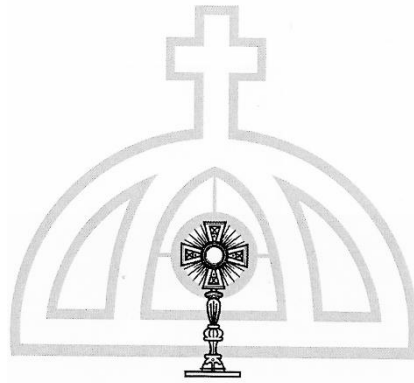


Welcome to proudly-blended Saint Francis de Sales Parish United by the Most Blessed Sacrament. SFDS Parish was founded in 1890; Most Blessed Sacrament Parish was founded in 1901; St. Francis de Sales Church was built in 1911; and the two parishes merged here in 2007.

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
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Reverend Eric J. Banecker
Parochial Administrator
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Rev. Msgr. George Strausser
In Residence

Rev. Benjamin Nwanonyi
In Residence

Rectory: (215) 222-5819

SFDS School: (215) 387-1749

IHM Convent: 267-634-6936

IHM Center for Literacy:
(215) 382-0292

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

Star Harbor Senior Center:
(215) 726-7468

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER: SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

April 11, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

What a joy it was to celebrate the liturgies of Holy Week and the Easter Triduum here at St. Francis de Sales! I want to thank all those who helped make those days such beautiful and reverent celebrations. In particular, I'd like to thank our musicians, sacristans, readers, ushers, servers, and all those who helped to clean and decorate our church.

This Easter Season is often a great sacramental time, and this year is no exception. Mr. Fred Liu, a senior at Penn, was baptized, confirmed, and received first Holy Communion here at the Easter Vigil. We also welcome Helena Mulbah and Thierry Julbah who were received into full communion of the Catholic Church. Today, on this Second Sunday of Easter (also known as Divine Mercy Sunday), we congratulate our young parishioners and school students who will receive Holy Communion for the first time at this Mass. Thanks to their catechists and families for preparing them for this special day!

The joy of the resurrection fills the whole world in these days! May we announce that good news through our lives and invite others to find anew in our life of worship and service the joy and happiness of the Risen Christ. May we, like "doubting Thomas," say today and always, "My Lord and my God!"

May God Be Blessed,
-Father Eric Banecker



*Young Francis de Sales receives his First Communion
(Can you find this window in our church?)*

This Sunday's Readings start on page 174 of the missalette:

ACTS 4:32-35; 1 JOHN 5:1-6; JOHN 20:19-31

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Readings can be found at:

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

Saturday April 10

9:00 AM John Cooney

5:00 PM Theresa Batts

Faith Sharing Mass

Sunday April 11

Sunday of Divine Mercy

7:00 AM John Cooney

Confessions 9:30 – 10:00 AM

10:15 AM People of the Parish

First Communion

Monday April 12

7:00 AM Easter Flower Envelope Remembrance

Tuesday April 13

Saint Martin I, Pope

7:00 AM John Cooney

Wednesday April 14

7:00 AM John Malatesta

Thursday April 15

7:00 AM John Cooney

Friday April 16

7:00 AM Alexandre Sovrovic

Saturday April 17

9:00 AM John Cooney

Confessions 4:15 – 4:45 PM

5:00 PM Lonnie Perry Sr.

Sunday April 18

Third Sunday of Easter

7:00 AM People of the Parish

Confessions 9:30 – 10:00 AM

10:15 AM Theodore F. and Mary Dedy

COLLECTION AS OF APR. 4

Weekly \$6,232.00

Intentions and Memorials

The 2021 and 2022 Mass Books are open. The suggested donation for all Masses is \$10.00. 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.

If you have items for the Bulletin, contact

mdooleywork@hotmail.com



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PARISH NEWS AND NOTES

Regular Rectory hours have resumed: Mon – Thu, 9 AM – 4 PM.

First Communion This Sunday April 11 at 10:15 AM



We welcome visitors and families of the students from our parish school and PREP program who will receive **First Holy Communion** at the 10:15 AM Mass! Congratulations to our students on this important milestone. We will keep you in our parish prayers!

Last Chance: Parish Survey Ends April 19!



Our parish survey ends April 19, so if you haven't yet participated, it's time to "get your skates on"! What does our parish do well? What could we do better? Whether you've been attending Mass or not, all are invited to fill in the bubbles on paper, or online from the parish webpage, or at

<https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/k317223dck>

Zoom Meeting for PREP Parents and Teachers Apr. 21



PREP parents and teachers are invited to share ideas and feedback about our program at a zoom meeting on **Wednesday, April 21st at 7 PM**. Our host will be Ann Menna, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Catechetical Formation at the Archdiocese, who checks in, periodically, with parishes around the archdiocese, to find out about their individual programs and offer insight on current trends and resources available. Current PREP parents will receive a zoom link in the weekly Family message or contact Sister Alice for further information.

Solemn Sung Vespers and Benediction April 25



On **Sunday, April 25th**, our parish will have Solemn Sung Vespers and Benediction at 5 PM. We will host several of these throughout the year going forward so that parishioners can experience the beauty of these liturgies, which are a kind of "mini" Forty Hours celebration. These periodic Vespers services will take the place of our Wednesday Holy Hour, which will be discontinued as of Holy Week. Plan to join us for this evening of praise and blessings!

