

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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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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 21, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

There are so many great characteristics of our parish community. Here's an interesting one: more people at SFDS have told me that they fast from meat the entire 40 days of Lent than any other parish I've been assigned combined! That is a sign that parishioners here take Lent seriously. And of course, that is a very good thing. God wants to use this "acceptable time" to change our hearts. We need to say no to our material desires somewhat so that we can recognize our absolute need for God. You've inspired me to consider adopting this meatless Lent in my own life going forward.

What is neat about the Lenten fast – even in its current form of meatless Fridays – is the fact that we all do it together. It is a distinctive mark of Catholic culture and life. And in this world which flattens so much of culture into marketable and quantifiable pieces, we should try to emphasize those unique aspects of Catholic life as best we can.

After today, the readings and prayers of Lent begin to shift from Baptismal preparation (and the accompanying prayer, fasting, and almsgiving) to preparation for the celebration of Good Friday, what we traditionally call "Passiontide." I once had the immense privilege of making the Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem. Yet we can bring Jerusalem to our neighborhood and our homes by prayerfully accompanying the Lord in these final weeks of Lent.

May God be Blessed!
-Father Eric Banecker

Our Holy Week schedule is as follows: Palm Sunday - regular Sunday schedule. **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of Holy Week** – 7 AM Mass. **Holy Thursday** – 7 PM Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, with church open until 10 PM for prayer at the repository / Night Prayer at 10 PM. **Good Friday** – 7 AM Morning Prayer, 3 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, 7 PM Stations of the Cross. **Holy Saturday** – 9 AM Morning Prayer and Blessing of Food / 8 PM Easter Vigil Mass. **Easter Sunday** – 7 AM and 10:15 AM.

This Sunday's Readings start on page 119 of the missalette:

JER 31:31-34; HEB 5:7-9; JOHN 12:20-33

Third Scrutiny EZE 37:12-14; ROM 8:8-11; JOHN 11:1-45



MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Readings can be found at:

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

Saturday March 20

9:00 AM Sister Marilou MacDonald

4:15-4:45 PM Confessions

5:00 PM John Cooney

Sunday March 21

Fifth Sunday of Lent

7:00 AM Joanne Plokr

9:00 AM Confessions

10:15 AM People of the Parish

Third Scrutiny

Monday March 22

7:00 AM Therese Weldon

Tuesday March 23

St. Turibius de Mogrovejo

7:00 AM Fr. Eric Banecker

Wednesday March 24

7:00 AM Fred Austin

5:00 PM Holy Hour, Benediction, and
Confessions

Thursday March 25

Annunciation

7:00 AM Gerry Woodard

Friday March 26

7:00 AM Joe Fergus

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday March 27

9:00 AM

4:15-4:45 PM Confessions

5:00 PM

Sunday March 28

Palm Sunday

7:00 AM

9:00 AM Confessions

10:15 AM People of the Parish

COLLECTION AS OF MAR.14

Weekly \$4,475.50

Mass Intentions for 2021 and 2022

The 2021 and 2022 Mass Books are 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.

PREP Corner



On Monday March 15, 2021, fourteen students from our parish school and PREP program received the Sacrament of **First Penance** as they are preparing to receive **First Communion** on April 11, 2021. Please keep them in your prayers!

Paschal Candle, Sanctuary Lamp



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

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.

Quo Vadis Camp - LOTTERY Mar. 1 - April 30



The Vocation Office is EXCITED to be offering our annual Quo Vadis Camp for high school men as an in-person event in 2021!!! Quo Vadis will be held from **Monday, June 28th to Thursday, July 1st**. We can only return to an all in-person experience by taking necessary precautions, including, but not limited to, restricting the number of participants...Thus, this year, registration will be limited to 50 high school men. Because of the limited available spots, registration for Quo Vadis 2021 is by LOTTERY. The lottery opened at 9:00 am on Monday, March 1st and will close at midnight on Friday, April 30th. The lottery application form is available on our website HeedtheCall.org/QuoVadis.

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.

