

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2011

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – OCTOBER 30, 2011

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

Rev. Kenneth E. Kezmarsky, Pastor



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 the main Church. See bulletin each week or call Rectory for schedule of the 8:00 A.M. Mass which is usually not held on Saturday morning.

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

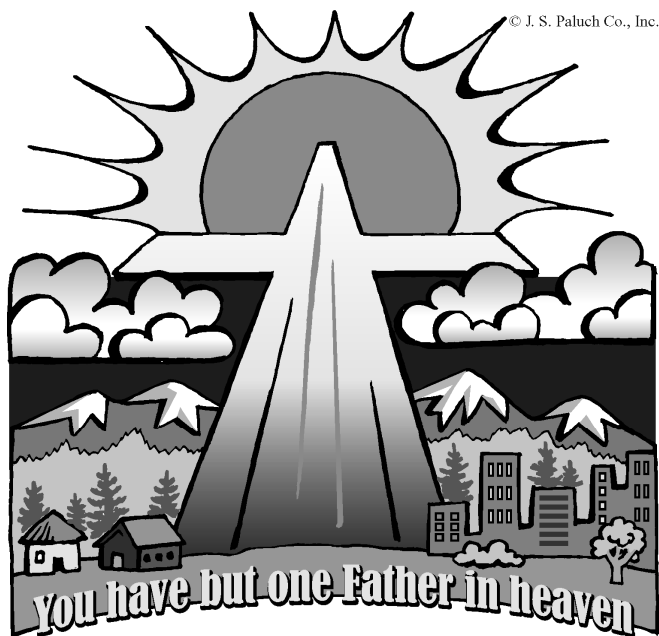


New Parishioners: We welcome new parishioners whether newly moved into the area or those who have fallen off through inactivity. Welcome! Register by calling or coming to the parish office. Become an active, attending and supporting member of the parish. And please let us know if you move away or have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

Leaders

The best leaders are models of character. They speak well. They act well. They walk their talk. Jesus is that kind of leader. He asks his disciples to lead as he did, by serving.

Comment

The book of Malachi is the last of the prophetic books, and a short one it is—only three chapters. The name of the book, Malachi, is a proper noun for the Hebrew word that simply means “my messenger.” This anonymous messenger of the Lord had reason to fly beneath the radar. His was a distressing message delivered during a wobbly time—the resettlement of Israel after the exile. The people could barely see the sun, and they were unsure whether it was rising or setting on their nation, their lives.

In the resettled Israel, a new Temple had been built, but the reforms of Nehemiah were yet to come. The state of religious worship was dismal, and Malachi lay the fault squarely at the feet of priest and people alike.

Today’s first reading concerns the leaders—the priests of the tribe of Levi. He describes the worship of people who have no heart for it. Malachi warns of the corrosive effect of this empty worship that distances the people from God and from one another.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus speaks the same language as Malachi. He excoriates the behavior of the teachers, even as he upholds their teachings. The problem is not located in the Law of Moses, says Jesus, but in those called to uphold it. Jesus urges the faithful to follow the honorable teachings but not the teachers.

Jesus enumerates the ways in which the holiest images, words, and behaviors are stood on their head. The best is too often betrayed by the teachers themselves. Phylacteries that contain the written words of faith were prescribed to be near to hand and mind to recall forever Israel’s covenant with the Lord. But now in Jesus’ time, the place and meaning of these phylacteries and tassels are subverted to call attention to the bearer, not to the message. The leaders relish the title rabbi—“my great one,” “my master”—but nothing is done to be worthy of this title. Teachers lay heavy burdens on the followers, who stumble in the darkness created by the very teachers they look to.

Reflection

In no uncertain terms, Jesus teaches that this must not be the leadership style of his followers. His words aim at the disciples’ inner disposition. He urges avoidance of grand titles and trappings. He reminds us that we have one Father and all are the children of that Father. “Children of their Father” is our primary title. The qualities of humility, fidelity, and honor set the standard for all other titles that might be used and all actions that flow from the necessary hierarchies that help order our lives.

Elsewhere in the Gospels, we learn of Jesus’ style of leadership as he does the work commonly undertaken by slave and shepherd. He doesn’t advocate a run to the bottom of a society’s pecking order, but he does advocate the attitude of minister, comforter, companion no matter what one’s title or level of responsibility.

