

Welcome to . . .

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF WEXFORD

SAINT ALPHONSUS & SAINT ALEXIS

“Grow in Jesus, engage in community, and go forth to make disciples.”

FOURTH SUNDAY IN
LENT



*When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,
He found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”*

Sunday Mass Times

4:00 p.m. Saint Alexis (Saturday Anticipated Mass)
7:30 a.m. Saint Alphonsus
9:30 a.m. Saint Alphonsus
10:00 a.m. Saint Alexis
11:30 a.m. Saint Alphonsus
5:00 p.m. Saint Alexis

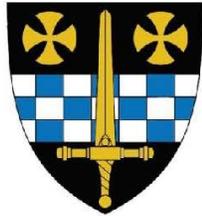
Weekday Mass Schedule

8:00 a.m. Saint Alexis (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday, and Saturday)
9:00 a.m. Saint Alphonsus (Wednesday)
12:00 p.m. Saint Alphonsus (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)

ALL MASSES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

MARCH 22, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF LENT



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH
NEWS

111 Boulevard of the Allies
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

E-mail: communications@diopitt.org
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Contact: **Ellen Mady**
(o) 412-456-3129
(c) 412-961-4888

For Release: March 16, 2020

**Bishop David Zubik Issues Directives
for Sacraments and Parish Activities in the Diocese of Pittsburgh**

With a continuing commitment to protect health and safety due to coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns, and in the wake of suspending all public Masses in the diocese until further notice, today Bishop Zubik issued directives regarding sacraments and other parish activities.

The following guidelines are effective immediately and until further notice:

Baptism

The celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism, outside of Mass, is permitted. In order to limit any potential spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) to a vulnerable population, only a small private family baptism should be held. Multiple baptisms of several children from different families is not permitted. All state and local government-imposed restrictions on the number of people at public gatherings are to be obeyed.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

RCIA Instructors will communicate with those preparing to be received in the church with further details.

Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion

All First Reconciliations and First Communions for the month of March are to be postponed and rescheduled at another date. Dates for First Reconciliation and First Communion after April 1, 2020 will be determined in the future depending on the circumstances surrounding the coronavirus.

Sacrament of Confirmation

All scheduled confirmations for the month of March are postponed and will be rescheduled. Confirmation dates after April 1, 2020 will be determined in the future depending on circumstances surrounding the coronavirus.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The *Light is on for You*, scheduled for April 1, 2020 has been cancelled. Parishes will be offering regularly scheduled times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Health guidelines regarding social distancing will be followed.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Communal celebration of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is suspended until further notice. Priests will offer Anointing of the Sick on an individual basis following health and safety guidelines related to coronavirus.

(c) 412-961-4888

Funerals and Weddings

Until further notice, weddings and funerals may proceed but attendance should be limited to immediate family. All state and local government-imposed restrictions on the number of people at public gatherings are to be obeyed.

Parish Events and Activities

In compliance with the requests of governmental leaders and sound medical practices, parishes must cancel all scheduled events until further notice.

Church Buildings

While churches will remain open for private prayer, including adoration, there will be no scheduled “services” that would bring people together at a specific time. Social distancing must be maintained if people attend church for private prayer.

“During this time of unknowns, concerns about access to the sacraments have created anxiety among the faithful. We will be working to reassure people and help them with ways to live and strengthen their faith during this unprecedented time. I continue to ask all of us to come together in prayer, especially with the intercession of the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph to guide and protect us,” Bishop Zubik said.

To *love* is to learn to follow Christ with others.

TRUST GOD IN ALL THINGS

Wow! The difference a day can make. The response to the outbreak of COVID-19 has disrupted our lives and the world. Our patterns and habits have all been interrupted by precautions that we have embraced on our own, or that were imposed on us by public officials and medical professionals all in concern for personal and public health and wellbeing. These troubling times remind me of a time in my life when I felt very vulnerable and helpless, but most importantly, closer to God.

Not even two years into my assignment at Saint Alexis, I suddenly was struck by a severe headache. Like many, I know what a headache is like, but this one was different. Its sudden onset and intensity moved me to contact my doctor. After describing the occurrence and severity of the pain, he encouraged me to come into his office for an exam. And so, I did. He admitted to a hospital that day where I remained for almost two weeks. This was the first time I was an actual patient in a hospital.

The feeling of not being in control was unsettling to say the least. Neither me nor the doctors knew what the situation was, so tests, medication, and rest ensued. Eventually, a diagnosis was made and a path of treatment began which continues to impact my life to this day. But what came out of this experience was a deep and comforting awareness of God and His abiding presence in my life. This experience of His providence and care has made me a different, a *better* person, and my newfound trust in my Maker and Savior continues to be by strength and source of peace!

