

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 Center for Literacy:
(215) 382-0292

Religious of the Assumption
Convent: (215) 386-5016

Star Harbor Senior Center:
(215) 726-7468

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD January 3, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

The parish where I grew up in South Philadelphia is Epiphany of Our Lord. The beautiful church, where I celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving after ordination, is at 11th and Jackson Streets. At some point, the parish adopted a motto that would appear on various documents and even in a mosaic over the entrance. It was this: "Seeking the Light...Sharing Him."

That is what this wonderful feast of Epiphany is all about, and really what our Christian lives are all about. Like the magi who journeyed by the guidance of a star, we are pilgrims making our way toward the Lord. Yes, there is often much stumbling on our part. But the hope of Christmas is the fact that God has entered into our space. He sheds his light upon us in order to draw us to where he is. This is the heart of Divine Revelation. Then, like the magi, once we have sought the light, we must share Him by proclaiming what we have seen and heard. Some will be skeptical. Others, like Herod, actively hostile. But others will indeed seek after Christ in response to our word.



The Church Fathers reflected on the fact that the shepherds and magi found the child lying in a manger, a place where animals normally feed from. Christ is our true nourishment, our food for eternal life. He gives us himself in the Eucharist. I am excited about the return of our parish's Forty Hours Devotion. On those three days – January 24th, 25th, and 26th – our parish can together seek the face of the Lord, present in the Blessed Sacrament. I encourage everyone to sign up for an adoration time and to plan to attend the three evening services (5pm Sunday, 7pm Monday and Tuesday).

Happy New Year!

-Father Eric Banecker

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Readings can be found at:

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

Saturday January 2

Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

9:00 AM Special Intention

4:15-4:45 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Louise Farinella

Sunday January 3

Epiphany of the Lord

7:00 AM Joseph LePone

10:15 AM People of the Parish

ISA 60:1-6; EPH 3:2-3a, 5-6; MAT 2:1-12

Monday January 4

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

7:00 AM Fred Austin

Tuesday January 5

Saint John Neumann

7:00 AM Fra Marco Luzzago

Wednesday January 6

Saint Andre Bessette

7:00 AM Betsy Williamson 4th Anniversary

5:00 PM Holy Hour, Benediction, and Confessions

Thursday January 7

Saint Raymond of Penyafort

5:00 PM Elenora Matawalu

Friday January 8

7:00 AM Deceased Members of the Ganley Family

9:00 AM School Mass

Saturday January 9

9:00 AM Jane Halpin

4:15-4:45 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Jeremiah Kulasegram

Sunday January 10

7:00 AM Samuel Saidu

10:15 AM Theodore F. and Mary Deady

COLLECTION AS OF DEC. 13

Weekly \$5,575.00

Fiscal YTD \$105,296.94

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

A Note of Appreciation



Heartfelt thanks to the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary Philadelphia Central Committee (PCC.) for selecting our parish as one of ten organizations to receive \$1,000 gifts to help out with expenses in this time of Covid. CatholicPhilly quotes Janice Paige, acting president of the PCC and grand lady of the organization's court number 342, saying "This is our way of showing our love and support for our priests and our churches..." Founded in 1909, the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary work to further the legacy of their patron saint, who ministered to African slaves in Cartegena, Colombia during the 17th century. "He is a role model, and the epitome of being charitable to your fellow man," said a representative."

SFDS Crafts Ministry Celebrates Another Busy Year



The SFDS Crafts Ministry has creative members who never stopped to take a breath during this unusual year. For part of the year, they worked diligently at home until the time came when they could sit and work in a socially-distant manner on the front porch of the Assumption Convent. They have been knitting and crocheting afghans and lap robes, scarves, as well as clever soap holders that can double as wash cloths for members of the community in need. They made 60 afghans and lap robes and 94 soap holders which were given as Christmas gifts to the Renaissance Nursing Home, the Rudolphy Home for the Blind, Father Doug McKay's Our House Ministries at St. Gabriel parish, a local group home, and St. Ignatius Nursing Home. Are you interested in joining in to share your needlework skills to make life more comfortable for the less fortunate? You are more than welcome to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month at 1 PM at the Assumption Convent, 1001 S. 47th Street. Just call Sister Clare at 215-386-5016 or Paula Harvey at 267-539-6247.

EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION (USCCB)

The proclamation of the date of Easter and the other moveable feasts on Epiphany dates from a time when calendars were not readily available. It was necessary to make known the date of Easter in advance, since many celebrations of the liturgical year depend on its date. The number of Sundays that follow Epiphany, the date of Ash Wednesday, and the number of Sundays that follow Pentecost are all computed in relation to Easter...The Epiphany proclamation...is a reminder of the centrality of the resurrection of the Lord in the liturgical year and the importance of the great mysteries of faith which are celebrated each year.

Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts For 2021

Know, dear brethren (brothers and sisters),
that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,
so by leave of God's mercy
we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection,
who is our Savior.

