

Birthday Blessings

2024



VOLUME 107

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

JANUARY 2024

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

As we begin this new year of 2024, one hundred and fifty-seven years after the passing of our beloved “cheerful ascetic,” Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.—it is not his passing but rather the significant life he lived throughout his forty-eight years. This month, the Seelos Welcome Center and devotees throughout the world are celebrating what would have been Father Seelos’ 205th birthday!

His intense life of prayer, fervent commitment to the missionary apostolate, and selfless dedication to immigrant communities in the United States are testament to his exceptional holiness. He preached the message of Jesus to the abandoned and the lost, often spending hours in the confessional, leading many back to God. His tireless efforts and joyful spirit of sacrifice exemplify his deep compassion and unwavering dedication to those he served.

Celebrating the 205th birth anniversary of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, holds paramount importance. It provides an opportunity to reflect on his exemplary life and to promote his legacy, as well as to inspire future generations. Additionally, celebrating Blessed Seelos’ life and ministry serves as a meaningful reminder of the value of all human life and the impact of individuals within our communities. I believe that there are many holy women and men in our midst today. We need to recognize the models of holiness among us. Pope Francis urges us to have these important encounters and be inspired by their witness.

As we celebrate this Redemptorist missionary, we also celebrate you, his devotees, who fervently believe in his holiness and his powerful intercession. We celebrate you because you never cease to witness to others about the personal spiritual favors you have received when calling on his divine intercession in your times of need. All of us who honor and love Father Seelos, we are a “family of faith” who fosters a sense of belonging, appreciation, and gratitude, as we strengthen and encourage each other in a life of prayer and devotion.

Happy Birthday, Father Seelos! Please continue to pray for a miracle that will lead to his canonization.



Father Maurice J. Nutt, C.Ss.R.

Father Maurice J. Nutt, C.Ss.R.

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

SEELOS HEALING MASS

& ANOINTING OF THE SICK



Sunday, January 14, 2024

St. Mary’s Assumption Church
and Facebook Live ~ 1:00 pm CT
Very Reverend Kevin Zubel, C.Ss.R.,
Celebrant; Reverend Maurice J. Nutt,
C.Ss.R., Homilist



Fr. Kevin Zubel was ordained to the priesthood in 2017 and served his transitional diaconate year at St. Alphonsus Parish in New Orleans. He has recently been elected as the Provincial Superior of the Denver Province and his term began in 2023.

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

Birthday Blessings

JANUARY 11 - APRIL 9, 2024

To honor the birth of Blessed Seelos on January 11th, we are excited to announce our annual "Birthday Blessings" giving campaign!



HOLY BEGINNINGS

*An offering of \$18.19
in celebration of the year of
Blessed Seelos' birth, 1819.*



- 1 candle lit at the Shrine
(actual candle not included)
- 1 "Best Wishes" card

TIMELESS GRACE

*An offering of \$205
in recognition of Seelos' age
if he were alive today, 205.*



- 2 candles lit at the Shrine
(actual candle not included)
- 2 "Best Wishes" cards
- Seelos 2024 calendar
- 10" Kneeling Seelos statue

DEVOUT SERVICE

*An offering of \$2,000
in commemoration of the year
Seelos was declared Blessed.*



- 1 candle lit weekly for a year
(actual candle not included)
- 10 "Best Wishes" cards
- 8x10 Seelos icon on canvas
with 14 kt gold detailing

Visit www.SEELOS.org/birthday-blessings or call (504) 525-2495 to donate!

Celebrating "Little Christmas"

Exerpts from Rev. Jack Kolodziej, OSFS, www.oblates.org

In the last issue of the Seelos Shrine Newsletter, Father Maurice mentioned that he celebrates "Little Christmas." What is it? In many parts of the Catholic world, the feast of the Epiphany – or when the Three Kings brought gifts to Baby Jesus – is celebrated on January 6th. The sixth day of January has roots that go back to the early Church. Christians in the Eastern part of the Roman Empire celebrated Christmas on January 6 while those in the West celebrated on December 25. Because of this, some places refer to the feast of Epiphany as "Old Christmas." In Ireland and other countries, the term "Little Christmas" is more common.

