

Welcome to 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.

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SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH  
UNITED BY THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

4625 Springfield Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19143

[Desalesphilly.com](http://Desalesphilly.com)

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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

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 22, 2022

Dear friends in Christ,

As I announced at all Masses last weekend, this academic year will be the last for the IHM Literacy Center on Farragut Street. After over 30 years of dedicated service to recent immigrants, the IHM Congregation has decided to merge the two literacy centers in Philadelphia into one new site. Ironically, the new site in the Juniata Park section of the city, is currently Saint Lucy's Day school, which is what the Farragut Street property had been before the literacy center began there. The finance and pastoral councils will be discussing plans for the property right away, as we also consider our lighting project and one or two unexpected building issues that will have to be addressed sooner rather than later. More information to come!

This Thursday is Ascension Thursday. It is a holyday of obligation in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Many of our parishioners from other parts of the country may not be familiar with this, as many places outside the Northeast and Nebraska (yes, that's not a typo) transfer the Ascension to Sunday. But around here we keep the Solemnity on the traditional 40th day after Easter, which also nicely maintains the traditional "novena" (nine days) of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost. We will have a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration and Vespers (with Confessions available) at 7pm Wednesday, the Vigil of the Ascension. Mass for the day will be at 7am and 7pm here in church. Many of our neighboring parishes are also offering additional Mass times that day.

Please keep in your prayers the six new priests of our Archdiocese ordained yesterday (Saturday) at the Cathedral by Archbishop Perez. I know them all from the seminary and am confident that they will be excellent shepherds after the heart of Christ.

May God be Blessed!  
--Father Eric Banecker



The IHM Literacy Center building on Farragut Terrace was once St. Lucy's Day School for the Blind

**This Weekend's Readings are on pages 186 of the pew book:**

ACT 15:1-2, 22-29; REV 21:10-14, 22-23; JOHN 14:23-29

## MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Readings can be found at:

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

### Saturday May 21

**St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions**

9:00 AM +John Malatesta

5:00 PM +Robert J. DeLuca

### Sunday May 22

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

7:00 AM +Rita Genzano

10:15 AM People of the Parish

### Monday May 23

7:00 AM +Patrick McCullough

### Tuesday May 24

7:00 AM +John Cooney

### Wednesday May 25

**St. Bede the Venerable; St. Gregory VII,**

**Pope**

7:00 AM +Yevhen Semenyshyn

7:00 PM **Vespers and Benediction**

### Thursday May 26

**Ascension**

**Holy Day of Obligation**

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

7:00 PM People of the Parish

### Friday May 27

**St. Augustine of Canterbury**

7:00 AM +John Cooney

### Saturday May 28

9:00 AM +Theodore F. and Mary Deady

5:00 PM People of the Parish

### Sunday May 29

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**World Communications Day**

7:00 AM People of the Parish

10:15 AM +Paula Harvey

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

**Sunday, May 15, 2022 :\$ 3,810.00**

### Intentions and Memorials

The 2022 Mass book is half-way filled and 2023 is now 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)

### Read Fr. Eric's Latest Commentary

<https://catholicphilly.com/2022/05/commentaries/if-roe-falls-not-a-time-to-strut-but-to-support-women/>

## PARISH NEWS AND NOTES

**Parish Offices will be closed on Ascension Thursday, May 26**

### Vespers and Benediction May 25



Vespers and Benediction this Wednesday, **May 25** at 7 PM – last chance before the Summer break; the next service will be Wednesday, **September 14th** at 7 PM;

### Parish Council Nominations Due May 29



If you'd like to submit a name, contact Fr. Eric by May 29 at

[fr.eric.banecker@desalesphilly.com](mailto:fr.eric.banecker@desalesphilly.com)

### Taizé Prayer For World Peace on Pentecost June 5



Join us at 5:00 PM as we pray for peace in Ukraine, and in all areas of conflict in our communities, in our country, and in our world. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!

