

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2009

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – OCTOBER 11, 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

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

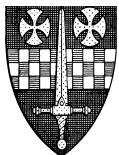
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(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



In today's Gospel from Saint Mark, we have the wonderful contrast between two men who are thinking about following Jesus and what happens to them when they realize what they will have to pay to become his disciple.

On the one hand, we have the worldly, rich young man who, even though keeping the commandments and being what we would call a "great guy," falls back with a sad face when Jesus tells him that to be a true disciple he would have to sell all that he had and give it to the poor. His wealth and luxurious life in this world keep him from going all the way, from giving himself completely to Christ, even though he is attracted by his words.

On the other hand, we have Saint Peter who was able to say with complete honesty, "Lord, we have put aside everything to follow you." Because Peter says this, and really means it, Jesus tells that he will have everything, and heaven, too.

This illustrates what Jesus said on another occasion, when he told his disciples that whoever would try to save his life (here) will lose it, while the one who is willing to lose his life (here) for the sake of the kingdom will end up saving his life.

We should remember that Jesus wants us all to have only the best, and to settle for nothing less. The trick of the evil one is to make junk look appealing, and try to sell it to us. He is the great deceiver, the master of lies, and he fooled our first parents. He can and does easily fool us, too. Let us entrust ourselves to the goodness and wisdom of God our Father, who has sent his only Son to be our savior. He wants to give us good and everlasting gifts. We need not be sad, as the rich man in the Gospel today. We should look up and be happy for we shall inherit everlasting life if we trust in Christ and live accordingly, keeping his commandments.

-- Father Saladna

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12 – Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Rita Mickelic

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13 -- Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Luigi Mazzoli (Birthday)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 – Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Living and Deceased members
of the Basilone Family

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 -- **No Mass scheduled for today**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16 – Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Andrew Chlodney

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 – **No Mass on Saturday morning**
5:00 PM [For Sunday] Larry Martin

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 – Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 AM Mary Ann Borichevsky
11:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

REST IN PEACE – The parish family of Saint Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to the families of Michael Nemcik, Andrew Chlodney and Mary Sardone. Please remember the deceased and their families in your prayers.

WE ARE NOW taking Mass Intentions for the coming year. If you have special intentions which you would like to schedule on a specific date, get a form in the Activity Room or at the Parish House and fill in the information. Directions are found on the form. Marsha (724-274-5084) will let you know what is available, etc. This is **ESPECIALLY** true if you have a very special date you would like to commemorate with a Mass, like a 25TH or 50TH Wedding Anniversary. Remember, with regard to the dates: first come, first served.

THE VERY FIRST PEW IN THE CHURCH, ON EITHER SIDE, is reserved for the handicapped and elderly who have a difficult time kneeling and standing. Occupying the first pew (ON BOTH SIDES) they have a better view of the altar and are able to receive Communion from the front without having to move out of the pew. Thank you for respecting the needs of the handicapped and helping to provide for their comfort while attending Mass. (Eucharistic Ministers can sit anywhere in the church, and are able to come up to the Altar at Communion time. There is no real need for the Eucharistic Ministers to sit together or to be up front from the beginning).

CLOTHING DRIVE – next Saturday, October 17, 12 Noon to 4 PM. Benefits: Bethlehem Haven, A-K Hope Center, Pittsburgh Homeless. Items needed:

New or used – sizes 0-6 months – t-shirts, sleepers, receiving blankets, strollers, high chairs. New bottles, wipes and diapers.

New or used – pillows, blankets, sheets, towels. New only – women's underwear and sleepwear.

New or used – women's and children's winter coats, towels, washcloths, all kitchen items and new paper products.

New or used – men's sweatshirts, hooded sweatshirts, extra large winter jackets and large gloves, men's white, calf-length socks, size 9-12.

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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.

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VICARIATE SYSTEM

Beginning on Thursday, October 1, the method of governance in our Diocese of Pittsburgh switched from the "Deanery System" to the "Vicariate System."

Our vicariate is Vicariate No. 4, head by Father Philip Farrell.

Father Farrell will be inaugurated as Vicar on Tuesday, October 13, at St. Catherine Parish in Wildwood. The service of Evening Prayer begins at 7:00 PM. All parishioners in the Vicariate are invited to attend, especially members of our Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Financial Council. You can find more information on the Diocesan website: www.diopitt.org by clicking on "Regional Vicariates."