Over the centuries, many cultures have

developed their own traditions to celebrate this day. In Spain, the Three Kings bring toys to children on January 6, just as they brought gifts to Jesus. In Latin American countries and cultures, children leave their shoes by the door to receive presents from the Magi. In South Louisiana, king cakes are baked on Epiphany and the season of Mardi Gras officially begins. In some homes and religious communities, a cupcake or special dessert is served at dinner and the family or community member who finds a bean in the cake is named "king" or "queen" for the day.

Whatever the tradition, whatever the day, Epiphany is a special time to celebrate the light of Christ and the presence of God

in our world. The Gospel tells us that after having encountered Jesus the Magi returned home another way (Matthew 2:12). May we return to our daily duties having been transformed by the message of Christmas and our own visit to the newborn king.

As the calendar and liturgy transition from Christmas to Ordinary Time, our spirituality leads us to see God in the everyday moments and the familiar, routines of life. For many, January 6th is just another "ordinary" day. It is a time for work, school, and other common activities. Why not take a little time to see the sacred that surrounds us and the beauty and joy of the world?

Blessings for the Sick

*Hospital visits with a Seelos Crucifix
(Only family members may request)*

JEFFERSON / ORLEANS

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

EAST JEFFERSON GENERAL HOSPITAL
Anne Batt (504) 458-0310
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961

OCHSNER (KENNER)
Linda DiMaggio (504) 287-8732
Wendy Whittaker (504) 722-0089

OCHSNER (JEFFERSON)
Monica Surprenant (401) 207-5521
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961
Marie Giorlando (504) 568-0522

ORLEANS PARISH
Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

WESTBANK
Elaine Freeman (504) 341-2213
Mary Grace Orsag (504) 367-7515

LOUISIANA

ABBEVILLE / ERATH / LAFAYETTE
Boniface "Boni" Suire (337) 937-5675

ALEXANDRIA
Deacon Bill / Joan Travis (318) 664-7069
Mary Ann Reddoch (318) 277-0545

BALDWIN / FRANKLIN
Patti Ibert (337) 828-0141

BATON ROUGE
Gloria Bacqué (225) 753-3800

COVINGTON
Dr. Ann Logarbo (985) 886-0218

HOUMA / THIBODAUX
Debbie Badeaux (985) 438-4096
Margo Battaglia Clement (985) 637-6056
Deacon Rod Fonseca (504) 320-7450
Sheila Fonseca (504) 320-9807

IOTA
Anne Ritter (337) 254-8451

LAKE CHARLES
Lisa Verrette (337) 274-4810

LULING & SURROUNDING AREA
David Fauchaux (504) 908-4120

MANDEVILLE / SLIDELL
David Brumfield (985) 234-9355
Lisa and Eric Johnsen (985) 640-1677
Kathy Newcomb (225) 978-9284

NEW IBERIA / ABBEVILLE / JEANERETTE
Rachel Gonsoulin (337) 224-7855

OPELOUSAS
Suzanne Pitre (337) 351-8489

PONCHATOULA
David and Joan Diaz (504) 715-6642

PRAIRIEVILLE / GONZALES
Deacon Claude Bourgeois (225) 337-0945

SHREVEPORT / BOSSIER CITY
Tom and Marjorie Rivers (318) 797-3116

OUTSIDE OF LOUISIANA

KATY, TEXAS
Lauren Johnson (281) 851-1321
Donna Johnson (713) 826-4191

GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

HOUMA, LA

Recently my sister-in-law found out she had stage 3 lung cancer. While in church one day I noticed a Seelos prayer card, so I picked it up and began to pray to Father Seelos for his intercession. Coincidentally, one day during Mass our parish priest mentioned visiting the Father Seelos Shrine so I decided to do some research. On the Seelos website, I

saw the prayer request form and began submitting a monthly prayer request for my sister-in-law. A few months ago, we were given our answered prayer – she is cancer free. She has two small spots but they are inactive! I believe she has been healed by my God through the intercession of Blessed Seelos.