I share this story with you because the coronavirus pandemic has us all feeling a bit helpless. Our lives, our daily routines, and our self-reliance has been disrupted. During this time, I encourage you to use this “downtime” to take comfort in the words of the Psalm of David, *be still, and know that I am God* (Psalm 46:10). The Lord is not idle in this crisis, He is there to comfort His people and restore us to wellness. So pray. Stay close to the Lord. And do not be afraid of the feeling of smallness in light of this current crisis. Remember God’s greatness, and know His peace.

I am encouraged by the words of Saint Francis DeSales (1567-1622), Bishop of Geneva.

“Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it.”

May these words of encouragement bring you to a deeper awareness of the love of our God. Continued peace...

In Jesus’ love,
Fr. Zywan

* * Updates will continue to be posted on our website, as well as our Catholic Community of Wexford Facebook page. Please be assured of our continued prayers and support for you during this time of trial.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

We entrust to the care of Christ the Divine Physician, those members of our parish families of Saint Alphonsus and Saint Alexis who are in need of healing in body, mind or spirit, especially:

Dick Anderson
Brian Bart
Rachel Borck
Jeannie Bukaukus
Emma Bullick
Joseph Borza
Connor Cunic
Gloria Dudowski
Nancy Greer
Patricia Gross
Stanley Hofstetter
Betty Howell
Al Korade

Eugene Mancino
Loretta Marchese
Michelle Mehok
Ron Mehok
Diane Miller
G. James Neelan
Larry Sampietro
Irene Schultz
Janice Spowal
Amber VanVickle
David Zappa
Prayer Shawl Recipients

If you know of a parishioner or have a loved one who is ill, please contact the Parish Center and let us know. We will place that person’s name on the prayer list for **four weeks**. Intentions may return to the list upon monthly requests. Contact the Parish Center at 724.935.4343 or 724.935.1151 to add a loved one onto the list.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — As the prophet Samuel anointed David with oil, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David (1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a).

Psalms — The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Psalm 23).

Second Reading — You who were once darkness are now light in the Lord (Ephesians 5:8-14).

Gospel — The man who had been blind from birth proclaimed: The one called Jesus made clay with his saliva, anointed my eyes with it, and told me to wash (John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

**Due to the cancellation
of all Masses
until further notice —**

**There are no Mass
intentions scheduled.**

**You will be contacted to
reschedule your
intentions.**

**Thank you
for your patience!**

THANK YOU!

We are grateful for the following memorial gift that was recently made to Saint

Alexis Parish:
In memory of
Michael Karas

By: *Nancy O'Malley*
Lois Patton
Joanne and John Ouligian

Thank you!



OUR ADVERTISERS

Thanks to our bulletin advertisers for supporting our parish this week:



Saint Alphonsus
Tara L. DePaoli, DMD,
LLC General Dentistry

Saint Alexis
Vollen Anderson Long, LLC
by Aimee Burton

Please offer your patronage to our sponsors or be sure to thank them when you have the opportunity to do so. It is through their support that our weekly bulletin is made possible!

THE ANNUNCIATION

ACCORDING TO LUKE
(1:26-38)

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?"

And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. . .for nothing will be impossible for God."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

(The New American Bible)



THIS WEEK AT SAINT ALPHONSUS AND SAINT ALEXIS

Even though Masses are cancelled, please NOTE: the churches will be open to those wishing to come inside and pray.

Both Saint Alphonsus and Saint Alexis are open from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Confessions will be only be heard on an individual basis by appointment only. Please contact the Parish Center at 724.935.1151 or 724.935.4343.

Our regular calendar of events and parish happenings is not available at this time since all activities have been cancelled.

This cancellation **also includes** all religious education, groups, ministries, and outreach, all meetings or scheduled programs, and classes until further notice.

Thank you for your patience!

SAINT ALPHONSUS INCOME

March 9 through March 15, 2020

	Regular	Electronic	Total
Offertory	\$ 2,820	\$ 3,494	\$ 6,314
Parish Share	\$ 4,221	\$ 266	\$ 4,487
School	\$ 233	\$ 1,105	\$ 1,338
Major Maintenance	\$	\$ 95	\$ 95
Easter Flowers	\$ 140	\$ 5	\$ 145
Catholic Campaign	\$	\$ 40	\$ 40
Future Diocesan Collection	\$	\$ 10	\$ 10
Holy Days	\$	\$ 20	\$ 20
Votives	\$ 136	\$	\$ 136
TOTAL	\$ 7,550	\$ 5,035	\$ 12,585

