

# St. Francis de Sales Parish



Saint Francis de Sales Parish  
129-16 Rockaway Beach Blvd.  
Belle Harbor, NY 11694

December 3, 2023  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday to Friday: 9:00am  
Saturday: 9:00 am and 4:30pm (Vigil)

## SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

8:00 am; 10:00 am and 12:00 Noon

## HOLY DAY SCHEDULE

Holy Day at 9:00am

## CONFESSION/SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturdays from 3:30-4:15pm  
Seasonal Penance Services during Advent and Lent

## RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm  
Saturday & Sunday by appointment only

## Pastoral Staff

The Very Rev. William F. Sweeney, Pastor  
Rev. James K. Cunningham, Associate  
Monsignor John J. Bracken (Retired) Sunday Assistant  
Deacon Vincent LaGamba  
Deacon Armand D'Accordo

## Parish Staff

Mrs. Dorothy Brenna, Parish Secretary  
Mrs. Anne Marie Greene, Director of Religious Education  
Mrs. Suzanne Blum, Assistant Administrator of Religious Education  
Mr. Michael Fontana, Music Director

## Parish Contact Information

Parish Office/Rectory Phone	718-634-6464
Religious Education Office Phone	718-945-6911
Parish Email Address	<a href="mailto:sfdsparish@aol.com">sfdsparish@aol.com</a>

## ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

St. Francis de Sales, a parish steeped in tradition, rich in natural beauty and bountifully blessed with a community devoted in love to serve God and our neighbor. We seek to live actively the Word of God through the example of our patron saint, a life devoted to energetic, generous and constant fidelity to the will of God. Empowered by the Holy Spirit we will grow in our faith through continuous education, formation, communication, and out-reach, while passing these values on to our future generations. We endeavor to be a most vibrant community of faith which will effectively utilize the talents, resources, and treasures of our parish for the good of all God's people.

### CARE OF THE SICK

If there is an elderly, sick or infirm parishioner who wishes to receive Holy Communion or the Anointing of the Sick, please call the Parish Office.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Communal Celebrations of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will take place the first Saturday of each Month at the 9:00 AM Mass.

### BAPTISM

Parents are asked to contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment with a priest or deacon to complete the Baptismal Registration Form. Parents are required to attend a Baptismal Instruction at 7:00pm on the First Thursday of the month. Baptisms are celebrated on the Second Sunday of the month at 2:00pm.

### MARRIAGE

Preparations for the Sacrament of Marriage are very important and take time. Couples planning to be married at Saint Francis De Sales are asked to contact the Parish Office no less than eight months prior to the wedding date. Please do not schedule the catering hall prior to making arrangements at the parish. Couples are required to attend the Pre-Cana Program of the Parish at least six months prior to the wedding.

### PARISH OFFERINGS

Available in the Parish Rectory during office hours.

Mass Stipend	\$15 per Mass
Bread & Wine for the week	\$50
Candles for the week	\$50
Flowers for the week	\$150

### Parish Trustees

Mrs. Kristin Franchock  
Mr. Michael Lee

### Parish Finance Council

Mr. Thomas Allison  
Mr. Gregory Bender  
Mrs. Rebecca Carey  
Mrs. Brynn Heegan  
Mr. Joseph Keenan  
Mr. Patrick Minson  
Mr. Dan Twomey

### Parish Council

Mrs. Kristin Franchock, Chair  
Mr. Jamie Agoglia  
Mrs. Janice Ameruso  
Mrs. Noelle Hutton Burns  
Mrs. Claire Conti  
Mr. Joseph Courtney  
Mr. Sean Fitzgerald  
Mrs. Meghan Flanagan  
Mrs. Lisa Hayden  
Mr. Timothy Henning  
Mrs. Chrystie Rasmussen  
Mrs. Kathy Roventini

