

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 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



December 25, 2025

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,

Merry Christmas and wishing all of you a blessed and joyful Christmas!

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, we remember that God comes to us in humility, hope, and love, especially in times of uncertainty. May the light of the newborn Savior bring peace to your hearts, strength to your families, and renewed faith for the days ahead.

Christmas, at its heart, is not a celebration reserved for easy seasons. It was born in uncertainty, into a world marked by fear, displacement, and discouragement. That alone gives Christmas a quiet power in times of difficulty. When life feels heavy, Christmas reminds us that light does not arrive by erasing darkness, but by entering it. The story speaks of hope choosing humility, of love showing up gracefully, but with presence. In challenging times, this can reframe our expectations: meaning it is not found in everything being fixed, but in knowing we have not been abandoned within what is broken.

Christmas also invites a gentler way of measuring strength. Strength is found in endurance, in kindness that persists when it would be easier to withdraw in faith, or trust that tomorrow can still hold goodness even when today feels uncertain. It is a season that legitimizes small acts: a shared meal, a listening ear, a quiet prayer, a moment of gratitude. These are not insignificant; they are how hope survives.

Perhaps most importantly, Christmas affirms that suffering and joy are not opposites. They can coexist. You can grieve and still receive peace. You can struggle and still be held by love. In that sense, Christmas does not deny pain, rather it dignifies it by insisting that love meets us exactly where we are. Christmas proclaims that God comes precisely when the world feels unstable. The manger becomes a sign that divine love is most present not in trust, perseverance, and quiet faithfulness.

In the midst of our challenging times, the meaning of Christmas becomes clearer, not dimmer. It is the promise that light is present, that love is intentional and even now, especially hope is being born.

Pax,
-Fr. Chung Tran, C.Ss.R.

Liturgy Notes

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UPCOMING LITURGICAL MINISTERS

- **Saturday, January 3 – 4:00pm**

Lector: D. Waldron

Eucharistic Minister: E. Rafferty

- **Sunday, January 4 – 9:00am (Chapel)**

Lector: T. Costanza

Eucharistic Minister: C. Wilkerson

- **Sunday, January 4 – 10:30am**

Lector: D. Everard

Eucharistic Ministers: T. Schafer; J. Cross; M. Dahleh

LITURGICAL MUSIC FOR THIS WEEK

Mass Parts: | #21 Holy | A #26 Mem. Accl. | #31 Amen |
#32 Lord's Prayer | #35 Lamb of God

Response Christmas Eve Readings: Hymnal #967
Response Christmas day Readings: Hymnal #969

Song of Gathering: #371 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Song of Offertory: #403 Of the Father's Love Begotten

Song of Communion: #394 Once in Royal David's City

Rec: #387 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



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/>)

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, December 29

7:30am: John Patrick Radosta

Tuesday, December 30

7:30am: +Hugh G. Ross

Wednesday, December 31

7:30am: 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. 20 & 21, 2025:

\$597.00	Weekly Envelopes
\$1,810.00	Loose Collection
\$5,884.00	Donations/Legacies
\$984.75	Seelos Lawn & misc. reimbursements
\$1,347.55	Online Giving
\$10,623.30	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 pantry full. Thanks to the kind donor who gave 340 food items this week. We appreciate your food donations which helps the Hope House and the Hispanic community through the Hispanic Apostolate feed families in need. In December, we have collected 1,188 food items, for a total year to date of 9,848. 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
Closed
Christmas &
New Year Holidays:

⇒ **Closed** - Dec. 24 - Dec. 26

⇒ **Closed** - Jan. 1—2, 2026

We wish you a very Merry
Christmas and Happy New Year!

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!



WINNERS OF THE BABY JESUS CONTEST!

We want to thank everyone who participated in the contest to find baby Jesus hidden in the December 21st bulletin. We had a lot of callers and participants who called the parish office, but we could only choose the first (3) callers who called on Monday, December 22 and *who correctly identified* the location of baby Jesus.

Contest Winners were:

- 1) Ms. Jennifer Kelly – \$25 Gift card to Seelos Gift Shop
- 2) Luke Soileau – \$15 Gift card to Seelos Gift Shop
- 3) Ms. Anna Cervantes – \$10 Gift card to Seelos Gift Shop

Again, thank you all for participating in our bulletin contest – good luck next time!