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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. Hospital stays are now brief and busy, but we can offer the Sacraments of Penance, Communion and Anointing of the Sick here, before you, "report for duty."

THIS PAST WEEK, ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, WE CELEBRATED THE MASS FOR "OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY." THE FOLLOWING WAS WRITTEN BY OUR HOLY FATHER ON THE OCCASION OF THE FEAST.

THE ROSARY

Together we confirm that the holy rosary is not a pious practice banished to the past, like prayers of other times thought of with nostalgia. Instead, the rosary is experiencing a new springtime. Without a doubt, this is one of the most eloquent signs of love that the young generation nourish for Jesus and his Mother, Mary.

In the current world, so dispersive, this prayer helps to put Christ at the center, as the Virgin did, who meditated within all that was said about her Son, and also what he did and said.

When reciting the rosary, the important and meaningful moments of salvation history are relived. The various steps of Christ's mission are traced. With Mary the heart is oriented toward the mystery of Jesus. Christ is put at the center of our life, of our time, of our city, through the contemplation and meditation of his holy mysteries of joy, light, sorrow, and glory.

May Mary help us to welcome within ourselves the grace emanating from these mysteries, so that through us we can "water" society, beginning with our daily relationships, and purifying them from so many negative forces, thus opening them to the newness of God.

The rosary, when it is prayed in an authentic way, not mechanical and superficial but profoundly, brings, in fact, peace and reconciliation. It contains within itself the healing power of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, invoked with faith and love at the center of each "Hail Mary."

- Pope Benedict XVI

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THE PUBLIC IS INVITED to help mark a three year journey as a monumental landmark to the coal miners of the Allegheny Valley community is dedicated. The event will take place on Saturday, October 17 at 10 AM at Harmar #1 Volunteer Fire Company Social Hall.

LANCASTER COUNTY, PA presented by Our Lady of Victory Church – December 1-2, 2009. Sight and Sound Millennium Theatre's "Miracle of Christmas", National Centre for St. Padre Pio and Mass celebrated by Father Al Zapf at the Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Bally, PA. Travel aboard a deluxe highway touring motor coach to Lancaster, PA., heart of the Pennsylvania Dutch Country. Enjoy the wonderful musical production, *The Miracle of Christmas*. Following breakfast the next morning we depart Lancaster County for a stop at the neighboring town of Bally at the lovely historic Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament for Mass (10:00 AM) celebrated by Father Al Zapf. Travel on to Barto and the National Centre for St. Padre Pio, nestled on 50 beautiful acres in eastern Pennsylvania. For fares and details, call 724-274-8575 or get a brochure in our Activity Room.

SPAGHETTI DINNER sponsored by the Lower Valley Food Bank on November 1, 1-5 PM at Our Lady of Victory Church. Adults: \$7.00, children 10 and under: \$4. There will also be raffles for Steeler surprises, Gift Basket Auction and bake sale.

ST. JOSEPH BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP is sponsoring a 6 week program on "Dealing with Grief," held on 6 consecutive Mondays at 7 PM. Sessions will be held on October 19 & 26, November 2, 9, 16 and 23. Sessions will take place at the St. Joseph Parish Center in New Kensington. The program consists of 6 weekly 2-hour sessions that help people to know what to expect and not to expect during the grieving process. It gives them the opportunity to share with other grieving people who can understand and support them. For more information and to register, please contact Mary Jo Benec at 724-337-8673 or Sister Carol at 724-339-9868.

NEXT SUNDAY IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY. United with the Catholics of the world at the Table of the Lord, we recommit ourselves to our vocation, through Baptism, to be missionaries. Our prayers and Eucharistic celebration next Sunday are directed in a special way toward our brothers and sisters throughout the world who are waiting to hear the joyous "Good News" of Jesus. Our offerings, through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, will support the work and witness of those who selflessly give up all for the sake of our Lord and His Gospel – the local priests, Religious, and lay catechists who daily provide loving service to the poor and suffering of the Developing World.

A PRAYER FOR OUR PRIESTS

As the Church celebrates the Year of the Priest – June 19, 2009 through June 19, 2010.

Almighty God, in your love
you bless your Church with priests,
a sign of your faithfulness to your people.

May our prayerful encouragement,
during this year and years to come,
help them remain faithful to the calling
they have received from you.

