

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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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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: LAETARE SUNDAY

March 14, 2021



Dear friends in Christ,

As I mentioned a couple weeks ago, our parish has been chosen to participate in Catholic Leadership Institute's Next Generation Parish program. This is a two-year process in which parishioners work with consultants from CLI to craft and implement a pastoral plan designed to make and form disciples of Jesus Christ. I am very excited about this initiative.

On Palm Sunday weekend, we will be joined by Lucille Smith here at St. Francis de Sales who will be observing our parish in action and possibly chatting with a few people. Please be sure to say hello!

This Friday, March 19th is the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, which is extra special this year since we are in the Year of Saint Joseph declared by Pope Francis. It also happens to be the day our Disciple Maker Index (DMI) goes online. This is a survey which is a critical part of the Next Generation program. It allows us to gauge parishioner's perspectives on a variety of topics and helps us to understand how we can grow as a parish. You can access the DMI at this link beginning March 19th:

<https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/k317223dck>. I hope that you will take the time to fill it out and share it with fellow parishioners.

May God be Blessed!
-Father Eric Banecker

This Sunday's Readings start on page 113 of the missalette:

2 CHR 36:14-16, 19-23; EPH 2:4-10; JOHN 3:14-21

Second Scrutiny 1 SAM 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; EPH 5:8-14; JOHN 9:1-41

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Readings can be found at:

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

Saturday March 13

9:00 AM Mary H. Duff and Anne McBride
4:15-4:45 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Alan Thomas

Sunday March 14

Fourth Sunday of Lent: Laetare Sunday
7:00 AM People of the Parish
9:00 AM Confessions
10:15 AM Theodore F. and Mary Deady
Second Scrutiny

Monday March 15

7:00 AM Patrick J. Feerick

Tuesday March 16

7:00 AM Michael J. Feerick
7:00 PM First Penance

Wednesday March 17

St. Patrick

7:00 AM James J. Feerick
5:00 PM Holy Hour, Benediction, and Confessions

Thursday March 18

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

7:00 AM John Malatesta

Friday March 19

St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary

7:00 AM Sisters of the Assumption
Archdiocesan Novena to St. Joseph
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

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 Plohr

9:00 AM Confessions

10:15 AM People of the Parish
Third Scrutiny

COLLECTION AS OF FEB. 21

Weekly \$4,328.00

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.

If you have items for the Bulletin, contact
mdooleywork@hotmail.com

PARISH NEWS AND NOTES

Rectory hours are by appointment only until further notice.

This Weekend's Second Collection is for solidarity for churches in Latin America

Archdiocesan Novena to St. Joseph Starts March 19



"The praying of this Novena is to unite everyone in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on the 19th of each month, from **March through November 2021**, in single petition of confident prayer to the Lord through the heavenly intercession of Saint Joseph." Please keep in mind the Archdiocesan intentions: in March, this will be "For the local Church in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and for a greater fidelity to the demands of the Gospel on the part of all." We will pray this Novena here at SFDS after the 7AM Mass each month on the 19th.

Speaking the Truth in Love at the Cathedral March 24



"On Wednesday, March 24th from 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. the Sisters of Life will present 'Speaking the Truth in Love' at the Cathedral. In a time of great social turmoil, how do we as Catholics bring to the world the truth that it so desperately needs while also being a presence that unites and heals? This talk will show us how to proclaim boldly the truths of our faith while maintaining a disposition of love towards those who may be hostile to our views. It will prepare us for those crucial conversations about the hyper-charged issues of our day, whether on the level of public discourse, family discussions or dialogue between friends."

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 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.

Employment Opportunity

Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is currently seeking Residential Aides for Mercy Hospice, Saint John's Hospice, Visitation Homes, McAuley House, and Women of Hope - Lombard. For more information about these job opportunities and to apply, please visit our career website at: <https://archphila.applicantpro.com/jobs/>

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 (**with the exception of Friday, March 19th, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**). 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.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day (Mar. 17)

Saint Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland, but did you know he is also the Patron Saint of Nigeria -- and our parish has an especially good Nigerian-Irish connection, since Father Ben's cousin is Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, Papal Nuncio to Ireland!