### St. Francis de Sales Catholic Academy

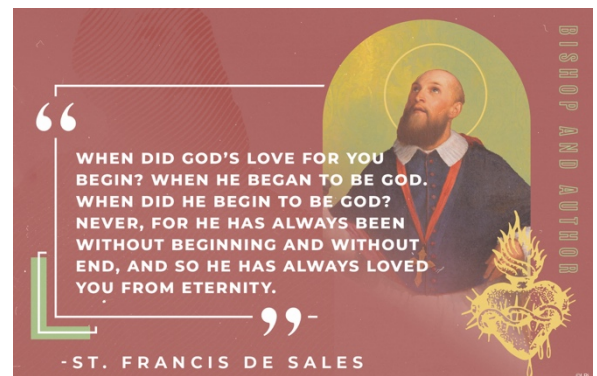
219 Beach 129 Street  
Belle Harbor, NY 11694  
(718) 634-2775

[www.stfrancisacademybh.org](http://www.stfrancisacademybh.org)



Dr. Christopher Scharbach, Principal  
Mrs. Maureen Hayes, Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Cathy Kenny, School Secretary  
Ms. Helen Endall, School Secretary

Parish Website: <https://sfdsparish.org/>  
Parish Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/sfdschurch>





**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 3 – 9, 2023**

**Sunday**

8:00 AM Msgr. Martin T. Geraghty  
10:00 AM Joseph (Joe) Farrell  
Nancy Argiro  
T. J. Curley and Kay Schmedlein  
William and Diane Erhard  
William P. Edwards  
Kathleen Denver  
12:00 PM Karolina Bobek (A)

**Monday**

9:00 AM Frank Brunner  
Oliver and Mary Rooney

**Tuesday**

9:00 AM Joseph (Joe) Farrell (A)  
Mary Ann Walsh (A)  
William Lavin 1st A

**Wednesday**

9:00 AM Louis Scala (B)  
Mary A. Meade

**Thursday**

9:00 AM Mary Mulqueen  
Thomas McNulty Jr. 28th (A)

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
Masses for the Holy Day**

9:00AM Barbara and Matthew Fasone,  
Ruth Boggiano and Marie Ebbets  
Carol Wood Farrell 6th (A)  
Michael Kulish (B)  
William Madden (B)  
7:00 PM Msgr. Joseph Nagel

**Saturday**

9:00 AM John C. Powers  
4:30 PM Elizabeth Betty McLaughlin  
Thomas, Rose and Chet McNulty

**Sunday**

8:00 AM Thomas Gavigan  
10:00 AM Bernice Olsen, John Jordan  
Michael Lyons (12<sup>th</sup> A)  
Mike Accettulli Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> A)  
Theresa Mure  
Thomas J. Coleman  
12:00PM Christopher Sugrue (5<sup>th</sup> A)  
Mackenzie Sugrue (B)

**SICK AND HOMEBOUND**

Kindly remember in your prayers:  
Jimmy O'Neill, Lynn Soren, Tess Kuhlmann,  
Janine Cerrone, Jim Bunyan, Carol Conroy,  
Chris Gallagher, Maria Barry, Rita Hayden  
and Gavin Merrill.



**REST IN PEACE**

Please remember our parishioners who have recently gone to eternal rest. Helen (Nellie) Sweeney.  
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of Christ rest in peace

**WEEKLY REMEMBRANCE:**



The Bread and Wine to be offered this week is in memory of:  
Robert B. Kelly Sr.

The Altar Candles this week are in memory of:  
Amodeo and Gildea Families



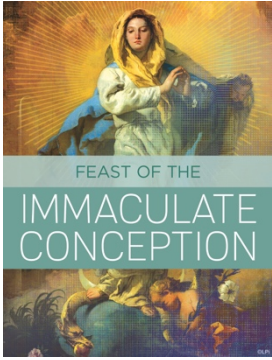
**PARISH 500 CLUB:**

Congratulations to this week's winners:

- o \$100 #032 Frances Shannon
- o \$50 #148 Edward J. Balfe
- o \$25 #201 Mary Hickey







## **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

Holy Day of Obligation

THIS: Friday, December 8

- 9:00AM Mass
- 7:00PM Mass

We hope to see you at Mass!

