



December 29, 2013 • The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

In our day and age it is not easy to maintain healthy family relationships. Our culture often works against us. The Christmas season, especially, magnifies the differences between the values that we Catholic Christians hold and the values of the ordinary world. Christmas can also exacerbate tensions within our families. Sometimes we may want to run away and hide!

The feast of the Holy Family gives us much-needed encouragement. The readings from Sirach and Colossians show us the holy significance of the day-to-day decisions and behavior in our everyday family lives. The Gospel story shows Joseph following divine guidance as he responded to different challenges—first fleeing to Egypt to keep Jesus safe, and then moving to Nazareth in Galilee to raise Jesus in the midst of the Jewish faith and culture. How can we follow Joseph's lead and let God guide our families in holiness?

"PUT ON LOVE"

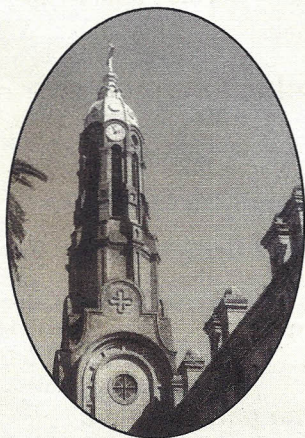
Paul's letter to the Colossians provides us with a key insight. The end of today's selection contains some advice

from the "household codes" of the pagan philosophers of Paul's day, but this advice is not the focus of Paul's words. Paul's main focus is on our baptism into Christ, when each of us "put on love" (Colossians 3:14). The divine love that was made flesh in Jesus and fills each of us in baptism is so all-embracing that it can transform every aspect of our lives—from the most mundane family relationships to our most spiritual relationship with God—into something holy in God's eyes.

This feast reminds us that in Christ, the divine and the human, the ordinary and the holy, were forever linked. When we "put on" the divine love that was poured out on us in baptism, we will nurture holiness in all our relationships—in our families, faith communities, and the wider human family.

Today's Readings: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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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 (Rector)

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

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jmtpham@gmail.com

Parochial Vicar

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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 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.

Pastor's Corner

Dear Parish Family,

It's almost here...2014! The end of a year offers a great opportunity to reflect back on the last twelve months and to give thanks for so much. I know that I'm thankful for...

The men, women, and children of our parish who enliven us with their presence at Mass and other parish gatherings.

Those who support our parish through sharing their time when a need arises.

Those who are there often working behind the scenes who share their talent in many areas.

Those who support our parish by sharing their financial means to keep us afloat.

The members of our Vision Committee who help keep us focused on our mission.

The members of the Human Concerns Committee for their efforts in encouraging us to help our neighbors, especially those in most need, and for all those who support their efforts by bringing non-perishable food items to Mass each month, serving meals at Hope House, and volunteering to tutor at the school.

For the members of the Finance Committee for helping us remain faithful stewards of the resources God has given to our parish.

The Sunday Hospitality crew and those who support their efforts by bringing baked goods and drink monthly to our after 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass gathering.

Those hard workers behind the scenes who clean our church and chapel to make sure that everything is in a position to welcome all.

Those who bring flowers to help decorate our church and chapel.

Those who serve in various parish ministries such as our Ministers of the Eucharist (and to the Homebound), lectors, ushers, choir, servers, and Mass greeters.

Those who have supported our bell tower restoration.

Those who worked on last year's Family Day and Homecoming Day.

Those who serve on our parish staff and the staff of our religious education program, Hope House, Mercy Endeavors, St. Thomas Clinic, St. Alphonsus School, Friends of St. Alphonsus, Seelos Center, and Redemptorist Elderly Apartments.

Those who offer suggestions and then have volunteered to make those suggestions reality.

Those who supported our Christmas gift drive for the students of St. Alphonsus School.

With all of this and much more to be thankful for is there any doubt why we don't look with hope to the New Year? If this is what we have now, imagine what the future will hold!

Thought for the Week: "God gave us two hands: one to help yourself, one to help others."

Have a very Happy New Year!

Fr. Richard



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.

BIG NEWS!!!

