

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – OCTOBER 25, 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

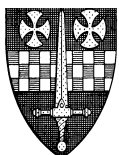
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(724) 274-2547

CCD & Youth Min. - Karen Mueller

Social Services - Cathy Moxie

Music Director/Organist – Vickie Roof

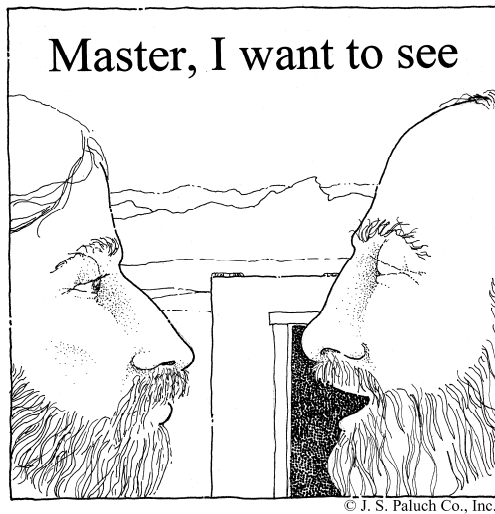


New Parishioners: We welcome new parishioners whether newly moved into the area or those who have fallen off through inactivity. Welcome! Register by calling or coming to the parish office. Become an active, attending and supporting member of the parish. And please let us know if you move away or have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



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In today's Gospel passage from Saint Mark, the "short" Gospel, we have another "short and sweet" episode, about the blind beggar, Bartimaeus, who, recognizing that Jesus is passing by, calls out to him in spite of those who tell him to keep quiet, and receives the gift of sight.

In all these stories about the healing of the blind, the Gospels are really telling us that the physically blind who call upon the name of Jesus have real **in-SIGHT**, which is Faith. It is their faith which heals them, for they are not afraid to call out and proclaim their belief in the goodness and power of Jesus.

Bartimaeus says the "magic phrase" when he calls Jesus "Son of David." This is a technical term for "Messiah," and by using it Bartimaeus shows that he sees Christ for what he really is: not just a good man with the power to heal him, but the long-awaited Messiah who has come from God Almighty. The Pharisees (who should have known better) did not see or recognize this in Jesus, but the blind man did. The Pharisees and their kind **SAW** everything with their natural vision, but they were blind to the truth. It is ironic that the Pharisees were always on the scene, looking and spying and seeing everything Jesus did, but they were blind in their hearts. They were only looking for trouble. They wanted nothing more than to be able to trap Jesus in his speech. And so Bartimaeus not only has the faith that they should have had, but he also gets his physical eyesight back.

We should be so lucky! When Jesus asked Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you?", Bartimaeus told him, "Lord, that I may see." Jesus is asking us today what we want him to do for us. We already have our physical eyes. We should ask the "Son of David" for the gift which he really wants to give us. We should ask him, "Lord, that I may have an increase in faith!"

-- Father Saladna

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

- MONDAY, OCTOBER 26** – Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Anna Pastucha
- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27** -- Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Raymond Sharkins
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28** – SS Simon and Jude, Apostles
8:00 AM Sophia Tady
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29** -- No Mass scheduled for today
- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30** – Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Julia Tassotti
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31** – No Mass on Saturday morning
5:00 PM [For Sunday] John and Ann Hamorsky
- NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1** – All Saints Day
8:00 AM Deceased members of the Walsh and Werries Families
11:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1. TURN CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR SUNDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 1** (Daylight Saving Time ends overnight, Sunday, November 1, at 2:00 AM).
- 2. SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 is ALL SAINTS DAY** – Since All Saints Day falls on a Sunday, it replaces the Sunday celebration by the All Saints Day celebration.
- 3. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, IS ALL SOULS DAY** – This is never a day of obligation unless it falls on a Sunday, and then the obligation comes from the Sunday.
- 4. BY THE WAY**, Daylight Saving Time comes around again on Sunday, March 14, 2010.

Pray For
The Dead



OUR BELOVED DEAD – We think and pray for them all the time, but in a very special way on **ALL SOULS DAY** (November 2) 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 on All Souls Day and throughout the month of November. This book will be found in the Lobby and will remain there through the end of November.

REST IN PEACE – The parish family of Saint Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Olive Lukac. Please remember the deceased and her family in your prayers.

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.