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## **UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS:**

- ✦ Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>  
The Sea Breeze Golden Age will meet from 12:00 – 3:00PM in the gymnasium
  - ✦ Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM  
Parish Tree Lighting to be held outside of the Parish Prayer Garden on Beach 129<sup>th</sup> Street and Rockaway Beach Boulevard. Hot Chocolate and Cookies will be served. Please join us!
  - ✦ Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:30PM  
Parish Family Mass. Followed by Family Pasta Night in the gymnasium. More information to come
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## **JOIN US TO PRAY THE ROSARY**

The rosary is prayed every morning at 8:40AM before the 9:00AM Mass and every Monday at 7:00PM in the church. Please join us!

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## **SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS**

For anyone over the age of 18 grieving the loss of a loved one, the St. Francis de Sales grief share support group is sponsoring a seminar Monday, December 4, 2023 at 7:00PM in the small hall. Refreshments will be served. For further information please call the rectory at: 718-634-6464

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## **THANKSGIVING APPRECIATION:**

Special thanks to everyone's generosity, almost \$9,000 was donated to provide Thanksgiving meals for the needy of the peninsula. Thank you also to the many families that donated meals for those at St. Mary's Parish in Far Rockaway.

Thank you also to the Graybeards for organizing the food drive which provided food to fill many of the food pantries at local parishes on the peninsula as well.

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## **CHRISTMAS TREES AND ANGELS**

With Christmas rapidly approaching, one of the ways that we, as a parish family, have shared the joy of the Christmas season has been through the Christmas Tree Garden of Lights and Angels. This year I invite you to join us once again as we light up St. Francis de Sales. Please consider helping us let the Light of Christ shine brightly once again by sponsoring a Christmas tree or angel.

Your donation in the name of your family, business or in memory of a loved one, will be deeply appreciated. Multiple families may join together in sponsoring a tree or angel.

We only have 20 angels available. If interested, please fill out the sponsorship form below.

- Tree Sponsorship is \$300
- Angel Sponsorship is \$500

Please visit or call the rectory to reserve your tree or angel or place your donation in the Sunday collection basket. Thank You!

I look forward to sharing in this blessed time of the year with you and remind you that amid the presents, decorations and parties, Jesus is our light and the true reason for the season!

- Father Bill Sweeney

**PLEASE KEEP OUR BRAVE  
MEN AND WOMEN IN YOUR  
PRAYERS, ESPECIALLY:**



**United States Army**

- ✝ Cadet Molly Murtaugh, USMA, West Point
- ✝ Cadet Aidan Smith, USMA, West Point
- ✝ Pvt. 1st Class Edward Conti\*
- ✝ CW4 Rafael Solis
- ✝ Sergeant First Class Patrick O’Leary

**United States Marine Corps**

- ✝ Corporal Frankie McVeigh
- ✝ Sergeant Matt McDade
- ✝ Second Lieutenant Jack Bambury
- ✝ First Lieutenant Terrence Stackpole\*
- ✝ Major James McKeon
- ✝ Lieutenant Colonel Elizabeth McKeon
- ✝ Colonel Brian Mulvihill
- ✝ Colonel Michaela Coughlin\*
- ✝ LNCPL Charles Watson
- ✝ Colonel J.P. Kearns
- ✝ PFC Jake Morales

**United States Navy**

- ✝ Midshipman Connor Bradwisch, USNA, Annapolis
- ✝ Midshipman Michael Strehle, USNA Annapolis
- ✝ Ensign Kevin Strehle
- ✝ Lieutenant Junior Grade Eamonn Gavigan
- ✝ Lieutenant Commander Sean Casey
- ✝ Lieutenant Junior Grade John Scaccia\*
- ✝ Lieutenant Briana R. Gorman
- ✝ Petty Officer Thomas Pulkowski

**United States Air Force**

- ✝ Sergeant Stephen Pulkowski
- ✝ First Lieutenant Thomas Glynn
- ✝ Staff Sergeant John Glynn

*\*Deployed*

***“Lord, hold our troops in Your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior. Amen.”***

If you have a son or daughter, relative or friend in the military, whose name and service you would like included in our bulletin, please contact the rectory at 718-634-6464. Also, if your loved one’s military service status or rank changes, please let us know.

