

St. Alphonsus Catholic Parish

A Redemptorist Community



St. Mary's Assumption Church,
923 Josephine St.

St. Mary's Chapel,
1516 Jackson Ave.

Mass Times

St. Mary's Assumption Church

Saturday Vigil at 4:00pm

Sunday at 10:30am

Sunday Spanish Mass at 12:30pm

St. Mary's Chapel

Sunday at 9:00am

Weekday Mass Times

St. Mary's Chapel

Monday - Friday at 7:30am

Perpetual Help Devotions

St. Mary's Chapel

Tuesdays during 7:30am Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

St. Mary's Chapel

First Friday of each month after the
7:30am Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation

St. Mary's Assumption Church

Saturdays at 3:15pm

Parish Office Hours: M-F; 9am-2pm

Office Email: StAlsNola@gmail.com
504-522-6748

*(Holy Days/Holidays – Parish Office
may be closed or hours may vary)*

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



December 29, 2024

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As we close 2024 and prepare to enter 2025, we may find ourselves at a crossroad of reflecting on the past as we try to discern where God will lead us next. This past year, our Saint Alphonsus-Saint Mary's Assumption Parish has embodied faith in action, responded to challenges with generosity, and embraced opportunities with courage. My heart overflows with gratitude for the lives you have touched and the hope you have inspired.

Hope is more than a comforting idea; it is the steady anchor that keeps us rooted in Christ, guiding us through uncertainty. This truth resonates profoundly with the Jubilee Year 2025 theme: "**Pilgrims of Hope.**" We journey together, drawing closer to God and one another, believing that in Christ we discover the strength to face each new day and the vision to see beyond immediate trials. Our steps are not solitary. We walk as one parish family, united by faith and fortified by the hope that springs from God's mercy. As we look to the coming year, we embrace the call to be "Pilgrims of Hope," committed to proclaiming God's abundant redemption. This shared mission challenges us to live the Good News here at Saint Alphonsus-Saint Mary's Assumption Parish and to radiate its warmth beyond our parish's boundaries.

In 2025, our goal is clear: To proclaim the message of **Hope and Plentiful Redemption**. This vision, encourages us to deepen our relationship with Christ and to extend His healing love to all. It draws on the richness of Redemptorist spirituality, calling us to serve those on the margins, to encounter Christ in unexpected places, and to allow ourselves to be transformed by each person we meet. We take on the mission, proclaiming the message of Hope and Plentiful Redemption in the pilgrims visiting the Blessed Seelos Shrine, in the care ministries comforting the sick and grieving, in teaching and ministering to students, and in our parish ministries with Hope House, Catholic Worker, CCD students, and with our Hispanic community. Ultimately, it shines in the Eucharist that nourishes us and in our devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help, who gently leads us closer to her Son. To sustain this mission, we must embrace a spirituality of stewardship, recognizing that our time, talent, and treasure are gifts to be shared for God's glory. Stewardship is not an abstract ideal; it is a concrete practice that nurtures a strong parish family and a more just world.

Time: When we set aside moments for worship, prayer, study, and service, we grow as disciples and our bonds unite us. These rhythms of prayer and outreach—be it, attending Mass, joining Scripture studies, or assisting our care ministries—all help weave our lives together in faith by forging a community where no one stands alone.

Talent: Every skill you offer—from music and organization to teaching and advocacy—enriches our parish and fortifies our ministry. Whether you comfort someone through the Blessed Seelos Shrine, help those most vulnerable and in need, or lend your voice to advance social justice; your gifts make Christ's presence tangible.

Treasure: Your financial support ensures that our sacraments are celebrated, our ministries flourish, our church is restored and the second phase of our interior restoration projects are funded, and our parish flourishes for years to come.

As we enter 2025, I invite you to prayerfully consider how you will share your *time, talent, and treasure*. Let us strive to embody hope, so visibly, that others cannot help but notice the light of Christ shining through us. With confidence in God's grace, let us step forward together, strengthened by the hope for what lies ahead. In this coming year, may we seize every opportunity to deepen our faith, brighten our community, and reflect the fullness of God's love to all we encounter.

Thank you for your faith, your courage, and your generosity. May God guide us, "Pilgrims of Hope," into a 2025 filled with grace and new beginnings. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year; through the intercession of Our Mother's Perpetual Help, may we find a way to bring Christ to our neighbor.

