



Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church

**"Not only is God always in the place
where you are,
but God is in a very special manner
in the depths of your spirit."**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025

"O" Antiphons

Yes, you read the title right. That's "O" the letter of the alphabet that most reminds us of breakfast cereal, tires, doughnuts, hula-hoops, no-hitters, and Advent. In many parishes, "O" is the first word said in the new Church year. Actually, we sing it in Advent's most popular song, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." It announces the season that anticipates the coming of Christ at Christmas. This hymn is used to announce that Advent was ending. The last eight days of Advent form a little "season" all by themselves. As the Church prepares for the birthday of Christ, the liturgy gets more intense. At daily Mass, the Gospels relate the events leading up to the first Christmas. At Evening Prayer, we have a special series of antiphons that beckon the Messiah to come. Each night gives him a new name, drawn from the Old Testament. "O Wisdom," "O Sacred Lord," "O Flower of Jesse's Stem," "O Key of David," "O Radiant Dawn," "O King of All Nations," and the greatest of them all, "O Emmanuel," a name that means "God is with us." For reasons that will be immediately obvious, we call that group of refrains the O Antiphons, a hallmark of Advent, and a collection of music our church has treasured for many generations. The Mass now includes a version of them as the alleluia verses for the same eight days before Christmas. By the Middle Ages, those seven antiphons got strung together into a popular hymn. The last one became verse one, and "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" was born. Thus, the antiphon originally established for the last evening before Christmas Eve is now often sung to begin Advent. That "O," of course, simply tells us that we're talking to someone. It's like saying, "Hey, you." Only more politely. But "O" reminds us of much more. It makes us think of something having no beginning and no end. Like love or an Advent wreath. It resembles the shape of our mouth and the sound we make when we face a mystery we cannot fully comprehend.

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PRAY WITH US

MASS~LA MISA

SUNDAYS:

9:00am, 11:00am,
12:30pm Spanish

MONDAY, TUESDAY,
THURSDAY FRIDAY:

8:30am

THE ROSARY

prayed

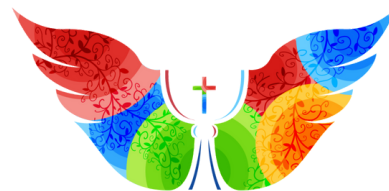
after the 8:30 AM Mass
during the week.

All are welcome to pray with us.

VISITS TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

(Praying in Church)

WEEKDAYS 9am - 4pm



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 14, 2025

9:00am- For the Parish of St. Francis de Sales

11am- Tony Chaidez Gamboa (D)

12:30pm- Para la parroquia de San Francisco de Sales

Monday, December 15, 2025

8:30AM- Grace Lee (D)
Daniel Facciuto (D)

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

8:30am- Erin Lee (D)

Thursday, December 18 2025

8:30am-Anna Lee (D)
Gabriel Ynostroza (D)

Friday, December 19, 2025

8:30am- Clare Lee (D)
Elizabeth Schiano (D)

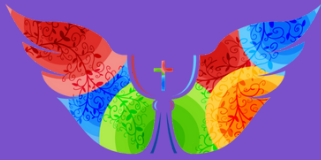
FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Brittany Parker

for our loved ones,
for those in hospitals and nursing homes
for those who have no one
to pray for them

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Fernando Campuzano Gonzalez



SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM OF INFANTS

The Baptism of a Child is an important event in the life of a family and the life of the Church.

We encourage registered active members of the parish to contact us to begin preparation.

We ask that this begins two months before the intended Baptism date.

Baptisms are celebrated at Sunday Mass once a month.

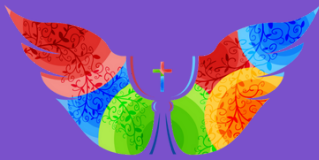
COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

If you or someone you love is unable to attend Mass due to serious illness or limited mobility, and are homebound, our parish ministers are ready to bring Holy Communion to them with prayer and care.

PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION (Confession)

If you would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, our priests are available by appointment for a quiet, prayerful, and personal encounter with God's mercy.

For more information, please contact the Parish Office



STEWARDSHIP

WEEKLY GIVING

Dec 2nd-Dec 8th

\$6,017.96 online debit giving

\$2,473.00 Sunday collection basket

Mailed in Checks

TOTAL \$8,490.96

ONLINE GIVING



Tithely



venmo

PARISH MEETINGS AND MINISTRIES

THE ROSARY

The Rosary is prayed
after the 8:30 AM Mass during the week.
All are welcome to pray with us.