Mission Philly for High School Students Meeting Apr 27



June 21, 22, 23, 2021: A unique opportunity to work among the poor and experience the Church right in our backyard. High school students from rising freshmen to rising seniors are invited to participate (older students may assist as chaperones). Catholic students from other parishes will join us on this service trip. **An information meeting** for interested families will take place on **April 27 at 7 PM via Zoom**. For questions and to register, contact Father Eric Banecker fr.eric.banecker@gmail.com

Star Harbor Meals for Seniors



For seniors 60 years of age and older Star Harbor Senior Community Center has Grab N Go meals available for pick up. Please call Star Harbor to register for meals at 215-724-4414.

Children Are the Hope for the Future

Pope Francis, this year, "chose to entrust children and young people – symbols of hope and of future - with the preparation of the meditations" for Good Friday, when he "presided at the Way of the Cross, in a near-empty St Peter's Square: a poignant symbol of the solitude and isolation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic..." "During the 14th and last station it was highlighted how children and young people hold the key and the hope for rebirth: 'Lord, merciful Father,' the prayer read, 'once again this year we have followed your Son Jesus on the way of the cross. We followed him by listening to the voices and the prayers of the children whom you yourself set before us as the model for entering your kingdom.'" (Vatican News). Read the full Meditations at http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/2021/documents/ns_lit_doc_20_210402_via-crucis-meditazioni_en.html

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, Carol
Byers Coccagna, 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,
Joan Rolland, Jack Ruane, Joseph Shurillo, Sister
Thérèse RA, Timothy A. Triplett, Peter Villa,
Melissa Wing, 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



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.



CONGRATULATIONS

to

Fred Liu

Helena Mulbah

Thierry Julbah

Who were received into our church at the
Easter Vigil.

Welcome to our parish family!

Divine Mercy Sunday

In 2000, Pope John Paul II established Divine
Mercy Sunday as the second Sunday after Easter.
The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops notes
that on Divine Mercy Sunday, "*parishes
throughout the country are encouraged to join
together in prayer and adoration seeking God's
mercy for ourselves and for our nation.*"

SFDS HISTORY MYSTERIES –

The Children's Hour



The year 1911 was notable for the children of
our parish – and not just because the newly- built
church opened with great celebration and ceremony.

An old parish document states that "*Nineteen
hundred and eleven was a red letter year in the history
of the school, for the children of St. Francis de Sales,
shared with other children throughout the world the
benefits of the new Decree of Pius X, making possible the reception of our
dear Lord in Holy Communion at the early age of seven. Accordingly all the
little ones who had reached that age received our Lord on the First Friday of
May...*"

This was a big moment for the church. In October 1910, the
Philadelphia Inquirer had reported Pope Pius X's new decree that children
should receive their first Communion at the "age of reason," when they
made their First Penance: "*regarding the points of instruction, it will not be
necessary for the child to know the whole catechism, as has been customary
heretofore in the United States.*" First Communion, which "completed" the
sacraments of initiation, came after Confirmation in those days:
Confirmation was regarded as a "strengthening sacrament," rather than a
"sacrament of maturity" (the order didn't begin to change until 1932), and
the *Inquirer* reported that before the 1910 ruling, "*children making their first
Communion were usually between the ages of ten and fourteen.*"

The 1911 ceremony – which may have been a combination
Confirmation/First Communion -- probably took place in the original
chapel/school building, (the building that today contains the Parish
Auditorium), since the new church would not be ready until November and
we don't know what "finishing touches" were still underway. Unfortunately,
the Communion and Confirmation records for that year are unavailable, so
we don't know much about the actual ceremony, or the specific names of
those receiving the sacraments -- although we can guess that the list might
have included one of the Slattery boys -- sons of the local coal wholesaler,
who would help to "baptize" our bells in 1916; one of the Hasson girls --
whose big brother Philip would be the first boy ordained from our parish;
and perhaps one of the Dagits -- children of the architect, who may have
modeled for our angel sculptures; among many others.

Reverend Crane (who would later become a Bishop) chose a Friday
for the 1911 First Communion, so that children could continue afterwards
with "*The Communion of Reparation, the receiving of Our Divine Savior, on
the First Friday of every month for nine consecutive months....*" A 1928
report noted that this "*has ever been a devotion dear to the heart of the
Pastor, and the children have responded joyously to the call of Christ, and
the voice of their beloved shepherd...*"

Six years later, in 1917, when most of the children in the school
were receiving Communion, they mobilized further with the entrance of the
United States into World War I: "*A Children's Eucharistic League was
formed, the principal duty of which was to receive our Lord frequently that
He might bring peace to the war-ridden world....*" This was part of a much
larger movement, begun by Pope Pius X, who wanted everyone to take
Communion more often, and promoted the special power of children's
eucharistic participation – especially in times of trouble.

Incidentally, our Father Eric wrote a thesis on the changed order of
Confirmation and First Communion, so we have our own "in-house expert"
to take us full circle on this interesting historical subject!

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

Contact mduolework@hotmail.com