Pax,

Fr. Chung Tran, C.Ss.R



Liturgy Notes

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UPCOMING LITURGICAL MINISTERS

- **Saturday, January 4 – 4:00pm**
Lector: D. Waldron
Eucharistic Minister: E. Rafferty
- **Sunday, January 5 – 9:00am (Chapel)**
Lector: K. Soileau
Eucharistic Minister: M. Soileau
- **Sunday, January 5 – 10:30am**
Lector: D. Everard
Eucharistic Ministers: T. Schafer; M. Schafer; M. Dahleh

LITURGICAL MUSIC FOR THIS WEEK

Mass Parts: | #21 Holy | #28 Mem. Accl. | #31 Amen | #32 Lord's Prayer | #36 Lamb of God

Response | Gospel C10 Readings: Hymnal #970

Song of Gathering: #906 – Come, Sing a Home and Family

Song of Offertory: #907 - The Hands That First Held Mary's Child

Song of Communion: #412 - What Child is This?

Rec: #902 - O Joseph, Mighty Patron

Food Drive Totals:

December = 584 non-perishable food items
Year to Date: 7,591 food items and a total of \$153.00, donated.

As this year comes to an end, I want to thank all those who have donated food items in 2024, to help keep our parish's food pantry full, so Hope House can help feed those in need living in our parish. Please continue to bring food items each week to Mass. We appreciate your kindness.

Forres Collins – Food Drive Coordinator



PLEASE NOTE: There is **No 7:30am** Chapel Mass on New Year's Day.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 28
4:00pm +John Dimicelli, Jr.

Sunday, December 29
9:00am: +Paul Spryopoulos

10:30am: +Hugh G. Ross

12:30pm: All St. Alphonsus Parishioners

Monday, December 30
7:30am: +Raul Bencomo

Tuesday, December 31
7:30am: +Fr. Gerard LaPorte, C.Ss.R.

Wednesday, January 1
9:30am: +Marie Giorlando
+Dr. AJ Giorlando

Thursday, January 2
7:30am: Evelyn Higginbotham

Friday, January 3
7:30am: Fr. Tim Watson, C.Ss.R.
+Bernard L. Kelley

Saturday, January 4
4:00pm: Hope House Ministry

Sunday, January 5
9:00am: Fr. Steve Benden, C.Ss.R.
10:30am: +Marie Giorlando
+Dr. AJ Giorlando

SANCTUARY CANDLE DECEMBER INTENTIONS

St. Mary's Assumption Church
Mass Intentions for Fr. Maurice J. Nutt, C.Ss.R., and the Nutt Family, requested by Fr. Maurice.
and

St. Mary's Chapel
In Memory of the Wilkerson and Quinlan Families, requested by Carol Wilkerson.



Stewardship

Giving Update: Dec. 21 & 22, 2024:

\$958.00	Weekly Envelopes
\$1,059.00	Loose Collection
\$1,196.00	Donations/Legacies
\$2,000.00	Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals
\$30.00	Christmas Flowers
\$1,463.55	Online Giving
\$6,706.55	Total Giving

I appreciate your support!
- Fr. Chung

Weekly Offering



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GUILD MINISTRY

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Just a reminder: We will have Eucharistic Adoration hour following the 7:30am Mass at St. Mary's Chapel on **(Friday) January 3, 2025.** All are welcome!



Sunday, Jan. 5th – Hospitality Sunday – Please join us after 9am and 10:30am Mass for donuts, sweet treats and coffee.



Jan. 11 & 12 – Brown Bags will be available at All Masses. Please consider buying more than one – suggested donation is \$2 per bag. **Thank you!**

Happy Birthday!



Fr. Steve Benden, C.Ss.R.

We will be collecting all winter clothing next weekend, Jan. 4 & 5th at all Masses.

We also will also need volunteers to help sort the winter clothing items - if you can help, please call **504-522-6748.**



St. Alphonsus Parish Just Winter Clothing Drive!

Items needed:



heavy-duty blankets



socks



men's coats



hats



gloves

Items will be collected at the masses on **January 4th and 5th, 2025** The New Orleans Catholic Worker will then distribute these items to our brothers and sisters sleeping under the freeway bridge

If interested in helping distribute these items call the NOCW, 504-457-8062.

St. Alphonsus Parish
We Remember Our Loved Ones this Christmas Season

In Memory of

Kauchak & Baker Families

Dr. & Mrs. Joseph O'Neill

Dr. AJ & Marie Giorlando

Fabio & Maria Fernandez

Ronald Chmura

Helen Gorris Hurley

The Scheuermann Family

Will R. Williams, Jr.

Del Bartel

Amy Conn Harvey

Juan Alberto Navarrete

Sternberg & Beyer Families

Russell & Moran Families

Julia Helen Wingard

Bernadine Sylvester

Higginbotham & Ross Families

Larry Konikoff

Haywood Hansell Hillyer, IV

Hinckley Family

Thank you for the Flower Sponsors and donors!



