

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

saintfrancisdesales.net

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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

EASTER April 4, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

Happy Easter! On this greatest of all feasts, we run with Peter and John to the empty tomb, we encounter Jesus in the garden with Mary Magdalene, and we experience the presence of the Risen Lord who comes to us and says "Peace be with you."

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the many ways you have welcomed me to Saint Francis de Sales Parish and for the support you have given to me and to each other in so many ways. Our Catholic faith is alive here in West Philadelphia, and it is my fervent hope that it will increase and grow stronger in the months and years ahead. I am grateful to be here with all of you.

Last week I shared the work of one of my favorite poets, Gerard Manley Hopkins. Today, I shall do so again. This is **Christina Rossetti's "Easter Monday:"**

May God be Blessed!

-Father Eric Banecker



Out in the rain a world is growing green,
On half the trees quick buds are seen
Where glued-up buds have been.
Out in the rain God's Acre stretches green,
Its harvest quick tho' still unseen:
For there the Life hath been.
If Christ hath died His brethren well may die,
Sing in the gate of death, lay by
This life without a sigh:
For Christ hath died and good it is to die;
To sleep whenso He lays us by,
Then wake without a sigh.
Yea, Christ hath died, yea, Christ is risen again:
Wherefore both life and death grow plain
To us who wax and wane;
For Christ Who rose shall die no more again:
Amen: till He makes all things plain
Let us wax on and wane.

This Sunday's Readings start on page **148** (Saturday Vigil) and **170** (Easter Sunday) of the missalette:
Easter Vigil: GEN 1:1—2:2; GEN 22:1-18; EXO 14:15—15:1; ISA 54:5-14; ISA 55:1-11; BAR 3:9-15, 32—4:4; EXO 36:16-17a, 18-28; ROM 6:3-11; MARK 16:1-7 **Easter Sunday:** ACTS 10:34a, 37-43; COL 3:1-4 or I COR 5:6b-8; JOHN 20:1-9

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Readings can be found at:

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

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

Monday April 5

7:00 AM James J. Feerick

Tuesday April 6

7:00 AM Samuel Saidu

Wednesday April 7

7:00 AM John Dooley

Thursday April 8

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

Friday April 9

7:00 AM John Cooney

Saturday April 10

9:00 AM John Cooney

5:00 PM Theresa Batts

Faith Sharing Mass

Sunday April 11

Sunday of Divine Mercy

7:00 AM John Cooney

10:15 AM People of the Parish

First Communion

COLLECTION AS OF MAR. 21

Weekly \$3,427.00

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



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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 – 4 PM.

Most Blessed Sacrament Chapel Reopens Today



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.

First Communion Next Sunday April 11 at 10:15 AM



On Sunday, April 11, 2021, fourteen students from our parish school and PREP program will receive **First Holy Communion** at the **10:15 AM Mass**. All are welcome to attend. Please keep them in your prayers!

Solemn Vespers and Benediction April 25



On Sunday, April 25th, our parish will have Solemn Vespers and Benediction at 5pm. 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. These periodic Vespers services will take the place of our Wednesday Holy Hour, which will be discontinued as of Holy Week. Plan to join us for this evening of praise and blessings!

Let Us Know What You Think!

How is your faith life? What does our parish do well? What could we do better? All are invited to fill out the Parish survey on paper or online at <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/k317223dck>

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.

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 (@sfdshphiladelphia), Parish Giving, or by check. Just put 'Parish Stimulus' as your reason for giving!”

Easter Eggs

The symbolism of the Easter Egg may have come, in part, from the Jewish Seder plate! According to Chabad.org, “In Aramaic, an egg is called *bey'a*, which also means ‘pray’...” and is a traditional Jewish food of mourning, recalling the destruction of the Second Temple: “The egg also symbolizes our hope and prayer for the future. When a chicken lays an egg, the egg appears to be a completed object. Yet in truth it isn’t complete, and the egg is just a preparation for the live creature that will emerge from it later...”

In Jewish religion, the Exodus from Egypt is considered the “preparation for the Final Redemption.” For Christians, the traditional symbol of rebirth references the Death and Resurrection of Christ.



Happy Easter!

Find our own SFDS Parish Easter Egg Coloring pages at:

<https://sfdshistory.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/sfds-easter-eggs-3.pdf>

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

REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED



Reverend Marshall J. Kloda, Retired, Resident,
Villa Saint Joseph

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.



Sanctuary Lamp for April

For the greater glory of God
The Sanctuary Lamps for the month of April have
been donated by
Joe & Nancy Ruane



CONGRATULATIONS to

**Rafael Patrick Gower
Dominic Thomas Clendening
Gabriel Isaiah Nichols**

Who were recently baptized in our church
Welcome to our parish family!

SFDS HISTORY MYSTERIES –

The Children's Hour



The year 1911 was important for the children
of our parish – and not just because the newly- built
church opened with great celebration and ceremony.

An old parish document states that “*Nineteen
hundred and eleven was a red letter year in the history
of the school, for the children of St. Francis de Sales,
shared with other children throughout the world the
benefits of the new Decree of Pius X, making possible the reception of our
dear Lord in Holy Communion at the early age of seven. Accordingly all the
little ones who had reached that age received our Lord on the First Friday of
May...*”

This was a big moment for the church. In October 1910, the
Philadelphia Inquirer had reported Pope Pius X's new decree that children
should receive their first Communion at the “*age of reason,*” when they
made their first Penance: “*regarding the points of instruction, it will not be
necessary for the child to know the whole catechism, as has been customary
heretofore in the United States.*” First Communion, which “*completed*” the
sacraments of initiation, came after Confirmation in those days:
Confirmation was regarded as a “*strengthening sacrament,*” rather than a
“*sacrament of maturity*” (the order didn't begin to change until 1932), and
the *Inquirer* reported that before the 1910 ruling, “*children making their first
Communion were usually between the ages of ten and fourteen.*”

The 1911 ceremony – which may have been a combination
Confirmation/First Communion -- probably took place in the original
chapel/school building, (the building that today contains the Parish
Auditorium), since the new church would not be ready until November and
we don't know what “*finishing touches*” were still underway. Unfortunately,
the Communion and Confirmation records for that year are unavailable, so
we don't know much about the actual ceremony, or the specific names of
those receiving the sacraments -- although we can guess that the list might
have included one of the Slattery boys -- sons of the local coal wholesaler,
who would help to “*baptize*” our bells in 1916; one of the Hasson girls --
whose big brother Philip would be the first boy ordained from our parish;
and perhaps one of the Dagits -- children of the architect, who may have
modeled for our angel sculptures; among many others.

Reverend Crane (who would later become a Bishop) chose a Friday
for the 1911 First Communion, so that children could continue afterwards
with “*The Communion of Reparation, the receiving of Our Divine Savior, on
the First Friday of every month for nine consecutive months....*” A 1928
report noted that this “*has ever been a devotion dear to the heart of the
Pastor, and the children have responded joyously to the call of Christ, and
the voice of their beloved shepherd...*”

Six years later, in 1917, when most of the children in the school
were receiving Communion, they mobilized further with the entrance of the
United States into World War I: “*A Children's Eucharistic League was
formed, the principal duty of which was to receive our Lord frequently that
He might bring peace to the war-ridden world....*” This was part of a much
larger movement, begun by Pope Pius X, who wanted everyone to take
Communion more often, and promoted the special power of children's
eucharistic participation – especially in times of trouble.

Incidentally, our Father Eric wrote a thesis on the changed order of
confirmation and First Communion, so we have our own “*in-house expert*”
to take us full circle on this interesting historical subject!

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

Contact mdooleywork@hotmail.com