

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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Philadelphia, PA 19143

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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

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER April 25, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

I came across a book in our sacristy recently. It looks like the other ritual books we use for Mass and the other sacraments. But this one is a bit different. It is called “Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest.”

I’m not sure how it ended up in our sacristy, as I’m quite sure (thanks be to God) that a Sunday has never gone by at de Sales without a priest to celebrate Mass. And yet, we must recognize that there are hundreds of parishes in the United States right now that do not have a resident priest. Such communities have to use that ritual book, in which a deacon or lay person leads prayers for the gathered community, but of course without Mass.

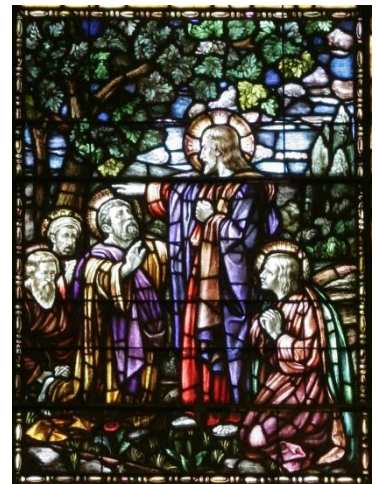
In the next ten years, 100 priests will retire in our Archdiocese. These are priests who were ordained during the final years of the last vocation boom (mid 1960s – mid 1970s). An optimistic projection is that we will ordain half that number during that time. Yet such trends are not inevitable. On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, we can remember to pray. And we can gently invite others to consider it.

Here in our parish, I think there are several young men who would make excellent priests. If you think that about a young man too, please let him know! There is no greater compliment than to receive such encouragement from family, friends, and fellow parishioners. A simple remark like that is one of the greatest ways to promote vocations. Trust me, I know this from my own life. The first person to tell me I was going to be a priest was a Franciscan sister named Sister Francine. I was in second grade. And after several bouts of cancer, she’s still very much with us and proclaimed the first reading at my first Mass a few years ago!

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, Jesus tells us in the Gospel of John, “I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep” (Jn 10:11). To be a priest today means simply - but profoundly! - to enter into this mystery of the Good Shepherd. It means responding to his voice, recognizing that in a world which often seems to have forgotten God, his presence is needed more than ever. As those who share in his ministerial priesthood, priests are called to lay down their lives in imitation of Christ.

Even if it seems that fewer men answer this call today, I am quite sure that Christ is still speaking to the depths of many hearts, issuing that same enigmatic invitation he made long ago: “Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Mt 4:19). Would you or someone you know like to set out on such an adventure? I promise you will not be disappointed.

May God be Blessed!  
-Father Eric Banecker



**This Sunday’s Readings start on page 179 of the pew book:**

ACTS 4:8-12;1 JOHN 3:1-2; JOHN 10:11-18

## MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Readings can be found at:

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

### Saturday April 24

St. Fidelus of Sigmaringen

9:00 AM Peg Eileen Bourke

Confessions 4:15 – 4:45 PM

5:00 PM Anna Batts

### Sunday April 25

Fourth Sunday of Easter

7:00 AM People of the Parish

Confessions 9:30 – 10:00 AM

10:15 AM Sophie Waters

**5:00 PM Solemn Vespers and Benediction**

### Monday April 26

7:00 AM Fran Byers and Carol Byers Coccagna

### Tuesday April 27

7:00 AM Kip McNeal

### Wednesday April 28

Saint Peter Chanel

7:00 AM John P. Dooley

### Thursday April 29

Saint Catharine of Siena

7:00 AM Philip Kleimenhagen

### Friday April 30

Saint Pius V, Pope

7:00 AM Sisters of the Assumption

### Saturday May 1

Saint Joseph the Worker

9:00 AM John Cooney

Confessions 4:15 – 4:45 PM

5:00 PM Joseph and Eileen Harte

### Sunday May 2

Fifth Sunday of Easter

7:00 AM John Cooney

Confessions 9:30 – 10:00 AM

10:15 AM People of the Parish

## COLLECTION AS OF APR. 11

Weekly \$3,338.00

### Intentions and Memorials

The **2021 and 2022 Mass Books** are open. The suggested donation for all Masses is \$10.00. 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.

