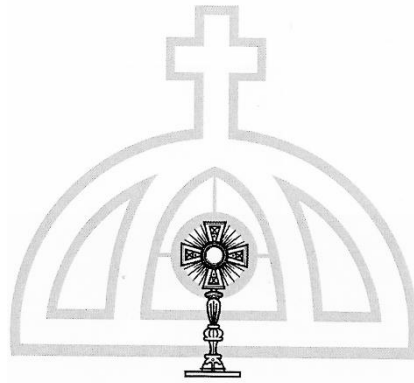


Welcome to proudly-blended  
Saint Francis de Sales Parish  
United by the Most Blessed  
Sacrament. SFDS Parish was  
founded in 1890; Most Blessed  
Sacrament Parish was founded  
in 1901; St. Francis de Sales  
Church was built in 1911; and  
the two parishes merged here in  
2007.

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](http://saintfrancisdesales.net)

on venmo @SFDSPhiladelphia

Reverend Eric J. Banecker  
Parochial Administrator  
[fr.eric.banecker@gmail.com](mailto:fr.eric.banecker@gmail.com)

Rev. Msgr. George Strausser  
*In Residence*

Rev. Benjamin Nwanonenyi  
*In Residence*

Rectory: (215) 222-5819

SFDS School: (215) 387-1749

IHM Convent: 267-634-6936

IHM Center for Literacy:  
(215) 382-0292

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

Star Harbor Senior Center:  
(215) 726-7468

## PALM SUNDAY March 28, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

On this solemn day when we recall the Entrance of our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, his own city, and his death on its outskirts a few days later, we unite to him all the sorrows and difficulties of our lives: the coronavirus pandemic which has afflicted us in so many ways, those who are sick and suffering in our families, those in our city who suffer from violence and discrimination. The Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote a beautiful poem called “O Deus, Ego Amo Te.” As there is something about the mystery of the Cross which mere prose cannot convey, the rest of this letter belongs to Father Hopkins:

O God, I love thee, I love thee —  
Not out of hope of heaven for me  
Nor fearing not to love and be  
In the everlasting burning.  
Thou, thou, my Jesus, after me  
Didst reach thine arms out dying,  
And thou couldst see me sinning:  
Then I, why should not I love thee,  
Jesu so much in love with me?  
Not for heaven's sake; not to be  
Out of hell by loving thee;  
Not for any gains I see;  
But just the way that thou didst me

For my sake sufferedst nails and  
lance,  
Mocked and marred countenance,  
Sorrows passing number,  
Sweat and care and cumber,  
Yea and death, and this for me,  
I do love and I will love thee:  
What must I love thee, Lord, for  
then? —  
For being my king and God. Amen.



May God be Blessed!  
-Father Eric Banecker

**This Sunday's Readings start on page 123 of the missalette:**

MARK 11:1-10 or JOHN 12:12-16; ISA 50:4-7; PHIL 2:6-11; MARK 14:1—15:47 or MARK 15:1-39

## MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Readings can be found at:

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

### Saturday March 27

9:00 AM Joseph Cadet

4:15-4:45 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Filbert Owens

### Sunday March 28

#### Palm Sunday

7:00 AM

9:00 AM Confessions

10:15 AM People of the Parish

### Monday March 29

7:00 AM Thessalenuere Cortes

### Tuesday March 30

7:00 AM John P. Dooley

### Wednesday March 31

7:00 AM John Cooney

5:00 PM Holy Hour, Benediction, and  
Confessions

### Thursday April 1

#### Holy Thursday

7:00 PM Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

10:00 PM Night Prayer

### Friday April 2

#### Good Friday

7:00 AM Morning Prayer

Church is open all day for private prayer

3:00 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

### Saturday April 3

#### Holy Saturday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer & Blessing of Food

8:00 PM Easter Vigil Mass

### Sunday April 4

#### Easter Sunday

7:00 AM People of the Parish

10:15 AM People of the Parish

## COLLECTION AS OF MAR. 21

Weekly \$3,427.00

## 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 for all your Mass needs.

If you have items for the Bulletin, contact

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

## PARISH NEWS AND NOTES

Rectory offices will close at noon on April 1 and will re-open April 6.

Regular Rectory hours will resume Apr 6: Mon – Thu, 9 AM – 6 PM.

## Most Blessed Sacrament Chapel Reopening Easter Sunday



"Due to the pandemic, the MBS Chapel (located in the corner of our church by the Springfield Avenue doors) has been closed for a year.

We are happy to report that starting Easter Sunday, it will be accessible to parishioners once again! Those with a key will be able to access the chapel to pray before our Eucharistic Lord present in the tabernacle. As in the past, there will not be access to the main body of the church through the chapel. Those in need of a key to access the chapel should contact the rectory for assistance. Please wear a mask when others are present, and no more than three people can be present at this time due to covid restrictions."

## 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.

## Don't Forget to Turn in your Rice Bowl Offering!

Help feed the hungry, both near and far.

## Parish Stimulus!



"As summer nears, our parish has many opportunities to improve our church and our grounds. We are asking that you help by tithing (10%) your stimulus checks if you are not in need due to Covid. If each of us gives at least 10% of their \$1400, SFDS can make major improvements on our grounds. In particular, we are aiming to raise \$20,000 to repair our crumbling front steps. If you have not received a stimulus check because you are in a higher income bracket, please consider giving as well. through Venmo (@sfdshistory), Parish Giving, or by check. Just put 'Parish Stimulus' as your reason for giving!"

## The Great Unraveling of Society is Giving Way to Renewal

Read Fr. Eric's column on CatholicPhilly. Here's the link:

<https://catholicphilly.com/2021/03/commentaries/the-great-unraveling-of-society-is-giving-way-to-renewal/>

## SFDS Stations of the Cross are Posted At:

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

## GOOD FRIDAY 2021



The Bishops of the United States prescribe that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Good Friday. Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

"Why do Bermudians fly kites on Good Friday and not on other days? The legend says that a local teacher was trying to explain to his students during his Sunday School how Jesus elevated himself to heaven by self-power, i.e., about Christ's Ascension. Since he could not convince the students, he launched a kite that looked like Jesus Christ to explain the matter. Since then the Kite Festival is held on Good Friday at Horseshoe Bay Beach. Most kites still use a cross as part of its structure. Initially the kite flying was done only after 3 PM in the afternoon. However these days you will see the kites flying all day long."

(Bermuda Attractions)

## 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, Carol  
Byers Coccagna, 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 (47<sup>th</sup> and Chester) in  
your prayers in this time of Covid!**

## REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED



**Etta Bernard**

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.



### Paschal Candle

This year's Paschal Candle has been contributed  
by the  
**Jordan/Ellerby Families**

## What do You Think?

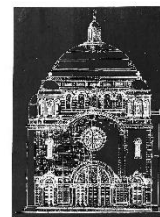
**What is most important to you? What does our  
parish do well? What could we do better?  
Everyone is invited to fill out the Parish 2021  
Disciple Maker Index survey on paper or at  
[https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/k  
317223dck](https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/k317223dck)**

### The Art of Improvisation:

*"Palm trees don't grow in Poland so people make  
artificial palm leaves, decorating them with tissue  
paper flowers and ribbons. Some of these fake  
palms can be higher than 30 metres and need  
multiple people to carry them! There are  
competitions for the best ones." (cbc kids)*

## 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?



St. Francis de Sales Parish  
12th Annual Self-Assessment of the Pastoral Plan

*"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](mailto:mduolework@hotmail.com)