As they tend your flock,
grant them a caring heart.
In them may we know the voice of Christ,
our Good Shepherd, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever. Amen.

PRIESTS ARE WITNESSES OF THE POWER OF GOD

VATICAN CITY, 29 SEP 2009 - Made public today were the contents of a video Message from the Pope to participants in an international spiritual retreat for priests at the French shrine of Ars for the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Mary Vianney. The preacher of the retreat, which is taking place from 27 September to 3 October, is Cardinal Christoph Schonborn O.P., archbishop of Vienna, Austria, and the theme of the spiritual exercises is: "The joy of being a priest, consecrated for the salvation of the world".

"The priest", says the Holy Father in his Message, "is called to serve human beings and to give them life in God. ... He is a man of the divine Word and of all things holy and, today more than ever, he must be a man of joy and hope. To those who cannot conceive

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, October 4, 2009

Offertory \$6,122.70
Parish Share \$657.00

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

THE RIGHT TO LIFE

that God is pure Love, he will affirm that life is worthy to be lived and that Christ gives it its full meaning because He loves all humankind".

Benedict XVI then turns to address priests who have to serve a number of parishes and who "commit themselves unreservedly to preserving sacramental life in their various communities. The Church's recognition for you all is immense", he says. "Do not lose heart but continue to pray and to make others pray that many young people may accept the call of Christ, Who always wishes to see the number of His apostles increase".

The Holy Father also invites priests to consider "the extreme diversity of the ministries" they perform "in the service of the Church", and "the large number of Masses you celebrate or will celebrate, each time making Christ truly present at the altar. Think of the numerous absolutions you have given and will give, freeing sinners from their burdens. Thus you may perceive the infinite fruitfulness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Your hands and lips become, for a single instant, the hands and lips of God".

"This thought", the Pope added, "should bring you to ensure harmonious relations among the clergy so as to form the priestly community as St. Peter wanted, and so build the body of Christ and consolidate you in love".

"The priest is the man of the future. ... What he does in this world is part of the order of things directed towards the final Goal. Mass is the only point of union between the means and the Goal because it enables us to contemplate, under the humble appearance of the bread and the wine, the Body and Blood of Him Whom we adore in eternity".

"Nothing will ever replace the ministry of priests in the heart of the Church", the Pope concluded. "You are the living witnesses of God's power at work in the weakness of human beings, consecrated for the salvation of the world, chosen by Christ Himself to be, thanks to Him, salt of the earth and light of the world".

- Vatican Information Service

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

In all our thoughts and actions we ought to remember the presence of God, and account all lost in which we think not of God.

- St. Bernard of Clairvaux

The effort to restore legal protection for unborn children faces new challenges, as we deal with a new Administration and Congress that support "abortion rights." Many are asking: Where do we go from here?

We first need to recall why we are here, why we Catholics became involved in these tough battles. We begin with the dignity of each human person.

From the neighbor next door to the unknown person living thousands of miles away, each and every one of us has intrinsic and immeasurable worth. That is because God created each of us in his image by the outpouring of his infinite and unconditional love. In return he asks only that we share that love with others, beginning with those most in need – the poor, vulnerable, and despised of this world.

This intrinsic God-given human dignity is the basis for all inalienable human rights – beginning with the most basic right, the right to life. It is most basic because it is the condition for all the others. First we must live, then we can talk about living well. If a government acknowledges a right, such as free speech, but can kill you if you say something it dislikes, you don't really have a right to free speech.

The right to life is not more important or higher than all other rights. In a sense the highest or supreme right is freedom of religion, because that is the right to do what God created us for, loving and serving Him by loving and serving others. But the right to life is the core element of other rights. All other earthly rights involve something more than life itself – but without life, they are nothing.

That "something more" is vitally important. The defense of life reaches its fullness when it expands to defend the entire range of human flourishing. This is all one vision, and ultimately one issue – the dignity of the human person. In the words of St. Irenaeus, *Gloria Dei vivens homo* – the glory of God is man fully alive.

To keep that vision constantly before our eyes, to remember why we are here and to gain the strength to move forward, we need to begin all our efforts with prayer. Our efforts must be centered on God and His infinite love for us – for the born and the unborn, for those who oppose us as well as those who agree with us. Only in this way can we maintain our perspective in a world of political pressures and partisan loyalties.

- Cardinal Justin F. Rigali is Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities