want the end of the world to come now, on the other hand, we do want the world of injustice to end, we do want the world to change, the civilization of love to begin, a world of justice and peace to come, a world without violence and hunger. But without the presence of Christ a truly just and renewed world will never come".

"We can and must cry out urgently in the circumstances of our own time: Come, Lord! Come in Your way, in the ways that You know. Come where there is injustice and violence. Come into the refuge camps of Darfur and North Kivu, in so many parts of the world. Come where drugs dominate. Come also among the rich who have forgotten You and who live for themselves alone. Come where You are known. Come in Your way and renew today's world. Come also into our hearts that we too may become light of God, Your presence".

- Vatican Information Service

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.



SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

An Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Most sweet Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, look down upon us, humbly prostrate before your altar. We are yours, and yours we wish to be. But to be more surely united with you, behold, each one of us freely consecrates himself today to your Most Sacred Heart.

Many indeed have never known You. Many, too, despising your precepts, have rejected You. Have mercy on us all, most merciful Jesus, and draw all people to Your Sacred Heart.

O Lord, be King not only of the faithful who have never forsaken You, but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned You. Grant that they may quickly return to their Father's House, lest they die of wretchedness and hunger.

O Jesus, be King of those who are deceived by erroneous opinions, or whom discord keeps aloof, and call them all back to the harbor of truth and unity of faith, so that soon there may be but one flock and one shepherd.

Grant O Lord to Your Church assurance of freedom and immunity from harm. Give peace and order to all nations, and make the earth resound from pole to pole with one cry:

Praise to the Divine Heart that wrought our salvation. To it be glory and honor forever and ever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS NUT ROLL SALE – SS Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, 339 E. 10th Avenue, Tarentum, will be holding its annual Christmas Nut Roll Sale on December 3, 4 and Dec. 10 and 11. 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.

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, November 16, 2008

Offertory. \$4,005.25
Parish Share \$1,150.00

PLEASE REMEMBER SAINT ALPHONSUS CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION TODAY -- The annual collection for the RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS. This is our opportunity to say THANK YOU to the Sister of Divine Providence who gave 90 years of service to our Parish and our Parish School until it closed in 1995. Support our aging sisters who gave their lives to make yours better.