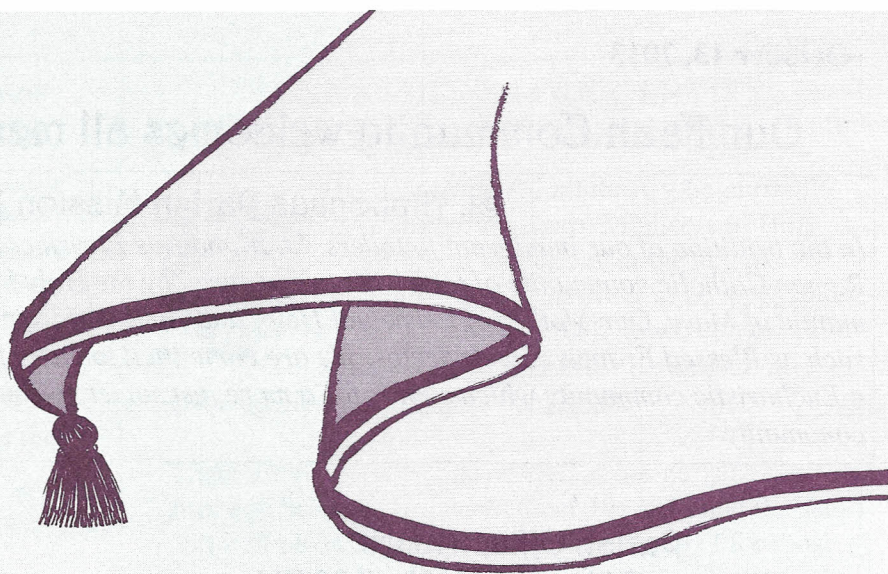


Your
Faith
has
saved
you



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October 13, 2013 • Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Did you ever wonder why the liturgy of the Church is woven so extensively with music? Today's readings give us some idea of why this is true. Liturgical music helps us express the depth and range of feeling that words alone cannot convey. Did you ever notice that sometimes the singing of "Happy Birthday" by a small number of people at a birthday party is stronger and louder than the singing of a familiar hymn or song by several hundred people at Sunday Mass? Perhaps the problem lies with the fact that too often we do not bring into our consciousness the reality that we actually *do* have something to sing about.

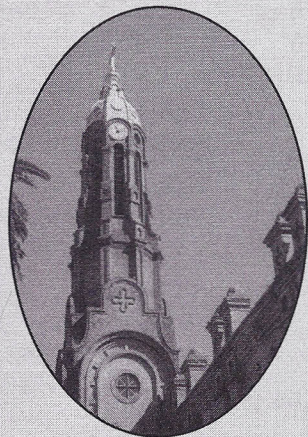
SING TO THE LORD!

The stories told in today's scriptures are certainly profound ones. People living with the disease of leprosy are healed of this malady. This healing is a gift given by the Lord. Today's responsorial psalm places a song of

thanksgiving in the midst of the outpouring of the gift of healing: "The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power" (Psalm 98:2b). Each of us, in one way or another, at some time or another, has known the healing touch of the Lord: a broken marriage has been repaired; an addiction has been overcome; a new baby is born into our family; a son or daughter, long thought to be lost to the worlds of drugs and violence, has had his or her life turned around. When we are conscious of these gifts of healing, there is a response that is most appropriate: "Sing to the Lord!" Let's not leave the song of the people of God solely to the trained professionals. Let us pray that, like the one leper who returned to the Lord Jesus, we, too, will realize what the Lord has done for us and join our voices together in a song of grateful praise.

Today's Readings: 2 Kgs 5:14-17; Ps 98:1-4; 2 Tm 2:8-13; Lk 17:11-19

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St. Alphonsus 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 (Rectorry)

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.stalphonsusneworleans.com

Pastoral Staff

Under the pastoral care of the Redemptorists since 1843

Father Richard Thibodeau, C.Ss.R.

rthibs@aol.com
 Pastor

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

lrm1254@hotmail.com
 Office Manager/Bulletin Editor

Robert Zanca

rgzuno@aol.com
 Music Director

Sheila McDermott

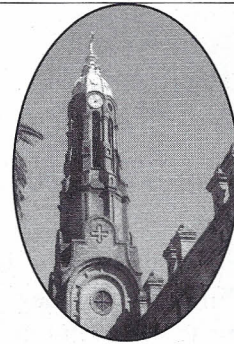
smcder@dcc.edu
 Vocalist

IN RESIDENCE

Father Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

Director, Blessed Seelos Welcome Center

Father Gerard LaPorte, C.Ss.R.