**PARISH  
MINISTRIES:**



**Altar Servers:** Training for new altar servers occurs each spring for young girls and boys in the parish, grade 4 and older.

**Youth Faith Formation:** Designed for children aged 16 and younger that are baptized but did not make First Penance or First Holy Communion. Please speak with Mrs. Greene if interested.

**Lectors/Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist:** If interested in serving, please speak with Father Jim.

**Adult and Children’s Choir:** If interested please speak with Mr. Michael Fontana

**Right of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):** Designed for adults aged 16 in older interested in the Catholic Faith. Please speak with Father Jim if interested.

**Parish Council:** If interested in serving on the Parish Council, please speak with Father Bill.

**Sea Breeze Golden Age Club:** Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday from September to June in the SFDS Gymnasium from 12:00 – 3:00PM. For more information call Ellen Mondonca at 631-923-7866

**Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Sports:** For more information on the SFDS CYO Organization please visit:  
<https://sfdsparish.org/ministries/cyo>



We welcome you and encourage you to get involved in your parish! Please speak with any of the Priests, Staff or Parish Council Members if you have any questions. Thank You!



**FIRST SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 3, 2023**

**SUNDAY'S READINGS:**

First Reading: Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you. (Is 63:19)

Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80)

Second Reading: The testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 1:6-7)

Gospel: "Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming." (Mk 13:35)

**OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF  
DECEMBER 3, 2023**

- Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent
- Monday: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Tuesday:
- Wednesday: St. Nicholas, Bishop
- Thursday: St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Friday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Saturday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

**PREPARE FOR THE BIRTH OF CHRIST:**

1. Sit quietly for 5 minutes each day.
2. Read the daily Gospel. (You can sign up at USCCB.org)
3. Get an Advent Wreath. Say a prayer each time you light it at night.
4. Pray a decade of the Rosary before bed.
5. Read the opening chapters of the St. Luke's Gospel (the detailed account of Mary's fiat and the birth of Christ.)



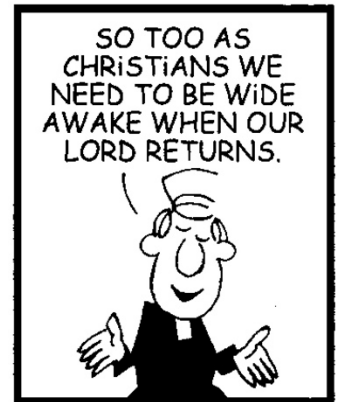
**PRAY FOR  
VOCATIONS**

*"God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen"*

In a special way we ask you to especially pray for **Seminarian Paul Zwolak**, who is with us here in St. Francis de Sales Parish.

For more information on vocations, we encourage you to speak with Father Bill, Father Jim, Monsignor Bracken or the Diocesan Vocation Office: 718-827-2454

**1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



 **PUZZLE**

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel.

WATCH	COME	MIDNIGHT
READY	MASTER	DAWN
TIME	EVENING	MORNING

U W A T H O W Y S W U  
 M O R N I N G T I E L  
 A T Y U T K U A G V P  
 S U N H A Y C O M E Y  
 T I M E W I H P A N D  
 E C B W U E **W** I E I A  
 R E A D Y L A N O N L  
 Y H O A E I T E H G E  
 S A R W L S C P Y H W  
 M I D N I G **H** T W O R  
 A T E K U A O U S F I

 **MISSION**

Play a quick game of baseball. Cheer for one another. End the game with a prayer that you will keep your eyes on Jesus.

 **COLOR**

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.