Saint Nicholas Owen (Mar. 22)

St. Nicholas Owen was a short, lame, Jesuit lay brother from a devout Catholic family in England, who learned woodworking from his father and worked as a carpenter in the late 1500s, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

At that time, during the English Reformation, Catholicism was considered treasonous, so Catholics who continued to practice their religion in secret needed special hidden passages and rooms built into their houses to hide visiting priests from government authorities. Nicholas Owen worked as an ordinary traveling carpenter under various assumed names by day, and a builder of secret passages at night. It is thought that his work was so clever, that some of his secret spaces may still be undiscovered! Owen was finally captured in 1606 and put to death in the Tower of London. Canonized in 1970, he is regarded by some as the patron saint of **illusionists and escapologists**.

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, 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.



Sanctuary Lamp for March

For the greater glory of God
and for **Lonnie Perry Sr.**

The Sanctuary Lamps for the month of March
have been donated by
Jacqueline McCrea and Brian Yachyshen.

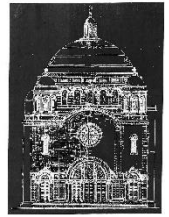
What Do You Think?

Be sure to fill out your Parish 2021
Disciple Maker Index survey at

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

SFDS HISTORY MYSTERIES: Parish Report Card

An old folder recently yielded up a copy of our parish **2002 Self-Assessment of the Pastoral Plan** – our parish self-written “report card” – put together under 12th pastor Father Roland Slobogin, almost twenty years ago, to mark the start of our “*Second Hundred Years*.” That surprisingly interesting time capsule included several pages from an earlier report, composed by Angie Coughlan and Maureen Tate in 1995 for 11th pastor Father Janton, offering some “*reflections for consideration*” that were still considered relevant in 2002. Do they seem familiar?



“We have long sensed a need for collaborative decision-making at St. Francis de Sales. The need exists for the ministry team as well as the Parish and Finance Councils and parishioners. Great efforts are made in the areas of parish life but they are not coordinated or in communication with each other. There needs to be further development of the Parish Council so that it can be included in decision-making with the ministry team as well as solicit input from parishioners.”

“There has long been a great need for dialogue about liturgy. Because of our diverse community we have many views on liturgical music, symbol and ritual, and the spirit of worship that makes prayer possible...” (This was topical in 2002, since SFDS and MBS had recently been twinned; we became a combined parish in 2007)

“We currently have no vehicle for addressing the social and spiritual needs of our teenagers. We need to find a way for them to be a more visible presence in the community and to enable them to make their own contribution.”

“Our social action focus has been limited to direct service and referral. Parishioners who constitute the microcosm which is St. Francis de Sales face issues of race, class, economic injustice, violence and community disintegration on a daily basis in very real ways and we need the Church to provide some guidance or forum in which to address these major influences in our lives and community. For those who are working on these issues constantly, we feel that we should be making a Christian response and yet there is not a way to help one another discern what this might be.”

“There have been very infrequent and limited opportunities for adult spiritual enrichment. We recognize that past efforts were not always well attended but we believe there needs to be a consistent effort to build this into our parish life. Many of our parishioners could be resource people for such programs.”

“When funds were available parishioners valued and benefited from the resources of a DRE (A Director of Religious Education to run the PREP. Now we have Sr. Alice!) Parents are willing and able to maintain the religious education program for children although administration, development and growth is very limited...”

“Although our parish is well regarded by the community we have observed that there is no interaction with other churches in the immediate neighborhood. We do have some relationship with the other Catholic churches of West Philadelphia although this is also very limited. Because of the pressing social problems in our midst and because other church communities are trying to address these same immediate concerns we feel that the community and parishioners would benefit by collaboration with the other churches...”

“We noted that our parish school is an important resource in the parish. There does exist, however, a significant separation between the school community and the parish...” (The school became independent in 2011)

At least we’re consistent? Our 2021 parish survey is now underway – be sure to participate and make your voice count!

Find more at <https://SFDSHistory.wordpress.com>; Contact mduolework@hotmail.com