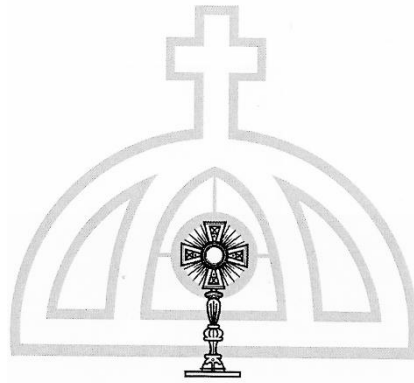


Welcome to proudly-blended Saint Francis de Sales Parish United by the Most Blessed Sacrament. SFDS Parish was founded in 1890; Most Blessed Sacrament Parish was founded in 1901; St. Francis de Sales Church was built in 1911; and the two parishes merged here in 2007.

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

4625 Springfield Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19143

[saintfrancisdesales.net](http://saintfrancisdesales.net)  
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Rev. Msgr. George Strausser  
In Residence

Rev. Benjamin Nwanonenyi  
In Residence

Rectory: (215) 222-5819

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

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME February 7, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

As I write this letter, I am watching the snow and sleet blanket our little corner of the city. I am reminded of snow days as a child, excitedly sitting by the radio to hear amid a litany of numbers eight magic words: “All Philadelphia public and parochial schools are closed.”

I imagine it is not so easy to be a child right now, with the pandemic throwing so many aspects of life into a strange, unpleasant “new normal.” Of course, it is never easy to raise children, either – in this or any other period of history. I am in awe of and grateful to all the moms and dads in our congregation who with little fanfare have the awesome responsibility of creating the future, of course with the help of God who loves us all and sustains us in being as a good Father.

As Pope Francis has declared this the “Year of Saint Joseph,” I commend him to everyone – and especially our dads – as a model of fidelity, obedience, wisdom, and courage. Through his intercession, and that of Mary, the Mother of God, may we receive the grace we need to persevere through these difficult days and come out on the other side renewed in faith, strengthened in hope, and perfected in charity.

May God be Blessed!

-Father Eric Banecker



## MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Readings can be found at:

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

### Saturday February 6

St. Paul Miki and Companions

9:00 AM John Cooney

4:15-4:45 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Joseph Fitzpatrick Jr.

### Sunday February 7

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 AM Joseph LePone

10:15 AM People of the Parish

JOB 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 COR 9:16-19, 22-23;

MARK 1:29-39

### Monday February 8

St. Jerome Emiliani, St. Josephine Bakhita

7:00 AM Pearl Hocking

### Tuesday February 9

7:00 AM Dennis McNally

### Wednesday February 10

St. Scholastica

7:00 AM Fred Austin

5:00 PM Holy Hour, Benediction, and  
Confessions

### Thursday February 11

Our Lady of Lourdes

7:00 AM Gerry Woodard

### Friday February 12

Saint Agatha

7:00 AM Joe Fergus

### Saturday February 13

BVM

9:00 AM Brian Dooley

4:15-4:45 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Mark (Marque) Carter

### Sunday February 14

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 AM People of the Parish

10:15 AM Theodore F. and Mary Dedy

## COLLECTION AS OF JAN. 24

Weekly \$4,113.34

### 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](mailto:mdooleywork@hotmail.com)

## PARISH NEWS AND NOTES

Rectory hours are by appointment only until further notice.

### Father Steven Thorne Feb. 10 Event Moves to Zoom



On Wednesday, February 10th at 7:00 PM, Father Steve Thorne was going to speak in our church about "*Father Augustus Tolton and the Black Catholic Experience in the U.S.*" This event has now moved to Zoom only. Registration is required for this event. You can do that via this link <https://tolton2021.eventbrite.com>.

### Lenten Faith Sharing Begins Feb. 17: All Are WELCOME



One and all are welcome to join us once again in this grace-filled, and spiritually energizing opportunity to grow closer to God and each other during Lent. Small groups of 5 to 8 people meet on ZOOM once a week for the six weeks of Lent. As the Scripture says, PRAYING and BREAKING OPEN the WORD as a group is an experience of God that has the power to transform your life, your relationships, your work and the ability to embrace all of life. If you have never joined a group "COME and SEE." Faith sharing begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17 and lasts through Lent. We invite you and your friends to sign up on the forms provided at the main door of the church or check the parish website. After you fill out your form please return it no later than Ash Wednesday, February 17, to the boxes at the doors of the church or by email to [sralicedaly@comcast.net](mailto:sralicedaly@comcast.net). We welcome and look forward to your presence. If you have any questions, please contact Sister Alice. (215-222-5819 or 215-485-2005)

### Color OUR Collections: Free SFDS Coloring book!

#ColorOurCollections  
EXPLORE, COLOR AND CONNECT  
WITH LIBRARIES AND THEIR COLLECTIONS



Every February, the NY Academy of Medicine sponsors an online event, in which libraries, archives, and other cultural institutions around the world are invited to share free coloring books based on materials in their collections. In past years, our SFDS Parish History Archives has contributed stained-glass windows and other church details to color, and 1920s parish bulletin advertising art. This year's parish coloring book celebrates parish organizations and activities of yesteryear. Check out all the offerings – from SFDS to Drexel University to the Vatican Libraries and beyond at <https://library.nyam.org/colorourcollections/>

### Mark Your Calendar: Lent Begins February 17

#### Fast and Abstinence and Other Acts of Penance for Lent -- 2021

The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, on all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday (with the exception of Friday, March 19th, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary). Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

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 which has aided countless hungry persons here in the Archdiocese as well as throughout our nation and our world

## 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 (47<sup>th</sup> and Chester) in  
your prayers in this time of Covid!**

## REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED



**Mark (Marque) Carter**

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.

