

We are the *Light* of the World



VOLUME 94

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

DECEMBER 2022

from the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

As we progress through the month of December, we may not realize it but there are less and less hours of daylight with each passing day until almost the end of the month. It is partly for this reason that we celebrate Christmas late in the month, symbolizing that with the coming of the Messiah more and more light enters the world each day.

Jesus has told us in his ministry that we are the light of the world. He has come into our world to free it from the slavery of darkness. He has given us the light to shine in our hearts. And we are also reminded that we must keep our light shining brightly before others so they can see the light of Christ and give glory to the Father.

Advent reminds us of a time when the world awaited the coming of the Messiah. One of our carols sings,

*“Long lay the world in
sin and error pining,
‘till he appeared and the
soul felt its worth.”*



Christmas is a time to revel in the blessings and gifts given by God to those who love Him. It is truly a time to be Merry and Bright.



Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.
*Director, National Shrine of Blessed
Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.*

Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.

SAVE THE DATE



SEELOS HEALING MASS

Sunday, January 15, 2023
St. Mary's Assumption Church
and on Facebook Live



★ To learn how you can
volunteer for a Seelos Healing
Mass, call (504) 525-2495. ★



9 Simple Ways to Prepare for Christmas



Abridged from an article by Fr. Ed Broom, OMC

Clean the stable of your heart

Advent is a very propitious time to clean our heart, mind, soul and total being by means of making a good Sacramental Confession. Sin sullies or dirties the inner beauty of our soul; confession sweeps out the dirt and makes us clean.

Seek silence

Strive to cultivate a silent and recollected heart. Try to avoid all unnecessary noise. When we have moments of silence it is then that God's Holy Spirit can speak to us, give us certain insights, and send heavenly inspirations. Blessed Pope Paul VI in one of his reflections for the Christmas Season states that the Holy Family prayed, worked, and appreciated silence. So should we!

Pray more frequently and fervently

Saint Paul states that we should pray constantly and give thanks to God in our hearts. Jesus also said that it is necessary to pray always without giving up hope. However, offering fervent and frequent prayers is even more necessary during Advent and Lent. Set aside more time to talk to the Lord, Mary, and Saint Joseph in the depths of your heart.

Find joy in giving more than having

The message of "A Christmas Carol" is that true joy can only be attained if we learn the art of giving freely, generously, and continually. Scrooge lived a miserable life until he dreamed of his mortality, which rocked his comfortable and materialistic existence. Let us seek out ways that we can give to others. Saint Teresa of Calcutta asserted: Give until it hurts!

Attend Mass often

Try to attend Holy Mass as often as possible. In a real sense, Mass is a daily Christmas. The priest consecrates the Host which is transformed into Jesus—he is really born in the hands of the priest. Then, when you receive Holy Communion with a pure and loving heart, Jesus is born in you. Your soul becomes a real Bethlehem—House of Bread.

Visit the poor, the aged, the sick and abandoned

Living out the Gospel of love is a perennial task. However, to really live out Advent to the fullest extent and experience the joy of the Lord Jesus born in Bethlehem, we should help those in our society who suffer most. Remember the words of Jesus: "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you have done to me."

Reconcile

The poet Alexander Pope wrote: "To err is human, to forgive is divine." Christmas is not a time in which we should be at enmity with others, especially our family. Two of the most difficult but important phrases that should issue from our lips are: "I am sorry" and "I forgive you!" If you are angry, resentful, bitter or hateful towards anybody, now is the time to reconcile. It may be difficult, but this gesture is pleasing to God and will fill your heart with a deep peace.

Say kind words

In our social dealings one of the most important things we can do is to be kind to others. Get into the habit of saying kind words, especially to your family members. A compliment, a thanks, a word of encouragement—all of these can change a sad and desolate heart into one of joy and exultation! Remember the Golden Rule and apply it to your speech: Say to others what you would like them to say to you!

Stay close to Mary

Of course, Christmas would not have taken place if it were not for the generous yes of Mary! Stay close to her. Pray the Rosary, especially the Joyful Mysteries. Accompany Mary in her journey to Bethlehem. Be with her in the stable as she brings forth Jesus for your salvation. Place Mary in Advent and Christmas and Jesus will be born in your heart.

