

St. Alphonsus Catholic Parish

A Redemptorist Community

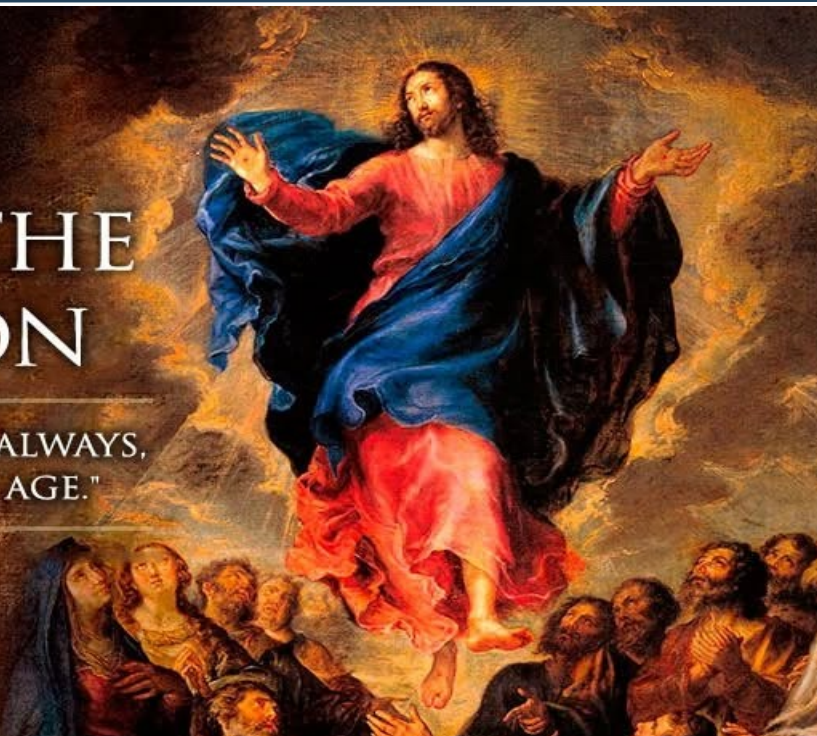


St. Mary's Assumption Church,
923 Josephine St.

St. Mary's Chapel,
1516 Jackson Ave.

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

"BEHOLD, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS,
UNTIL THE END OF THE AGE."



Weekend Masses:

St. Mary's Assumption Church
Saturday Vigil at 4:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays at 3:15pm, before 4pm Vigil

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

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

Weekday Masses: Monday-Friday

St. Mary's Chapel: 7:30am

St. Mary's Assumption Church: 11:30am

Novena Mass in Honor of Blessed
Father Francis Xavier Seelos,
Confessions available, after Mass

Monthly Mass:

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

Eucharistic Adoration

St. Mary's Chapel
1st Friday of each month after 7:30am Mass

Parish Office Email: StAlsNola@gmail.com
504-522-6748 (Mon-Fri; 9am-2pm)
(Office Hours may vary on holidays)

National Shrine of Blessed Francis X. Seelos
504-525-2495 (Mon-Sat; 10am-2pm)
(Closed on Sundays - Holiday hours vary)
Info@seelos.org

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What Must We Do While Waiting for the Advocate?

The Ascension of Jesus is a moment filled with both joy and mystery. The disciples watched as the Lord whom they loved was taken up into heaven. It may have seemed like a moment of separation, yet Jesus assured them that His departure was not abandonment. He promised them the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who would remain with them forever.

The time between the Ascension and Pentecost was a season of waiting. The disciples did not yet fully understand what was coming, but they trusted the words of Christ. They returned to Jerusalem and gathered together in prayer with hopeful hearts.

This period of waiting speaks deeply to us in our own lives. Many times, we also live in moments of uncertainty – waiting for direction, healing, answers or strength. The Ascension reminds us that God is still at work, even when we do not yet see the fulfillment of His promises. While waiting for the Advocate, the disciples devoted themselves to prayer, unity and faithfulness. These are the same things we are called to do today.

Remain Faithful in Prayer

The disciples devoted themselves to prayer in the Upper Room with Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Waiting upon God is not passive; it is active trust. During this season, we are called to deepen our prayer life, attend Mass faithfully, spend time before the Blessed Sacrament, and pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Witness with Hope

Before ascending, Jesus commanded His disciples to be His witnesses, “to the ends of the earth.” Even while waiting, we must continue to live the Gospel through charity, kindness, and courage. The world still needs witnesses of Christ’s love.

