

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

St. Mary's Chapel
Sunday at 9:00am

St. Mary's Assumption Church
Sunday at 10:30am
Sunday Spanish Mass at 12:30pm

St. Mary's Assumption Church
Our Mother of Perpetual Help Mass,
3rd Sunday of each month. at 3pm with
the Filipino Faith
Community & Parish

Weekday Mass Times
St. Mary's Chapel
Monday-Friday at 7:30am

St. Mary's Assumption Church
Monday-Friday at 11:30am
Novena Mass in Honor of Blessed
Francis Seelos,
Confessions available, after Mass

Perpetual Help Devotions
St. Mary's Chapel
Tuesdays during 7:30am Mass

Eucharistic Adoration
St. Mary's Chapel
First Friday of each month after 7:30am
Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation
St. Mary's Assumption Church
Saturdays at 3:15pm

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



The Redemptorists
of St. Alphonsus Parish
wish you a blessed
Christmas.

May this Christmas
bring you
joy and peace!

Peace of Jesus

St. Alphonsus Parish
Parish Office: 2030 Constance St.,
New Orleans, LA 70130
Parish Website: StAlphonsusNO.com

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter the fourth week of Advent, the final purple candle is lit, representing **Love**, symbolizing God's endless love for humanity through sending his son, Jesus; it is often called the "Angel's Candle" symbolizing the central theme of the Nativity story and the birth of Jesus. There were shepherds outside of Bethlehem tending to their flocks when an angel appeared to them and told them do not to be afraid, "This very day in David's town your savior was born – Christ the Lord!" (Luke 2:8-20). The Advent wreath symbolizes hope, peace, joy and love which comprises the four weeks leading up to the birth of Christ.

Advent is a season of hopeful waiting and preparation for Christmas, focusing on Jesus's birth and anticipating his Second Coming, observed over the four Sundays before Christmas through prayer and reflection. It's a spiritual time to slow down from our busy lives and to prepare our hearts for the arrival of Jesus. In Luke's Gospel, the angel spoke of a "savior" and said he was "Christ the Lord". This is an important detail about the identity of Jesus. The Greek word for Christ and in Hebrew has the equivalent meaning "**Messiah**". Both words mean, "**the anointed one**". And "**Lord**" is a title often used for God in the Old Testament. The angel's message is important, "**Today in the city of David a Savior has been born**": Identifies Jesus as the prophesied deliverer, born in David's hometown (Bethlehem), fulfilling Old Testament prophecy.

As the fourth week of Advent comes to an end, marking the beginning of a new liturgical year, we wait in the joyful anticipation of Christ's birth and his future return. Let us take time to slow down, to reflect on Jesus's birth, and his promise to return, again. This Christmas we celebrate God, who comes to us as 'the light of the world'. May He fill your hearts with love and joy.



Merry Christmas and may God bless you.

Fr. Chung Tran, C.Ss.R.



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 Orlin Lopez & family, Mike & Trudy, Amanda, Liz's healing of foot, Forbes, Lillian, a fair settlement of Ukraine peace plan, April, Theresa, Conner, for our Mayor elect & her team, Rick who suffered a stroke, Tommy, Andy & his friend, for justice and fair treatment of all immigrants, for world peace for all nations, and for all prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts, for all our prayer intentions spoken & unspoken. **Amen.**

Updates: A person we prayed for has been found free of cancer. All praises go to God in thanksgiving!

Special Intentions: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Shelly Raynal and pray for her family. Prayers for Pope Leo, and for Archbishop Aymond, and Coadjutor Archbishop James Checchio and all of our Redemptorist priests, brothers, sisters... Blessed Francis Seelos pray for us. **Amen.**

Updated: (12/16/25)

Liturgy Notes

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UPCOMING LITURGICAL MINISTERS

- **Saturday, December 27 – 4:00pm**

Lector: J. Marvel

Eucharistic Minister: S. Sternberg

- **Sunday, December 28 – 9:00am (Chapel)**

Lector: K. Soileau

Eucharistic Minister: M. Soileau

- **Sunday, December 28 – 10:30am**

Lector: M. Balducci

Eucharistic Ministers: L. Moran; B. Fleischer; N. Olivares

LITURGICAL MUSIC FOR THIS WEEK

Mass Parts: | #20 Holy | B #24 Mem. Accl. | #30 Amen |
#32 Lord's Prayer | #35 Lamb of God