-Fr. Andy Thompson, C.Ss.R.

A festive advertisement for the Seelos Gift Shop. The background is a collage of various Christmas gifts, including wrapped boxes, a small Christmas tree, and decorative items. The text is centered and reads: "Shop unique gifts for everyone on your list!" followed by a list of gift categories: "Artwork • Jewelry • Candles • Rosaries Books • Statues • Toys • Holy Oil • Relics Prayer Cards • Mass Cards • Medals & More!". At the bottom, a red banner contains the text "Visit SEELOS.org/gift-shop".

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

Parish Announcements



Eucharistic Adoration – (Friday) Jan. 2nd – following the 7:30am Chapel Mass.



'Hospitality Sunday' - (Sunday) Jan. 4th – Join us for coffee and donuts following the 9:00am and 10:30am Masses. All are welcome!



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 11, 2026
at **St. Mary's Assumption Church.**

All are welcome!

SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Office of Marriage and Family Life is pleased to announce the annual **Silver Wedding Anniversary Celebration** will be held on **(Sunday) March 15, 2026 at 3pm**, at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, New Orleans.

This prayer service will honor couples who are celebrating or have recently made their 25th wedding anniversary. The celebration is open to couples married 1996-2001.

To register, please contact your parish office by Monday, Feb. 2, 2026.

For more information, call 504-861-6243 or [email mfl@arch-no.org](mailto:mfl@arch-no.org).



Help us Keep in Touch with You

If you are currently a parishioner, and any of your family's information on file with us, has changed such as (address, phone, email, etc.) - please call our parish office to let us know, at 504-522-6748, (Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm) or email us at [StAlsNola@gmail](mailto:StAlsNola@gmail.com).

Thank you.

St. Alphonsus Parish Mission Statement

In the tradition of our immigrant founders, St. Alphonsus Parish continues to be a welcoming and caring Roman Catholic community of faith. We are inspired by the Holy Spirit, formed by the Gospel under the mantle of Mary, Our Mother of Perpetual Help, and since 1843 served by the Redemptorists, men of faith such as Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos.

**Visit StAlphonsusNO.com/contact-us
to our email parish staff.**

Redemptorist Pastoral Staff

Fr. Chung Tran, C.Ss.R., Pastor

Fr. Andrew Thompson, C.Ss.R., Associate Pastor

Redemptorists In Residence

Fr. Steve Benden, C.Ss.R., Chaplain of the Seelos Shrine, St. Alphonsus School and St. Michael's Special School

Fr. Tim Watson, C.Ss.R., Chaplain of the Seelos Shrine, Hispanic Ministry

Parish Staff

Susan Higginbotham, Secretary, Bulletin Editor, 504.522.6748

Forres Collins, Plant Manager/Maintenance, 504-522-6748

Music Staff

Robert Zanca, Organist, 504.621.6249

Sheila McDermott, Vocalist, 504.522.6748

Parish Leadership

Parish Council Pres. Skip Miller, 404.822.6370

Parish Council V. Pres. Sara Schexnayder, 908.303.9935

Finance Council Pres. Ed Berbuesse, 504.495.6056

Local Ministry Information

Seelos Welcome Center	504.525.2495
St Alphonsus School	504.523.6594
Mercy Endeavors	504.568.0607
St. Thomas Clinic	504.529.5588
Catholic Worker	504.457.8062
Hope House	504.525.2561
Hope House Adult Ed.	504.524.7353



PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

Welcome to any new parishioners! To register as a parishioner please contact the parish office or speak to us after any of our Masses. Reach out to a Redemptorist, contact the parish office at (504)522-6748 or visit our online form (www.StAlphonsusNO.com/My Own Church) to register as a parishioner.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

For sacramental preparation or other needs (baptism, confirmation, first communion, marriage, annulment, etc.), please contact the parish office. For marriages, please plan six to nine months in advance.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Our parish is committed to creating a safe space for all who come to worship. For more information about safe environment practices here and thru the archdioceses, please visit www.nolacatholic.org/safe-environment

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the Bulletin, Social Media, Website, email StAlsNla.Communications@gmail.com. All submissions require pastoral staff approval.



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