***Make friends with the angels, who  
though invisible are always with  
you. Often invoke them, constantly  
praise them, and make good use of  
their help and assistance in all  
your temporal and spiritual  
affairs.***

***(Saint Francis de Sales)***

***"Fauci predicts that people will be able  
to go back to singing in church by mid-  
fall, when an 'overwhelming proportion'  
of the US has been vaccinated"***

Anthony "Fauci, the director of the National  
Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, made  
the projection... during the Choose Healthy Life  
Black Clergy Conclave, an online convening of  
more than 100 Black clergy, leading public-  
health officials, and corporate and scientific  
leaders who are working to boost COVID-19  
testing and other resources in the Black  
community." (Business Insider)

## SFDS HISTORY MYSTERIES:

### Unexpected Cherubs



What comes to mind when you hear the word  
"cherub"? Our church has a few, and some are not quite  
what you might expect!

The beings shown in our round stained-glass  
windows – crafted by Nicola D'Ascenzo in 1910 – are a  
good fit with the *Oxford Dictionary of Christian Art*,  
which observes that: "In art, cherubim and seraphim are  
often represented as chubby children with wings, sometimes only a head and  
two wings. Because cherubim are referred to as 'burning coals of fire' (Ezek  
1:13), they are often coloured red, symbolizing burning love, while seraphim  
may be blue, the colour of heaven, but it often occurs the other way round..."  
But that's only one idea.

Cherubim are types of angels. The word *angel* comes from Latin for  
"messenger." The roots of the word *cherubim* are unclear, but it may be related  
to "blessing" or "approaching." Beings called cherubim are mentioned in the  
Old Testament, as guarding the Tree of Life in Genesis; and in Exodus, as  
guardians of the Mercy-Seat in Solomon's Temple. They appear in the Vision  
of Ezekiel and in the Apocalypse. When a fifth-century Greek monk named  
Dionysius proposed a "celestial hierarchy" -- which was later accepted by St.  
Thomas Aquinas (who imagined Satan as a fallen Cherub) and used by Dante  
in his works – he placed the cherubim and seraphim in the highest order of  
angels, closest to God. But what do they look like? We can only guess!

The original cherubim of Jewish tradition are fierce: according to the  
*Jewish Encyclopedia*, "The prophet Ezekiel describes the cherubim as a tetrad  
of living creatures, each having four faces—of a lion, an ox, an eagle, and a  
man—the stature and hands of a man, the feet of a calf, and four wings. Two  
of the wings extended upward, meeting above and sustaining the throne of  
God; while the other two stretched downward and covered the creatures  
themselves... and they were full of eyes 'like burning coals of fire.'" These  
imposing characters eventually supplied the artistic symbols for the four  
gospel-writing evangelists of Christianity – the eagle, winged lion, winged ox  
and winged man shown on the four pillars supporting our dome.

How did "cherub" come to refer both to scary winged creatures and  
sweet, winged children? Angelic beings are made of energy and don't actually  
have bodies, so any representation is symbolic -- and symbols change with  
time and circumstance. In the early 1400s, when Italian Sculptor Donatello  
saw *Eros* and *Cupid* -- spirits of love and desire in classical mythology --  
depicted as cheeky, winged babies on ancient Greek and Roman funerary art,  
he was inspired to create charming child angels to embody the Christian spirit  
of God's love. These figures were called "putti" (from the Latin for "boy" or  
"child"), and they became a popular theme in art through the Renaissance.  
Often grouped closely around sacred figures in paintings, their placement  
suggested an important position in the angelic hierarchy. The English use of  
the word "cherub" to describe these characters appears to have evolved over  
time: the word originally signified the fierce cherubim of Ezekiel. *Cherub* was  
also occasionally used to describe someone with a red face. The Oxford  
English Dictionary's earliest example of the adjective "cherubic" as meaning  
"like a child angel," seems to date from the 1800s.

Today, whether they are "blessing" or "approaching," cherub  
messengers bring gifts of continuity and connection to our church -- with art  
evolved from Old Testament tradition that adorns our four supporting pillars;  
Renaissance-style putti represented in our windows; and post-Victorian  
winged-baby sculptures at the back of our church -- quite possibly modeled  
on the youngest child of architect Henry Dagit or sculptor Adolfo de Nesti's  
own infant son, born in 1908. And high in the choir loft, if you listen closely  
enough, perhaps you'll hear ghost echoes from recent generations of "choir  
babies" – the young children of our choir members – warbling their own  
cherubic notes to our song.

Explore parish history and more at <https://SFDShistory.wordpress.com>  
Contact [mduolework@hotmail.com](mailto:mduolework@hotmail.com)