

ST ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2009

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – OCTOBER 4, 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

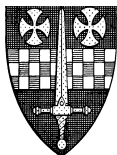
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(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

Diocese Victim Assistance Hotline 1-888-808-1235

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH
VICARIATE
NO. 4

THE CELEBRATION OF THE MASS

The Mass is the primary prayer of the Catholic Church, for it is the re-enactment of the sacrifice of Christ our Lord, who offered Himself on the Cross for our salvation. The words of consecration describe accurately what Jesus does for us at Calvary and at the Mass, which re-presents his sacrifice in an unbloody manner:

“He gave the bread to his disciples and said, Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my Body, which will be given up for you.”

“He gave the cup to his disciples and said, Take this, all of you, and drink from it: this is the cup of my Blood, the Blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all, so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.”

There is no other prayer to compare with the Mass, for the Mass is the work of Jesus. At Mass [the “Eucharist” or “Thanksgiving”], we come together as a believing family, united as brothers and sisters in the Lord who makes us one in Him, to thank God the Father for the gift of his only-begotten Son. We also come together as family to eat and drink the body and blood of Jesus who came to feed and refresh us.

Therefore, the **EMPHASIS** at Mass must be on the themes of **THANKSGIVING, LOVE AND UNITY**. A good way to describe the attitude we should have toward the celebration of Mass is the attitude we have at our family Thanksgiving Day celebrations. A great effort is made by all members of the family to **BE TOGETHER**, to come even from a long way at great sacrifice to be with the family, to put aside all pettiness and animosity and **FORGIVE AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER**, and to show that **UNITY AND LOVE BY EATING TOGETHER**. On Thanksgiving Day there is just **ONE MEAL FOR ONE FAMILY** united in love and thanksgiving.

This is how the celebration of Mass should be. Ideally, on any given day, there would be just **ONE** Mass for the parish family, with everyone making an effort to attend. The only reason why we have several Masses on Sunday is because our Church cannot physically hold the entire congregation at once. Thus, unfortunately, on Sunday we have to “multiply” Masses, but each time we do so we “fracture” and “dilute” the community and make our celebration less powerful. It would be difficult to imagine a family having two or three dinners on Thanksgiving Day, and it is just as difficult to imagine a Christian community having more than one Mass on any given day, except in the case of physical necessity.

On weekdays, when we **CAN** put all worshippers together in one place, the more commendable mode of celebration would be to have one and only one Mass (concelebrated in the case of more than one priest) for all worshippers who would make an effort and sacrifice personal convenience and taste for the sake of community. We will never multiply Masses just to satisfy Mass Intentions.

The main point of all this is to remind ourselves of what the celebration of Mass is all about, and to stress the notions of **UNITY, LOVE AND THANKSGIVING**. Mass is not some private affair, it should not foster notions of exclusivity or selfishness. It should be the greatest opportunity to manifest to the world that we are a believing community, grateful to God the Father, and in love with Him and each other.

-- Father Saladna

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Deceased members of the Scobel and Golian Families

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 -- Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Mary Pulliam

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary

8:00 AM Stephan Mosovsky

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8 -- **No Mass scheduled for today**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Andrew Strcula

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 – **No Mass on Saturday morning**

5:00 PM [For Sunday] For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 – Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Michael Werries, Sr. and Donna Werries

11:00 AM Nancy Seiler

REST IN PEACE – The parish family of Saint Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Dorothy Dalbow. Please remember the deceased and her family 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.

MASS FOR THE SICK – Our annual **MASS FOR THE SICK** and the **ANOINTING OF THE SICK** will be held today in our Church at 1:00 PM. This will be an extra Mass on that day, in addition to our regular weekend schedule. Those who have homebound persons in their care are urged to bring them to this Mass today, since it is primarily for them that we have this service. If anyone needs a ride or special care please let us know so we can try to provide transportation for them.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FATHER DAVID EMERY COUNCIL 5021
COAL (CHANCE OF A LIFETIME) SCHOLARSHIP
SWEEPSTAKES -- LAST CALL**

Tickets will be sold by members after all Masses today, October 4TH. Tickets are \$1.00 each or a book of 8 tickets for \$7.00. \$70,000 in prizes will be given away. You will have 16 chances to win great prizes. Money earned will be donated to the K of C Scholarship Fund.