Confessions

Saturday: 3:30—3:55 PM (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 10:00AM.

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 6:00 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.

The Pastor's Corner

Dear Parish Family,

Confirmation! This weekend Bishop Shelton Fabre will be administering the Sacrament of Confirmation to four of our parish members during the Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Mass. We congratulate Emma Martello, Joseph Martello, Nathan Albert, and Nathaniel Albert on this happy day and promise them our prayerful support and example.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the third of what is known as the Sacraments of Initiation along with Baptism and Holy Communion. Therefore, upon receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation our four parish members are now fully initiated into the life and ministry of the Catholic Faith.

Years ago when I was confirmed there was a lot of emphasis on the fact that this sacrament made us "soldiers of Christ." To emphasize this point...or rather often connected with this image... the bishop would tap the newly confirmed's cheek to illustrate that the person was now ready to go out and be a witness to Christ.

The idea of being a witness, we know, is expressed not only in defending one's faith, although at times this may be necessary, but in living one's faith to the fullest. This is sometimes easier said than done. In a society that values "political correctness" we can easily be brought down to the lowest common denominator. In that case we are tempted to become not soldiers but passive acknowledgers of Christ.

Granted, being confirmed does not mean we have license to challenge every person we meet to know Christ and live accordingly. But it does give us the privilege of being people of the Good News, living one's faith joyfully by growing in one's faith and sharing that faith with others.

How does one express such a faith? Obviously that differs with each person but I do believe we find it increasingly difficult to outwardly express our faith. For example, how often do we ask a blessing on our food when we are out to eat? How often do we tell another person that we will pray for them? How often do we make a choice based on what our faith teaches us rather than what is the more convenient decision to make?

Confirmation doesn't magically help us make choices, but Confirmation gives us the Holy Spirit's encouragement and blessings to think as someone who having been immersed in the faith is now asked to live that faith in the here and now.

Today four young members of our faith community are confirmed. It is a great moment for them to experience the sealing power of the Holy Spirit in their lives, a power first experienced at their baptism.

Today is also a moment for all who have been confirmed to reflect on the gift we have received possibly long ago and experience anew that Spirit ever dwelling and encouraging us to "go out to all the world and to live the Good News."

Thought for the Week: "Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak."

Have a great week ahead!

Fr. Richard

Human Concerns Committee Corner

Monthly Food Drive.

Our next food drive will occur October 19/20, 2013.

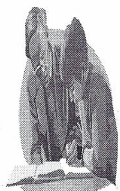


We are looking for additional interested parishioners to help with this service project. If you are available from 5:30PM to about 8:00PM on one Thursday night every three or four months, and would like to join us, call Marty Kauchak at 504.265.8968.

Service Opportunity: St. Alphonsus School Tutors.

The Human Concerns Committee is attempting to fill an immediate opening for tutors at our school.

Volunteers will be available to help students in grades 1-7 refresh and enhance their reading and math skill sets during Homework Hall. HCC/parish tutors are invited to support the program from 3:15-4:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays as their time permits.



Prospective tutors must complete an archdiocesan-mandated Safe Environment Training to work with our youth. The training event will occur off-site at a location to be determined and will last about two hours. If you can support this additional, rewarding call to service contact Marty Kauchak at 504.265.8968.

Next HCC Meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30PM on Tuesday October 29, 2013 in the Perpetual Help Meeting Room.

FAMILY DAY JAZZ BAND

Many people have asked for the name and contact information for the jazz band that played on Family Day.

They are: **Panorama Jazz Band**

Contact person: Ben Schenck 504-650-1296



Theology On Tap

The CYO/Young Adult Ministry Office announces the next Theology on Tap series, to take place on Tuesday October 15, at the Irish House, 1432 St. Charles Avenue. We will gather at 6:30pm and the speaker will start at 7:00pm.

Topic: "Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?"

Speaker: Chris Gross

As bad things happen to you or your loved ones, it forces us to ask many questions: "Why me?" "What about those other people?" "Where is God in all of this?" Sometimes it is easier to blame God than to turn to our faith as a source of strength. It is through these difficult times of pain and suffering that growth can happen.

OUR BELL TOWER RESTORATION

Where do you stand?

Have you responded to our campaign to restore St. Mary's Bell Tower?

Why not do so today?

The Matching Grant Challenge continues throughout October!
This makes each dollar you give worth two dollars!

