

St. Alphonsus Catholic Parish

A Redemptorist Community



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

St. Mary's Chapel,
1516 Jackson Ave.

Pentecost Sunday



MAY 24, 2026

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 FR. STEVE BENDEN



As a Redemptorist, I have had a very special devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. But my devotion to Mary started out at a much earlier age. As a boy, our family prayed the rosary together every night. This was a very pleasant thing for me, as a child. As a child, I also attended St. Blaise School in St. Louis, Missouri where we went to Mass everyday, before we went to school. Every week on a Tuesday, we prayed the novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help after Mass. I always loved this devotion. It wasn't until I went to study for the priesthood, however, that I learned this devotion has a special place with Redemptorists. I already had a special devotion to Mary, but when I learned the Redemptorists began this devotion, it inspired me even more, to devote my life to Mary.

Within our Redemptorist tradition we have honored Mary under the title of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. In 1866, Pope Pius IX asked the Redemptorist community to make Mary known around the world, under this title. Since then, we have done a wonderful job in promoting Mary as Our Mother of Perpetual Help. This title, Mother of Perpetual Help, means that she is always there to help anyone who calls upon her name. There are faith traditions that may appreciate our calling out the Mother of God for help, but this makes sense to me. If you were sick and in need of prayer, you would go to a friend or a relative, especially your mother, and ask them to pray to God for you. In our going to Mary, we ask her, as the Mother of God, to go to her only Son and ask him to help us. What son is not more inclined to listen to his mother than anyone else? I believe Jesus, because he loves his mother so much, is more willing to listen to his mother than any other person who comes to him.

Over 100 years ago, here in New Orleans, at the parishes of St. Alphonsus and St. Mary's Assumption, 30,000 people came every Tuesday to honor Mary and to ask her for help. It was so popular that streetcars had the name Perpetual Help Novena on the side of the car. Unfortunately, the days of devotion to Mary here in America has decreased dramatically. At our Perpetual Help devotions now, we may get 20 people. Remember, over 100 years ago, there were 30,000 every Tuesday. **The feast day of Our Mother of Perpetual Help is on June 27th.** This year, at St. Mary's Assumption Parish, we will gather at St. Mary's Chapel at 1516 Jackson Avenue, New Orleans at 10:30am. At 11:00am, we will process with the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help down Jackson Avenue to St. Mary's Assumption Church at 923 Josephine Street praying the rosary, as we process. When we get to the church, we will pray the novena to Our Lady and then, celebrate Mass at 12pm. After Mass, there will be a light lunch served in our courtyard. I am hoping many hundreds will join us in this celebration this day in honoring the Blessed Mother as Our Mother of Perpetual Help who is always ready to help us.

-Fr. Steve Benden, C.Ss.R.

UPCOMING LITURGICAL MINISTERS

- **Saturday, May 30 – 4:00pm**
Lector: M. Saia
Eucharistic Minister: S. Sternberg
- **Sunday, May 31 – 9:00am (Chapel)**
Lector: T. Costanza
Eucharistic Minister: T. George
- **Sunday, May 31 – 10:30am**
Lector: B. Perrault
Eucharistic Ministers: L. Moran; B. Fleischer;
 B. Sallettes



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

Pentecost Saturday Response/Gospel A49, Hymnal Readings #1027;
 Pentecost Sunday Response/Gospel A50, Hymnal Readings #1028;

Song of Gathering: #491 Come Down, O Love Divide
 Song of Offertory: #492 Come, Holy Spirit, on Us Shine
 Song of Communion: #554 Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless

Rec: #470 Hail Thee, Festival Day
 (note Pentecost refrain/v. 1, 2)

MASS INTENTIONS

- 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
- Monday, May 25**
 7:30am: Memorial Day Intentions
- Tuesday, May 26**
 7:30am: +Dr. AJ & Marie Giorlando
- Wednesday, May 27**
 7:30am: Henri Pellerin
 +Bernard L. Kelley
- Thursday, May 28**
 7:30am: +Louise Grasser
- Friday, May 29**
 7:30am: Redemptorist Vocations
- Saturday, May 30**
 4:00pm: +Ramona Manuso
- Sunday, May 31**
 9:00am: +Dr. AJ & Marie Giorlando
 10:30am: All St. Alphonsus Parishioners
 12:30pm: +Ramona Mancuso
 +Andrea Mendiola
 +Zulama Saravia

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.



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.

Treasure & Stewardship

Giving Update: May 16 & 17, 2026:

\$1,744.00	Weekly Envelopes
\$1,368.00	Loose Collection
\$1,166.00	Donations/Legacies
\$10.00	Mass Stipends
\$79,012.00	School Insurance Reimbursement
\$1,312.30	Online Giving
\$84,612.30	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 all those who bring food items to Mass each week.

May = 209

Year to Date: January through May = 2,804 food items donated, and a total of \$110.00 in cash and checks.

-Forres Collins, Food Drive Coordinator.

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.

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



To support our Redemptorist seminarians,
visit www.CoRedemptorists.org



Thank you!

Co-Redemptorist Appeal Weekend! May 30 & 31!