Response | Gospel A4 Readings: Hymnal #963

Song of Gathering: #373 Behold a Virgin Bearing Him

Song of Offertory: #921 We Sing with Holy Mary

Song of Communion: #571 What You Gave Us for Our Taking

Rec: #361 People, Look East



Pope Leo XIV's Prayer Intention December 2025:

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

(U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops > <https://www.usccb.org/>)

PLEASE NOTE: St. Mary's Chapel will have 8am Mass on Christmas day.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 20

4:00pm: Lillian Moran
+Joan Cuccia Schmitt

Sunday, December 21

9:00am: John Patrick Radosta

10:30am: +Bertha Ledet Dragon

12:30pm: All St. Alphonsus Parishioners

Monday, December 22

7:30am: +Rev. Jacky Merilan, C.Ss.R.

Tuesday, December 23

7:30am: John Patrick Radosta

Wednesday, December 24

7:30am: +Deceased Redemptorists
+Raymond Lee Guidry

Thursday, December 25

8:00am: For the perpetual and annual Mass
Leagues of the Shrine of Blessed Seelos

Friday, December 26

7:30am: Sandra Borgman

Saturday, December 27

4:00pm: John Patrick Radosta
+Shelly Raynal

Sunday, December 28

9:00am: Kenneth Ross (birthday blessings)

10:30am: +Dr. AJ & Marie Giorlando

12:30pm: All St. Alphonsus Parishioners

SANCTUARY CANDLE & MASS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

St. Mary's Assumption Church

In Memory of Ted & Mildred Borgman
and Joseph & Justine Williamson,
requested by
Dr. Ted & Sandra Borgman.

St. Mary's Chapel

Special Intentions for the Wilkerson & the
Quinlan Families,
requested by Carol Wilkerson



Stewardship

Giving Update: Dec. 13 & Dec. 14, 2025:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| \$763.00 | Weekly Envelopes |
| \$1,448.00 | Loose Collection |
| \$294.00 | Donations/Legacies |
| \$100.00 | Mass Stipends |
| \$5,793.00 | Religious Retirement Collection |
| \$1,234.55 | Online Giving |
| \$9,632.55 | Total Giving |

Thank you for your generosity! - Fr. Chung

Food Drive Totals:

St. Alphonsus Parish is sponsoring an Angel Tree Food Drive to help keep our parish food pantry Full. We appreciate your continued generosity of donating food items each week. We also want to thank Fr. Lambert Lein of St. Katharine Drexel Church of New Orleans for donating nearly 200 food items this week! Also, we would like to continue to help the Hispanic Apostolate of the Archdiocese which helps Hispanic families experiencing food shortage. All the food donated is distributed to Hope House and to the Hispanic Apostolate.

In the month of December, we collected 576 food items, for a total year to date of 9,236. Please bring what you can each week to Mass. **Help us to keep food available for those in need throughout the holiday season.**

Forres Collins – Food Drive Coordinator

We greatly appreciate your generosity! -Fr. Chung

Saint Alphonsus Parish

ANGEL TREE FOOD DRIVE



Please help us fill the Hope House pantry by emptying the angel tree of food item requests! Select a donation and drop it off under the tree by November 30th. Shelf-stable, nonperishable items only. Scan the QR code for our wish list!

DROP-OFF LOCATION

St. Mary's Assumption Church
923 Josephine St.



For More Information : (504) 603-6549 Cadence Gatterer

Happy Birthday!



Fr. Steve Benden, C.Ss.R.
December 30



Our parish office
will be **CLOSED**
December 24 - 26.

(We will reopen on Dec. 29 at 9am)

Holy Days of Obligation:

St. Mary's Assumption Church
Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24
Vigil Mass at 4pm

St. Mary's Chapel
Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25 – 8am

St. Mary's Assumption Church
Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25
10:00am and 12:30pm Spanish

New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1
9am Mass - St. Mary's Assumption Church

All are welcome! - Fr. Chung



St. Alphonsus Parish and the Redemptorist Community wishes peace and blessings upon all of your homes this Christmas – May you experience the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ today, and throughout the Christmas season.

