

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)

on venmo @SFDSPhiladelphia

Reverend Eric J. Banecker  
Parochial Administrator  
[fr.eric.banecker@gmail.com](mailto:fr.eric.banecker@gmail.com)

Rev. Msgr. George Strausser  
*In Residence*

Rev. Benjamin Nwanonyi  
*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

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME February 14, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

In just a few days, Ash Wednesday will be upon us, and with it, the season of Lent. Who could imagine last Ash Wednesday that we would be in lockdown just a few weeks later, and that we would have yet to fully re-emerge a year after that! Covid-19 has even changed our usual way of distributing ashes: the presider will only say the traditional exhortation once, instead of for each person, and the ashes will be distributed via sprinkling on the head rather than tracing a cross on the forehead. This is actually the standard practice in much of Europe.

The word “Lent” refers simply to “lengthening,” as in the lengthening of days which we experience in this part of the world during these weeks. In Romance languages, the name for this season refers to the “forty days” (quadragesima). Either way, the question for each of us is this: how will we change during this privileged period of time? Our mission is to take up our cross and follow Jesus, so that we might have a share in his resurrection. We do this through prayer, acts of penance and mortification, and by generously giving of ourselves and our resources. The three go together: without fasting, our prayer often becomes self-focused and dry. Without almsgiving, fasting can become just about losing weight.

The most important part of Lent is to pray with and for those around the world preparing for Baptism at Easter. In the process, may we be renewed in the graces of our own Baptism, so that we can bear the light of Christ to the dark places of our world.

May God be Blessed!

-Father Eric Banecker



## MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Readings can be found at:

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

### Saturday February 13

#### BVM

9:00 AM Brian Dooley

4:15-4:45 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Marque Carter

### Sunday February 14

#### Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 AM People of the Parish

10:15 AM Theodore F. and Mary Deady

### Monday February 15

7:00 AM Sisters of the Assumption

### Tuesday February 16

7:00 AM John Cooney

### Wednesday February 17

#### Ash Wednesday

Mass with distribution of ashes

7:00 AM Dennis McNally

10 AM School Prayer Service

5:00 PM Holy Hour, Benediction, and Confessions

7:00 PM Mass with distribution of ashes

### Thursday February 18

7:00 AM Samuel Saidu

### Friday February 19

7:00 AM Gabriel Jacob Nevadomski  
3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday

7 PM Stations of the Cross

### Saturday February 20

9:00 AM Christopher Hueth

4:15-4:45 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Rita Genzano

### Sunday February 21

#### First Sunday of Lent

7:00 AM

8:30 AM

10:15 AM People of the Parish  
Sacrament of Confirmation

## COLLECTION AS OF JAN. 31

Sunday, January 31, 2021 \$4,521.00

Sunday, February 7, 2021 \$ 2,913.00

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

## PARISH NEWS AND NOTES

Rectory hours are by appointment only until further notice.

This week's second collection is for the care of ageing and infirm priests of the Archdiocese.

### Confirmation Next Sunday February 21!



Next Sunday, at the 10:15 AM Mass, Bishop Michael Fitzgerald will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to our Parish children. There will be no reception afterwards this year due to covid. Limited seating will be available for parishioners, but we will also add an 8:30 AM Mass that day for those concerned about distancing.

### 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)

### SFDS and Calvary Center Blood Drive, Feb. 20



Place: Calvary Center for Culture and Community Hosted by St. Francis de Sales Parish. Saturday, Feb. 20, 9AM – 2 PM. Give the gift of life! Sign up online to donate blood to the American Red Cross at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code: St Francis Calvary Community or call Fran Byers 267-312-2255 to arrange an appointment. Calvary Center for Culture and Community - 801 S 48th Street. Enter the 48th St. entrance that is closest to the driveway, follow the sign to the room where the blood drive takes place. \*Please wear a mask\*

### Lent Begins This Wednesday 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



She's *Kyra Sarakosti* in Greek, or *Lady Lent*. At the end of each week of Lent, one of her feet is folded back under her gown. She doesn't have a mouth because Lent is a season of fasting and penitence. This version is from <https://www.stnicholascenter.org/>

## 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



**Sister Judith Moeller IHM  
Sister Mary Anne Nyzio, IHM  
Catherine LeSage**

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.

## Why is Fish Not Considered “Meat”?

The answer is “Because”!