We have a totally new parish website! Due to the hard work and diligence of Fr. Thomas Pham our website has been totally renovated. It now contains many of the things you have enjoyed...if you've looked at it in recent times...PLUS a number of new features. Check it out today at www.stalphonsusneworleans.com THANK YOU, Fr. Thomas!

A reminder that the Mass schedule for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day (Feast of Mary, Mother of God) and a Holyday of Obligation is Tuesday, December 31: 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday, January 1st: 10:30 a.m. Both Masses will be celebrated in St. Mary's Assumption Church.

We wish everyone a very HAPPY and BLESSED New Year! We have great things in store. Get ready to join in!

Stay tuned for our upcoming ministry weekend!

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

Pope Francis' general prayer intention for December is Victimized Children: "That children who are victims of abandonment or violence may find the love and protection they need."

His mission intention is Prepare the Savior's Coming: "That Christians, enlightened by the Word incarnate, may prepare humanity for the Savior's coming."

OUR BELL TOWER RESTORATION

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

Please do so today!

We all need your help to "finish the job!"

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



SOLEMNITY OF OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR

The Ursuline Sisters cordially invite you to the celebration of the Solemnity of Our Lady of Prompt Succor at 4 PM on Wednesday January 8, 2014 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, 2701 State St., New Orleans. The principal presider will be Archbishop Gregory Aymond and the homilist Rev. Matthew Clark, OSB. Refreshments will be served in the school cafeteria after the ceremony.

This celebration is held annually on the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans in fulfillment of a vow made by the Ursuline Sisters that a Mass of Thanksgiving would be held each year and the Te Deum sung on this date.

Lord Teach Me To Pray: This three part prayer series based on Ignatian Spirituality begins the week of January 19 and continues for 12 weeks. Participants pray daily with passages from scripture pertaining to a Christian virtue and then meet once a week in small groups with two trained facilitators. To find out more about days and times of offerings, and to register, go to www.lordteachmetoprayer.com or call Mrs. Carol Weiler at 504-439-5933 or Fr. Martin Gleeson at 504-717-8770.

Sunday Collection

Year to Date:	(11/1/13 –11/30/13)
November, 2013:	\$18,876.70
Actual Year to Date:	\$101,580.03
Budget:	\$102,083.38
Amount below Budget:	-\$503.35
Actual YTD Prior Year:	\$95,389.50

Deep gratitude to all!

Please Pray for...

Sr. Lillianne Flavin, Lydia R. Steele, Larry Konikoff, Jr., Paul & Claude Dupuis, Donald Henry, Meagan Sauviac, Betty Rome, Imelda Ward, Terry Baker, Terence Ibert, Jr., Emma Romsy, 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 Sternberg, 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.

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

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**.

Please Join Us!

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. The parish office number is 504-522-6748, our email address is stalphonsusoffice@parishmail.com.

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 30

7:00 am Brian Bensen & Family
8:00 am Joseph L. DeFelice +

Tuesday - December 31

4:00 pm **New Years Eve**
Fr. William G. Grangell +
Nicholas Pastor +

Wednesday - January 1

10:30 am **New Year Day 2014**
All St. Alphonsus Parishioners
Angelo Giorlando +

Thursday - January 2

7:00 am Our Bell Tower Donors
8:00 am Our Visioning Group

Friday - January 3

7:00 am Brian Bensen & Family
8:00 am Henry Soroe +

Saturday - January 4

8:00 am Arthur F. Cullerton +
4:00 pm Mary Giorlando

Sunday - January 5

9:00 am Charles Russell & Family
10:30 am All St. Alphonsus Parishioners
June Lambert +

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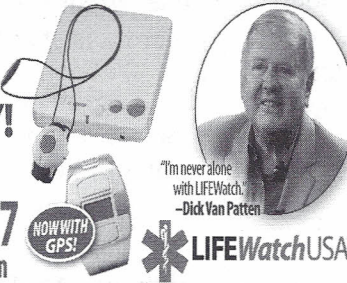
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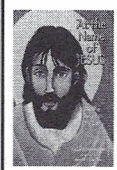


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 Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will.
 For further information, please call the Parish Office.

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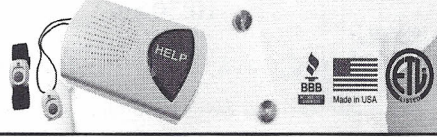
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