

December 1, 2013 • First Sunday of Advent

"O Come, O come, Emmanuel!" So begins the familiar chant that will be heard in churches throughout the world this Advent. It is based on the O Antiphons, which are used at Mass and evening prayer on the last seven days of Advent. Each of those antiphons prays for the coming of Christ, and each one seems to capture the spirit of a different Sunday of Advent.

This Sunday's scriptures express our longing for the Radiant Dawn of the Lord's coming at the end of time when the "sun of justice" will break through the darkness of sin and death once and for all. We hear Isaiah describe the peaceful "days to come," when all will "walk in the light of the LORD!" (Isaiah 2:1, 5). Paul tells us it is time "to awake from sleep" and "put on the armor of light" for "the day is at hand" (Romans 13:11, 12). Jesus, too, cautions us to "stay awake" and be prepared for the "day your Lord will come" (Matthew 24:42).

"WALK IN THE LIGHT OF THE LORD"

All around us we seem to be getting a similar message: "No time to waste! Only twenty-two shopping days left till Christmas!" What's the difference between the two messages? One tells us to anticipate a day of getting and giving and eating and drinking. We might prepare for that day by rushing and buying and wrapping and baking. The other tells us to anticipate the dawning of a day, not of gluttony and jealousy, but of justice for the oppressed and peace on earth. We will prepare for that day when we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:14). What will it mean for you to "walk in the light of the Lord" this Advent? Will it mean changing an aspect of your Christmas preparations, or alleviating some of the suffering in our world?

Let us pray: O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death (Evening Prayer, December 21).

Today's Readings: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

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St. Alphonus 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. Alphonus Parish Mission Statement

In the tradition of our immigrant founders, St. Alphonus 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: stalphonusoffice@parishmail.com
 Website: www.stalphonusneworleans.com



Pastoral Staff

Under the pastoral care of the Redemptorists since 1843

Father Richard Thibodeau, C.Ss.R.

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 Parochial Vicar

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 Office Manager/Bulletin Editor

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

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

Pastor's Corner

Dear Parish Family,

After now being here a little over two years I have a confession to make! I still don't know everyone's name. When I first arrived in the parish no one expected me to know their name. After all, there were so many new faces to learn. It seemed easier at that time to ask, "Who are you?" But what do you do after being here two years when you see a familiar face after Mass and still don't know the person's name? That's where I am right now.

Granted, I can place the face with the name of many parish members and I try to call them by name when I see them. But there is another group of people whom I have had very limited contact with whose name either doesn't register or I've never placed the name with the face.

This lack of recognition is partially based on whether I've had some meaningful exchange with someone such as an extended conversation or a pastoral need that focused on a person. But my contact with others falls into little more than a quick "hello" after Mass.

Please understand that if I don't know or remember your name it is not personal or that I am being unfriendly towards you. And if I don't call you by name don't hesitate to either re-introduce yourself or introduce yourself for the first time. Eventually I'll get there but I'm not there yet! As my mother often said, "I have a good memory, but it's short."

Continuing on the theme of "remembering," all of us are encouraged to remember that on this First Sunday of Advent we begin a new liturgical year of the Church. In this new year we have the opportunity to begin once again to remember each major episode of our journey of faith: the promise of a Messiah, his birth, his public ministry, his passion, death, and resurrection, his return to the Father and then his sending of the Holy Spirit to guide the Church. At the beginning of this "new year" we are all a year older with another full year of experiences. Our reflective remembrance this year on each faith event will be enriched by that additional year.

Even though this is a new liturgical year there is one thing that is timeless: we have a God who knows us by name. We have a God who invites us to engage anew in the cycle of life and to experience our faith anew.

What more could we ask for in a new year? But as far as my remembering your name...?

Thought for the Week: "Biscuits and homilies are improved by shortening."

Have a great week ahead!

Fr. Richard

Don't forget to take the name of a student from St. Alphonsus School off the Christmas tree in church or the basket in chapel so that every child in our school will receive a Christmas gift.

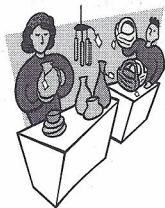
EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS RE-DELEGATED

Congratulations to those who participated in the re-delegation and delegation workshop at our parish. They are: Steve Baker, Jane Cross, Sheila McDermott, Sandra Borgman, Kim Nguyen, Dennis J. Waldron, Jennifer C. Burton, Pat C. Palmer, Elizabeth B. Dowling, Marie C. Giorlando, Mary Lenel B. Romero, Kenneth L. Pastor, Eugenia K. Maginnis, Carol W. Gelderman, Michael J. Saia, Trudy E. Saia, Geraldine L. Randall, Kathleen Tatine M. Frater, Carol Q. Wilkerson, Mignon R. Schafer, Diana H. Spottswood, Joanie W. Hartson, Louise B. Martin, Susie B. Sternberg, Theodore J. Borgman.