Paul got the message of Jesus, which he passed on to his beloved Thessalonians. Paul brought the message of the risen Lord to his time and place. But he was not the sole carrier of religious news. The Mediterranean area was rife with new cults and ideas and mystery religions. Generally, these cults rose and fell on the persuasiveness of the guru, or cult figure.

Paul stands in counterpoint to this cultic style. He is not preaching or teaching a cult religion dependent on his personal charm and insight. He is in service to the Word of the Lord, which is at work in the assembly at Thessalonica. As leader and teacher in that small community of converts, Paul presents himself as one who is among them as a mother with nursing children. This image, as well as those Jesus spoke of and demonstrated, are transparent images of care and presence. No one is lording it over anyone.

**SCHEDULE OF MASSES
FOR THIS WEEK**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31 – Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Anne Lucas



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**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 – ALL SAINTS DAY
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

6:30 AM Michael Pascarella
12:00 Noon For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.
7:00 PM Richard Polcsak, Sr.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2 – All Souls Day

8:00 AM Zell and Berner Families
7:00 PM All Souls

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Connie Kiste

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4 – Saint Charles Borromeo,
Bishop

8:00 AM Margaret Pearson

**NEXT SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 – No Mass on
Saturday morning**

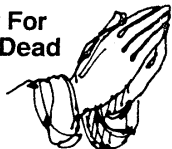
5:00 PM [For Sunday] Len Roof (Anniv.)

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 – Thirty-second

Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Werries, Walsh and Pizer Families
11:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

**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.

ALL SOULS DAYS – NOVEMBER 2, 2011

*Merciful Father,
hear our prayer and console us.
As we renew our faith in Your Son,
whom You raised from the dead,
strengthen our hope
that all our departed brothers and sisters
will share in His resurrection,
who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for
ever and ever. Amen*

DECEASED PARISHIONERS -- 2011

<i>Anthonette Accorsi</i>	<i>Pauline Matthews</i>
<i>Margaret Colpo</i>	<i>Raymond Mickelic</i>
<i>Wanda DePoli</i>	<i>Margaret Pearson</i>
<i>Rose Marie Hall</i>	<i>Matthew Pierce</i>
<i>Constance Kiste</i>	<i>Richard Polcsak, Sr.</i>
<i>Richard Kline</i>	<i>Rev. George Saladna</i>
<i>Bernard Litterini</i>	<i>Joseph Siemon</i>
<i>Anne Lucas</i>	<i>Charles Spix</i>
<i>Agnes Matisz</i>	<i>Raymond Tomayko</i>
<i>Albert Yelochan</i>	

PASTOR’S NOTES

Well, these notes will be brief. Everyone needs time away and priests are no different, and so this is why I was away this past week. I did not do a whole lot, but it was just fun to visit friends and family. Next year I may go out of state for a little break, depends on what the air fares may be by then.

Many of the parishes are gearing up for the new celebration of the Roman Missal, and we are doing quite well so far. The new translation is a little closer to the original Latin texts. The wording is just a little strange to hear for now. So please keep practicing at home with the prayer cards that were mailed to you some time ago, and always leave the ones in Church in the pews so that everyone has a chance to use them too.

So, thanks to everyone again for keeping our parish moving forward spiritually as well as financially. The October count is reaching its completion, and the final results will be sent to the Diocese as well as published in our own bulletin.

May the Lord continue to bless us all.

Fr. Ken



YOUTH MINISTRY MEETING: Attention all young people in Grades 6-12. There will be two Youth Ministry Meetings on Sunday, November 6 after the 11 AM Mass. **Senior High Youth Ministry** (Grades 9-12) will meet in the Liguori Center. Come plan our winter social and spiritual activities. **Junior High Youth Ministry** (Grades 6-8) will meet in our Religious Resource Room (in the CCD Building). Come and let us know what you want to do! Parent volunteers are welcome. Any questions? Please call Mrs. Mueller at 412-841-2017.

JOIN ST. ALPHONSUS YOUTH MINISTRY MEMBERS at Funfest Family Entertainment Center for a night of cosmic bowling, laser tag and fun on Friday night, November 25. Join us, meet new people, have some fun. Details and permission forms and reservation forms can be found near the doors of the Church. Reservations and payment must be received by November 21.

