



# NOT A HAIR ON YOUR HEAD WILL BE DESTROYED

November 17, 2013 • Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Paul, in his letter to the Thessalonians, seems unduly harsh in his instructions that no one should eat if they do not do their work. It seems like a grounding for the famous Puritan work ethic, an exhortation to save ourselves by our own power. But it is not this at all.

Paul was responding to a situation in a specific time and place, but we can always benefit from the wisdom in these epistles, too. We can see that we are being encouraged to see our own work as advancing the reign of God, and that interfering in or criticizing others' work may be causing us to interfere with God's will for them, as well as neglecting our own place in God's plan for all. Paul exhorts us to work at what we have been given to do, and not be busybodies about the work of others, for we don't know what God is doing through them.

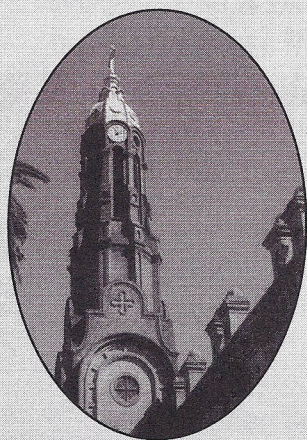
## I MYSELF SHALL GIVE YOU A WISDOM

It would be easy to see our own times described in the Gospel of Luke. We certainly are experiencing many of the things Jesus enumerates as signs of the end-times: wars, insurrections, famines, earthquakes, and plagues, not to mention hurricanes, wildfires, and floods. We also seem to have no end of people who claim to speak for Christ, but today's Gospel tells us not to follow them! How are we to know whom to follow?

Jesus promises us that we will be given wisdom by the Holy Spirit. This wisdom no one will be able to refute. If we only trust in God to supply what we need, we will know what to do. This means living in the awareness that God lives in all our lives, in the world and in creation, and nothing escapes God's notice. When we ask, we will be given the answers each moment and each day to know how to follow Jesus in faith. It may be just a word or two—"Do this" or "Not yet"—but it will be unmistakable.

Today's readings: Mal 3:19–20a; Ps 98:5–9; 2 Thes 3: 7–12; Lk 21:5–19

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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 (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.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  
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#### Lillian Moran

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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.**

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Parish Family,

Today I'd like to touch on two interrelated areas of our faith: the "Respect Life" or Pro-Life Movement and the Campaign Against Violence.

It is a basic understanding of our faith that all human life is sacred from the moment of conception until the moment of natural death. Unfortunately we are more than aware how this fundamental belief is often challenged or completely set aside under the guise of other human "rights." With advances in science and some very persuasive elements in society, human life in the womb is seemingly more and more expendable. Regardless, it is our Christian duty to safeguard human life whether "convenient" or not.

But what happens after life is brought into this world? If we posit that all human life is sacred and we are to do whatever we can to preserve life so he or she can be born into our world, then we have an equally important responsibility to continue to respect that sacredness of life through good infant care, education and human services, and supporting whatever will enhance such sacredness throughout a person's various stages of life until natural death.

This becomes trickier because while the birth of a child might not directly impact me, how that life is supported after birth sometimes involves how money is spent by government. This extends to the "hot button" issues of universal health care, equal rights, a just wage, housing opportunities, the death penalty, and euthanasia. My tax money is being used to provide WHAT to so and so?

It is here where I can easily fall into making judgments. Why do I have to provide that? Why can't they do such and such for themselves? Why do I have to foot the bill? While these can be legitimate questions that need solid answers, the questions need to be asked with the same prayerful reflection as those asked why anyone would terminate a life before birth.

In our city, similar to many others, we find violence. This might be generated by and because of many factors that hold little water when balanced with the sacredness of life. Why would anyone take a gun and randomly fire it into a crowd or cause destruction to another's property or stir up hatred through words and signs? It makes no sense! The answer can only be found in the same place that we began...all human life is sacred and needs to be treated as such. We can't pick and choose.

In our own life we can respect life by our commitment to all those issues on which Catholic values are based. At the same time we can help life by considering the violence we may unknowingly encourage when we find ourselves harboring hatred, gossiping about another, or not taking a stand when human life or human rights are threatened. Being pro-life is a gift that we are called to share even when the gift is not warmly embraced or even understood by others.