### Register Now for Summer Camp June 20 to July 22



*DeSales Camp is an opportunity for your child to continue developing the knowledge and skills they have worked so hard to achieve throughout the school year. This program is designed to develop Critical Thinking Skills and Real World Problem Solving Abilities. Campers will have an opportunity to continue strengthening their Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary and Creative Writing Abilities. Younger campers will enhance their Reading, Phonemic Awareness and Math Skills. In addition to academics, campers will have plenty of time for athletics, arts and crafts and field trips! Program dates: June 20<sup>th</sup> – July 22<sup>nd</sup>. \$200/per week (First Child) for a total cost of \$1000 for one child. Sibling discount available. Contact 215-387-1749 or <https://www.desaleschool.net/>*

### Walk Softly, Carry a Willow Stick...



In a time long before good maps or GPS (or the Protestant Reformation!), people in Britain “*learned the boundaries of their community by foot. Every year, a few days before the feast of the Ascension, the members of each parish would come together to walk the edge of their common lands. The practice was called ‘beating the bounds,’ and the purpose was to create a shared mental map of the parish... They...sang songs, read homilies, and used slender willow-branches to swat the landmarks (and, also, reportedly, the choirboys) that separated one parish from another. The perambulation also served to bless the crops and to draw the people of the parish together.*” Philosophically, “*the parish came into being as its inhabitants walked it: both as a geographical space, and as a community.*” <https://daily.jstor.org/beating-the-bounds/>

Remnants of the Medieval tradition are oddly preserved in modern England: [Projectbritain.com](https://projectbritain.com) reports that “*Shoppers at Oxford's Marks and Spencers on Ascension Day are surprised when a troop of choristers, academics and visitors enter the lingerie department and proceed to beat a spot on the carpet with long canes, yelling ‘Mark! Mark! Mark!’ The store was built directly over the boundary of the (today Anglican) parish of St Michael's.*” (In case you are now curious, our current parish boundaries are mapped inside the cover of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book, and don't run through the middle of any buildings!)

### A Co-Patron Saint of Journalists?



Among the ten new saints canonized by Pope Francis last week, was the **Rev. Titus Brandsma**, a martyr saint who was killed at the Dachau concentration camp in 1942. “*In the runup to the canonization, a group of Dutch and German journalists formally proposed that Brandsma become a co-patron saint of journalists, alongside St. Francis de Sales, given his work to combat propaganda and fake news during the rise of Fascism and Nazism in Europe. According to an open letter sent to Francis this month, the journalists noted that Brandsma successfully argued for a ban on printing Nazi propaganda in Catholic newspapers. There has been no immediate response from the pope.*” <https://apnews.com/article/pope-francis-religion-2bfc385faab4816d57d956a90f7ac794>

## PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Carol Bailey, Jennifer Baugh, Rod Boston, Linda Bowen, Spenser Brown, Becky Brown, Phyllis Buckhan, Christopher Browne, Gisselle Marie Burgess, Fran Byers, Yolanda Calhoun, Jamie Camacho, Bob and Claudia Christian, Edmund Coccagna, Nasir Clark, Adlyn Cummings, John Deady, Ted Deady, Maria Luisa Delgado, Michael Farley, Ruth Harrell, Shirley Hinson, Vashti Holden, Bernadette Jengo, James Kettor, Venus Murphy, Wilma Noel, Marie O'Connor, Denise Pogue, Marve Prowisor, Joan Rolland, Jack Ruane, Nancy and Joe Ruane, Joseph Shurillo, Timothy A. Triplett, Jesse Verrecchia, Peter Villa, Harold Vincent, Ed Wells, Kristina Zaprasna

## REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED



**Ann Hibbs (longtime parishioner, age 97)**

**Anca Constantinescu**

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.

**Continuing prayers for the people of Ukraine**



## Congratulations

to all of our parishioners who are graduating this Spring. We celebrate your milestones, and your parish family is very proud of your achievements!

