

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2009

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – SEPTEMBER 6, 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.

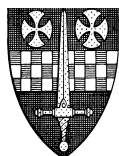
WEEKDAY: Mass held in Chapel next to Church. See bulletin each week or call Rectory for schedule of the 8:00 A.M. Mass which is not held every day (never on Sat morn).

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.



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

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

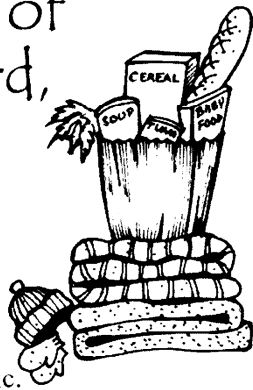
CCD & Youth Min. - Karen Mueller

Social Services - Cathy Moxie

Music Director/Organist – Vickie Roof

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH
ALLEGHENY
VALLEY DEANERY

Be doers of
the word,
and not
hearers
only



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Tomorrow, Monday, September 7, we Americans celebrate "Labor Day." This holiday is a child of the American Labor Movement which developed as a result of exploitation and oppression of workers who had to organize in order to get their share of profits.

The church celebration of this Labor Day centers around Saint Joseph "the Worker" who is a model for all workers, and this day concentrates on the dignity of work and the love which Jesus has for those who are the simple and lowly in life.

"Work" is described in the book of Genesis as one of the punishments for original sin, as man is driven from the Garden of Eden and told that he would have to work for his living by the sweat of his brow.

Jesus comes to save us from the consequences of our sins. He does this not by keeping us from the troubles of life but rather by carrying the burden himself. By accepting the crosses he bore, he shows us how to conquer them, as he turns his own cross into victory through the resurrection. The Lord tells us also that unless we take up our cross every day and follow him we will not be worthy of eternal life.

Our Savior "saves" us by transforming us. As we follow him by faith, he turns all our troubles into joy, as we imitate him and follow him on the way of the Cross.

This is how we celebrate Labor Day – sad that we have to suffer the consequences of original sin and our own actual sins, but at the same time confident that if we carry the troubles of life in union with Jesus we, too, will have a victory with him.

Over the gates of the horrible concentration camp at Auschwitz, the Nazis had a sign which read "Arbeit macht frei" – Work will make you Free. This

diabolical and hypocritical sign was used to offer false hope to those poor people who were sent there to die. Jesus, on the other hand, because he carried our cross and helps us to do our "work," makes and keeps the same promise: Your work **WILL** make you free.

Happy Labor Day!

--- Fr . Saladna

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 – LABOR DAY – St. Joseph the Worker

9:00 AM [Note special time] Deceased members of the Scholtz and Lutz Families

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 -- Birthday of Mary

8:00 AM Deceased members of the John Dzik Family

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 – St. Peter Claver

8:00 AM Nancy Lochrane

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 – No Mass scheduled for today

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 – Weekday Celebration

8:00 AM Panowicz Family

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 – No Mass on Saturday morning

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

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 – Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Elizabeth "Liz" Gruden (Birthday)

11:00 AM For Sister Audrey Sagan who is celebrating her 70th Anniversary as a Sister of Divine Providence

TOMORROW – on Labor Day, Monday, September 7, we will have a Mass at 9:00 AM.

RCIA PROGRAM –

- Are you searching for a church to call your own?
- Do you struggle with questions about life-death-suffering-hope-forgiveness-love-God?
- Ever wonder why Catholics worship the way they do?
- Do you have questions about what we really believe?

Look no further. If you are not Catholic, but are curious about the Church, or have a friend or family member who may be interested, or perhaps have some misconceptions about the church. All are welcome. For more information, call the Parish Office at 724-274-5084.

REST IN PEACE -- The parish family of Saint Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Stephan Mosovsky. Please remember the deceased and his family in your prayers.

LADIES OF CHARITY – first meeting of the new season, on Tuesday, September 8, in the Church Hall at 7:00 PM. (Meetings are ordinarily held on the first Monday, but due to Labor Day this month’s meeting will be on Tuesday).

CCD REGISTRATION FOR THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR. Our CCD program begins on Catechetical Sunday, September 20. CCD classes are offered in our School Building in the time period between our two Sunday morning Masses, from 9:15 AM to 10:45 AM.

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.

