

Blessed is the King of Israel



March 29, 2015 • Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

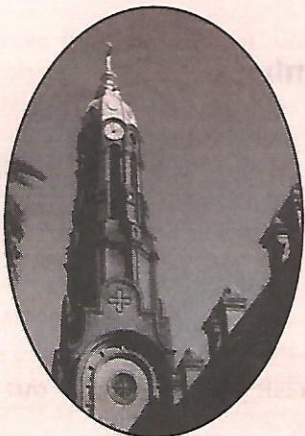
Sometimes it is hard for us to remember that the gospel of Jesus, long before it became written documents, was the very message of his life, death, and resurrection. Though commentators and theologians have debated smaller points about the meaning of events in the life of Jesus, one fact remains steadfastly in place: Jesus died for the sake of the gospel that he proclaimed. And he did not die as people of his day died for upholding noble religious causes—by stoning—but was crucified, as if his gospel were a crime. To many of the “powers that be” of his day, his gospel was a crime, for it proclaimed that the poor, and not the rich, were blessed, that sinners would precede the religious into the kingdom, that a complex code of laws was easily replaced by two commands, and that Jerusalem and its temple were not the true heart of faith in God. For most of the religious authorities of Jesus’ day, these claims were indeed criminal.

AN INVITATION TO COMPASSION

In imitation of Christ, many early Christians were honored to be martyred for making the same “criminal” claims about their beliefs that Jesus had made. Along with “May the Lord be with you” another popular greeting among early Christians was “May you die a martyr’s death.” In some ways, if our lives are truly inseparable from the gospel, this is what we are called to do. Few of us face actual death for the sake of our religious beliefs, but we continue the work of the Passion in many ways. Whenever we counter hate with love, when we take the part of the poor, the powerless, the marginalized, the outcast, we continue the work of the Passion. Every act of compassion (which means “to suffer with”) continues the work of the Passion. And we will celebrate the ultimate goal of living compassionately for the sake of the gospel one week from now, when we proclaim that those who have “suffered with” Christ will likewise be raised with him to new life.

Today’s Readings: Mk 11:1–10; Is 50:4–7; Ps 22:8–9, 17–20, 23–24; Phil 2:6–11; Mk 14:1 — 15:47 [15:1–39]

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St. Alphonse Parish

St. Mary’s Assumption Church
National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos
2030 Constance Street † New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 522-6748 † Fax: (504) 523-3734

Sunday Masses

Vigil: 4:00 PM (Church)

Sunday: 9:00 AM (Chapel): 10:30 AM (Church)

Weekday Masses

Monday—Friday: 7:00 AM (Chapel)

Monday—Saturday: 8:00 AM (Rectory)

St. Mary’s Chapel/1516 Jackson Avenue

Our Faith Community welcomes all members and visitors alike

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. We are committed to carry forward a living history that shapes us into a Eucharistic community which strives for a more just society through service to each other and to the community.

Parish Office Hours

Monday—Friday: 8:30 AM—2:30 PM
 Email: stalphonsusoffice@parishmail.com
 Website: www.stalphonsusno.com

Pastoral Staff

Under the pastoral care of the Redemptorists since 1843

Father Richard Thibodeau, C.Ss.R.
rthibs@aol.com
 Pastor/Local Redemptorist Superior

Father Eugene Harrison, C.Ss.R.
eugeneharrison@msn.com
 Parochial Vicar

Father Thomas Pham, C.Ss.R.
jmtpham@gmail.com
 Parochial Vicar

Brother Thomas Wright, C.Ss.R.
twrightcssr@gmail.com
 Pastoral Associate

Lillian Moran
lrn1254@hotmail.com
 Office Manager/Bulletin Editor

Robert Zanca
rgzuno@aol.com
 Music Director

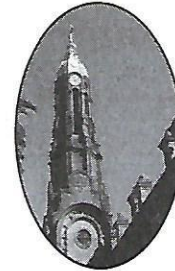
Sheila McDermott
smcder@dcc.edu
 Vocalist

IN RESIDENCE

Father Gerard LaPorte, C.Ss.R.