If you have items for the Bulletin, contact

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

## PARISH NEWS AND NOTES

This weekend's 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection is for Catholic Home Missions

### Solemn Sung Vespers and Benediction at 5 PM



This Sunday, April 25th, our parish will have Solemn Sung Vespers and Benediction at 5 PM. We will host several of these throughout the year going forward so that parishioners can experience the beauty of these liturgies, which are a kind of "mini" Forty Hours celebration. Plan to join us for this evening of praise and blessings!

### Mission Philly for High School Students Meeting April 27



**June 21, 22, 23, 2021:** A unique opportunity to work among the poor and experience the Church right in our backyard. High school students from rising freshmen to rising seniors are invited to participate (older students may assist as chaperones). Catholic students from other parishes will join us on this service trip. **An information meeting** for interested families will take place on **April 27 at 7 PM via Zoom**. For questions and to register, contact Father Eric Banecker [fr.eric.banecker@gmail.com](mailto:fr.eric.banecker@gmail.com)

### Red Cross Blood Drive Fri. April 30, 2021 Noon – 5 PM.



St. Francis de Sales & Calvary Center Blood Drive  
Place: Calvary Center for Culture and Community - Hosted by St. Francis de Sales Parish. Give the gift of life! Sign up online to donate blood to the American Red Cross at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code: St Francis Calvary Community or call Fran Byers 267-312-2255 to arrange an appointment.

Calvary Center for Culture and Community – Sanctuary - 801 S 48th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19143 - 48th Street Entrance and go up the stairs and toward the right where the blood drive takes place. **\*Please wear a mask\***

### SFDS Parish Family Perkiomen Hike and Mass May 8



"Saturday, May 8th. Our parish is organizing a Mass and hike in the beautiful Perkiomen Valley in northern Montgomery County. The day will conclude with a cookout around noon before returning to de Sales. We are asking \$10 per person / \$15 for an entire family to participate. For more information and to register, please contact me ([fr.eric.banecker@gmail.com](mailto:fr.eric.banecker@gmail.com)) or call the rectory. **Deadline to register is April 30th.** We would request participants drive themselves back and forth, though we might be able to arrange for a limited number of rides if necessary."

### Free Library Offers Support to Job Seekers

Looking for a job? The Free Library has many helpful resources. Check out [freelibrary.org/jobseekers](http://freelibrary.org/jobseekers) or call 1-833-822-5357 for information.

### St. Joseph the Worker (May 1)

"To foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, and in response to the "May Day" celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker in 1955. This feast extends the long relationship between Joseph and the cause of workers in both Catholic faith and devotion. Beginning in the Book of Genesis, the dignity of human work has long been celebrated as a participation in the creative work of God. By work, humankind both fulfills the command found in Genesis to care for the earth (Gn 2:15) and to be productive in their labors. Saint Joseph, the carpenter and foster father of Jesus, is but one example of the holiness of human labor.

"Jesus, too, was a carpenter. He learned the trade from Saint Joseph and spent his early adult years working side-by-side in Joseph's carpentry shop before leaving to pursue his ministry as preacher and healer. In his encyclical *Laborem Exercens*, Pope John Paul II stated: "the Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated, and to help to guide [social] changes so as to ensure authentic progress by man and society." (Franciscan Media)

## 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, Joan Rolland, 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



**Carol Byers Coccagna (sister of Fran Byers)**

**Philip Diah Kpod**

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.

