

Welcome to proudly-blended Saint Francis de Sales Parish United by the Most Blessed Sacrament. SFDS Parish was founded in 1890; Most Blessed Sacrament Parish was founded in 1901; St. Francis de Sales Church was built in 1911; and the two parishes merged here in 2007.

Today, we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in an urban setting to diverse members who form a Catholic community of believers of all ages. Our worship together overflows into charity evidenced by service, justice, and peace.



SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH
UNITED BY THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

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Philadelphia, PA 19143
saintfrancisdesales.net
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In Residence

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SFDS School: (215) 387-1749

IHM Convent: (215) 727-3929

IHM Center for Literacy:
(215) 382-0292

Religious of the Assumption
Convent: (215) 386-5016

Star Harbor Senior Center:
(215) 726-7468

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 7, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

“The Lord has freed you from your sins: go in peace.” These words are often spoken by the priest at the end of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (also called “Confession”). The Samaritan Woman in the Gospel of John encountered Jesus at the well and experienced his transforming mercy and love. Her life up to that point had been filled with turmoil and disappointment. She did not experience her sins as liberation or joy, but the exact opposite. But when our Lord stepped into her life, everything changed.

I encourage you to experience the liberating mercy of Christ this Lent by going to the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. If you haven’t been in a while, that’s okay. The priests here are happy to welcome you and extend to you Christ’s peace through the words of absolution. Our Confession times are Saturdays at 4:15, Wednesdays during our 5pm Holy Hour, and – during Lent – 9am on Sunday mornings. On Monday, March 15th, our school and PREP students will celebrate their first penance at 7pm. We will have a few visiting priests here to assist. If you would like to go to Confession that evening, the priests will remain in church after the children are finished until 7:30pm.

May God be Blessed!
-Father Eric Banecker



The long, tubular flowers of the hyssop plant were carved on our confessional doors. The bitter herb, used in Jewish purification rituals and at Passover, symbolizes penitence.

This Sunday's Readings start on page 108 of the missalette:

EXO 20: 1-17; 1 COR 1:22-25; JOHN 2: 13-25

First Scrutiny: EXO 17:3-7; ROM 5:1-2, 5-8; JOHN 4:5-42

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Readings can be found at:

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings>

Saturday March 6

9:00 AM Dec'd. Members of the Ganley Family

4:15-4:45 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Elvira Hurst

Sunday March 7

Third Sunday of Lent

7:00 AM Joseph LePone

9:00 AM Confessions

10:15 AM People of the Parish

First Scrutiny

Monday March 8

St. John of God

7:00 AM Ellen McConney

Tuesday March 9

St. Frances of Rome

7:00 AM Gabriel Jacob Nevadomski

Wednesday March 10

7:00 AM Albert Genzano

5:00 PM Holy Hour, Benediction, and Confessions

Thursday March 11

7:00 AM Silvia Lopez

Friday March 12

7:00 AM John Cooney

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday March 13

Turn clocks ahead one hour tonight!

9:00 AM Mary H. Duff and Anne McBride

4:15-4:45 PM Confessions

5:00 PM

Sunday March 14

Fourth Sunday of Lent: Laetare Sunday

7:00 AM People of the Parish

9:00 AM Confessions

10:15 AM Theodore F. and Mary Deady

Second Scrutiny

COLLECTION AS OF FEB. 28

Weekly \$4,130.00

Mass Intentions for 2021

The 2021 Mass Book is now open. The suggested donation for all Masses is \$10.00. Please contact the Rectory for all your Mass needs.

If you have items for the Bulletin, contact
mdooleywork@hotmail.com

PARISH NEWS AND NOTES

Rectory hours are by appointment only until further notice.

Next weekend's second collection is for Solidarity for Churches in Latin America

Archdiocesan Novena to St. Joseph Starts March 19



"The praying of this Novena is to unite everyone in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on the 19th of each month, from **March through November 2021**, in single petition of confident prayer to the Lord through the heavenly intercession of Saint Joseph." Please keep in mind the Archdiocesan intentions: in March, this will be "For the local Church in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and for a greater fidelity to the demands of the Gospel on the part of all." We will pray this Novena here at SFDS after the 7AM Mass each month on the 19th.

Paschal Candle, Sanctuary Lamp



If you are interested in purchasing this year's Paschal Candle in memory of someone, please contact the rectory. The price is \$450.00. If you would like to sponsor the Sanctuary Lamps for a month in honor of your loved one or for your special intention, the donation is \$50.00. Please contact the Rectory.

SFDS Stations of the Cross are Posted At:

<https://sfdshistory.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/stations-of-the-cross.pdf>

LENT 2021

 Abstinence from meat is required on all Fridays during Lent from age 14 onwards (with the exception of Friday, March 19th, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary). All the faithful are encouraged, when possible, to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions as well as Lenten education programs. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended. All are encouraged to participate in Operation Rice Bowl, to help feed the hungry.

News About News

Vatican News reported in February, that "Pope Francis conversed informally with journalists from *Catholic News Service*, during an audience marking the one hundredth anniversary of the news agency's establishment by the Bishops of the United States," and prayed that "the spirit of communion with the Bishop of Rome, which has always been a hallmark of *Catholic News Service*," might "continue to guide your efforts to serve the truth with humility and responsibility."

Incidentally, did you know that Catholic news sources are not all the same? **Vatican News** <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html> and the **Holy See** <http://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html> post information direct from the *Vatican Dicastery for Communication* and the Pope. The **Catholic News Service (CNS)** <https://www.catholicnews.com/> is an "editorially independent and financially self-sustaining division of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops" and **CatholicPhilly** <https://catholicphilly.com/> is run by the *Archdiocese of Philadelphia*. The **National Catholic Register/EWTN/Catholic News Agency** is a privately-funded, privately-run "conservative" news organization; while the privately run and funded **National Catholic Reporter** offers a "progressive" view.