TUCKERTON, NJ

I was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic cancer December 30, 2022. The PET scan showed I had tumors near my heart and lungs. The first surgeon I visited said he could not perform the operation because it's too delicate and dangerous. He referred me to another surgeon who refused as well. So my oncologist gave me pills to take instead of chemo or radiation because the tumors are adjacent

to the arteries of the heart and lungs. Desperate for help and healing, I prayed to Fr. Seelos for divine intervention and asked people to pray for me. Thanks to God and all the saints and Mama Mary for helping me. I went to see my doctor in May of 2023 for another PET scan. The doctor said my tumors shrank and I am cancer free! Praise the Lord! Thank you Fr. Seelos for praying for me.

NEW ORLEANS, LA

In 2019, my wife and I found out that her kidneys were failing and that she needed to be on dialysis at only 35 years old. It had been years since I was active in the Church, but during such trying times I turned to prayer. My aunt previously told me about Father Seelos and something about him drew my thoughts. I began praying to him for help, for intercession, or some feeling that it would be OK.

grace. In that moment, I heard a voice in my heart say, "Don't worry, you will be able to help." I felt immense relief. A month later, I found out that I was a compatible match to be my wife's organ donor, and another six weeks later I donated a kidney to her. She has avoided dialysis and is still doing great three years in.

One morning, I was suddenly overcome with emotion while getting ready for work. I began praying for comfort and

Regardless of my personal spiritual journey, beliefs, and relationship with the Church, I can't ignore the feeling that in some way, Father Seelos interceded.

Prayer Partner Available By Phone

Can't make it to the Shrine? Volunteer **Geri Heigle (504) 312-1732** is available to pray with you by phone 7 days a week, any time day or night.



SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS
Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm | Please see SEELOS.org for visiting guidelines.

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SOLEMNITY OF MARY ~ JANUARY 1 ~

“Jesus is a way that can be traveled, open to everyone. He is the path of peace. Today the Virgin Mary points him out to us, she shows us the Way: let us walk in it! And you, Holy Mother of God, accompany us with your protection. Amen.”

— Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI,
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 2012

HOT IN THE SHOP ~ CELEBRATING SEELOS



SEELOS BOX CHAIN NECKLACE – \$19

Choose between an 18” gold-toned or silver-toned box chain necklace with a matching Seelos medal.



“HEAVEN SENT” SMALL SEELOS SALT JAR – \$27

This 3 oz. glass bottle is filled with salt and adorned with an antiqued bronze appliqué and a Seelos medal.



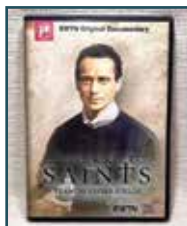
“HEAVEN SENT” SEELOS CANDLE – \$31

This 4” tall candle is richly appointed with antiqued bronze appliques, Swarovski crystals and a Seelos medal.



SEELOS PAMPHLET PACK – \$19

This packet includes eight pamphlets detailing the life of Seelos and his prayers.



“THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS” SEELOS DVD – \$19

This 30-minute DVD features the EWTN story of Fr. Seelos, hosted by “Miracle Hunter” Michael O’Neill.



SEELOS RELIC HEMATITE ROSARY – \$62

This handsome rosary features a double-sided Seelos medallion with a 2nd class relic.

Quantities are limited. Prices 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-\$5. 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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Very Reverend Kevin Zubel, C.Ss.R.

The National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. is a member of the National Association of Shrine and Pilgrimage Apostolate.

DONATION & CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

I would like to support the Seelos cause by donating \$_____ to be used for:

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: _____

Address: _____