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

Gerard D. Krummel

Margaret Simmons McBride

William. G. Russell & Sam Moran Families

Mr. Joe Pastora

Mr. Kenny Pratt

Mr. & Mrs. Felix Rousset, Jr., Sr. & Rosemary

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Schafer

Wandah "Cookie" Scheuermann

Mr. Travis Taegue

Mr. Ken Teague

Lucille Bayer Vella

Mercedes & Pete Waldron





Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic?

If you have never been baptized or were baptized in another Christian denomination, you are welcome to participate in R.C.I.A. If you were baptized Catholic but have received little or no instruction in your faith and now would like to prepare for Eucharist and Confirmation, you too, are welcome to join us.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) meets on a weekly basis in the rectory conference room from 12:00 pm—1:00 pm every Sunday.

Contact Fr. Thomas Pham at 504-522-6748 for more information.

Sunday Collection

Year to Date:	(7/1/13 –9/30/13)
September, 2013:	\$22,703.00
Actual Year to Date:	\$58,388.33
Budget:	\$61,250.06
Amount below Budget:	-\$2,861.73
Actual YTD Prior Year:	\$54,946.00

Deep gratitude to all!

POPE FRANCIS'

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR OCTOBER

Pope Francis' general prayer intention for October is People in Despair: "That those feeling so crushed by life that they wish to end it may sense the nearness of God's love."

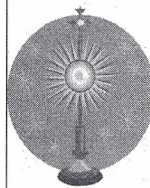
His mission intention is World Mission Day: " That the celebration of World Mission Day may help all Christians realize that we are not only receivers but proclaimers of God's Word."

Please Pray for...

Dr. Mike Dolan, Sylvia Patrick, Helen Lee Adams, Theresa Casanova, Patrick O'Brien, Lisa Tracey, Norman Mopsik, Nick Baroni, Eric Dusang, Seth & Ian Hubbard, Brandon Isbell, Anne Fontenot, Kathy Patterson, Ming Smith, Ryan Lee, Bonnie Roche, J. B. Vella, Daniel Sinclair, III, Mike Rhodes, Cynthia Bergeron, Barbara Bossier, Wayne & David Albro, Jackie Sperier, Janice Douglas, Andrew Duong, Hugh Davis, Beth Bertucci, Ted & Susie Sternberg, Trudy Saia, Toni Tanner, Yen Nguyen, Victoria Dominique, Lisa Huber, Michael Schafer, Luke Spottswood, Adele Faucheux, Linda Faucheux, Byron Montz, Joyce Bourgeois, Margaret Dyer, Barrie Byrnes, Jack Russo, Miller Family, Lois Beyer, Francis O'Rourke, 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.

WORKSHOPS to RE-CERTIFY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS



The delegation for all those who currently serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will expire at the end of November, 2013. In order to be delegated by the Archbishop for a new five-year term, each minister must participate in a re-delegation workshop in our parish.

There are two workshops offered at our parish. The first will be on Saturday, October 19, 2013 and the second will be on Saturday, November 16, 2013 for those who cannot make it for the first workshop. Both workshops will be from 10:00am - Noon at the rectory conference room.

Please note that the re-delegation workshops are for those who are currently certified and serving as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion only. Those who would like to become new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion need to contact the Office of Worship for proper training.

Should you have any questions, please contact Fr. Thomas Pham after one of the Masses or contact him at 504-522-6748.

Monday - October 14

7:00 am Brian Bensen & Family
8:00 am Marian Elizabeth Bolton +

Tuesday - October 15

7:00 am Theresa Gallagher +
8:00 am Isabel & William Russell & Family

Wednesday - October 16

7:00 am Mercedes Moises +
8:00 am Cecil J. Murphy, Jr. +

7:00 pm Racial Harmony Workshop

Thursday - October 17

7:00 am St. Mary's Bell Tower
8:00 am Cynthia Bergeron

Friday - October 18

7:00 am Nicholas Pastor +
8:00 am Catholic Worker House

Saturday - October 19

8:00 am Vicky Coby +
4:00 pm Bella Petit DeFelice +

Sunday—October 20

9:00 am Bella Petit DeFelice +
10:30 am All St. Alphonsus Parishioners
June Lambert +

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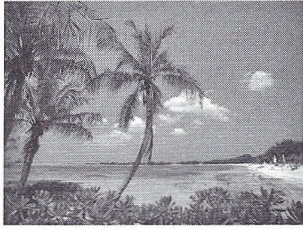
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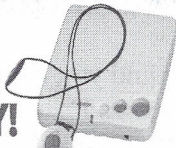
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