Father Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.
 Director, Blessed Seelos Welcome Center

Father Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R.
 Xavier University
 Director, Institute of Black Catholic Studies



Confessions

Saturday: 3:30—3:55 p.m. (church)
 or by arrangement

Baptisms

Call the parish office by the 25th of the month to make appointment for class. Class is the 1st Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Baptisms are celebrated the first Sunday of the month at noon.

Marriages

Please make arrangements at least six months in advance.

Home Visits

Please call the parish office when someone is ill and would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick or receive Holy Communion.

Eucharistic Adoration

The 1st Friday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the rectory chapel.

Rosary

The rosary is prayed every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Seelos Shrine.

Phone Numbers

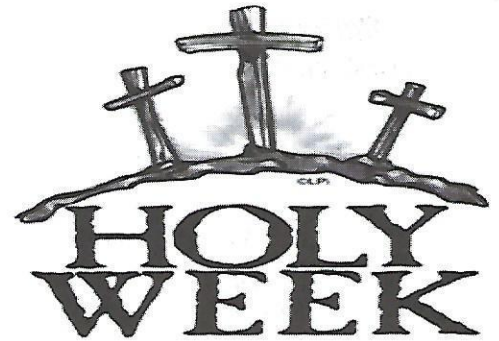
Daily Spiritual Message	586-1803
Friends of St. Alphonsus	524-8116
Hope House	525-2561
Mercy Endeavors	568-0607
St. Alphonsus School	523-6594
Seelos Welcome Center	525-2495

If you would like to become a parish member of St. Alphonsus please call the parish office or go to our parish website www.stalphonsusno.com and register on line.

Pastor's Corner

Dear Parish Family,

The big week has arrived: Holy Week! This is an especially sacred time when we walk with Jesus as well as our brothers and sisters in reflecting on all that the Lord was willing to do for me! Obviously Jesus did this for all, but it is only when I can personalize it to understand that he did all of this for ME that I begin to understand the depths of his love.



As a parish we are celebrating this week in the following ways.

Palm Sunday: While celebrating the usual weekend Mass schedule the emphasis today is on the blessing of psalms and the reading of the Passion of Christ.

Holy Thursday: This day we recall the institution of the priesthood as well as the institution of the Eucharist. As a parish we celebrate this day with only one Mass which will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Assumption Church. The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed in St. Mary's until 10:00 p.m.

Good Friday: As we recall Jesus' love for you and for me even to death we celebrate in the morning and early afternoon by participating once again in the Walk of the Nine Churches at St. Mary's Assumption church, at St. Mary's chapel on Jackson Avenue, as well as at St. Alphonsus church. We deeply appreciate those who can hold vigil during the morning hours in our church and chapel for the many pilgrims who will pass through.

At 12:00 p.m. noon we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross and at 3:00 p.m. we will celebrate the Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Jesus in St. Mary's Assumption Church.

Our Easter Vigil celebration will begin at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday evening in the front courtyard of St. Mary's Assumption Church and then moving into the church with the lighting of the Easter Candle. Immediately after the Vigil Mass is concluded we will continue our time honored custom by celebrating Easter with a shared meal in the back of church. All are highly encouraged to attend as well as to bring something to pass for others who are present.

On Easter Sunday we will celebrate the Lord's rising from the dead with one parish Mass at 10:30 a.m. again celebrated at St. Mary's Assumption Church.

While everyone is highly encouraged to join us for any or all of these celebrations it doesn't take away from the fact that each of us should also think of private ways that we will use this week to our best advantage. Saying this means finding quiet moments for reading or prayer or simply reflecting on the significance of this week in one's own life. What a great week is in store for us!

Thought for the Week: "How much does Jesus love me? He stretched out his arms and died."

A Blessed Holy Week to all!