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).

OCTOBER – MONTH OF THE ROSARY

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy, – Benedict XVI invited all families to pray the rosary for the intention of the Pope, the mission of the Church and peace.

The Holy Father said this to the crowds gathered in the papal summer residence of Castel Gandolfo to pray the Angelus, on the first day of October, the month the Church traditionally dedicates to the rosary and the missions.

“It is as if every year Our Lady invites us to rediscover the beauty of this prayer, so simple and profound,” said the Pope, referring to the feast of the Virgin of the Rosary, observed on October 7.

CLOTHING DRIVE – 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.

The rosary, a “contemplative and Christocentric prayer, inseparable from the meditation of sacred Scripture,” is the prayer of the Christian who advances in the pilgrimage of faith, in the following of Jesus, preceded by Mary,” continued the Pontiff.

Benedict XVI invited the faithful “to pray the rosary as a family during this month,” and in larger spiritual families,” in communities and parishes,” “for the intentions of the Pope, for the mission of the Church, and for peace in the world.”

The Holy Father also highlighted the “great apostle of the rosary,” his predecessor, “our beloved” Pope John Paul II”.

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.

Benedict XVI continued: “We remember him kneeling with the beads in his hands, immersed in the contemplation of Christ, as he himself invited us to do with the apostolic letter ‘Rosarium Virginis Mariae’” (The Rosary of the Virgin Mary).

On October 16, 2002, John Paul II celebrated 24 years as Pope with the proclamation of the Year of the Rosary and the publication of the apostolic letter on the Marian prayer.

In the letter the then Pontiff added another five mysteries to the prayer, and called them the “Mysteries of Light.”

LADIES OF CHARITY meeting on Monday, October 5, at 7:00 PM.

TODAY IS RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

We Are All in Danger

EWTN PROGRAM SCHEDULE – The Fall/ Winter edition of the EWTN Program Highlights is available in the Activity Room.

The “culture of death” philosophy has taken our nation down a slippery slope which tragically promotes death as a solution to social problems. Abortion, infanticide, physician assisted suicide, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell experimentation, and health care rationing are only some of the threats against innocent human life. Since 1973 more than 50,000,000 American children have died by abortion.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

Today, both the U.S. House and Senate are considering legislation which would “reform” our health care system, but tragically it would result in government funding of abortion on demand. The Hyde Amendment would NOT apply to these bills.

IN MEMORY OF AGNES ANKER by Cheswick-Springdale Lions Club; Fran and Cathy Moxie; Chuck and Millie Evans; Richard and Eileen Miller; Damian and Nancy Zurisko; Jim and Cathy Malloy; Ken and Mary Lloyd; Frank and Suzanne DePoli; Vitale Pascarella; Mary Korchnak; Rodney and Alice Berkebile; Bill and Roseanne Lengyel; John and Lena Mulherin; M/M Emil Paukoucek; Bill McFarland and Janet Onufer; Rose Marie Hall; Tom and Rosemary Mulherin and Family; Frank Basilone; James and Debra Basilone; Bob and Natalie Armstrong.

RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT TO PROTECT LIFE

IN MEMORY OF RAYMOND SHARKINS by Frank Basilone; Lelis Family; Frank and Rosie Sweeney; David and Elaine Sharkins.

- Pray that our national leaders pass legislation that promotes a “culture of life.”
- Pray for women faced with difficult pregnancies.
- Pray for women and men who have experienced the personal tragedy by having or participating in abortion.
- Pray for the unborn children who have died by abortion.
- Keep yourself informed by checking on current pro-life information.
- Pray for and visit those with serious illness and those in hospitals and nursing homes.
- Pray that health care is not rationed.
- Assist local crisis pregnancy centers.

POLISH PLATTER DINNER – today, Sunday, October 4, St. Mary Church (Friendship Hall), New Kensington. Noon – 5 PM eat in. 11 AM – 4 PM – take out. Adults: \$9, children under 10:\$5. Platter Dinner consists of pierogi, golabki, haluski, kielbasa, string beans polonaise, dinner roll and beverage. For more information call 724-335-8212.

