

The Son of Man
seeks out those
who are
lost

November 3, 2013 • Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Since some time in the mid-1970s, the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* has gradually replaced "convert classes" as the way that people are initiated into the Roman Catholic Church. People make the first step by doing something like what Zacchaeus did in today's Gospel. Notice carefully that the Gospel does not say that Zacchaeus climbed the tree just to "see Jesus." He climbed the tree "to see who Jesus was" (Luke 19:2). This is what people inquiring about the faith do. They undoubtedly have heard of Jesus. They are now taking a next step by inquiring just who Jesus is. As a church, we respond to these inquirers by doing exactly what Jesus did. We decide to begin to spend time with them.


SEEING JESUS IN YOU

How does God prompt people to begin inquiring about the Christian faith? So much, it seems, depends on God's actions in and through us. In a world where mate-

rialism has grown out of control, people often become disillusioned with the fact that they have invested so much of their hopes and dreams in the things they have amassed. Many eventually come to realize, deep inside, that there is much more to life. They begin to notice how people live their lives in ways that are different from their own. When they meet you, do they see in you someone who cares little about the things of this world? Do they see someone whose gaze is focused not in the windows of a department store but on helping others who are less fortunate? Do they see someone who works hard to cherish relationships with family and friends? Perhaps once they see these things in you, they might begin to ask the deeper questions. Perhaps they will become the Zacchaeus of today and you, in turn, will become Christ for them.

Today's Readings: Wis 11:22 — 12:2; Ps 145:1-2, 8-11, 13, 14;
2 Thes 1:11 — 2:2; Lk 19:1-10

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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 (Rector)
St. Mary's Chapel/1516 Jackson Avenue

Our Faith Community welcomes all members and visitors alike

St. Alphonse Parish Mission Statement

In the tradition of our immigrant founders, St. Alphonse 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

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 Music Director

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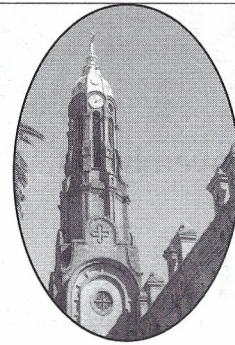
smcder@dcc.edu
 Vocalist

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. Alphonse	524-8116
Hope House	525-2561
Mercy Endeavors	568-0607
St. Alphonse School	523-6594
Seelos Welcome Center	525-2495

If you would like to become a parish member of St. Alphonse please call the parish office.

Pastor's Corner

Dear Parish Family,

All Saints Day! All Souls Day! While the two feasts we just celebrated are on separate days, both speak of our human reality.

It's not unusual to try and differentiate between things. This is good, this is bad. This is expensive, this is inexpensive. Thinking this way is understandable. It serves as a gauge for deciding whether to pursue something or not. At the same time it is also relative. What is good or bad for one (e.g. eating ice cream) may not be so for another.

Growing up, All Saints Day was the day we honored all the holy people. All Souls Day was the day we honored everyone else. Who was honored when depended on how "holy" we thought a particular person had been in this life. Looking back at it now such thinking might have been a little shortsighted.

Saints were definitely holy. They seemingly did everything perfectly well. They prayed all day, they fasted and did heroic things for God; they denied themselves just about anything that was enjoyable. In a sense we felt it was good that they were enjoying eternal life because while on earth (in our limited way of seeing things) they certainly didn't enjoy a whole lot.

All Souls Day remembered everyone else. Most of these folks may have enjoyed life but were pretty imperfect. They sinned...some pretty seriously...and hopefully before they left this earth they had repented enough not to be cast into the eternal flames of hell. At the same time they were on the edge between eternal happiness and a less desirable future and we hoped for the best for them.

In reality the Church has given us these two distinct feast days as a way of saying that there is room in the Kingdom for anyone who tries, imperfect as that attempt may sometimes be, to spend eternity with God. Both days symbolize humanity, both give hope to humanity.

There are men and women who walked this earth that the Church officially recognizes as saints. These are individuals who are given to us to be signs of encouragement, people who were very human and at the same time very much aware of God in their everyday life. Consequently their life continually showed others glimpses of God's love, compassion, and service to others. They did this in very human and thus imperfect ways. And sometimes in doing so they drove those around them crazy! This is certainly true of the saints I've encountered.

All the other souls remind us that in our human imperfection we still have the promise of eternal life. God's love and forgiveness is not restricted to a few but is extended to those of us who continue to bump along through life not always being charitable or giving or thoughtful of others but still trying to honestly find God in our everyday life.

These two feasts are like two sides of a coin. They speak to the best qualities of humanity and to the very ordinary day to day reality that many of us grapple with. They are not opposites, they are complimentary. Happy All Saints/Souls Day to you...we're all in that number!