Fr. Richard

Retreat Center Upcoming Retreats
 5500 St. Mary St.—Metairie, LA 70006

April 10-12, 2015
(Faith in Trial and Transition)
 Rev. Paul Hart

April 17-19, 2015
(The Joy of the Gospel)
 Archbishop Alfred Hughes

April 24-26, 2015
**(Stations for a New Creation:
 Rest Stops on the Resurrection Road)**
 Rev. Joseph Nassal

May 15-17, 2015
(Seeking the God of Mercy)
 Rev. Simeon Gallagher

For more information we can be reached at
 (504) 267-9604 or retreats.arch-no.org



A belated but heart-felt
THANK YOU
 to all who were able to be present
 and who participated
 in any way to make the
 blessing of our bell tower such a
 resounding success.

People are still talking about it.



Parish Trip to Italy
 We are happy to report that the
 13 members of St. Alphonse Par-
 ish
 along with 32 members of
 St. Paul's Church, Ellicott City,
 Maryland,

had a combined and fun trip to Italy.
 Thanks for your prayers and best wishes.
 They worked!

*Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions
 for April 2015*

– Pope Francis' universal prayer intention:

“That governments may foster the protection of crea-
 tion and the just distribution of natural resources”.

His intention for evangelization:

“That the Risen Lord may fill with hope the hearts of
 those who are being tested by pain and sickness”.

REFLECTIONS ON CONSECRATED LIFE

Saint Therese of Lisieux lived in a Carmelite convent
 with her older sister Pauline. Pauline was with
 Therese throughout her brief life, illness, and death at
 the tender age of 24. It is no accident that Jesus sent
 out his disciples in pairs. Having a spiritual compan-
 ion, as Therese did, can be of great help and comfort
 on the sometimes difficult spiritual journey.

Cultivate spiritual friendships in your own life.

MASS INTENTIONS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday - March 30

7:00 am Wilson, Nelson & Winnie Ann
 8:00 am Delatte Family

Tuesday - March 31

7:00 am James “Pete” Waldron +
 8:00 am Marcus & Elda Heiny +

Wednesday - April 1

7:00 am Marian Elizabeth Bolton +
 8:00 am Charles S. Russell +

Thursday - April 2

6:30 pm **Holy Thursday**
 Justine & Joseph Williamson +
 Rosalyn Caserta +

Friday - April 3

Noon **Good Friday**
 3:00 pm **Stations of the Cross**
 Passion of Our Lord

Saturday - April 4

8:00 pm **Holy Saturday**
 Kenneth Bubenik +

Sunday - March 29

10:30 am **Easter Sunday**
 St. Alphonse Parishioners
 Bella Petit DeFelice +
 Ted Sternberg +

Have you included St. Alphonse Parish and/or the Redemptorists in your will?

Current Parish Financial Summary

Year to Date:	(7/1/14 to 2/28/15)
Total Income for February:	\$31,268.80
Total Expenses for February:	\$39,745.64
Net Income for February:	\$ -8,476.84
Total Income Year to date:	\$315,485.55
Total Expenses Year to date:	\$303,067.87
Net Income Year to date:	+\$12,417.68

Thanks to all who are so generous!

Human Concerns Corner

1. Monthly food drive. Thank you for your very generous support of the March 21/22 food drive. We collected 429 items and \$176.04 to support the needy of our parish and clients of Hope House. For March we have received 552 non-perishable food items. Year to date, you have thoughtfully donated 1,576 items and \$365.25 in cash and checks. Our next food drive is April 18/19.

2. Support of Catholic Workers' Hope House dinner program. Our next night of service to provide a warm and nutritious meal to those in need is Tuesday April 28. Volunteers for that night include: Pat Crotty Palmer, Brandee Lasuzzo, Lise McGrew and Marty Kauchak. This May we will conduct a pilot project to evaluate if we can support the dinner program two nights a month: the second and fourth Tuesdays. Interested in supporting this program? Contact Marty Kauchak at 504.265.8968.

