

**This Week's Message
from Fr. Amesse
January 4, 2025**



We have entered a New Year. Whenever January arrives, I find myself pausing for a moment — looking back on what has been, and looking ahead to what may come. A new year always brings a sense of hope. Not because we know what will happen, but because we trust who will walk with us.

None of us knows what this year will hold. There will be joys, and there will be challenges. There will be moments when we feel strong, and moments when we feel tired or uncertain. But we begin this year with faith — trusting that the Lord will give us the strength we need, one day at a time. Scripture reminds us, “Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.” That promise matters. We are not meant to carry everything on our own. God asks us to depend on Him — especially when the road ahead feels unclear.

Here at Saint Joseph the Worker Shrine, our mission remains simple and steady. Jesus says to us, “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” Every day, people come through our doors seeking that rest — in prayer, in silence, in the Sacraments, or simply by lighting a candle and placing their burdens before the Lord.

As we begin this new year, please know that the Oblates here at the Shrine will continue to walk with you on your journey — in 2026 and beyond. Since 1868, the Oblates have been part of the fabric of the Lowell community, and we remain committed to serving, welcoming, and praying with all who come here seeking hope.

As we place this new year in God’s hands, let us ask Him for strength. Ask Him for patience. Ask Him for hope. And trust that He will provide what we need, exactly when we need it.

I remember you at Mass.