

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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saintfrancisdesales.net
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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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 17, 2021



Dear Friends in Christ,

Last week marked six months since my arrival as parochial administrator of Saint Francis de Sales Parish. They have indeed been six happy months, even in the midst of so much that is abnormal about our current age! I am grateful to God for the privilege of serving as your parish priest.

Of course, the duties of a parochial administrator/pastor are both spiritual and temporal. Celebrating the sacraments, proclaiming the Word of God, and getting to know the People of God are central to my role, and they are the things I enjoy doing the most. However, as you know, the Archbishop expects that priests in charge of parishes be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us – both the gifts and talents of the staff and members of the parish, as well as financial and temporal resources.

Part of being a good steward, I believe, is being transparent about the financial circumstances of the parish – or any institution one is called to lead. With the help of an experienced and trusted archdiocesan business manager, I have undertaken a detailed investigation into our financial situation. In that light, I wanted to share the following information:

-Our parish has experienced structural deficits for the last several years. Our parish has been able to sustain this only by increasing our indebtedness to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. For instance, in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2020, our parish failed to meet approximately \$55,000 of our annual obligations to the Archdiocese for such matters as property insurance. While last year was abnormal due to the pandemic, this trend of operating deficits unfortunately was not. As a result, on the day I arrived in July, our parish had a total debt of \$748,368.

-In the fiscal year which ended June 30, 2020, our regular contributions from parishioners decreased by approximately \$36,000 (12%).

The good news is that none of these trends is inevitable. In fact, preliminary financial reports from the current fiscal year are yielding positive results. Nevertheless, we all have to work together to address these challenges as a community of faith. I am confident in our ability to reduce our debt, to eliminate our deficit spending, and to complete the necessary rehabilitation work on our historic church. It will take some difficult decisions and it will not happen overnight – so I am in need of your support and prayers. I will certainly share more information with you going forward, and I am happy to discuss the situation with anyone in greater detail if you would like. Feel free to contact me to set up a time to meet in person or online.

May God be Blessed!
-Father Eric Banecker

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Readings can be found at:

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

Saturday January 16

BVM

9:00 AM John Malatesta

4:15-4:45 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Timothy Rich

Sunday January 17

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 AM People of the Parish

10:15 AM Dr. Harry Wilkinson

1 SAM 3:3b-10, 19; 1 COR 6:13c-15a, 17-20;

JOHN 1:35-42

Monday January 18

7:00 AM Hubert Gaston Maurice

Tuesday January 19

7:00 AM Vint Deming

Wednesday January 20

St. Sebastian, St. Fabian

7:00 AM Joe Fergus

5:00 PM Holy Hour, Benediction, and Confessions

Thursday January 21

Saint Agnes

7:00 AM John Cooney

Friday January 22

7:00 AM Ellen McConney

Saturday January 23

St. Vincent, St. Marianne Cope

9:00 AM Hubert Gaston Maurice

4:15-4:45 PM Confessions

5:00 PM

Sunday January 24

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 AM Fernanda Moleno

Opening of Parish 40 Hours:

10:15 AM People of the Parish

5:00 PM Holy Hour and Benediction

COLLECTION AS OF JAN. 10

Weekly \$4,406.50

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.

Rectory offices closed Monday Jan. 18 for Martin Luther King Day.

This Week's Second Collection benefits Catholic Relief Services.



SFDS PREP Three Kings Procession

PREP finds another route! The Nativity Pageant was cancelled this year due to covid, but last weekend, our parish PREP students traveled around the outside of our church in a masked, distanced procession as "Attendants of the Magi," meeting the "Astronomer" and the "Mapmaker;" and being tempted by "evil King Herod;" before finally being greeted by Fr. Eric and escorted by "Shepherds" to visit the manger scene in church. Happy New Year everyone!

Forty Hours Devotion Perpetual Adoration Signup



Our Parish Forty-Hours Devotion Perpetual Adoration will be **January 24, 2021 11:00am-5:00pm**; **January 25, 2021, 8:00am-7:00am**; and **January 26, 2021, 8:00am-7:00pm**. Our parishioners are invited to fill the time slots, two persons per slot. We expect a great turnout for this long-standing and deeply personal encounter with Christ.

Go to "FORTY HOURS DEVOTION PERPETUAL ADORATION SIGN UP" on our Parish Website or Facebook page

(<https://m.facebook.com/SFDSPhiladelphia/>) and follow the Instructions outlined there. If you have any questions, or difficulty signing up for your desired slot, please feel free to contact Mike Farrell via phone or text at 609-937-8836, or email at jmichaelfarrell88@gmail.com.

The ALPHA COURSE



An opportunity to explore Christian belief and faith. The Alpha program originated in England and the course has been followed by over 24 million people in over 100 countries. MONDAY EVENINGS 7:30 – 9:00 P.M. for TEN WEEKS beginning on ZOOM after New Year's.

IS ALPHA for YOU?

Perhaps if you answer "yes" to some of the questions below:

Are you curious about what Christians really believe?

Do you feel that "something" is missing from your life?

Do you want to know more about a spiritual life?

Do you find it hard to answer questions about your faith?

