

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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Rev. Msgr. George Strausser  
*In Residence*

Rev. Benjamin Nwanonenyi  
*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

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

### February 28, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

Sunday's 10:15 Mass was a wonderful celebration in which 34 young people received the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Fitzgerald enjoyed being with our community, and I thanked him for his visit on behalf of us all. I am so grateful to all those who helped make the day possible: first of all the parents, family, and sponsors of our Confirmandi; to the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and those who assisted them in preparing the children, especially Whitney van Dean; and to the newly-confirmed themselves for their cooperation and reverent attention during the Confirmation Mass. Thanks also to those who assisted as servers, readers, musicians – and of course, special thanks to Monsignor George Strausser for his textbook service as master of ceremonies!

As we continue on our Lenten journey, the Gospel presents us this Sunday with the event of the Transfiguration of our Lord. This privileged glimpse of the Divinity of Christ shining through his humanity was given to Jesus' closest collaborators – Peter, James, and John. He was revealing to them who he truly was and strengthening their hearts to endure his coming passion and death. It was not Jesus who changed, exactly, but rather the eyes of the apostles. They were able to glimpse for a fleeting moment what was veiled under Jesus' ordinary appearance. Every time we gather for Mass, a kind of Transfiguration takes place, as we are transformed by our encounter with Christ, veiled under the appearance of bread and wine, but which we know by faith are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ himself.

This Lent, as things begin to open up a bit more, I encourage you to experience the transforming love of God by participating at Sunday Mass, and by celebrating the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. We have an extra time for this during Lent at 9am Sunday mornings.

May God be Blessed!  
-Father Eric Banecker



"Christogram" made from the Greek letters chi (X) and rho (P) -- the first two letters of "Christ" in Greek.

## MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Readings can be found at:

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

### Saturday February 27

**9:00 AM** George Williamson

**4:15-4:45 PM Confessions**

**5:00 PM** Shirley A. Green

### Sunday February 28

#### Second Sunday of Lent

**7:00 AM** People of the Parish

**9:00 AM Confessions**

**10:15 AM** Michael Springer

### Monday March 1

**7:00 AM** Ellen McConney

### Tuesday March 2

**7:00 AM**

### Wednesday March 3

#### St. Katharine Drexel

**7:00 AM**

**5:00 PM** Holy Hour, Benediction, and Confessions

### Thursday March 4

#### St. Casimir

**7:00 AM** John Cooney

### Friday March 5

**7:00 AM**

**9:00 AM** School First Friday Mass

**7:00 PM** Stations of the Cross

### 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

## COLLECTION AS OF FEB. 21

Weekly \$4,328.00

### 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)



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## PARISH NEWS AND NOTES

Rectory hours are by appointment only until further notice.

### Paschal Candle



If you are interested in purchasing the Paschal Candle in memory of someone, please contact the rectory. The price is \$450.00.

### Your Opinion Counts!

*What Makes for a Good Homily? Your insights on this question are sought through a national study partially funded by a grant from the Confraternity of Christian Faith of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Biblical Association. This effort, called the **Parables Project**, is focusing on the preaching of Jesus' parables. Please help us gain new insights by going to [www.parablesproject.org](http://www.parablesproject.org) and completing a 15-minute survey. Thanks!*

### Saint Katharine Drexel (March 3)

Saint Katharine Drexel is a local saint – the daughter of wealthy investment banker Frances Anthony Drexel (whose brother Anthony – Katharine's Uncle -- founded Drexel University). Born in 1858, she grew up at 1503 Walnut Street, and may have been aware of the busy Satterlee Civil War hospital on this side of the river in her early youth. Times around them were tough: the children were taught that their wealth brought responsibility, and her family distributed food, clothing, and money for rent to the needy, from their home, three times a week.

When her family traveled to see the Western states in 1884, Katharine was distressed by the plight of Native and African Americans in the post-Civil-War South and Southwest and vowed to help them. Pope Leo XIII, in a private conference, suggested to Katharine that she become a missionary. She joined the Sisters of Mercy, then formed her own congregation, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. In all, she established 145 missions, 50 schools for African Americans, and 12 schools for Native Americans. She died at age 96, on March 3, 1955, and was canonized in 2000. Her feast day will be celebrated on March 3, during a 12:05 PM Mass at the Cathedral downtown, where her sacred remains and national shrine were relocated in 2018. The Mass at the Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel within the Cathedral will also be livestreamed, at <https://vimeo.com/event/17522> and on the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ArchPhila>.