ARE YOU READY FOR A REAL RETREAT EXPERIENCE? Join teens (Grades 9-12) from around the Diocese for the Fall Retreat: The Church Alive, Holy Catholic and Apostolic on November 18-20 (6 PM Friday – 3 PM Sunday) at Camp Allegheny in Ellwood City. Share in the Sacraments and the fullness of our Catholic faith. The eternal love that God has for each one of us remains constant, true and strong. For more information, please visit www.thefallretreat.org or call Mrs. Mueller at 412-841-2017. Information and registrations forms can be found inside the Church doors. Registration deadline is November 1. Call Mrs. Mueller ASAP if you are interested in attending.

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.

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 Wednesday, November 23.**



VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED – Anyone willing to drive a shut-in to the doctors or shopping is asked to call Cathy at 724-274-2547.



LADIES OF CHARITY will meet on Monday, November 7, at 7 PM in the Liguori Center.

ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE – St. Joseph High School Open House provides interested students and families with the opportunity to tour the campus, visit with faculty and students and learn more about academics, athletics, clubs and student life. Please join us at our upcoming Fall Open House on Sunday, November 6, 12 – 3 PM. Registration will begin in the Science and Technology Center.

CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL’S OPEN HOUSE for students and their families will be held on Sunday, November 6, from 12 until 2:30 PM. All are welcome to come and experience the school first hand. In addition, the Placement Test for eighth grade boys who wish to attend Central Catholic starting in the Fall of 2012 will be administered on Saturday, December 10. There is no fee for this test. Contact the Admissions Office at 412-621-7505 with any questions.

THE SOUTHWESTERN VETERANS CENTER is seeking volunteers to help their residents with special needs. Volunteers will visit with residents, read newspapers or books to them, escort them outdoors on warm days and provide the little touches that make their everyday lives more meaningful. If you can help with this special project, please call Lynn at 412-665-6790.

The Pope then quoted from the reading from the Prophet Zechariah, in which God promises salvation through a king. "But the announcement does not refer to a king with human powers and force of arms", he explained. "It does not refer to a king who dominates with political and military might. This is a gentle king who reigns with humility and gentleness before God and man, a king quite different from the great sovereigns of the earth".

The Apostles recalled the prophet's words particularly "following Christ's passion, death and resurrection when, with the eyes of faith, they reconsidered their Master's joyful entry into the Holy City. He rode a donkey which had been lent to Him, not a horse as the powerful did. He did not enter Jerusalem accompanied by a mighty army of chariots and horsemen. He is a poor king, the king of the poor of God, of those who have inner freedom enabling them to overcome the greed and selfishness of the world, of those who know that God alone is their treasure. He is a king who will make the chariots and steeds of battle disappear, who will break the weapons of war, a king who brought peace on the Cross, uniting heaven and earth and building a bridge between all mankind. The Cross is the new arch of peace, the sign and instrument of reconciliation, the sign that love is stronger than any form of violence or oppression, stronger than death. Evil is overcome through goodness, through love".

"The kingdom that Christ inaugurates is universal. The horizon of this poor and meek king is not the territorial horizon of a State; it is the confines of the world. He creates communion, He creates unity. And where do we see His announcement take concrete form today? In the great network of Eucharistic communities covering the earth, wherein the prophecy of Zechariah re-emerges in splendor. Everywhere, in all cultures, He comes and is present; and by entering into communion with Him, mankind is united into a single body, overcoming divisions, rivalry and rancor. The Lord comes in the Eucharist to divest us of our selfishness, our fixations which exclude others, to make us a single body, a single kingdom of peace in a divided world.

"And yet", the Holy Father added, "how can we build this kingdom of peace in which Christ is king? Like Jesus, the messengers of peace of His kingdom must begin a journey. They must journey, but not with the might of war or the force of power. It is not with power, force or violence that Christ's kingdom of peace grows, but with the giving of self, with love carried to its extreme consequences, even towards our enemies. Jesus does not conquer the world by force of arms but by the power of the Cross, which is the true guarantee of victory".

- Vatican Information Service

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, October 23, 2011

Offertory	\$3,744.10
Parish Share.....	\$580.00
Mission Sunday	\$1,145.00

The second collection next Sunday, November 6, will be the monthly collection for Capital Improvements and Repairs to our parish. We thank you for your support of our Church.

**POPE BENEDICT XVI
"THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST CANNOT BE
BUILT BY FORCE"**

VATICAN CITY, 26 OCT 2011 -. "As Christians", he said, "we are convinced that prayer is the most precious contribution we can make to the cause of peace. For this reason we, the Church of Rome and pilgrims from elsewhere, are gathered here today to listen to the Word of God and to invoke the gift of peace".