Do you question the relevance of Jesus or the Church to our lives today?

Are you a good Christian but know only your childhood catechism about your faith?

INTERESTED? Limited number. Please contact the team so we can plan: Sister Diana 215 386 5016 or contact Toni Bush for information:

tonibush2@verizon.net

"I urge the State authorities and the entire population to maintain a high sense of responsibility in order to soothe tempers, promote national reconciliation, and protect the democratic values rooted in American society,"

(Pope Francis addresses Americans in an earnest but cumbersome translation. Vatican News)

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Jennifer Baugh, Eleanor Brooks, Spenser Brown,
Becky Brown, Phyllis Buckhan, Christopher
Browne, Gisselle Marie Burgess, Dawn Byers,
Bob and Claudia Christian, Edmund Coccagna,
Adlyn Cummings, Brian Dooley, 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



Don McDermott

(longtime parishioner died in NJ in
September)

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.



Our Man in Washington

Sculptor Adolfo de Nesti carved most of the statues inside our church and the friezes on the outside around 1910. His only other major known work is a 1908 commission for 26 statues representing “*the arts, sciences, commerce, statesmanship, and other conceptions*” to decorate the facade of the Municipal Services Building in Washington DC.

Located at 1350 Pennsylvania Ave., that property, now known as the “Wilson Building,” houses the offices of the DC Mayor and Council. Since it is on the traditional parade route, and since it is thought that de Nesti used himself as the model for the statue depicting “Art,” you might say we’ve had “*eyes in Washington*” overlooking every presidential inauguration since 1908 and a lot of history! What would he be thinking today.

More at

<https://sfdshistory.wordpress.com/2018/01/07/our-man-in-washington/>



SFDS HISTORY MYSTERIES:

Particles of Truth

A widely-circulated online bio of our patron saint Francis de Sales as a “patient man” -- picked up over the past few years by organizations and churches around the world -- offers a tale that differs surprisingly from the accounts of his life that seem to have inspired it. This muddiness of facts is especially troubling for the Patron Saint of Journalists!

Many of the picturesque details of the saint’s early life in the anonymous online bio seem to have been drawn from a 1909 book *St. Francis de Sales: A Biography of the Gentle Saint* by Louise Stacpoole-Kenny, but the online information has been oddly summarized and re-interpreted out of context.

As an example, one paragraph in the online version addresses why it took so long for Francis to enter the priesthood, suggesting he needed to experience other things first, and “*was wise to wait, for he wasn’t a natural pastor. His biggest concern on being ordained was that he had to have his lovely curly gold hair cut off. And his preaching left the listeners thinking he was making fun of him. Others reported to the bishop that this noble-turned-priest was conceited and controlling.*”

The Stacpoole-Kenny book does state that when, in 1578, Francis “took the tonsure” – the monastic haircut marking his interest in Holy Orders -- “*indeed, it cost him bitter pangs to part with his beautiful golden curls...*” However, the author also notes that Francis was still a child at the time: “*in actual years Francis was only just eleven*” when he chose to undertake this sign of spiritual commitment, just before he left home for school, with many years of study and career choice still ahead! And his father still hoped he would become a lawyer and assume his family’s noble title.

The comment about Francis’ poor public speaking is equally odd, since he is generally known for his eloquence. An early account by the Abbe de Marsollier does mention that Francis experienced stage fright before giving his first sermon, when he saw that “*a numerous crowd were eagerly awaiting him,*” but he gathered himself together and “*electrified his audience by the strength and fervour of his language and the grace and clearness of his ideas. Many shed tears...*” It was his father -- having finally, reluctantly, accepted his son’s career choice – who claimed to be unimpressed with his son’s preaching, feeling that “*his style was far too simple and unaffected...*”

The online article is accurate in observing that Francis’ patience carried him through hard times, as he tried to convert protestants back to Catholicism on the French-Swiss border. On this, Stacpoole-Kenny reports in less dramatic prose that his chosen technique was to “*take things quietly, to progress slowly but steadily...*” and “*it was by means of the most gentle persuasion that he endeavoured to convert the gloomy and stubborn Calvinists. The pamphlets which he wrote during his mission and caused to be distributed among the people breathe a spirit of sweetness and gentleness, at the same time clearly and decidedly expounding the truths of the Catholic Religion. The heretics, though they would not come to listen to his sermons, read these documents through curiosity; but many found them so convincing that they desired to learn more of a doctrine that appealed, not only to their reason, but to their hearts.*” The success of this pamphlet campaign was what caused de Sales to later be named “*Patron Saint of Journalists.*”

Was the online article deliberately misleading? Details and events were selected and exaggerated to create a dramatic story, possibly intended to energize a particular audience at a particular time. It is a colorful tale, but at the same time, it does a disservice to the real saint, who wrote: “*Let us be as precise and balanced as possible in our words*” and “*When you speak of your neighbour, look upon your tongue as a sharp razor in the surgeon’s hand, about to cut nerves and tendons; it should be used so carefully, as to insure that no particle more or less than the truth be said.*” Truth matters!

Find more at <https://SFDShistory.wordpress.com>

Contact mdooleywork@hotmail.com

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Message and data rates may apply.



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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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