Our CCD classes are held for registered parish students from grades 1 through 8 (Kindergarten, if enough students; or, if parents wish, Kindergarten students can be put in with First Graders). Students must be pre-registered. We will register students in the following way:

1. **STUDENTS WHO WERE HERE LAST YEAR AND WHO WILL BE COMING BACK.** You will have received in the mail a registration form for each student, together with a schedule of classes for the school year, and some general information about CCD and registration. The deadline for registering is September 11TH.
2. **NEW STUDENTS.** Those who were too young last year or who are newly registered in our parish. Parents of these students must call the Parish Office to arrange for registration.

WALK FOR HUNGER – The Lower Valley Food Bank will hold the annual **WALK FOR HUNGER** event on Saturday, September 19. Walkers will meet at the Springdale Boro Building on School Street at 9:45 AM and walk three miles to the Cheswick Shopping Center and back. Donations to this worthy cause can be made to any of the walkers as they proceed through our community. The Food Bank’s Mission is to help end hunger and increase opportunities for families to meet their nutritional needs with health and dignity. Applications can be obtained from the parish office during business hours. If you have any questions about the Food Bank or the Walk for Hunger, please call 724-274-0867.

Please get this registration done now since we need to know exactly how many students we will have, and thus be able to prepare adequately.

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY’S 43rd ANNUAL COLLEGE FAIR will be held on Sunday, September 20 from 1 PM to 3 PM in the A. J. Palumbo Center. High school juniors and seniors can meet with representatives from over 150 of the best colleges and universities in the country. Questions? Call Duquesne’s Office of Admissions at 412-396-6222.

ATTENTION ALL PARISH YOUTH. The St. Alphonsus Catholic Youth Ministry year will be kicking off next Sunday, September 13. Meet us at the 11:00 AM Mass (we’ll sit together in the marked pews) and join us for a cookout on the Liguori Center lawn after Mass. We have some good food and good fun with great friends. Please join us at this meeting and help plan our social, service and spiritual activities for the year. If you have any questions, please call Karen Mueller at 412-828-3007 or David and Jeannine McCutcheon at 724-274-8987.

NOW THAT THE SUMMER BREAK is over, the next meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be this Thursday, September 10.

Your Ministry of Support	
Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish For Sunday, August 30, 2009	
Offertory	\$4,320.50
Parish Share	\$345.00
PLEASE REMEMBER ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH IN YOUR WILL	
<p>THE SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION today is the monthly collection for Capital Improvements to our parish. We appreciate your support of St. Alphonsus Parish.</p>	

JOIN THE CATHOLIC LEAGUE

The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights is the nation's largest Catholic civil rights organization. We defend the right of individual Catholics and the institutional Church against discrimination and defamation.

It has often been said that anti-Catholicism is the nation's oldest prejudice. One thing is clear: assaults on Catholicism occur today at an alarming speed. Indeed, it has become politically correct to bash Catholics in a most vicious way. Yet at the same time very few other religions, if any, are treated in the same bigoted and unfair way.

The Catholic League is busy on many fronts fighting anti-Catholic bigotry. We do battle with activist organizations, the arts, business and the workplace, education, government and the media.

Ten times a year we publish a journal, *Catalyst*, that informs Catholics about attacks on their religion and what we are doing about it. We would be glad to send you a complimentary copy so you can decide for yourself whether you want to join. Just complete the bottom of this flyer and mail it to Catholic League, 450 7th Avenue. (34th floor), New York, NY 10123; or call 212-371-3191. You can also go to our website: catholicleague.org/freecatalyst.php.

Please send a free copy of the *Catalyst* to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

MARRIED COUPLES – Getting ready for school means lots of time spent on your children. After school begins, why not give yourselves some time together? Make a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held September 23-25 at Seven Springs Resort in Champion, PA. An additional weekend is scheduled for November 13-15 at Bishop Connaire Center in Greensburg. For more information or to register, contact Mary and Lou Locante at 412-635-7775 or check us out on the web at: www.wwme-pittsburgh.org.

SIXTY-SIXTH INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC ROSARY MARCH

Theme: That Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, leads us to Jesus through our prayer of the Rosary.

When: Sunday, October 4

Where: Epiphany Church
(108 Centre Avenue, Uptown Pittsburgh)

1:30 PM – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Followed by Procession with the Blessed Sacrament and Statue of Our Lady of Fatima from Epiphany Church to Saint Mary of Mercy Church

Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament
Crowning of Our Lady

Dessert and Coffee in Lawless Hall

Church of Pittsburgh – Please Come!

