

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

Saint Alphonsus

Roman Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

750 Pittsburgh Street • Springdale, PA • 15144

Phone: 724-274-5084 • **Fax:** 724-274-7035 • **e-mail:** stalphonsus@verizon.net

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

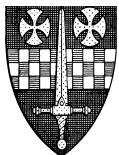
LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(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
ALLEGHENY
VALLEY DEANERY



One of the great misunderstandings about Jesus is that, since he is “Savior,” everyone is automatically saved. No matter what anyone does, he is “saved,” because Jesus will never let anyone be lost. Jesus is “Sweet Jesus,” and he would never threaten, he would never warn, he would always be “nice.” Words like “punishment” and “hell” would never come from the mouth of the Savior, “Sweet Jesus.”

Well, take a look at a Gospel selection from Ch. 9 of St. Mark. “Sweet Jesus” is speaking, and he is giving some warnings and threats: “if anyone leads astray a simple believer he should be plunged into the sea with a great millstone fastened around his neck.” Or, how about this passage? “Better for you to enter into life maimed than to keep both hands and go into hell, with its unquenchable fire.” Or, how about this one? “Better for you to enter the Kingdom of God with one eye than to be thrown with both eyes into hell, where the worm dies not and the fire is never put out.”

Jesus is good, and his name does mean “God saves.” His invitation to salvation is genuine and is extended to everyone. But salvation is not “automatic.” It comes only to those who want it. It is an invitation, and given only to those who reach out a hand to accept it.

The concept of hell (and the concept of heaven) is not something invented by silly and mean Churchmen. It is something that is taught and given to us by the Son of God himself. There is a downside to the offer of salvation in Christ. The downside is the price one will have to pay for the conscious and deliberate rejection of God’s goodness shown in the sacrifice of his Son for us.

There are only two choices offered us by Almighty God: take it or leave it. Those who accept salvation in Christ will find it. Those who reject salvation in Christ will be lost. There is no “third choice,” like “none of the above.” It is either “yes” or “no.”

Jesus (“Sweet Jesus”) himself told us what he thinks of people who dilly-dally and waver. He said, “I would have you either hot or cold. Whoever is lukewarm I will vomit out of my mouth.” These are strong words and we should pay careful attention to them.

-- Fr. Saladna

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 – Saint Matthew, Apostle
8:00 AM Nancy Lochrane

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 -- Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM Alice Susa

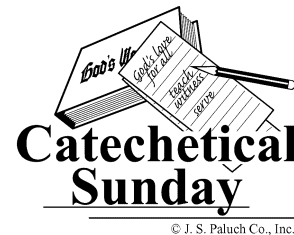
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 – St. Padre Pio
8:00 AM Ann Renaldi

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 -- **No Mass
scheduled for today**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 – Weekday Celebration
8:00 AM August Jursa

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 – **No Mass on
Saturday morning**
5:00 PM [For Sunday] Raymond J. Carrigan

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 – Twenty-sixth
Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 AM Anna H. Grebb
11:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.



**TODAY, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, is
“CATECHETICAL SUNDAY,”** the opening day for the new Religious Education School year. We honor and thank all those involved in any way in providing religious education to our young people, and we urge parents to follow up this teaching, especially by giving the good example children need in forming good habits of prayer and attendance at Mass. Students, parents and teachers are all urged to attend today’s Sunday’s 8:00 AM Mass.

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS – SEE YOU AT THE
POLE** – this Wednesday, September 23rd, 7:00 AM. See You at the Pole is all about prayer. It’s about you coming together and laying aside all the labels and groups for one day, to simply connect with God in prayer and connect with fellow Christians in unity around the flag pole – whether jocks, preps, geeks, Methodists, Baptists, Catholics, sophomores, or seniors.

Join your generation on Wednesday, September 23, at 7 AM, gather at your school flagpole. Pray for your school, friends, families and the world.

LOOKING AHEAD – Our annual **MASS FOR THE SICK** and the **ANOINTING OF THE SICK** will be held on Sunday, October 4, 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 that Mass on October 4, 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 on October 4. We hope we can have a good turnout on that day since a major part of our mission as church is to provide for the spiritual care of our people.

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.

ENTERTAINMENT DISCOUNT/COUPON BOOKS for 2010 are being sold by the Parish Social Services (Ladies of Charity). These books offer great savings at all kinds of restaurants, stores and various businesses, and they make great gifts (for Christmas, or anytime). 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.

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

Tickets will be sold by members after all Masses on September 27th and 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.

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

OUR BULLETIN INSERT today is the annual financial summary for fiscal year 2008-2009. We provide this every year, together with individual contribution records (at the end of the calendar year), according to diocesan regulations, to maintain transparency in our stewardship of the goods of the parish.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE by Father Bober, Pastor of St, Kilian Church in Adams and Cranberry Twps., appeared in the Pittsburgh Catholic of 3/31/06. It bears repeating every so often. Thanks, Fr. Bober.

WEDDING -- THE FIRST DAY OF A MARRIAGE

Questions: I wanted special songs for my wedding and our parish priest would not allow them. I thought it would be so simple to get married in our parish church. It has really become an ongoing battle. Why is that? Are priests trying to drive people away from the church?

I have tried to deal with important details of my church wedding, but the priest seems to keep putting them off. Instead, he asked so many questions regarding me and my fiancée. I felt like we were being interrogated. Is all that really necessary?

Answers: The answers to both questions (and many more) really begin from a few common starting points. The first has to do with the words “wedding” and “marriage.” To the church, at least, they are not interchangeable.

“Marriage” is a lifetime of exclusive commitment, fidelity and openness to new life. It is an incredible collage of joy and struggle, hope and support. A wedding is the first day of a marriage. The church is first of all concerned about the marriage. Is this couple ready?

For some couples, however, the primary concern is the wedding. They have dreams of what it should look like and really want to discuss those details. Priest and deacons are concerned about the length of the courtship, while the couple is concerned about the length of the aisle. Clergy are concerned about the couple’s understanding of marriage, while couples are concerned about releasing doves at the ceremony’s end.

The second starting point frequently misunderstood is that weddings in Catholic churches are part of the sacramental and ritual life of the parish and are never the personal possession of any one or two individual members.

At times, couples see the church as a convenient and beautiful background for the wedding. They approach the parish priest as they would the caterer, florist or photographer. They want to know what it will cost to get what they want. Obviously, there is much more at stake than a fee.

The brutal truth is that everyone is free to celebrate their wedding wherever they please. However, if one chooses to celebrate it in a Catholic Church that decision comes within certain parameters. Openness and understanding on the part of all involved can go a long way to make the wedding a great beginning to a happy marriage.

Your Ministry of Support
Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, September 13, 2009

Offertory	\$4,024.90
Parish Share	\$1,271.00
Bishop’s Education Fund	\$330.75

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