You may see some familiar faces next weekend!

Fr. Michael Thien Hoang, C.Ss.R., Associate Pastor of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Old Town, Chicago will be joining us, along with a seminarian student, Cody Hill next weekend. They will share their inspiring vocational journeys and mission experiences, as well as testimonies that highlight community life, their work with marginalized communities, and their mission to proclaim the Good News to the poor.

To learn more about the Co-Redemptorists Association, log onto www.redemptoristsdenver.org/co-redemptorists/



Find the image of the "Fire of the Holy Spirit" and WIN a prize!

Hint: Find the image of the Fire of the Holy Spirit hidden on one of the pages in **this bulletin** and win a prize!

The First (3) people who correctly identify the location of where they found the hidden image in this bulletin of the Fire of the Holy Spirit and call the parish office – will win!

(The parish office will be closed on Monday for Memorial Day, so please **call the parish office on Tuesday, May 26 between 9am – 10am**).

You may need to use a Magnifying glass - Good luck! - Fr. Andy



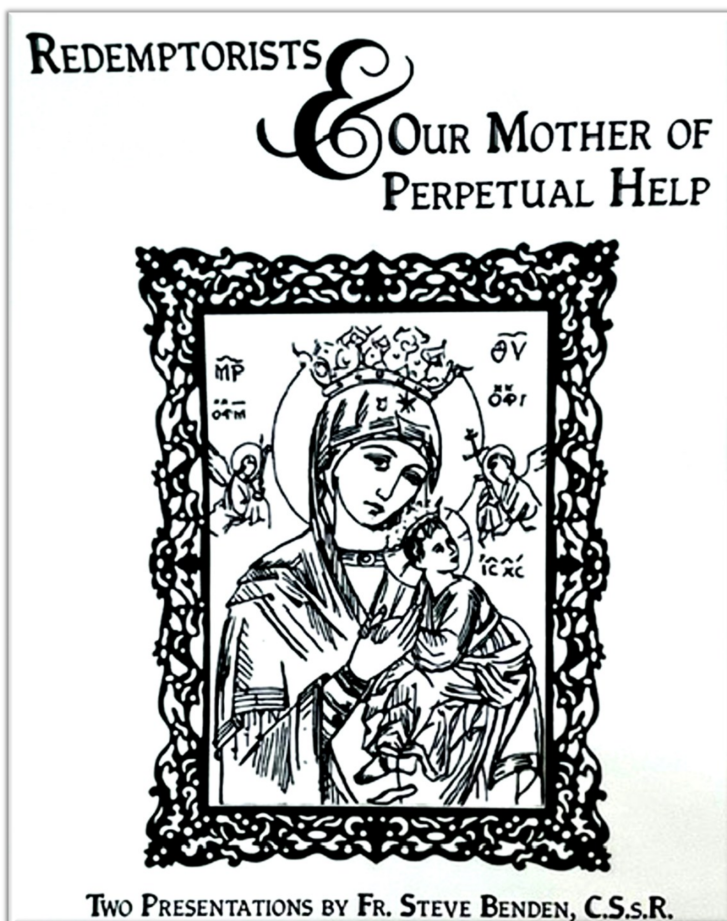
St. Alphonsus Prayer Chain: If you would like to add prayer intentions to our weekly prayer chain, contact us at StAlsPrayers@gmail.com. Leave the **first name** and the **reason** for your prayer request. The **deadline** for requesting prayers for the following week's prayer chain is 7pm on Sunday.

Prayer Requests: We are currently praying for Dino who injured his foot, Clarence & loss of his sister, Raymond, Evelyn's health, Maribel, David's heart health, Eric, Alice, Jim, Tim & Meg, Kevin, Jacqueline, Juana's health, Cyrus, Jimmy, Peggy and her friend Darryl, Theresa, Cory's leg injury, for Christina to find a job, Frank, Heather, Jules & Jim, and for all prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts, for all our prayer intentions spoken and unspoken. **Amen.**

Updates: Great news! Jame's pathology report came back negative. He is healing from his surgery. Thank you to Blessed Father Seelos and thanks to God. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Patricia Seagraves.

Special Intentions: Prayers for Pope Leo, and for Archbishop James Checchio and for all of our Redemptorist priests, brothers, sisters...Blessed Francis Seelos pray for us. **Amen.**

Updated: (5/19/26)



Two Presentations by
Fr. Steve Benden, C.Ss.R.

**Who are the Redemptorists and Why is Our Mother of
Perpetual Help Special to them?**

We invite you to come and learn about this special image of Mary and the symbolisms incorporated into her picture. Learn also about the Redemptorists, their missions, and their rich history, including their history in our own St. Alphonsus Parish.

(Saturday) May 30, 2026 - 9am to 10:30am

A History and understanding of the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. What Mary means to us today.

(Saturday) June 6, 2026 - 9am to 10:30am

A History of the Redemptorist Congregation, with special emphasis on our time here in New Orleans since 1843.

**Location: St. Mary's Assumption Church
923 Josephine St., New Orleans, LA 70130**

All are welcome!

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



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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 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