Prepare Our Hearts

The Holy Spirit comes to transform hearts that are open and willing. This is a time to examine our lives, repent of sins, and renew our commitment to holiness. The Advocate desires to guide, strengthen, and sanctify us.

A Church That Waits with Expectation

The Ascension teaches us to lift our eyes toward heaven while remaining faithful on earth. We are not abandoned, we are being prepared. Just as the disciples awaited Pentecost with hope, we too, await the continual coming of the Holy Spirit into our lives, our families, and our Church.

May this holy season renew our desire for the gifts of the Spirit and strengthen us to proclaim Christ boldly in the world.

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

UPCOMING LITURGICAL MINISTERS

- **Saturday, May 23 – 4:00pm**
Lector: T. Borgman
Eucharistic Minister: M. Kauchak
- **Sunday, May 24 – 9:00am (Chapel)**
Lector: T. Frater
Eucharistic Minister: E. Frater
- **Sunday, May 24 – 10:30am**
Lector: G. Gitz
Eucharistic Ministers: N. Olivares; E. Berbuesse; C. Berbuesse

LITURGICAL MUSIC FOR THIS WEEK

Mass Parts: | #21 Holy | A #26 Mem. Accl. | #31 Amen | #32 Lord's Prayer | #36 Lamb of God

Easter 7 Ascension Gospel A47, Hymnal Readings: #1023

Song of Gathering: #667 Journey of Faith

Song of Offertory: #486 Christ High-Ascended

Song of Communion: #555 One Bread, One Body

Rec: #483 Sing We Triumphant Hymns of Praise

Pope Leo XIV's Prayer Intention May 2026:

That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 16

4:00pm: +Louise Grasser

Sunday, May 17

9:00am All St. Alphonsus Parishioners

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

+Vincent Comberrel

+Fr. Steve Wilson, C.Ss.R.

Monday, May 18

7:30am: +Louise Grasser

Tuesday, May 19

7:30am: Redemptorist Vocations

Wednesday, May 20

7:30am: In Thanksgiving to Fr. Seelos
(Colleen L.)

Thursday, May 21

7:30am: Evelyn Higginbotham
(Health restoration)

Friday, May 22

7:30am: Lenel Romero
+Dr. AJ & Marie Giorlando

Saturday, May 23

4:00pm: +George Franklin Walker

Sunday, May 24

9:00am: Jason Higginbotham (birthday)

10:30am: +Louise Grasser

12:30pm: All St. Alphonsus Parishioners

SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS IN MAY FOR THESE MASS INTENTIONS

St. Mary's Assumption Church

Special Intentions for Kim Pertuit,
requested by Dino Pertuit.

St. Mary's Chapel

In Thanksgiving for Fr. Aaron Meszaros, C.Ss.R., for his leadership of the Seelos Shrine and for prayers & blessings for the new director of the Seelos Shrine, Fr. Binh Ta, C.Ss.R., requested by a parishioner.



Stewardship

Giving Update: May 9 & 10, 2026:

\$767.00	Weekly Envelopes
\$2,579.00	Loose Collection
\$405.00	Donations/Legacies
\$660.00	2nd Coll. Church of Latin America
\$3,000.00	Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals
\$1,428.00	Misc. Lawn Reimbursements
\$1,018.35	Online Giving
\$9,857.60	Total Giving

Thank you for your generosity! - Fr. Chung

Food Drive Totals:

St. Alphonsus Parish is sponsoring an Angel Tree Food Drive Again to help keep our parish pantry full. Please take a tag from the Angel Giving Tree in the back of church to help purchase food items needed for Hope House. We thank a kind neighbor who donated 102 food items this week!

May = 174

Year to Date: January through May = 2,769 food items donated, and a total of \$110.00 in donations.

MINISTRY WITH YOUNG ADULTS

Christ in the City - the monthly evening of Eucharistic Adoration for Young Adults in their late teens, 20s, and 30s, sponsored by the CYO/Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office of the Archdiocese of New Orleans - will be on Tuesday, May 19th at 7 PM in the Chapel at Notre Dame Seminary (2901 S. Carrollton Avenue, New Orleans.)