Thought for the Week: "Laughter is carbonated holiness."

Have a great week ahead!

Fr. Richard

Human Concerns Committee Corner

Thanks for supporting this month's food drive. Your generous contributions of non-perishable food items support the needy of our parish and the clients of Hope House. The next food drive will be after all Masses on November 16-17.



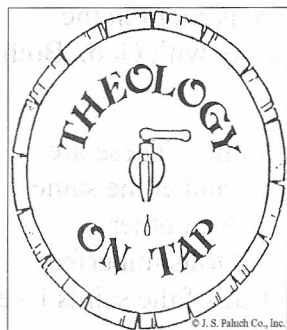
Your Email Address

Your email address is important to us ...

-Easy and inexpensive way to communicate with you.

-You are informed on what is happening in the parish.

May we suggest that when you give your offering this week that you put your email address either on your check or on your envelope?



Theology On Tap

The CYO/Young Adult Ministry Office announces the next Theology on Tap series, to take place on Tuesday October 29, 7:00 pm at The Irish House, 1432 St. Charles Avenue. We will

gather at 6:30pm and Mario Sacasa, Ed.S. MFTI will start speaking at 7:00pm.

The discussion will be:

What difference does it make?

In a world constantly fighting for our attention it is often difficult to stay connected with our faith. You may have wondered if it actually makes a difference that you are Catholic.

We will take a look at what is unique about our faith and why it is important to remain rooted in our Catholic identity.

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?

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



**"THE LIGHT OF FAITH"
ENCOUNTER SESSIONS**

Encounter the thought of Pope Francis and explore how Faith is a light that illumines all aspects of our lives.

Our presenters are Fr. James Wehner, rector of Notre Dame Seminary and author of "The Evangelization Equation"; Dr. Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, professor of Liturgy and Evangelization at Loyola University; and Todd Amick, Director of the Office of Evangelization and Eucharistic Renewal for the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

They will explore different areas of the pope's encyclical as they relate to the New Evangelization and will answer questions from the audience. Parish groups and all the faithful are welcome and no prior reading is required - all attendees will receive a free CD set audio recording of the encyclical.

November 7, Loyola University Ignatius Chapel,
6363 St. Charles Avenue, 7:00 - 8:30 pm.

For more information call Todd Amick

(504) 482-8010 Or email: tamick@arch-no.org

Sunday Collection

Year to Date:	(7/1/13 -9/30/13)
August, 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

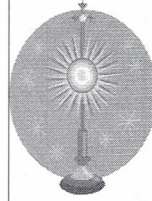
Deep gratitude to all!

The figures for October will not be ready until November 17th.

Please Pray for...

Terrence Ibert, Jr., Sheila & Jaimie, Emma Romsky, John W. Parham, Helen Lee Adams, Lisa Tracey, Norman Mop-sik, Nick Baroni, Eric Dusang, Seth & Ian Hubbard, Brandon Isbell, Anne Fontenot, Ming Smith, Ryan Lee, Bonnie Roche, J. B. Vella, Daniel Sinclair, III, Cynthia Bergeron, Barbara Bossier, John Carruth, Elizabeth Doell, 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.

**WORKSHOP 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 is still one more workshop offered at our parish: Saturday, November 16, 2013. This workshop will be from 10:00am - noon, and will be held in the rectory conference room.

Please note that the re-delegation workshop is for those who are currently certified and serving as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. 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 Mass or contact him at 504-522-6748.

Monday - November 4

7:00 am Edward Crotty +
8:00 am Flavin C. Cullerton +

Tuesday - November 5

7:00 am Ted & Mildred Borgman +
8:00 am Corrine (Lindy) Boggs +

Wednesday - November 6

7:00 am Lourdes C. Kelley +
8:00 am Our Bell Tower Restoration Donors

Thursday - November 7

7:00 am Helen Riley +
8:00 am Eduardo Villalobos +

Friday - November 8

7:00 am Mercy Endeavors
8:00 am Hope House

Saturday - November 9

8:00 am James Wagner +
4:00 pm Miriam Elizabeth Bolton +

Sunday - November 10

9:00 am The Delatte Family
10:30 am All St. Alphonsus Parishioners
Nicholas Pastor +

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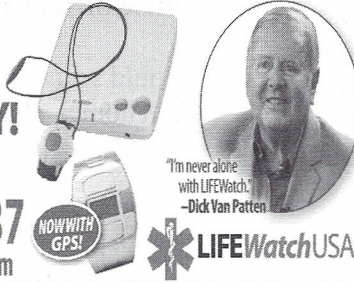
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