On the **seventeenth** day of **February** will fall **Ash Wednesday**,
and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the **fourth** day of **April** you will celebrate with joy **Easter Day**,
the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the **thirteenth** day of **May** will be the **Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ**

On the **twenty-third** day of **May**, the feast of **Pentecost**.

On the **sixth** day of **June**, the feast of the **Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**.

On the **twenty-eighth** day of **November**, the First Sunday of the **Advent** of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Jennifer Baugh, Eleanor Brooks, Spenser Brown, Becky Brown, Phyllis Buckhan, Christopher Browne, Bob Byers, 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, Martin Prowisor, Dorothy 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



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.



**Msgr Francis J. Fitzmaurice died Jan 5, 2004
(SFDS Parochial Administrator 1973-1976;
8th Pastor 1976-1977)**

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

The word *Epiphany* comes from Greek and means *to show*, referring to Jesus being revealed to the world. The *Solemnity of the Epiphany* commemorates the visit of the Magi (or Wise Men or Kings), traditionally from Europe, Arabia, and Africa, to the Christ Child at Bethlehem – and their recognition of Christ’s holiness, with symbolic gifts of gold (royalty); frankincense (divinity); and myrrh (hint of the future: a perfume used in embalming).

The traditional date of Epiphany is Jan. 6, but in the United States, it is celebrated on the Sunday between Jan. 2 and Jan. 8. There are many customs related to the Epiphany. In Spain, France, and Mexico, a special cake is cut and shared, and the person who finds the charm hidden in their piece of cake gets to wear a paper crown and be “King” for the day. In South America, children leave food overnight for the Three Kings’ camels and get treats in return.

SFDS HISTORY MYSTERIES:

Mystery Box



A dusty box of metal pieces in the back of the rectory basement tells a tale of long ago.

You probably don’t recognize the Addressograph Multigraph (AM) company name, even though *The New York Times* reported that “its embossed metal address plates were once as common as business cards in millions of offices.”

Once upon a time, every organization that mailed things in bulk, used Addressograph or similar specialized equipment to print envelopes and address labels. AM also produced the chunky devices used to process credit card purchases and roll out their carbon copy receipts in stores and businesses worldwide.

What’s the connection with our parish?

For many years, the ledgers show steady monthly payments to the Cleveland Ohio company for the equipment used to address parish mailings. This was an important administrative function for a busy large parish, using heavy machines housed with the equally-important weekly-collection coin counting mechanisms in the Rectory basement (remember coins!). First, an Addressograph device stamped out a permanent raised-letter metal address plate for each parish family (the same technology used to create military dog tags). Color-coded tabs added to each plate indicated membership in different parish organizations. A group of plates could then be selected, slotted into a cartridge, and fed into a machine which pushed them, one by one, against an inked ribbon, to impress the addresses onto envelopes or pages that passed through the rollers – similar in principle to an old-fashioned typewriter’s operation. Lots of parish activities meant lots of outgoing mail.

Like our parish membership, AM’s business reached its peak in the expansive, optimistic, moon-landing 1960s, when anything seemed possible. The Post Office introduced Zip Codes in 1963, which improved efficiency, and mass mailing became ever more popular. Business opportunities seemed endless. Then came the uncertainties of Watergate, President Richard Nixon’s 1974 resignation, the energy crisis, and an economic recession. AM’s mood turned conservative, focused on maintaining existing business, and new product development stalled – though elsewhere, technology continued to evolve. Suddenly noticing that it was behind, *The New York Times* reported that in 1979, AM “stumbled in a desperate effort to migrate from the mechanical to the electronic age,” and went bankrupt: “a classic case of the failure of a major office-products concern to cope with new technology...” Its employees painfully moved into other businesses, learned other trades, and started over in new careers – sometimes in other countries.

Meanwhile, our parish faced its own challenges, as city demographics changed. Parish membership dropped alarmingly through the 1970s, as longtime parishioners moved out to the suburbs. Stacks of unused obsolete address plates piled up in a forgotten corner as the parish adapted to its new slim size and budget, while at the same time trying to embrace Vatican II renewal. The Vietnamese refugee ministry offered a new focus with the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Information delivery sped up for a new era: the stately monthly calendar became a weekly handout in church, eventually to be supplemented by websites and Facebook. The once-vital U.S. Postal Service became known as “snail mail.” We eventually became the combined parish of St. Francis de Sales United by the Most Blessed Sacrament.

What would the world have been like if things had stayed the same? Typewriters. Dictaphones. Mimeograph machines. Heard of those? Remember them? They’ve all been replaced and the companies that manufactured them either adapted to new conditions, developed new ideas, and revitalized -- or became extinct – while the wheel of history rolled on. A cautionary tale for Parish life!

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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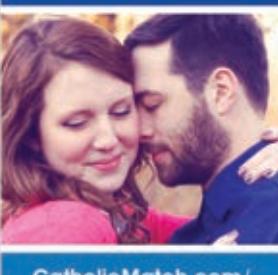
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