## Pope Francis April Prayer Intention:

*"Let us pray for those who risk their lives while  
fighting for fundamental rights under  
dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in  
democracies in crisis, that they may see their  
sacrifice and their work bear abundant fruit."*



## CONGRATULATIONS

To

**Tyler James Carter**

of our parish, and SFDS Troop 176,  
who received the

**Pope Pius XII Emblem – 2021** and the  
**Archdiocese of Philadelphia: Robert J. Gabage**  
**Catholic Scouting Award for 2021**  
at the Cathedral on April 10.

Well done, Tyler! We're all proud of you!

## SFDS HISTORY MYSTERIES:

### First Baptism



When William and Ellen Krapp baptized baby  
daughter Hannah, quietly, in a temporary new chapel above  
a Woodland Avenue store on October 19, 1890, they could  
have no idea that the brief record of their family event would  
be the opening line – the first recorded baptism -- in the long  
history of our distinguished parish. Nor could they foresee  
their own family tragedy just ahead.

Census data suggests that William and Ellen  
(known also as Ella) may have married the same year that  
Hannah was born. The son of German immigrants, William  
was a barber by trade, and a widower with two children, age  
four and six. We don't know anything about Ellen, except that her maiden  
name was McGettigan. They lived at 5210 Woodland Avenue.

A son named William Jr., known as "Willie," born a few years later,  
died at age fifteen months. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported his short sad  
story in a November 1895 court case: *"The mother of the child testified that  
she took him to the Jefferson Hospital for treatment for teething. She was given  
a prescription which was put up at the dispensary attached to the hospital,  
and when she got home she gave the child a tablespoonful of the liquid. Shortly  
afterwards he began to cry and had difficulty in breathing. The child went into  
convulsions, and when she took him to the Presbyterian Hospital the doctors  
said he was suffering from carbolic acid poisoning. Mrs. Krapp also said that  
when she kissed the child her lips pained her as if they had been burned by  
poison."* The child died shortly afterwards.

E. P. Stephens, the druggist at Jefferson, testified in court that the  
medicine he compounded for the child *"was harmless, and was composed of  
one-half grain of carbolic acid diluted with one ounce of water, and one ounce  
of peppermint water."* He brought a similar sample of the formula to court,  
but Deputy Coroner Dugan thought the provided liquid was not *"as strong as  
that which is supposed to have caused the child's death. 'You claim that the  
preparation is harmless,' continued Mr. Dugan, 'Wouldn't you be afraid to  
drink it?' 'Not at all,' replied Stephens,"* swallowing theatrically from the  
little bottle without any harm.

After this display, the proceedings were put on hold until the baby  
could be autopsied. Dr. Graham, the physician in charge of the children's ward  
at Jefferson, then tried to deflect blame to the mother for the child's original  
condition, testifying that *"the child had been affected with acute gastritis and  
catarrh of the stomach, brought on by improper feeding"* when he was first  
brought in. However, Dr. Griggs, of Presbyterian Hospital, who attended the  
child when he was near death, testified that he *"sampled the Jefferson Hospital  
prescription which had been administered to the little one...It was so strongly  
carbolic that his lips were burned by a portion, that accidentally ran down."*

On November 7, 1895, after reviewing the evidence, *"the Jury  
rendered a verdict to the effect that the death was due to a mistake made by  
E. P. Stephens, a drug clerk at the Jefferson Hospital"* who used too much  
carbolic acid in compounding the prescription (1 ounce instead of .5 grain).  
Stephens was not disciplined: *"The jury and Coroner Ashbridge and Deputy  
Coroner Dugan were very lenient toward Stephens...not even, subjecting him  
to a censure, for it was shown that, ordinarily, he was very careful in his  
duties. 'He has been compounding medicines for the past eighteen years, and  
it was the first mistake of the kind he has ever made.'"*

The mother died three years later in 1898, age 43 years, and was  
buried from our church.

Whatever became of Baby Hannah, the first baby baptized in our  
parish? Census data suggests she became an artist's model, downtown, at age  
19, before disappearing from the available records.

Find more at <https://SFDSHistory.wordpress.com>

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