Merry Christmas!

St. Alphonsus Students receive books for Christmas on Dec. 17! Many thanks to our parishioners and friends for donating beautifully wrapped books for the children. And a **big thanks to Steve & Darlene Gaiennie who helped plan, sort, and organize all of the books, so that each student received a gift, **thank you!** - Fr. Chung**



(Pictured: Our school Chaplain, Fr. Steve Benden, C.Ss.R., parishioner, Darlene Gaiennie enjoyed giving books to the children!)

Preservation Resource Center's Annual Holiday Home Tour - Tour of St. Mary's Chapel on Dec. 13 & 14, 2025



We Thank all of our volunteers who greeted nearly 800 visitors last weekend at St. Mary's Chapel for the 50th annual PRC's Holiday Home Tour. And a **big thanks** to Skip Miller who volunteered as a greeter, helped plan and organize this event, along with the Parish Council.

It was a big success!

We also thank our friends at the PRC for featuring our newly renovated historic chapel as one of its bonus properties for this year's tour.

We appreciate your support! - Fr. Chung

Peace of Jesus

St. Alphonsus Parish, New Orleans

St. Mary's Assumption
923 Josephine St.

St. Mary's Chapel
1516 Jackson Ave.

Christmas Eve Mass Schedule:

St. Mary's Assumption Church

* **(Wed) Dec. 24 - 4pm Vigil Mass**

(Children's Mass - special gifts given out at Mass for children ages 12 and under)

Christmas Day Mass Schedule:

St. Mary's Chapel

* **(Thu) Dec. 25 - 8am Mass**

St. Mary's Assumption Church

* **(Thu) Dec. 25 - 10am Mass**

* **(Thu) Dec. 25 - 12:30pm Spanish Mass**

Parish Office will be Closed: (Wed) Dec. 24 - (Fri) Dec. 26

(We will reopen on (Mon) Dec. 29 at 9am)



St. Alphonsus Parish, New Orleans
2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
504-522-6748
Office Hours: (Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm)

www.StAlphonsusNO.com

FIND BABY JESUS CONTEST!

Can you *find the image of baby Jesus hidden*
in the bulletin?

Discover the joy of finding Christ in Christmas! The wisemen followed a bright star in the night sky to find baby Jesus in a manger.

If you find baby Jesus in this bulletin, you must call the parish office on Monday, Dec. 22 and tell us where you have found him.

The first (3) callers to phone the parish office on Monday, Dec. 22, and correctly identify the hidden location of baby Jesus will *win a gift card to the Seelos Gift Shop!*

Please be sure to leave your name, phone number and the location where you found baby Jesus.

Parish Office — 504-522-6748 — we open at 9am -2pm, on Mon, Dec. 22.

Good luck! - Fr. Andy



Shop unique gifts for everyone on your list!

*Artwork • Jewelry • Candles • Rosaries
Books • Statues • Toys • Holy Oil • Relics
Prayer Cards • Mass Cards • Medals & More!*

Visit [SEELOS.org/gift-shop](https://seelos.org/gift-shop)



The Front of the Church is completely restored!

Exterior renovations are underway on the back of the church near the courtyard.

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. After 164 years of age and climate—which is hot, humid, and vulnerable to storms, and 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. Their "Save St. Mary's Campaign Committee" is organizing and directing its efforts to restore St. Mary's to its original beauty, while fortifying the structure for future generations. We want to thank all those who donated and contributed to our Save St. Mary's Restoration Fund to help pay for the Exterior Renovations of our Church.

We are prayerful and hopeful that we will continue to receive contributions to help fund Phase II, Interior Renovations—to restore the damaged walls and plaster inside of the church, to help repair all of the interior cracks, to preserve the antique plaster carvings, to repaint the interior with historic colors, and other interior renovations as needed.

Would you consider helping us raise funds to complete the Interior Restoration of the Church?

Mail your donation:

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

Giving Made Easy!

Scan the QR Code:



For updates, visit:
www.StAlphonsusNO.com/SaveStMarys