**"Great occasions for serving God come seldom,
but little ones surround us daily."**
(St. Francis de Sales)

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Jennifer Baugh, Eleanor Brooks, Spenser Brown,
 Becky Brown, Phyllis Buckhan, Christopher
 Browne, Gisselle Marie Burgess, Dawn Byers,
 Fran Byers, Bob and Claudia Christian, Edmund
 Coccagna, Adlyn Cummings, Michael Farley,
 Ruth Harrell, Paula Harvey, Shirley Hinson,
 Vashti Holden, Frank Innes, Bernadette Jengo,
 the Joseph family, James Kettor, Venus Murphy,
 Wilma Noel, Marie O'Connor, Denise Pogue,
 Marve Prowisor, Dorothy and David Ross, Jack
 Ruane, Joseph Shurillo, Sister Thérèse RA,
 Timothy A. Triplett, Peter Villa,
 Kristina Zaprasna,

**Please keep the staff and residents at
 Renaissance Healthcare (47th and Chester) in
 your prayers in this time of Covid!**

REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED



Reverend Daniel J. Dougherty

Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord and let
 perpetual light shine upon them.

Let us pray for the victims of all disasters, and for
 an end to violence and hatred across the country
 and around the world.



Rev. Anthony Vu Nhu Huynh
Directed the Vietnamese Apostolate
and Assisted at SFDS 1975-1990.
He died at SFDS March 12, 1990

March 6
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Father Eric!

The fourth Friday of Lent in Oaxaca City,
 Mexico, is called *Día de la Samaritana*
(Samaritan Day) – when fruit drinks and other
 refreshments are given to passersby in front of
 churches and other institutions, in honor of the
 Samaritan woman who gave Jesus water at the
 well.

SFDS HISTORY MYSTERIES – The Hand of St. Joseph

Have you ever noticed that when sculptor Adolfo de Nesti carved our statue of St. Joseph, back around 1911, he depicted the saint with his eyes closed?

Perhaps that has protected him from having to witness a lot of “indignities” heaped on our statues over the years.

In pre-Vatican II times, John Deady recalls “at least twice a year they used to hang a shrine around his neck. One was for the feast of Christ the King in October, another that occurred around this time of year was a portrait of St. Francis X for the annual Novena of Grace. These were drapes and pictures of the appropriate individual.” He notes that “The Blessed Mother was not spared this indignity: at Christmas she was hidden behind Christmas trees as a backdrop for the manger and again she held up the elaborate repository that was set up for Holy Thursday....The Holy Thursday repository was particularly elaborate...”

During Lent, before Vatican II, the statues in the church were draped in purple. This wrapping of statues entailed a certain amount of manhandling by the crew of boys who helped out at the time. The late Don McDermott recalled how the boys who assisted at the Holy Saturday Liturgy, would then “stand in assigned places around the packed church and at the Gloria they would in perfect unison using the long window poles from the school classrooms, uncover all the statues as the bells rang.” This provided a dramatic ritual, but the wielding of long poles with metal hooks in a crowded space might have offered its own perils.

The statues of the Sacred Heart and St. Francis de Sales both stood proudly up in the sanctuary for many years: the Sacred Heart, to the right of the Blessed Mother; and St. Francis de Sales, to the left of the St. Joseph altar. They were both banished – the Sacred Heart, unceremoniously shuffled to the side of the church, and St. Francis de Sales to the back -- with the Vatican II “de-cluttering” of the sanctuary, probably during the Venturi neon lights renovation in the late 1960s.

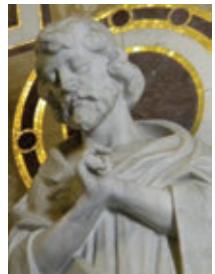
In modern times, Mary and Joseph were half-concealed behind the heavy metal scaffolding that filled the sanctuary from 2006 to 2013, during roof repairs. Saint Anne and Saint Anthony are still hidden in the lonely darkness behind the metal mesh on the sides of the church. For awhile, Saint Anthony sported a construction helmet to protect him from falling debris; today, the two statues are shielded under rough wooden shelters.

The custom seems to have been revived, recently, of mummifying statues in purple, in the last two weeks of Lent “at the discretion of the local pastor.” It is suggested that “The veiling of crosses and images is a sort of ‘fasting’ from sacred depictions which represent the paschal glory of our salvation.”

One might wonder how meaningful is this veiling, if the statues are not appreciated the rest of the year: how is it that nobody noticed when St. Joseph’s index finger broke off, sometime in the past ten years or so! Our statues of St. Martin de Porres and the Sacred Heart also have damaged fingers. The Sacred Heart is ancient breakage, badly repaired; St. Martin’s cracked finger is more recent.

We’re not sure when or how the damage to our St. Joseph statue occurred, but it’s part of our story now. Perhaps we should take it as a symbol and caution: he used to raise his hand in blessing, pointing to the heavens; today, his hand curves down, his thumb pointing towards himself. Did our world turn inward when we weren’t watching? We need to point to the heavens once again! In the “Year of St. Joseph,” perhaps that should be our parish mandate.

Find more at <https://SFDShistory.wordpress.com>
 Contact mdooleywork@hotmail.com



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What's My Name?

The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

#WHATSMYNAME

In Remembrance of Samantha Josephson

WE CARE AND IT SHOWS

We Acknowledge

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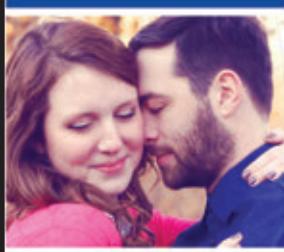
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