

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*

**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

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### December 6, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we continue on our Advent journey, we will pause this week to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary is the patroness of the United States under this title and of course is the patroness of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. As we celebrate this wonderful feast, we call to mind the fact that from the first moment of her conception, Mary, by a singular grace, was free of all stain of original sin. For her entire existence, Mary has been the greatest disciple of her Son and a model for every Christian.

We at Saint Francis de Sales Parish have been blessed by the faithful witnesses of the IHM Sisters almost since the founding of the parish. I am grateful for their continued service to our community at Saint Francis de Sales School, the IHM Center for Literacy, and PREP, RCIA, and Outreach Ministry in the parish. Even more, I am grateful for their joyful witness of the evangelical counsels. Happy feast day, sisters!

A couple announcements about our Christmas schedule:

-I have decided to add an “overflow” Mass at 5pm on Christmas Eve in the lower church in addition to the 5pm in the main church. This will allow people to spread out a bit, as I am told that the 5pm is normally the largest Mass in terms of attendees.

-Our Midnight Mass for Christmas will be celebrated this year by Bishop Timothy C. Senior, Rector of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary and Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia. Bishop Senior has been a friend of our parish for many years, and I am grateful that he has decided to join us for Midnight Mass this year.

-In addition to Midnight Mass, we will have Mass at 10:15am on Christmas Day.

May God be Blessed!

-Father Eric Banecker



## MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Readings can be found at:

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

### Saturday December 5

**9:00** John Nguyen

ISA 30:19-21, 23-26; MAT 9:35-10:1, 5A, 6-8

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

**5:00 PM** Jeremiah Kulasegram

### Sunday December 6

#### Second Sunday of Advent

**7:00 AM** Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis

First Anniversary

**9:00 AM Confessions**

**10:15 AM** Theodore F. and Mary Deady

ISA 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 PET 3:8-14; MARK 1:1-8

### Monday December 7

#### St. Ambrose

**7:00 AM** Dec'd Members of the Ganley Family

ISA 35:1-10; LUKE 5:17-26

**5:00 PM** Richard Bryant

### Tuesday December 8

#### Immaculate Conception Holy Day

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

**7:00 PM** Vint Deming

GEN 3:9-15, 20; EPH 1:3-6, 11-12; LUK 1:26-38

### Wednesday December 9

#### St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

**7:00 AM** Maria Pham

ISA 40:25-31; MAT 11:28-30

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

### Thursday December 10

#### Our Lady of Loreto

**7:00 AM** John Cooney

ISA 41:13-20; MAT 11:11-15

### Friday December 11

#### St. John Damasus I, Pope

**7:00 AM** Augustine Pham

ISA 48:17-19; MAT 11:16-19

### Saturday December 12

#### Our Lady of Guadalupe

**9:00** Gail Allard

ZEC 2:14-17; LUKE 1:26-38

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

**5:00 PM** Robert Johnson

### Sunday December 13

#### Third Sunday of Advent

**7:00 AM** Augustine Pham

**9:00 AM Confessions**

**10:15 AM** People of the Parish

## PARISH NEWS AND NOTES

Rectory hours are by appointment only until further notice

This week's second collection is the Retirement Fund for Religious. You can also send your donation any time to the rectory – use the special envelope or just make a note that you would like the funds to be sent to that cause.

### Parish Christmas Tree Lighting Dec. 12



On Saturday, December 12th after the 5pm Mass, we will light our parish Christmas tree in a socially distanced celebration. Father Eric invites you to bring statues of the infant Jesus from your home nativity sets – he will bless those statues that evening as well.

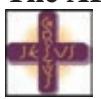
### Red Cross Blood Drive Dec. 19



There will be one more blood drive this year on **December 19** from 9 AM to 2 PM at Calvary, 48th and Baltimore Ave.

The need is very great, especially since the lockdown began. High schools and businesses have traditionally been successful blood drive sites, but many are not available during this time. Interested? For information or to make an appointment, please contact Fran Byers at 267-312-2255. Please consider donating blood if you have not recently done so. **THANK YOU to all the donors at our November 28 blood drive, where 29 pints were collected, helping almost 90 patients in need. You gave the gift of life, in this season of giving.**

### 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.

### Pope Francis Builds A Nativity Scene (Part 2)

*"With what emotion should we arrange the mountains, streams, sheep and shepherds in the nativity scene! As we do so, we are reminded that, as the prophets had foretold, all creation rejoices in the coming of the Messiah. The angels and the guiding star are a sign that we too are called to set out for the cave and to worship the Lord."*

*"Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us' (Lk 2:15). So the shepherds tell one another after the proclamation of the angels. A beautiful lesson emerges from these simple words. Unlike so many other people, busy about many things, the shepherds become the first to see the most essential thing of all: the gift of salvation. It is the humble and the poor who greet the event of the Incarnation. The shepherds respond to God who comes to meet us in the Infant Jesus by setting out to meet him with love, gratitude and awe. Thanks to Jesus, this encounter between God and his children gives birth to our religion and accounts for its unique beauty, so wonderfully evident in the nativity scene." (More next week. Find the full Dec.2019 "Admirabile Signum" under Apostolic Letters at <http://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>)*

## COLLECTION AS OF NOV. 29

Weekly \$4,816.00

Fiscal YTD \$94,335.94

Contact [mdooleywork@hotmail.com](mailto:mdooleywork@hotmail.com)

## **PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

Jennifer Baugh, Eleanor Brooks, Spenser Brown, Becky Brown, Phyllis Buckhan, Christopher Browne, Bob Byers, Dawn Byers, Edmund Coccagna, Adlyn Cummings, Gisselle Marie Burgess, Michael Farley, Ruth Harrell, Paula Harvey, Shirley Hinson, Vashti Holden, Frank Innes, Bernadette Jengo, the Joseph family, Don McDermott, Venus Murphy, Wilma Noel, Marie O'Connor, Denise Pogue, Martin Prowisor, Jack Ruane, 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**



**Sister Clare, IHM**

**Sister Mary Christopher, IHM**

**Richard A. Bryant, husband of Adriane Jones Bryant**

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.