**Thought for the week:** "2013 years ago Heaven touched the earth. The rest is His story."

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 food drive will take place at all Masses.



#### 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?

### **"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 19, St. Joseph Abbey & Seminary College, Benet Hall Theatre, 75373 River Road St. Benedict, La, 7:00 - 8:30 pm.

For more information call Todd Amick (504) 482-8010 or email: tamick@arch-no.org

### OUR BELL TOWER RESTORATION

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

*Why not do so today?*

We all need your help to "git er done!"

### Loving God, we remember the following:

Robert Beyer, Jr. & Sr.

Dennis Cross

William & Thelma Crotty & Family

Walter Palmer Diaz, M. D.

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. Elsie Dufresne Duffel & V. L. Duffel

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Preston

Irene Gelderman

Nancy Stafford Hartson

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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



**Ministry at Saint Alphonsus Parish**

As baptized Christians we are encouraged to go forth and proclaim the Good News. One way this is concretely expressed is through ministry (outreach) at our local parish. Below are some current and potential possibilities to exercise ministry at our parish.

1-Church cleaning: Second Saturday of the month 9:00am.

2-Gardening at Chapel: Assuring that the grounds at St. Mary's Chapel, 1516 Jackson Ave., are well maintained.

3-Hospitality Committee: Assist with providing small refreshments after 10:30 am Sunday Mass the second weekend of the month.

4-Liturgical Ministry:

- a) Choir \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Lector \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Mass Greeters before Mass \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Server \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Usher \_\_\_\_\_

5-Office Assistance: Assist when something out of the ordinary requiring additional help is needed, such as stuffing envelopes. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Electronic Giving**

One new way of donating money to St. Alphonsus is electronically. This saves you having to worry about bringing money with you to church and assures that your contribution is made whether you are here on Sunday or not. More detailed information will be available next week.

**Our 2014 Weekly Envelopes are in**

If you're thinking of becoming a registered parishioner of St. Alphonsus Parish now would be a good time to sign-up.

You may fill out your parish census form that is in your bulletin this weekend and return it either next weekend in the collection or mail it back to us.

It's very important that our information about you is correct so that your end-of year giving figures will go to the right address.

Don't forget your email address.

**Sunday Collection**

<b>Year to Date:</b>	<b>(7/1/13 -10/31/13)</b>
<b>October, 2013:</b>	<b>\$24,313.00</b>
<b>Actual Year to Date:</b>	<b>\$82,702.33</b>
<b>Budget:</b>	<b>\$81,666.72</b>
<b>Amount above Budget:</b>	<b>+\$1,035.61</b>
<b>Actual YTD Prior Year:</b>	<b>\$71,700.50</b>

**Deep gratitude to all!**

**Please Pray for...**

Imelda & Tommy Ward, Terry Baker, Terence Ibert, Jr., Emma Romsky, John W. Parham, Helen Lee Adams, Lisa Tracey, Norman Mopsik, Nick Baroni, Eric Dusang, Seth & Ian Hubbard, Brandon Isbell, Anne Fontenot, 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.

**Monday - November 18**

- 7:00 am Brian Bensen & Family
- 8:00 am Danny Halligan +

**Tuesday - November 19**

- 7:00 am Maria G. Pellerin
- 8:00 am Angele G. Davis

**Wednesday - November 20**

- 7:00 am St. Alphonsus School
- 8:00 am Our Bell Tower Restoration Donors

**Thursday - November 21**

- 7:00 am Thanksgiving
- 8:00 am Kirk Litolff, Jr.

**Friday - November 22**

- 7:00 am For the Poor
- 8:00 am Keith Huber +

**Saturday - November 23**

- 8:00 am Artie Sepulvado +
- 4:00 pm Joseph L. DeFelice +

**Sunday - November 24**

- 9:00 am Rosalie Caserta +
- 10:30 am All St. Alphonsus Parishioners  
Nicholas Pastor +

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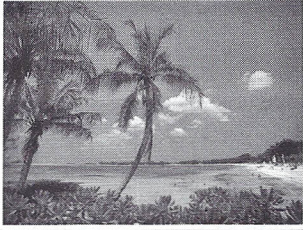
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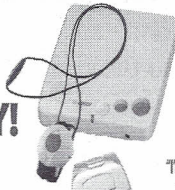
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# Life Matters

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