

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
on venmo @SFDSPhiladelphia

Reverend Eric J. Banecker
Parochial Administrator
fr.eric.banecker@gmail.com

Rev. Msgr. George Strausser
In Residence

Rev. Benjamin Nwanonenyi
In Residence

Rector: (215) 222-5819

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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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 21, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

On this First Sunday of Lent, we welcome Most Rev. Michael Fitzgerald, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, for the celebration of Confirmation. In the Gospel, we hear how the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by Satan. That same Holy Spirit strengthened our Lord to resist those temptations and remain completely faithful to the Father's mission for him. Who knows what exciting plans the Holy Spirit has for the young people receiving Confirmation today! We pray that through the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit, they may walk with Jesus and proclaim him as Lord by the witness of their lives. We are all proud of you all, my dear young friends! I pray that as you are sealed forever with the gift of the Holy Spirit, you may joyfully embrace God's plan for your life. Thank you to Bishop Fitzgerald for being with us today and to the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for preparing the school and PREP students, along with our excellent and dedicated candidates. Thanks especially to the parents of these young people who have made this day possible in countless ways.

I am happy to announce that our parish has been chosen by Catholic Leadership Institute to participate in their Next Generation Parish model. This is a multi-year commitment in which trained ministry leaders help our parish to discern its strengths and opportunities and put in place new models to help us thrive well into the future. I am grateful to Dan Cellucci, President of CLI, for adding our parish to the upcoming cohort of parishes. Part of the process is that all parishioners will be able to take a survey called the Disciple Maker Index which provides important feedback to me and to CLI as we begin this process. More information to follow very soon!

May God be Blessed!
-Father Eric Banecker



The descending dove is one of the symbols of the Holy Spirit used to represent the sacrament of Confirmation

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Readings can be found at:

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

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 Elmer & Maryann Chestnut

8:30 AM (additional mass this week)

10:15 AM People of the Parish

Sacrament of Confirmation

with Bishop Fitzgerald

Monday February 22

Chair of St. Peter The Apostle

7:00 AM Marianna Daly

Tuesday February 23

St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

7:00 AM John Cooney

Wednesday February 24

7:00 AM Anne M. Feerick

5:00 PM Holy Hour, Benediction, and Confessions

Thursday February 25

7:00 AM Kip McNeal

Friday February 26

7:00 AM Constance D. Nevadomski

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

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

10:15 AM Michael Springer

COLLECTION AS OF FEB. 16

Weekly \$3,098.50

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

PARISH NEWS AND NOTES

Rectory hours are by appointment only until further notice.

Lenten Faith Sharing Has Begun: All Are WELCOME



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. Contact Sister Alice: sralicedaly@comcast.net, or (215)-485-2005.

Paschal Candle



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

Color OUR Collections: Free SFDS Coloring book!



Every February, the NY Academy of Medicine sponsors an online event, in which libraries, archives, and other cultural institutions around the world are invited to share free coloring books based on materials in their collections. In past years, our SFDS Parish History Archives has contributed stained-glass windows and other church details to color, and 1920s parish bulletin advertising art. This year's parish coloring book celebrates parish organizations and activities of yesteryear. Check out all the offerings – from SFDS to Drexel University to the Vatican Libraries and beyond at <https://library.nyam.org/colorourcollections/>

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.

A LENTEN CALENDAR

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/>

Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle (Feb. 22)

This Feast Day celebrates the idea that Pope is the Bishop of Rome and the head of the Universal Church, based on a line of succession going back to Saint Peter. Originally, the feast celebrated a real chair – thought to have been the very one on which Peter once sat. That ancient seat, still preserved at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, was completely encased in a throne-shaped metal reliquary by sculptor Bernini in the 1600s. Modern science suggests that the wooden chair beneath the elaborate metal sculpture is not quite as old as Peter after all, but it remains an earthly symbol of Papal authority.

SFDS Stations of the Cross are Posted At:

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

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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.



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation, in which a young person becomes a full member of the church. The sacrament is called *Confirmation* because it confirms the faith given in Baptism, when parents and godparents spoke for the child; at Confirmation, the young adult accepts personal responsibility.

Those being confirmed wear red robes as a sign that they are inviting the Holy Spirit into their lives. The red color is a reminder of the Holy Spirit's appearance to the apostles in the form of red flames at Pentecost, which gave them courage to practice their faith.

The Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, received at Confirmation, are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude (courage), knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

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 38th 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 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!

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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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We Acknowledge

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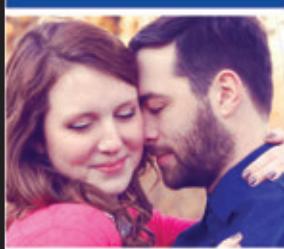
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