For those who cannot process, there will be recitation of the Rosary, while the marchers are en route, at Saint Mary of Mercy Church, 202 Stanwix Street at 2:15 PM

ALL YOU CAN EAT SPAGHETTI DINNER – Springdale Volunteer Fire Department, 845 Lincoln Avenue (across from the Veterans Memorial Field) – Saturday, September 12 – 3:30 -8 PM. Dinners include salad, bread and dessert. Dine in or takeout available. Adults: \$7, children 3-6 yrs: \$4 and children 2 yrs and under are free.





WORDS FROM OUR HOLY FATHER

Pope Benedict XVI warned of the danger of falling into “hardness of heart” as a result of excessive daily occupations.

Addressing several thousand people gathered in the courtyard of the papal summer residence of Castel Gandolfo to pray the Angelus, the Pope suggested that prayer and contemplation take precedence in the “surge” of daily life.

The Holy Father spoke of St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1091-1153), a Doctor of the Church whose feast day was being celebrated on August 20, as an example of one who knew how to balance prayer with activity.

The saint wrote in a letter to Pope Eugene III: “See where these accursed occupations can lead you, if you continue to lose yourself in them – without leaving anything of yourself for yourself.”

Benedict XVI said: “It is necessary to pay attention to the dangers of excessive activity, regardless of one’s condition and occupation, observes the saint, because as he said to the Pope of that time, and to all Popes, and to all of us – numerous occupations often lead to ‘hardness of heart,’ ‘they are no more than suffering for the spirit, loss of intelligence and dispersion of grace.’”

Benedict XVI also presented one of the most famous Marian counsels of St. Bernard: “Whoever you are that perceive yourself during this mortal existence to be rather drifting in treacherous waters, at the mercy of the winds and the waves, than walking on firm ground, turn not away your eyes from the splendor of this guiding star, unless thou wish to be submerged by the storm.”

“Look at the star, call upon Mary. With her for a guide, you shall not go astray, while invoking her. You shall never lose heart...if she walks before you, you shall not grow weary; if she shows you favor, you shall reach the goal.”

- Vatican News Service

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Back to work we go! Summer break is over and there is much to accomplish in school and in the workplace. It’s a venerable Catholic custom to assign patron saints to the trades and occupations of life. This is largely in the realm of popular devotion, and although from time to time the Vatican declares a saint to be patron of this or that, the process is free-wheeling and just about uncontrollable. Still, there is a saint for almost any purpose whether you are on death row (Dismas), having eye trouble (Lucy), or pursued by poisonous toads (Hubert). Medieval guilds would often associate themselves with heavenly patrons, so Saint Joseph has the carpenters, Thomas More the lawyers, and physicians get Saint Luke. If you’re stuck in the airport, St. Joseph of Cupertino is on call since he was said to rise off the floor when he prayed, and if you’re in a long line at the ATM, Saint Anthony Claret is for you.

In recent years, the Vatican has from time to time assigned a new patronage, as when Saint Aloysius Gonzaga was named the patron of HIV-AIDS patients, since as a young Jesuit novice he had cared for his fellow novices during a terrible plague. Anything that matters to us--nation, parish church, occupation, illness--can have a patron, and it is an aspect of Catholicism that has enormous appeal. To believe in the “communion of saints” is to know that the ties that bind us as a communion do not unravel with death, and that when we stand before life’s struggles, we do not stand alone. Who is your patron saint?

--Rev. James Field, (c) Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

SEE BEYOND OUTWARD APPEARANCES

The phrase “Sunday best” has lost much of its meaning in our society today. Some lament the loss of people dressing up for church on Sunday; others think it’s a healthy sign that we’re as casual in attire gathered before the Lord as we are elsewhere. No matter which school of thought on this topic we belong to, James would probably chastise us. In either case, we are still focused on external appearance, mistaking it for some sort of favored position before God. True, James criticizes the community that favors the rich and well-dressed while ostracizing the poorly clothed, but even more he criticizes the making of distinctions, making choices based on criteria that having nothing to do with the reign of God. James might turn our attention to the reign of God described by Isaiah, in which people are healed and the earth becomes ripe to bear fruit. Jesus today is focused on this reign of God, healing a Gentile man in a region hostile to his Jewish faith, not mindful of the man’s origins or clothing or status or ability to repay. Isaiah, James, and Jesus in Mark’s Gospel all call us to look more deeply to find where the will of God needs to be done, and has been done, on earth as in heaven.

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