Blessings for the Sick

Hospital visits with a Seelos Crucifix

(Only family members may request)

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GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

NEW ORLEANS, LA

I feel as though my husband and I were blessed with a miracle after praying in the Seelos Shrine. We tried unsuccessfully to have a child for many years and were told by doctors that we would never have a biological child due to infertility. After praying to Fr. Seelos, our medical procedure was successful and we became pregnant. We were blessed with a strong,

healthy baby. A year later, we were blessed with a great surprise - pregnancy with a healthy second child. After years of despair, overcoming infertility was nothing short of a miracle and we both believe praying to Father Seelos helped us overcome this heartbreaking condition with divine intervention.

KAPLAN, LA

At 11 years old, my daughter Amelia had to have emergency surgery to remove a tumor from her right ovary. The doctor said it may be cancer and that he may have to remove her ovary and fallopian tube. I immediately anointed her with Fr.

Seelos oil, pinned his relic on her gown and prayed asking him to intercede for healing. When she came out of surgery the doctor said there was no cancer and he was able to save her ovary. Thank you Jesus and Fr. Seelos.

WAYNE, ME

My 79-year-old husband went to cut trees down on our property. Before he left the house I stopped him and prayed for Blessed Seelos' intercession to protect him. He ended up falling 10 feet off the

ladder but the only injury he sustained was a cut to his knee and some bruising. I thank Blessed Seelos for protecting my husband, who is a faithful Seelos devotee.



Submit Your Testimonial Online!

Your words offer encouragement to others in need of Seelos' intercession.

www.SEELOS.org/submit-a-healing-or-favor

Feast of the Immaculate Conception ~ December 8

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception states that "The Most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first instant of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, preserved exempt from all stain of original sin" (*Ineffabilis Deus*).

The doctrine places Our Lady before the faithful as an example of what God can do and what we can do if, like Mary, we put ourselves in God's hands and at God's service, always open to what God asks and always seeking to fulfill God's will.

— Reverend Monsignor Walter R. Rossi





Christmas Novena

Hail, and blessed be
the hour and moment
at which the Son of God
was born of a most pure Virgin
at a stable at midnight in Bethlehem
in the piercing cold
at that hour vouchsafe,
I beseech Thee, to hear my prayers
and grant my desires.

(mention request here)

Through Jesus Christ
and His most Blessed Mother.

HOT IN THE SHOP



CARDINAL PLAQUE – \$26

This 9" x 12" wooden plaque features a pair of cardinals resting on a branch.



"JUST IN CASE YOU EVER WONDER" BOOK – \$14

This book assures children of God's love and a parent's love through all life's experiences.



MARY & BABY JESUS ORNAMENT – \$25

This 4" resin ornament features Mary dressed in colorful robes and cradling her infant Jesus.



MARY WITH BABY JESUS & LAMB ORNAMENT – \$25

This 4" resin ornament features Mary dressed in gold and white, holding baby Jesus and a lamb.



SEELOS PEARL NECKLACE – \$26

This 36" necklace features tiny pearl beads and a gold-toned Seelos medal.



VINTAGE SACRED HEART ORNAMENT – \$27

This antique gold-toned 3" ornament features an embossed image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

*Quantities are limited. Prices listed above **include** shipping / handling.
Prices online and in the Welcome Center Gift Shop may vary.*

SUPPORT THE MISSION OF THE SHRINE



LIGHT A CANDLE: A vigil candle will burn near Seelos' sacred resting place for an offering of \$3-\$4. Please visit SEELOS.org/light-a-votive-candle.



REQUEST A RELIC: 3rd Class Relics are available in either laminated prayer cards or as a crocheted memento for an offering of \$2.50 each. 2nd Class Relics are available in small envelopes for an offering of \$2.50 each.



SHOP ONLINE: Items in the Gift Shop are available at SEELOS.org/gift-shop.

VISIT SEELOS.ORG OR CALL (504) 525-2495 TO ORDER



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☐ The ministry and maintenance of the Shrine ☐ My 1-year newsletter subscription renewal (\$12)

☐ Other: _____

Make checks payable to "National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos".

Please ☐ remove ☐ change my name and address as follows:

Name: _____

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