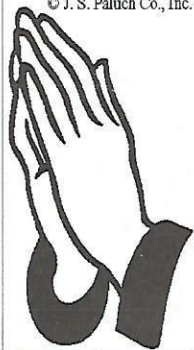
3. Tutoring. We have been invited to again provide tutors for our school's after school program for the 2015-2016 school year. While final details will be completed in the upcoming weeks, we are expecting to once again support our students in the after school program from about 3:30PM -5:00PM on Tuesdays-Thursdays, starting the first full week of September. We will be pleased to accept what time you have available on any of those days -- ideally each week. If you are looking for a rewarding opportunity to help our students advance academically, contact Marty Kauchak at 504.265.8968.

April 14 New Orleans Interfaith Peace Initiative Prayer Service. The New Orleans Interfaith Peace Initiative supports the mayor's efforts to curb violence in our city by bringing to bear an interfaith effort to help end this cycle of violence. One part of this strategy is a monthly prayer service conducted at a house of worship.

The Interfaith Prayer Services are normally held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Your HCC has represented our parish at these prayer services. We are pleased to announce the next NOLA Interfaith Prayer for Peace Gathering will be hosted Tuesday, April 14, 6:30pm at St. Mary's Assumption Catholic Church, St. Alphonsus Parish. More information on the Initiative may be gained at <http://isaiahnola.org/nola-interfaith-peace-initiative> classroom in any week.

Marty Kauchak

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Loving God, we remember the following:

- Robert Beyer, Jr. & Sr.
- Dennis Cross
- William & Thelma Crotty & Family
- Walter Palmer Diaz, M.D.
- Elsie Dufresne Duffel & V. L. Duffel
- Mr. & Mrs. Walter Preston
- Irene Gelderman
- Nancy Stafford Hartson
- Katherine Walet Hartson
- Deacon Maurice John Hartson, III
- Pamela & Gerard D. Krummel
- Margaret Simmons McBride
- William G. Russell & Sam Moran Families
- Mr. & Mrs. Felix Rousset, Jr., & Sr. & Rosemary
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Schafer
- Mercedes & Pete Waldron

If you want to have a loved one listed please call Lillian at the parish office for details.

We thank everyone who has signed up on the ministry sheets to assist the life of St. Alphonsus Parish. If you have not completed a form, call the parish office and we will be happy to help you.

Please Pray for... Ryan Aucoin, Helen Lee Adams, Piero & Evelyn Cenni, Mary & Ronald Berry, Chip Peterson, Brandon Isbell, Barry Couvillion, Michele & Richard W. Preston, Paul Granberry, Ed Melancon, Christopher Klein, Matthew F. James, Tien Do, Sr. Judith Elms, Miriam Bailey, Jennifer Moreau, Charlotte Lilly, Karen Eustis, Judy Favalora, Alvin Pike, Dr. A. J. & Marie Giorlando, Janice Douglas, Julia Callahan, Lisa Huber, Michael Schafer, Luke Spottswood, Adele Fauchaux, Linda Fauchaux, Joyce Bourgeois, Barrie Byrnes, Isabelle Russo, Miller Family, plus all sick and infirmed. **To place or keep a name on our sick list, please call the rectory every 3 weeks to let us know that you, a loved one or friend are still in need of prayers.**

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of Deacon
Bubby Hartson

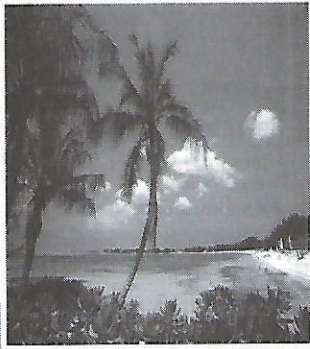
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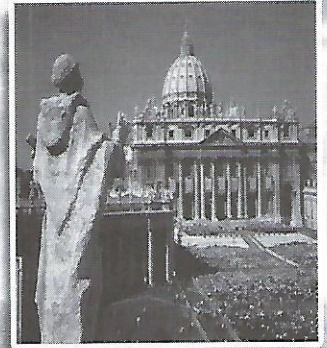
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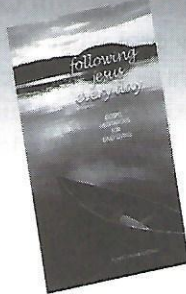


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