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, September 27, 2009

Offertory	\$3,931.00
Parish Share.....	\$441.00

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

The special second collection today, Sunday, October 4, will be the monthly collection for repairs and improvements to our Church. We thank you for your kind and generous support of St. Alphonsus Parish.

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.

VICARIATE SYSTEM BEGINS ON OCTOBER 1

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

In the Deanery System, the Diocese (6 counties in western Pennsylvania) was divided into 16 "clusters" of parishes called "Deaneries," each with a "Dean" or leader who was like a "middle man" between the Bishop and the parishes/clergy in the Deanery. We were in a Deanery called the "Allegheny Valley Deanery."

Under the new "Vicariate System," the Diocese is now divided into just four larger areas; each called a "Vicariate" and headed by a "Vicar" (substitute) who is the "middle man" between the Bishop and the parishes/clergy in the Vicariate.

There are pros and cons for each system, and understandably so, for the entire diocese is still governed by the chief shepherd or diocesan bishop through his priests and deacons and all who aid them in their ministry. Time will tell which system is better for us and we are happy either way, for the primary goal of "church" is to provide for the sanctification, education and welfare of our people, whether it be through bishop-deans-pastors or through bishop-vicars-pastors. Most people will not notice much difference, We will all try to do our best to make the new system work for the common good and pray that the end result will be the "growing of the Church of Pittsburgh."

Maps showing the new configuration of the Diocese into four vicariates have been published in the Pittsburgh Catholic recently. 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."

CHRIST IS OUR FIRM HOPE

VATICAN CITY, 27 SEP 2009 (VIS) - This morning the Holy Father travelled by plane from Prague to Brno, the second largest city of the Czech Republic, where at 10 a.m. he celebrated Mass on the esplanade near the city airport. Among the thousands of people present were faithful from Slovak, Polish, Austrian and German dioceses.

The readings of the ceremony were focused on the theme of hope. In his homily the Holy Father affirmed that "history has demonstrated the absurdities to which man descends when he excludes God from the horizon of his choices and actions, and how hard it is to build a society inspired by the values of goodness, justice and fraternity, because the human being is free and his freedom remains fragile".

"In the modern age both faith and hope ... have been relegated to the private and other-worldly sphere", said the Pope, "while in day-to-day public life confidence in scientific and economic progress has been affirmed. We all know that this progress is ambiguous: it opens up possibilities for good as well as evil", yet it is "not enough to guarantee the moral welfare of society.

"Man needs to be liberated from material oppressions", he added, "but more profoundly, he must be saved from the evils that afflict the spirit. And who can save him if not God, Who is Love and has revealed His face as Almighty and Merciful Father in Jesus Christ? Our firm hope is therefore Christ".

Pope Benedict went on: "Here, as elsewhere, many people suffered in past centuries for remaining faithful to the Gospel, and they did not lose hope; many people sacrificed themselves in order to restore dignity to man and freedom to peoples, finding in their generous adherence to Christ the strength to build a new humanity.

"In present-day society, many forms of poverty are born from isolation, from being unloved, from the rejection of God and from a deep-seated tragic closure in man who believes himself to be self-sufficient, or else merely an insignificant and transient datum; in this world of ours which is alienated 'when too much trust is placed in merely human projects', only Christ can be our certain hope. This is the message that we Christians are called to spread every day, through our witness".

At the end of Mass and before praying the Angelus Benedict XVI noted how Moravia, the region in which Brno is located, "is blessed with a number of Marian shrines that are visited by crowds of pilgrims throughout the year".

And he called upon the Virgin to "keep the flame of faith alive in all of you, a faith that is nourished by traditions of popular piety with deep roots in the past, which you rightly take care to maintain, so that the warmth of family conviviality in villages and towns may not be lost. At times one cannot help noticing, with a certain nostalgia, that the pace of modern life tends to diminish some elements of a rich heritage of faith. Yet it is important not to lose sight of the ideal expressed by traditional customs, and above all to maintain the spiritual patrimony inherited from your forebears, to guard it and to make it answer to the needs of the present day.