St. Alphonsus Prayer Chain: If you would like to add prayer intentions to our weekly prayer chain, contact us at StAlsPrayers@gmail.com or call us at 774-701-1863. Leave the **first name** and the **reason** for your prayer request. The deadline for requesting prayers for the following week's prayer chain is 7pm on Sunday.

Prayer Requests: We are currently praying for Kori, Greg, Frankie, Pat, Kyle, Shawn, Holly, Terry, Emery, Evelyn, Michele, April, Anthony, Barbara, Susan, Henry, Mike, Jill, Nicole, Sister Lilian; and for the peace of Christ to be brought to the whole world; All those suffering around the world; Please keep these above people in your prayers and for all prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our prayer intentions spoken and unspoken. **Amen.**

Updates: Please pray for the repose of the soul: Kim Huffman's husband, Robert who passed recently.

Special Intentions: For Pope Francis, Archbishop Aymond, and all of our Redemptorists priests, brothers, sisters...Blessed Francis Seelos pray for us.

New Year's Eve & New Year's Day Mass Schedule

(Tue), December 31 – New Year's Eve
7:30am - St. Mary's Chapel

6pm Vigil Mass
St. Mary's Assumption

(Wed), January 1, 2025 – New Year's Day
9:30am

12:30pm Spanish Mass
St. Mary's Assumption

All are welcome!

Office Holiday Closure

The St. Alphonus Parish Office will
be **Closed** on
(Wed) Jan. 1, 2025

(We will reopen on Jan. 2)

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

Three Kings Challenge! Be the first three (3) Callers to call our parish office on (Mon) Dec. 30 after 9am and let us know where you found the Magi, the Three Wisemen in this bulletin, for the celebration of the upcoming Epiphany.

- **First PRIZE – \$25 Gift Card to Seelos Gift Shop**
- **Second PRIZE – \$15 Gift Card to Seelos Gift Shop**
- **Third PRIZE – \$10 Gift Card to Seelos Gift Shop**

Look very carefully, there are three (3) kings hidden in this bulletin—they could be anywhere. Call us on Monday, Dec. 30th only, and be the first (3) callers to correctly tell us where you found the three wisemen, and you win! Call: 504-522-6748

Good luck! - Fr. Andy



If the Vatican approves a second miracle,
Blessed Francis Seelos will be proclaimed a saint!

Blessed Seelos Healing Mass and Anointing of the Sick
(Sunday) January 12, 2025 at 10:30am
St. Mary's Assumption Church.

Please invite your family and friends!

In the
Spotlight

Pictures taken at the Children's Christmas Eve Mass
President: Fr. Steve Benden and concelebrants: Pastor Chung Tran, Fr. Andy Thompson, and Fr. Tim Watson.



Archdiocesan Silver Wedding Anniversary Celebration
will take place on
Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 3:00pm,
At Our Lady of Rosary Catholic Church, New Orleans.

If you will be celebrating your 25th Wedding Anniversary in 2025 (married in the year 2000) or you were married between 1995-2000) and wish to attend, please register with the parish office, no later than Friday, January 17, 2025.

To Register: Call the parish office & speak to Sue at 504-522-6748 and she will add you to the list to be submitted to the Archdiocese.

(Please Note: This celebration is a prayer service and not a Mass)



PHASE I - EXTERIOR Renovations (Constance St. side is complete! (picture taken: Dec. 5, 2024)

Save St. Mary's Assumption Church Restoration Capital Campaign

St. Mary's is one of the most beautiful and historic churches in New Orleans. It is also the final resting place of Blessed Francis Seelos, a Redemptorist priest who ministered to his parish, especially those who were sick and dying of the yellow fever epidemic. Because of heroic care for others, he contracted the illness himself and died of it. His selfless dedication has placed him on the path to sainthood in the Catholic Church.

164 years of age and climate – which is hot, humid, and vulnerable to hurricanes – have taken a toll on St. Mary's. As a result, the church has sustained serious damage to the interior plaster walls and ceiling.

As stewards of this treasure and being deeply devoted to the legacy of Blessed Francis Seelos, the Redemptorists of the parish are raising the necessary funds to preserve this beautiful church. The "Save St. Mary's Campaign Committee" is organizing and directing efforts to restore St. Mary's to its original beauty, while fortifying the structure for future generations. Would you consider helping us?

Mail your donation:

St. Alphonsus Parish
Attn: Restoration Fund
2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Giving made easy!

Scan the QR Code:



In-Person:

Place donations in the donation boxes in the back of the church or dip your credit card in the dip jar box.

For updates, visit:

www.StAlphonsusNO.com/SaveStMarys