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 (47th and Chester) in your prayers in this time of Covid!

REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED



Sister Marian David, 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.

"I would like to tell you something very personal. I have a great love for St Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table, I have a statue of St Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the church. Yes! We know that he can do that. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath St Joseph so that he can dream about it. In other words, I tell him: pray for this problem!"

(Pope Francis)

Laetare Sunday

The fourth Sunday of Lent marks the halfway point, and offers a break in the solemnity of Lent. It is sometimes called "Laetare Sunday" because The Latin version of the Introductory Antiphon begins with the word "Laetare" (lay-TAH-ray), meaning "Rejoice." Rose-colored vestments may be worn today instead of Lenten purple.

SFDS HISTORY MYSTERIES – The Hand of St. Joseph

Have you ever noticed that when sculptor Adolfo de Nesti carved our statue of St. Joseph, back around 1911, he depicted the saint with his eyes closed?

Perhaps that has protected him from having to witness a lot of "indignities" heaped on our statues over the years.

In pre-Vatican II times, John Deady recalls "at least twice a year they used to hang a shrine around his neck. One was for the feast of Christ the King in October, another that occurred around this time of year was a portrait of St. Francis X for the annual Novena of Grace. These were drapes and pictures of the appropriate individual." He notes that "The Blessed Mother was not spared this indignity: at Christmas she was hidden behind Christmas trees as a backdrop for the manger and again she held up the elaborate repository that was set up for Holy Thursday....The Holy Thursday repository was particularly elaborate..."

During Lent, before Vatican II, the statues in the church were draped in purple. This wrapping of statues entailed a certain amount of manhandling by the crew of boys who helped out at the time. The late Don McDermott recalled how the boys who assisted at the Holy Saturday Liturgy, would then "stand in assigned places around the packed church and at the Gloria they would in perfect unison using the long window poles from the school classrooms, uncover all the statues as the bells rang." This provided a dramatic ritual, but the wielding of long poles with metal hooks in a crowded space might have offered its own perils.

The statues of the Sacred Heart and St. Francis de Sales both stood proudly up in the sanctuary for many years: the Sacred Heart, to the right of the Blessed Mother; and St. Francis de Sales, to the left of the St. Joseph altar. They were both banished – the Sacred Heart, unceremoniously shuffled to the side of the church, and St. Francis de Sales to the back -- with the Vatican II "de-cluttering" of the sanctuary, probably during the Venturi neon lights renovation in the late 1960s.

In modern times, Mary and Joseph were half-concealed behind the heavy metal scaffolding that filled the sanctuary from 2006 to 2013, during roof repairs. Saint Anne and Saint Anthony are still hidden in the lonely darkness behind the metal mesh on the sides of the church. For awhile, Saint Anthony sported a construction helmet to protect him from falling debris; today, the two statues are shielded under rough wooden shelters.

The custom seems to have been revived, recently, of mummifying statues in purple, in the last two weeks of Lent "at the discretion of the local pastor." It is suggested that "The veiling of crosses and images is a sort of 'fasting' from sacred depictions which represent the paschal glory of our salvation."

One might wonder how meaningful is this veiling, if the statues are not appreciated the rest of the year: how is it that nobody noticed when St. Joseph's index finger broke off, sometime in the past ten years or so! Our statues of St. Martin de Porres and the Sacred Heart also have damaged fingers. The Sacred Heart is ancient breakage, badly repaired; St. Martin's cracked finger is more recent.

We're not sure when or how the damage to our St. Joseph statue occurred, but it's part of our story now. Perhaps we should take it as a symbol and caution: he used to raise his hand in blessing, pointing to the heavens; today, his hand curves down, his thumb pointing towards himself. Did our world turn inward when we weren't watching? We need to point to the heavens once again! In the "Year of St. Joseph," perhaps that should be our parish mandate.

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



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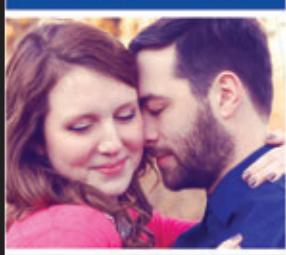
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