The distinction goes deep in history and has always been fuzzy: Mental Floss notes that Jewish dietary laws traditionally separate “*fleishig*” (which includes land-locked mammals and fowl) from *pareve* (which includes fish).” The Summa

Theologica compendium of theology by St. Thomas Aquinas in the 1200s rationalized that fish was suitable for Lent because it should be a time of simplicity: meat from warm-blooded animals and birds was a luxury which afforded “*greater pleasure as food*” and, according to the science of the day, could promote lustful thoughts -- inappropriate to commemorating Christ’s suffering. Michael Foley, of Baylor University, recently observed “*Technically, it’s the flesh of warmblooded animals that’s off limits — an animal ‘that, in a sense, sacrificed its life for us.’*”

Fish don’t have deep thoughts?! They’re not traditional sacrificial animals.

## SFDS Stations of the Cross Posted at:

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

## SFDS HISTORY MYSTERIES:

### Unexpected Cherubs



What comes to your 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 [mduoleywork@hotmail.com](mailto:mduoleywork@hotmail.com)

*G.J. Rossi & Sons*  
**ELECTRICIANS**  
 ALL TYPES OF WIRING & REPAIRS  
 329-9456

 **PHILLY PAWS**  
 806 South 47<sup>th</sup> St., Phila.  
[www.philthypaws.com](http://www.philthypaws.com)  
 Like us on Facebook & Instagram  
 215-727-PAWS (7297)



*Philly's Trusted*  
**Immigration Lawyers**  
 FREE  
 CONSULTATIONS:  
 (215) 323-6845  
 SPEKTOR, SPEKTOR  
 & BERMAN, P.C.

**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



Commercial Rates are at an **All Time Low**.  
 Contact us today to get a free analysis to see if we can help **Save you money** with your monthly payments on your commercial property.  
 Multi-Family, Retail, Office Building, Apartment and Condos. Can close in as little as 45 days!  
 Four season customer service is our top priority.  
[www.duqfunding.com](http://www.duqfunding.com)  
 1650 Market Street - Suite 3600  
 Philadelphia, PA 19103

**WE CARE AND IT SHOWS**  
*We Acknowledge*  *We Appreciate*  
**ST. FRANCIS CENTER**  
 Rehabilitation & Healthcare  
 1412 Lansdowne Ave.  
 Darby  
 610-461-6510  
[www.sfrehab.org](http://www.sfrehab.org)  
**Beautiful On-Site Chapel with Daily Mass**  
**Respite Stay Available**

**Mallory's Army Foundation**  
  
 United Together In The  
**Fight Against Bullying...**  
 Don't Just Teach Kindness...  
**BE KINDNESS!**  
[www.MallorysArmy.com](http://www.MallorysArmy.com)  
 (973) 440-8657  
[info@mallorysarmy.org](mailto:info@mallorysarmy.org)  
*It's easy to join our mailing list!*  
*Just send your email address by text message:*  
**Text MALLORYSARMY**  
**to 22828 to get started.**  
 *Message and data rates may apply.*

 **American Red Cross**  
**Make a Difference in Your Community**  
**VOLUNTEER**  
 with the American Red Cross  
 Join today at [redcross.org/Volunteer](http://redcross.org/Volunteer)

*Thanks...*  
 Please take the time to read the ads which make your bulletin possible. Help support them as they support the parish. Mention the church bulletin when you patronize their establishments.  
*Let them know they are appreciated.*

**catholicmatch<sup>®</sup>**  
 Pennsylvania  
  
[CatholicMatch.com/datePA](http://CatholicMatch.com/datePA)

**IT'S HERE!**  
*introducing*  
  
**Finding FABER<sup>™</sup>**  
 Connecting sponsors and the community in realtime!

 

 

**PIZZA** **SUSHI BAR** **BAKERY** **Optician's** **CHINESE** **TEA SHOP**

**BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY**  
 - Shop Local -  
 - Shop Small -

**PLEASE PATRONIZE THE ADVERTISERS WHO MAKE THIS BULLETIN POSSIBLE!**

Local, trusted, proven, effective, supportive, referrals, relationships, affordable, repetitious, versatile, lasting.  
 This describes the power of... **Church Bulletin Advertising**  
 Placing an ad in the parish bulletin supports the parish while building your business - THAT'S A WIN WIN!  
 Call 1.800.333.3166!