Certificates for the five-year term will be sent to our parish's office and we will have them presented to you.

ANCHORS AWEIGH!

Fr. Thomas Pham, our Parochial Vicar, was commissioned into the Navy and appointed with the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade. Fr. Thomas will serve the Navy Reserve as a chaplain at Navy Operational Support Center – New Orleans in Belle Chase and occasionally at other bases nearby New Orleans. Congratulations, Fr. Thomas Pham!



MERCY ENDEAVORS SENIOR SHOWCASE

Come join us at Mercy Endeavors Senior Center on Friday, December 6, from 10:00 AM—2:00 PM for crafts, games and food at the annual ***SENIOR SHOWCASE.***

Tickets will be sold for individual items and all funds generated will support program expenses at Mercy Endeavors. The seniors also welcome all donations toward the event. Call 504-568-0607 for more information. We look forward to seeing you at the showcase!

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.

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



**CHRISTMAS GIFT TREE FOR THE CHILDREN of ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL
THE TREE IS UP!**



All gifts must be returned by Sunday Dec. 15. The gifts can be returned to the church or to the parish office during the week.

Please return the gifts wrapped and with the name tag (ornament) attached.

You are welcome to take as many names as you would like. The value of the each gift should be between \$20 and \$25.

We would like for each child attending St. Alphonsus School to receive one gift.

Touro Hospital Needs Volunteers

For the surgery waiting room desk, book rack for patients, assist administrative staff, gift shop, escort patients to their rooms after they have gone for tests.

For more information please email Denise Chetta at denise.chetta@touro.com or call **504-897-8107**.

Sunday Collection

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

Please Pray for...

Lydia R. Steele, Larry Konikoff, Jr., Rosemary & Claude Dupuis, Donald Henry, Meagan Sauviac, Betty Rome, Imelda 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, Cynthia Bergeron, Barbara Bossier, Elizabeth Doell, Janice Douglas, Beth Bertucci, Ted & Susie Sternberg, Trudy Saia, Toni Tanner, Yen Nguyen, Victoria Dominique, Lisa Huber, Michael Schafer, Luke Spottswood, Adele Fauchaux, Linda Fauchaux, 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.

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.

For more details please call Brother Tom Wright at 504-256-6114 or email: twrightcssr@gmail.com.

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

2014 Weekly Offering Envelopes

If you're thinking of becoming a registered parishioner of St. Alphonsus Parish now would be a good time to sign-up either by coming to the office, emailing or calling the office with your Information our number is 504-522-6748.

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

Monday - December 2

7:00 am Harvey C. Couch +
8:00 am The Delatte Family

Tuesday - December 3

7:00 am Brian Bensen & Family
8:00 am Cecil J. Murphy, Jr. +

Wednesday - December 4

7:00 am Mildred & Ted Borgman +
8:00 am Marian Elizabeth Bolton +

Thursday - December 5

7:00 am Felice G. Stokes
8:00 am Our Bell Tower Donors

Friday - December 6

7:00 am William G. Melber +
8:00 am Cecil J. Murphy, Jr. +

Saturday - December 7

8:00 am Sabrina Jolly
4:00 pm Douglas D. DeFelice +

Sunday - December 8

9:00 am Maude Edna Reilly Cullerton +
10:30 am All St. Alphonsus Parishioners
Doris Cowan +

St. Alphonsus Parish

December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Sunday of Advent	2	3	4	5	6 Holy Hour(5pm rectory chapel)	7 Baptism Class (10:00am prior registration required)
8 --Hospitality Sun - RCIA (noon)	9 Finance Committee(6pm)	10	11 Redemptorist Christmas Open House(5-8pm)	12	13	14
15 --Deadline for all Christmas gifts --RCIA (noon)	16	17	18 Vision Committee Meeting (6:30pm)	19 Hope House Meal Service(5:30pm)	20	21 --Monthly Food Drive
22 -- Monthly Food Drive ---Church decorating/cleaning 11:30am)	23	24 Christmas Eve Family Mass(4pm)	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Mass(10:30am)	26	27	28
29	30	31 Vigil Mass(church/4pm)	1 Mass(church/10:30am)			

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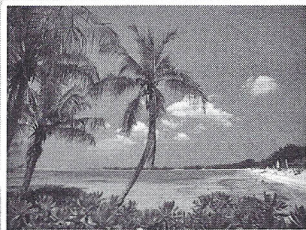
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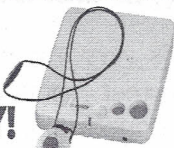
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