PARISH GUILD

Plarn Mats: We are collecting (clean) plastic grocery bags to make plarn mats for the homeless.

We are grateful for your help in donating clean plastic grocery bags to be recycled into colorful plastic sleeping mats. Thank you for assisting us with this important parish ministry.



Please place your donated plastic bags in the designated basket in the back of St. Mary's Church or St. Mary's Chapel.

Thank you – Bert & Gigi Anfone

WEDDING BANNERS

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

May 15 – Stephen Waitz & Julia Wood

May 23 – Lott Brooks, IV & Jade Below

May 30 – Scott Buhler & Hailey LeBlanc

May God's bless these couples as they prepare for the sacrament of marriage.

St. Alphonsus Prayer Chain:



Please remember to pray for:

Tommy
Mona
Rudy
JoAnn
Kim
Peggy
Sharie's health
Patricia's heart

All those struggling with illnesses

World peace and end to all wars

The elderly who have
health issues

Raymond

Dino

Evelyn

Clarence

James

Jason

Maribel

UPDATES: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Melanie Carter Saulny, sister of Clarence Carter who recently passed; and for Jorge Huerta who was 93 and passed.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: For Pope Leo XIV, Archbishop Checchio, and all of our religious, Redemptorists -- Blessed Francis Seelos, pray for us.

If you would like us to pray for you, or for a loved one, email us at

StAlsPrayers@gmail.com

Please leave your first name, the reason for your prayer request.

In order for your prayers to be included in our weekly prayer chain – please contact us by 7pm each Sunday evening.

(Updated 5/5/26)

Meet a Redemptoristine



Meet Anne Walsh, a Lay Missionary of the Most Holy Redeemer. She is a native of Newfoundland and Labrador in Canada. Anne has been involved in Redemptorist Mission since 1991, and she has served in the Youth and Young Adult Ministries, in parish ministry, and adult faith formation. She is currently serving as a member of the Redemptorist Adult Faith Formation Team in St. John's.

Anne holds the Office of Partnership in Mission of the Redemptorists worldwide and she is a Chair of the General Commission for Partnership in Mission. She loves what she does, and the people who bless her path everyday. It is the greatest privilege of her life to be able to walk with members of the Redemptorist Family all over the world, finding ever more effective ways to proclaim the Good News of Plentiful Redemption by witness, and word, together in and for mission.

Kristine Stremel

Public & Community Affairs Director
Redemptorists – Denver Province

Congratulations to all of our St. Alphonsus School students for completing another school year!
Special congratulations to our Pre-K, Kindergarten & 7th Graders on their upcoming Graduations (May 20-22, 2025)!

Special thanks to our teachers, Religious Sisters, faculty, staff, parents & families for your love & dedication.

The Parish Office
will be
CLOSED
Monday, May 25th
in observance of
Memorial Day.



FIND PEACE, HOPE & HEALING
AT THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF
BLESSED SEELOS

Visit the Shrine's
Welcome Center
right next door!

Monday-Saturday
10:00 am-2:00 pm

(504) 525-2495
SEELOS.ORG



Our Mother of Perpetual Help Mass
Sunday, May 17 at 3pm
St. Mary's Assumption Church

All are welcome to join us for
our monthly celebration of

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotional Mass & Prayer.
*(*Social gathering & fellowship following Mass at the rectory)*

Fr. Steve Benden, C.Ss.R.

SEELOS DAY OF PRAYER

Celebrating Our Mother of Perpetual Help



Friday, June 26 • 3:00 PM

Prayer Service & Preached Reflection

St. Mary's Assumption Church • 923 Josephine St., New Orleans

Saturday, June 27

Procession with the Icon of Perpetual Help • 11:00 AM

Procession begins at St. Mary's Chapel • 1516 Jackson St.

and ends at St. Mary's Assumption Church with Devotions • 923 Josephine St.

Mass • 12:00 PM

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



Bring your images of Our Mother of Perpetual Help for a special blessing.

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

Sue 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. Marco Balducci, 504.388.3516

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



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](http://www.StAlphonsusNO.com/MyOwnChurch)) 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 StAlsNola.Communications@gmail.com.

*All submissions require pastoral staff approval.



Exterior renovations of the church have been completed! We hope to begin on Phase 2, Interior renovations soon! Thank you for your generous donations!

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 died during 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 2, 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 in order to preserve this sacred place of worship.

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