## Ascension Thursday May 26 Holy Day of Obligation

**This holy day celebrates the moment the Risen Christ left earth and entered heaven (as C.S. Lewis points out, we use “Ascended” to describe this, because it’s easy to visualize, but we don’t actually know how Christ “withdrew at His own will from the Nature presented by our three dimensions and five senses”).**

**Philadelphia is one of a few ecclesiastical provinces in the United States which retain Thursday, forty days after Easter, for the observance; the others are Boston, Hartford, New York, Newark, and Omaha. In most of the United States, and in many other places, observance of the feast has been moved to Sunday.**

## SFDS HISTORY MYSTERIES:

### The End of the Honeymoon



The 1930s are mostly remembered for the dreary slog of the Great Depression, the end of the national alcohol Prohibition experiment, and the dangerous rise of fascism around the world. But many personal milestones were also marked during the era – some with joy, some with sadness, and some in now-forgotten news headlines.

On September 1, 1934, our parish records show Reverend Toye officiating at the wedding of Joseph A. Drummond (of 3450 “F” Street) and Madeline Claire Finn (of 4618 Chester Ave.) M. Claire’s twin sister Marion was among the witnesses. A few hours later, following a wedding breakfast at the Hotel Normandie (36<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut), the couple went by train to New York City, to board a fateful honeymoon cruise.

The *Morro Castle* cruise ship was one of many “party boats” which had originated during the 1920s, to get around the Prohibition laws. The cruises sailed from New York City to Havana, Cuba, in two and a half days, spent two days there, then returned. It must have seemed like a perfect honeymoon: exotic travel with a hint of danger; elegant cocktails, dining, and entertainment; ocean, tropics, moonlight, and a touch of luxury – all in one short jewel-like week.

The Drummonds enjoyed the first part of their trip, sending postcards home from Havana saying they were having a “swell time.” Cuba was an interesting place: historians note that “*The period from 1933 to 1937 was a time of ‘virtually unremitting social and political warfare’*” but the travelers were largely cocooned from the troubles.

A first hint of disturbance came when the ship’s Captain Willmott, who had seemed preoccupied, complained of indigestion after dinner on the last night of the cruise. Shortly afterwards, he died of an apparent heart attack. The evening dance was canceled out of respect. Then, somewhere near the coast of Asbury Park NJ, fire erupted, possibly in two separate places onboard, and the acting captain and his crew discovered that the mechanisms on half of the attractively-decorated lifeboats were clogged with dried paint, and couldn’t be lowered.

Gale force winds whipped up an inferno. The *Catholic Standard* related a survivor’s terrifying tale: “*All the passengers were huddled together near the stern...There must have been 200 or more of us there. Most of them were half crazy with fear...Then...we saw Father Egan. He stood there outlined in flames...He raised his hands...and then he began to pray, while the passengers fell to their knees...Father Egan gave general absolution and then the fire got so close we all had to jump...*” The NY priest would be among those rescued, but at least 134 people died, and many others were injured.

The Drummonds gave a short interview from a hospital in NY, recalling that “*as the flames crept upon them they jumped hand-in-hand into the water. The impact of the water knocked Drummond unconscious*” but he retained a bruising grip on his wife’s wrist. They stayed together, and when a Cuban woman drifted up, crying for her children, “*they undertook to hold her above water*” for six hours until they became exhausted, and she flailed and drifted away to her death. A lifeboat picked them up an hour later.

Joseph Drummond had puzzled over one odd incident before they sailed from Cuba, when a young black boy tried to board and the captain “*seemed very excited. After the boy was searched he was put off the boat.*” Disgruntled sailors sometimes tried to supplement poor pay by smuggling goods and stowaways. Passengers were unaware of labor problems making the captain particularly jittery on this trip; the chief radio operator’s police record of theft, terrorist threats, arson, and murder has since come under scrutiny.

A handful of melted rosary beads, later recovered from the Drummond cabin, were the couple’s honeymoon memento, as they settled near the church at 4516 Springfield Ave. -- baptizing two children, *Joseph Kevin Drummond* in July 1935, and *Brian “Cresson” Drummond* in April 1939 – before disappearing into the mists of parish history.

More <https://SFDSHistory.wordpress.com>; contact [mdooleywork@hotmail.com](mailto:mdooleywork@hotmail.com)

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