**16th Pastor, Msgr. Joseph J. Anderlonis S.T.D. (SFDS 2016-2019; died Dec. 6, 2019)**

**Fourth Pastor, Bishop Hugh Lamb (SFDS 1936-1951; died Dec. 8, 1959)**

## **CARDINAL WILTON GREGORY**

The Washington Post reported that “*Wilton Gregory, the archbishop of Washington, became the first Black American to earn the rank of cardinal Saturday (Nov. 28) in a pandemic-altered Vatican ceremony.*” In an interview, Gregory said he hopes to be a “*voice for the African American community in the pope’s ear.*” The Post notes that “*Gregory, who turns 73 in December, is the fourth American named a cardinal by Francis.*”

## **SFDS HISTORY MYSTERIES: The Lesson of the Christ Child**



The Parish Monthly Calendar for Christmas 1929 made no mention of the October stock market crash which triggered the Great Depression, but it did urge parishioners “*WE ASK YOU TO BE MORE GENEROUS THAN EVER IN YOUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING.*”

A year later, the pastoral letter observed that “*The world is in dire need of a spirit of optimism today...*” and a small news item in the Parish Monthly Calendar mentioned that the Girls’ Corps (a Girl Scout-like parish organization) had gathered donations to put together “*thirty-four well-filled baskets*” of food for the poor of the parish, distributed in December 1930.

Another year passed and the Parish Monthly Calendar reported that on December 20, 1931, “*members from the Girls’ Corps with girls from the Commercial Class* (girls not planning to go to High School) *accepted donations at the door of the church*” in the morning, then, held an afternoon *Christ Child Party*, in which “*children and adults crowded the school auditorium and presented gifts of food and various articles of clothing for the poor in honor of the Christ-Child, the exemplar of poverty.*” Ninety-six boxes of food thus gathered were then sent out to “*the needy families of the parish*” and “*a consignment of clothing and shoes was distributed to the children whom the Sisters in school knew to be in need.*”

Troubles continued. The January 1933 Parish Monthly Calendar reported that *De Sales Night* – the much-anticipated annual church party at the luxurious Bellevue-Stratford Hotel – was canceled “*because of the stress of the times*” and a less costly entertainment would be held, instead, at the Byrd Movie Theatre, 47<sup>th</sup> and Baltimore. A full-page article praised the efforts of all who had helped with, or donated at, the 1932 charitable Christmas *Christ-Child Party* (run by the St. Vincent de Paul Conference). That year “*The need was much greater: so much so that one fears to mention the number of families in our parish that had to be helped...*”

As the Great Depression settled in, through the 1930s, the threat of hunger and homelessness loomed very real for many parishioners.

What was in the charity boxes? They sound remarkably like Covid-era lockdown kits, consisting of bushels of potatoes; tins of vegetables and fruits; lots of dried beans (assorted kinds); onions; coffee; sugar; butter; milk (in tins); bread; jelly; and oatmeal. Scrapple and chicken were the meats. Oranges and a little hard candy were offered as a treat. No toys: gifts included stockings, underwear, blouses, shoes, and other items of clothing.

It doesn’t seem like a lot by today’s standards, but new underwear, shoes, or socks might have been welcomed by children in a large family, and potatoes with chicken could make a good Christmas dinner. People didn’t have as much, and they didn’t expect as much: outgrown clothing was “handed down” until it wore out; then the pieces were turned into quilts and other handcrafts. Moth-eaten sweaters could be unraveled and re-knitted into gloves. An old sock could be fashioned into a doll or stuffed animal, and a wooden grocery crate made a scooter or cart. Mothers were adept at turning unappetizing food scraps into satisfying meals; picky eaters went hungry.

Now, decades later, the wheel of fortune has turned again and some of those long-forgotten coping skills have been rediscovered as families learn to manage Covid lockdowns, unemployment, and shortages. We are more isolated because of contagion, but we do have internet and phones to connect, and snail-mail still works. And we are conscious that we need to be less wasteful in order to save our shared environment. Covid is a reminder, calling us back to core values. Looking at the Nativity scene, Pope Francis observed last year: *we cannot let ourselves be fooled by wealth and fleeting promises of happiness....From the manger, Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalized.*”

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

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	<p><b>Mallory's Army Foundation</b>          United Together In The Fight Against Bullying...          Don't Just Teach Kindness...  <b>BE KINDNESS!</b>  <a href="http://www.MallorysArmy.com">www.MallorysArmy.com</a>          (973) 440-8657  <a href="mailto:info@mallorysarmy.org">info@mallorysarmy.org</a>          It's easy to join our mailing list!          Just send your email address by text message:          Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.   Message and data rates may apply.</p>	 <p>"Whom shall I send, and who will go?"  <b>GO FOR US?</b>  <small>TURN I SAID. ISAIAH 6:8</small>          "Here am I! Send me."</p>	
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