### 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.** 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.

**"The dedication of those who, even in these days, are working in hospitals and health care facilities is a 'vaccine' against individualism and self-centredness, and demonstrates the most authentic desire that dwells in the human heart: to be close to those who are most in need and to spend oneself for them."** (Pope Francis)

## **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**



**Lonnie Perry Sr., parishioner**

**Rev. John Van de Paer, C.I.C.M**

**Sister Marie A. Maynes, IHM**

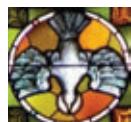
Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.

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



**Reverend James T. Higgins  
3<sup>rd</sup> Pastor of MBS 1908-1940**

**(died Feb. 29, 1940. His memorial stone is on our rectory lawn)**



## **CONGRATULATIONS**

### **To the Confirmation Class of 2021!**

Last week, Bishop Fitzgerald administered the sacrament of Confirmation to thirty-four of our parish young people. We are very proud of you, as you mark this important milestone, and we welcome you to full membership in our Parish community!

## **SFDS HISTORY MYSTERIES:**

### **Divine Providence**



Our patron saint Francis de Sales knew that outcomes can't be controlled, and things don't always turn out as planned, but he advised: *"If you have a sure trust in God, the success that comes to you will always be that which is most useful to you, whether it appears good or bad in your private judgment."*

A long-ago news item, reporting an effort to change an archdiocesan assignment, offers an intriguing backward glance at the providence that brought us where we are today.

When our parish was carved from the territory of St. James Parish (today St. Agatha-St. James) at 38<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut, in 1890, the Reverend Joseph O'Neill, who had been assisting at St. James, was assigned to be our founding pastor. In March 1898, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported that parishioners at St. James wanted him back:

*"In fact the feeling has risen to such an extent that a meeting of the members of the parish will be held evening in the church building, the intention being to prepare a formal protest to be sent to Archbishop Ryan."*

*"In discussing the matter a member of the congregation said: 'We are going to make this protest because we feel that Father Joseph O'Neill, now in charge of St. Francis de Sales, forty-seventh street and Springfield avenue, was entitled to the rectorship of St. James' when it was made vacant by the departure of Father P. J. Garvey. Father O'Neill came to the parish sixteen years ago, just one year before Father Garvey assumed charge. When the mission St. Francis de Sales was started Father O'Neill was placed in charge and has been there ever since. Father O'Neill is a man 55 years old and has endeared himself to very one with whom he has been thrown in contact, and we do not like the idea of having him set aside for Father Monahan, who is from the Cathedral and whom we do not know.'"*

*"A committee has been appointed and they have been so energetic that a good meeting is expected. The members of the congregation who are foremost in the fight for Father O'Neill say that they do not oppose Father Monahan on personal grounds, in fact they would be pleased to have him as rector if Father O'Neill had not been slighted. It is realized, of course, that the congregation has no choice in the selection of rectors, but they think that a strong protest will have weight."*

The efforts of St. James parishioners to get Rev. O'Neill reassigned to them were unsuccessful, but their story still ended well: the 1950 St. James Jubilee Book notes that *"the Standard of February 26, 1898 carried the news of the appointment of Father James C. Monahan to the pastorate of St. James. This short-limbed, eloquent, kindly yet combative priest was to remain at St. James for twenty-seven years"* where he became much beloved and respected, as one of their longest-serving pastors.

It may seem funny today, and we may even feel mildly insulted, to think that anyone ever felt Reverend O'Neill was being "slighted" by his appointment to our parish! By the time of the conflict, he had been with us for eight years, and had built our first chapel/school and the rectory. But our Rev. Joseph O'Neill was the brother of deceased St. James pastor Rev. Francis O'Neil -- who had built their church -- so perhaps he represented continuity to parishioners at Saint James, and they felt loyalty and feared the unknown.

How would things have been different here, if Reverend Joseph O'Neill had not been assigned as our pastor? He chose the site for our church and we believe he named our parish *Saint Francis de Sales* to honor his deceased brother Francis -- so we might have had a completely different name, location, patron saint, and identity. At the time of the 1898 controversy, our future second pastor, Rev. Crane, was busy planning renovations to St. Malachy Church (in the Byzantine style) with architect Henry Dagit, so he would not have been available to take over. Had Reverend O'Neill been reassigned, some other second pastor would have built us a different church!

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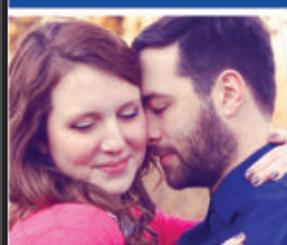
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