2020 Parish Share Assessment: \$ 133,380
Collected: \$ 8,350

SAINT ALEXIS INCOME

March 9 through March 15, 2020

	Regular	Electronic (11th & 22nd)	Total
Offertory	\$ 6,000	\$ 31,691	\$ 37,691
Loose Cash	\$ 272	\$	\$ 272
Parish Share	\$ 3,395	\$ 6,279	\$ 9,674
School	\$ 192	\$ 1,329	\$ 1,521
Catholic Campaign	\$	\$ 694	\$ 694
Easter Flowers	\$ 415	\$	\$ 415
Votives	\$ 440	\$	\$ 440
TOTAL	\$ 10,714	\$ 39,993	\$ 50,707

2020 Parish Share Assessment: \$ 151,696
Collected: \$ 28,899



WEEKLY FISH FRY RESULTS

	Take Out	Dine-in Adult	Dine-in Kids	We Served # Meals
Ash Wednesday	683			683
Week 1 (2/28/20)	1,078	539	71	1,688
Week 2 (3/6/20)	1,410	592	72	2,074
Week 3 (3/13/20)	1,276	251	20	1,547
Total	4,447	1,382	163	5,992

Thanks to all who came out to support us this past week!

FISH FRIES ARE CANCELLED TEMPORARILY.

SAINT ALPHONSUS AND SAINT ALEXIS NEWS

EASTER EGG HUNT

Please help us. We need candy for our Easter Egg Hunt!

If you'd like to donate, please drop off your donation of wrapped candy to Saint Alphonsus Church or to Saint Alexis Church. There will be a bin in the back of the old side and also on the new side of Saint Alphonsus Church. There will also be a bin in the narthex of Saint Alexis Church. We're looking for candy that is small enough to fit inside a plastic egg.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be at Saint Alphonsus on Holy Saturday, **April 11 at 12:30 p.m.** in the playground area. In case of rain, we will gather in the school cafeteria. Please bring a bag or basket to collect your eggs.



GOLD CLUB GATHERING (CANCELLED)

The Gold Club meeting which was scheduled for **Wednesday, March 25** has been cancelled.



MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASS



The next Marriage preparation session will be held on **Friday evening, April 17, at 6:00 p.m.** and then continues from **8:30 a.m. through the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, April 18**, in Friendship Hall at Saint Alexis. The cost is \$35.00 per couple.

Please visit our website at Catholicwexford.com and register under

Faith Formation.

LADIES OF CHARITY

The Food Drive ends **next SUNDAY, MARCH 29**. Even though the Masses are cancelled, the churches are open if you would like to still donate. Please be as generous as possible. We can use any non-perishable food, or household products or **Grocery Store Gift Cards**.



"We should assist the poor in every way, and do it both by ourselves and be enlisting the help of others."
- St. Vincent de Paul.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

EASTER FLOWERS

Although Easter flower donations will be accepted through Easter, in order to have your intention published in the booklet, the donation must be received in the Parish Center no later than **Wednesday, April 1**.



NEW VISION STATEMENT

You may have begun to see the new tagline of our parish community floating around in our publications. As we come together to form a new parish, we want to honor the history of our communities and create a clear vision to move us forward, toward Heaven. Our pastoral council, staff, and clergy team collaborated to form a simplistic vision, inspired by the way God moves in our parish grouping: **grow in Jesus, engage in community, and go forth to make disciples.**

Each of the aspects of this vision statement, or tagline, can be emphasized or expounded upon in particular aspects of our communal life here in Wexford. This vision will shape the way we, as a new parish, make decisions and communicate. When considering a new program, our Director of Evangelization might pose the question: "Will this help the people of Wexford grow in Jesus? Will it engage them in a lively community? Will it enable them to go forth and make disciples?" In the same vein, our clergy team, councils, and maintenance team can work together on new projects with this vision in mind: "If we repair this safety concern, will our people be able to grow in Jesus? Will they better engage in our community? Will they consider this a place they can invite people into the life of Christ, in order to make disciples?"

Over the next few months of transition, please expect a further integration of this vision statement and tagline into our community communications, as well as a deeper dive into each aspect. As members of this parish, begin to take ownership of this vision: ask yourself how your plans this week might help you grow in Jesus, engage in community, and go forth to make disciples.

If you have any questions about our new vision statement, please contact our parish media coordinator, Riley McCullough, at mediacoordinator@stalexis.org.