TENTH ANNUAL VETERAN'S DAY SERVICE at Burket-Truby Funeral Home, Oakmont, November 7, 8:30 AM. Guest speaker will be Pat McCarthy, a former Narcotics Agent for the PA Attorney General Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 412-828-3535.

TURKEY VOUCHERS – envelopes are at doors of Church for those who wish to make a donation (any amount) to the hungry at Thanksgiving. Checks: payable to St. Alphonsus Church. Thanks to you from the poor.

YOUTH GROUP meets Sunday, November 8, after the 8 AM Mass.

MUSIC CAN BECOME PRAYER

VATICAN CITY, 17 OCT 2009 - This evening in the Paul VI Hall, the Holy Father attended a concert by the International Piano Academy of Imola, Italy, marking twenty years since its foundation. The Chinese pianist Jin Ju, using seven pianofortes from different historical periods, played pieces by Bach, Scarlatti, Mozart, Czerny, Beethoven, Chopin, Tchaikovsky and Liszt.

At the end of the concert the Pope expressed his thanks to the academy and to the pianist, who "enabled us to savor the emotional impact of the music she played".

"This concert has, once again, given us the chance to appreciate the beauty of music, a spiritual and therefore universal language, and hence the appropriate vehicle for understanding and union between individuals and peoples. Music forms part of all cultures and, we could say, accompanies all human experiences, from suffering to pleasure, from hatred to love, from sadness to joy, from death to life".

Benedict XVI then highlighted how "over the centuries and the millennia music has always been used to give form to what cannot be expressed with words, because it arouses emotions otherwise difficult to communicate. It is, then, no coincidence that all civilizations have given importance and value to music in its various forms and expressions.

"Music, great music", he added in conclusion, "distends the spirit, arouses profound emotions and almost naturally invites us to raise our minds and hearts to God in all situations of human existence, the joyful and the sad. Music can become prayer".

- Vatican Information Service

CREATED, LOVED, REDEEMED BY GOD

An Invitation to Respect All Human Life

Most of us probably take for granted (at least some of the time) that we are created, loved and redeemed by God. Yet, distracted as we are by the noise and activities of daily life, we need to make time to reflect on this central truth

of life – and the answer to the universal human question: Who am I, and what am I doing here?

When our ancestors in faith lost their moral and spiritual bearings, Jesus took on human flesh to show us the radical nature of God's love. His love is far from being passive, generic or abstract. It is not just a kindly feeling toward others. Jesus' love was personal, passionate and self-giving.

He showed us by example, as well as through parables, what God expects of us. At the Last Supper, he told the apostles: "This is my commandment Love one another as I love you" (John 15:12). Jesus was not speaking of affectionate feelings that we have for family and friends. The model of love by which we will be measured, according to the parable of the Last Judgment (cf. Mt 25:31-46), is that of the righteous who visited prisoners, and fed, clothed, welcomed and cared for the needy and strangers. They were serving Christ in the needy and will "inherit the kingdom prepared for [them] from the foundation of the world" (Mt 25:34).

As Christians, then, each one of us is called, to the best of his or her ability, to be involved in:

- Personal, concrete and practical acts of kindness toward those whom God puts in our paths
• Organized charitable activities, through personal service and/or financial support
• Working toward a just ordering of society by taking part in public life to help ensure that laws respect the lives and dignity of all, especially those who are most vulnerable (Pope Benedict XVI, God Is Love)

Most of us, even if we slip up more often than we care to admit, understand the importance of treating all with kindness. We understand the need to work with the Church's charities serving those in need, whether we do so by donating our time or our financial support.

But we are called to do more. As the U.S. Catholic bishops explained in Living the Gospel of Life: "The common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights – for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture – is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition of all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination" (no. 19, quoting Christifideles Laici, 38). In other words, talk about the value of human life and the sacredness of human dignity can become empty platitudes unless we act on our convictions."

-- USCC (American Bishops)

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish For Sunday, October 18, 2009

Table with 2 columns: Offering Name and Amount. Rows include Offertory (\$4,345.85), Parish Share (\$1,339.00), and Mission Sunday (\$903.00).

PLEASE REMEMBER ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH IN YOUR WILL

The special second collection next Sunday, November 1, will be the monthly collection for Repairs and Improvements to our Church. We thank you for your generous support of St. Alphonsus Parish.