

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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Philadelphia, PA 19143

saintfrancisdesales.net

on venmo @SFDSPhiladelphia

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In Residence

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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

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 10, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

The Season of Christmas concludes today with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. I hope that these days have been a moment of grace for all of us.

I am grateful for the many people who have brightened our parish's life in recent weeks. Thanks to those who helped organize the fundraiser for expecting moms (total raised: \$1,212), thanks to those who have given generously for our sound system upgrade (over \$8,000). Thanks to Sister Alice for coordinating a covid-friendly version of a gift drive with Saint Denis Parish. Thanks to those who have helped decorate, to our talented music ministry, to our lectors, servers, ushers. Thanks to all who ventured out in the midst of a pandemic to worship the Lord in our beautiful church, as well as to those near and far who have stayed connected in various ways – and to those who have given generously to support our parish during these tough days.

Finally, on behalf of Monsignor George and Father Ben, thanks for all the notes, snacks, and kind words we have received in these days. I am truly grateful to serve here as a parish priest.

Don't forget our upcoming Forty Hours devotions. There are instructions in the bulletin for how to sign up for an adoration time. I hope everyone that is able to venture out will do so as we gather around the Lord in the Eucharist, who is God-with-us and Lord of all.

Next week in this space, I will give a short but important update on the financial state of our parish.

May God be Blessed!
-Father Eric Banecker



John the Baptist window,
SFDS Adoration Chapel

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Readings can be found at:

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

Saturday January 9

9:00 AM Jane Halpin

4:15-4:45 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Jeremiah Kulasegram

Sunday January 10

Baptism of the Lord

7:00 AM Samuel Saidu

10:15 AM Theodore F. and Mary Deady

ISA 42:1-4, 6-7 or ISA 55:1-11; ACTS 10:34-38
or 1 JOHN 5:1-9; MARK 1:7-11

Monday January 11

7:00 AM Vint Demming

Tuesday January 12

7:00 AM People of the Parish

Wednesday January 13

Saint Hilary

7:00 AM Gerry Woodard

5:00 PM Holy Hour, Benediction, and
Confessions

Thursday January 14

7:00 AM John Malatesta

Friday January 15

7:00 AM Margaret Tjader

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

COLLECTION AS OF JAN. 3

Weekly \$1,796

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

Next Week's Second Collection
The Second Collection on the weekend of Jan
16 and 17 benefits Catholic Relief Services.

PARISH NEWS AND NOTES

Rectory hours are by appointment only until further notice

Blood Drive Jan. 16



THANK YOU to all the donors at our December 19 blood drive, where 32 pints were collected, helping almost 100 patients in need. You gave the gift of life, in this season of giving. Our next blood drive is **Saturday, January 16, 2021 at Calvary, 48th and Baltimore Ave.** If you have not recently given blood, please make a New Year's resolution to help others in need. Your gift will be priceless. **All donors will receive a coupon for free coffee and donut at Dunkin' Donuts.** For information or to make an appointment, please contact Fran Byers at 267-312-2255.

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 Toni Bush tonibush2@verizon.net

SFDS School Receives Anonymous Gift

"Our SFDS parish school received a million dollar gift from an anonymous donor! Just in time for Christmas, this gift was presented to principal Sister Mary McNulty to use for tuition assistance, needed by 93% of the school's students. A small number of students joined Sister Mary in the school auditorium Dec. 15, where Jim Downey, development manager of Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS), presented the check to the school during a brief, socially distanced ceremony. The quality of our school is described in CatholicPhilly.com: "St. Francis de Sales has to date produced eight graduates who were named Gates Millennium Scholars and received full scholarships to the colleges of their choice. The school partners with the nearby University of the Sciences for its STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) curriculum, and with Villanova University for NovaCANE sessions, which bring university faculty and staff to the classroom to introduce students to structural, environmental, chemical, electrical and mechanical engineering. St. Francis de Sales also participates in Play on Philly, an intensive music education program consisting of 15 hours of weekly instruction. With COVID, 'half of the students are in person, and half are learning virtually,' said Sister Mary"

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Jennifer Baugh, Eleanor Brooks, Spenser Brown,
Becky Brown, Phyllis Buckhan, Christopher
Browne, Dawn Byers, Bob and Claudia Christian,
Edmund Coccagna, Adlyn Cummings, Gisselle
Marie Burgess, Michael Farley, Ruth Harrell,
Paula Harvey, Shirley Hinson, Vashti Holden,
Frank Innes, Bernadette Jengo, the Joseph family,
James Kettor, Don McDermott, 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



Bob Byers

Ellen McConney (sister of Sr Jane McFadden)

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.



Sanctuary Lamps for January

The Sanctuary Lamps for the month of January
have been donated for the greater glory of God
and for Alfonso Cavaliere.

THANK YOU

Father Eric is deeply grateful to the parish angels
who made leadership gifts for the Sound System
Upgrade. At print deadline, these included:

Sue Weiler
Fran Byers
Mark and Michele Supple
Tim Potens and Molly Schmitt
Peter Cline and Adrienne Chapman
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Springer
Tommaso Maiocchi
Nora J. Hunt Johnson
Todd and Margaret Kovich
Patricia Hoyt
Paul and Angie Coughlin

Many thanks for your generosity!

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.*”

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

Contact 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



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