MAKING A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Without access to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, it is important to still keep the Lord's Day holy! You can do this by intentionally praying the rosary, singing hymns or praise and worship songs, praying with Scripture, and making a spiritual communion, like the one below.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

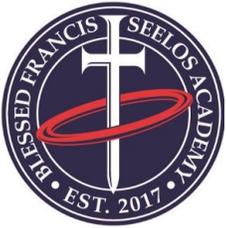


ASCEND APRIL EVENT CALENDAR
(all event are held int the Youth Room on Saint Alexis)

- 4/5 – **EDGE Night (Middle School)**, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- 4/12 – **EASTER NO Life Night (High School)**
- 4/18 – **Confirmation Retreat**, 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in Fr. Rogers Hall at Saint Alexis
- 4/19 – **EDGE Night (7th Grade only!)**, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Fr. Rogers Hall at Saint Alexis
- 4/23 – **Young Adult "Tacos and Theology,"** 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- 4/26 – **Life Night (High School)**, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

ASCEND
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

If you have any questions, please contact David Piccirilli, Coordinator of ASCEND at lifeteen@stalexis.org or 724.935.4343. ext. 227



BLESSED FRANCIS SEELOS ACADEMY

SPRING OPEN HOUSE

Blessed Francis Seelos Academy is now enrolling preschool-8th grade students for the 2020-21 school year. We will be hosting Open Houses at both school buildings. Come discover our tradition of superior academics in an environment where children learn to live as children of God.

K-8 Open House: **Tuesday, April 21, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at Saint Alphonsus

3 and 4 Year-Old Preschool Open House: **Tuesday, April 28, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.,** at Saint Alexis

For more information, please visit our website (www.nhrces.org/seelos) or contact the school office: 724.935.1152.



BLESSED FRANCIS SEELOS ACADEMY

- Full & Half Day
3 & 4-Year-Old
Preschool
- Full Day Kindergarten
- Grades 1-8
- Strong Proven
Academic Record
- Competitive Athletics
- Extracurricular Clubs
- Enrichment
Opportunities



Education that Excels, Faith that Inspires

www.nhrces.org/seelos

SAINT ALPHONSUS AND SAINT ALEXIS CHURCHES - *THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF WEXFORD*



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

A Parish of the Diocese of Pittsburgh - diopitt.org

SERVED BY

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Volunteer Ministry Coordinator

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BLESSED FRANCIS SEELOS ACADEMY

Principal

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School Secretary K-8

Patty Anfang - panfang@seelosacademy.org

724.935.1152

School Secretary Pre-K

Chris Schlieper - cschlieper@seelosacademy.org

724.935.3940

North Hills Regional School Board - www.nhrccs.org



** Bulletin announcements and flyers are due by
12:00 p.m. Friday, a week in advance of publication. **

Parish Office: 10090 Old Perry Highway Wexford, PA 15090

Phones - 724.935.1151 or 724.935.4343 Fax - 724.935.1270

saintalphonsuswexford.org or stalexis.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

JOIN US!

To become a registered member of the parish family, please visit our website at www.stalexis.org or at www.SaintAlphonsusWexford.org. Introduce yourself to us at Mass!

RECONCILIATION

Saint Alexis: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday,

Saturday - 7:30 a.m.-7:55 a.m. Saturday - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Saint Alphonsus: Wednesday 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PRAYER

Eucharistic Adoration

Saint Alphonsus: Wednesday 12:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saint Alexis: First Friday of every month from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Divine Mercy Devotion: Wednesday 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Saint Alphonsus

Prayer Ministry- To initiate a request for urgent prayers contact the following people:

Saint Alexis - Barb Busi at 412.366.4829

Saint Alphonsus - Norma Heyl at 724.935.1094 or Jo Labrise at 724.935.3826.

If you would like to be a part of this important ministry to pray for

MARRIAGE

Arrangements must be made with a priest at least six months in advance of the desired wedding date.

HOLY ORDERS

For information about the priesthood or the vowed religious life, please contact Fr. Zywan or the Vocation Office of the diocese at 412.456.3131 or visit pghpriest.com.

BAPTISM

Celebrated on Sundays at 11:15 a.m. at Saint Alexis or at 12:45 p.m. at Saint Alphonsus by appointment. Arrangements should be made through the Parish Center several months in advance. Parents need to be registered parishioners and complete a pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Communal anointing is celebrated periodically. Anyone who is anticipating surgery is encouraged to request this sacrament prior to being admitted to the hospital. Individuals who are unable to attend Sunday Mass and want to receive the sacraments are asked to please call the Parish Center.

DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

412.456.3093 (Office)

1.888.808.1235 (Hot Line)

PA Child Line - 1.800.932.0313

Call 911 immediately if a child is in danger.

WE WELCOME YOU HOME!