CONNECT & ENCOUNTER

Those interested in becoming Catholic ,
seeking Confirmation
or anyone with have questions
Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Church Office

PARISH CHOIRS

11:00 Mass Choir rehearses
Thursday at 7:00 PM
El coro de la misa de 12:30 ensaya
los jueves a las 6:00 en el salón parroquial.
contact Travis Bloom
at travisbloom@sfdsnyc.org

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

10:00-11:00 AM
Session on December 14
Session on December 21
No Session on December 28

BOOK CLUB

Contact Mary Braza at brazamary@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP/YOUTH NIGHT Open to youth ages 13-17

First Meeting
Sunday, January 11
2:00-4:00 PM
in the parish hall

YOUNG ADULT GROUP -20 and 30 year olds

Prayer, Reflection and Fellowship
December 10 at 7:00 PM

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Next meeting-
Thursday, December 18 at 7:00 PM
Contact Pat Latona at latonapal@gmail.com

GRUPO DE JOVENES ADULTOS

16 de diciembre **de 7:00-8:30 PM**
en la salón parroquial

HOPE WALK

Saturday, December 13
10:00 AM in the Parish Hall

THE ASSOCIATION (Daughters) OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

Next meeting is
Sunday, December 14 at 1:45 PM
Church Office

NEW LITURGICAL MINISTERS

For more information
contact Joe Long
joelong@sfdsnycorg





Christmas Flowers

Help us prepare our church for the joy of Christmas by supporting Christmas flowers and seasonal decorations.

Your gift helps create a beautiful, prayerful, and peace-filled space where all are invited to pause, pray, and encounter God during the holy days of Christmas.

Donations may be made in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for blessings received.

Please use the "Christmas Flowers" envelope (or note Christmas Flowers on your check) or give online and select Christmas Flowers.

Thank you for helping St. Francis de Sales be a welcoming place of beauty, reverence, and hope this Christmas season.

PENANCE SERVICE

Servicio de Penitencia

(Confesiones)

Monday, December 15

6:45 PM

Prepare the Way of the Lord
Preparar el camino del Señor



THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

WHAT?

The way we embrace Christ's call to **conversion**.

The step we take to express true **repentance** for our offenses.

The **confession** of our sins.

The reception of **God's pardon and peace**.

The **restoration** of our relationship with God and with the Church.

After Jesus declared that Peter would be the rock upon which he would build his Church, he said to Peter, "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."
(Mt 16:13-20)



After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples, extended his peace, breathed the holy Spirit on them, and sent them out saying, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."
(Jn 20:19-23)

WHY?

We were born with the effects of **original sin**: disobedience toward God and a lack of trust in his goodness (Gen 3:1-11).

God the Father sent his Son, **Jesus Christ**, to save us from our sins (Jn 3:16).

Jesus accomplished his saving mission by establishing the **Kingdom of God** and by suffering, dying on the cross, rising from the dead, and ascending into heaven (Mt 5:17).

Jesus established the **Church** to continue his saving mission by the power of the Holy Spirit through the celebration of the sacraments (Mk 1:15, Jn 19:34, Acts 2: 1-4, 2 Cor 5:18).

Through **faith** in the Gospel and **Baptism**, we are first washed clean of all sin (Acts 2:38).

Through the **Sacrament of Penance**, we continue to experience the forgiveness of our sins
(Mt 16:13-20, Jn 20:19-23).

How?

THE *ORDER OF PENANCE*

The Church celebrates the Sacrament of Penance using the *Order of Penance*.

The revised rites and formulas of the *Order of Penance* of the Second Vatican Council were promulgated in 1973. A new translation was provided in 2023.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Penance or “**going to confession**” is a liturgical action that consists of:

1. The Reception of the Penitent
2. The Reading of the Word of God (Optional)
3. The Confession of Sins and The Acceptance of Satisfaction
4. The Prayer of the Penitent and The Absolution
5. The Proclamation of Praise of God and The Dismissal of the Penitent

THE ACTS OF THE PENITENT

1. Contrition (sorrow for sin)
2. Confession (inward examination, outward accusation)
3. Satisfaction (an act of penance)

“Penance requires . . . the sinner to endure all things willingly, be contrite of heart, confess with the lips, and practice complete humility and fruitful satisfaction.”

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1450)



Going to Confession in Twelve Easy Steps

1. **Examine your conscience, call to mind your sins, and then enter the confessional.**
2. The priest will welcome and receive you.
3. **Make the sign of the cross and say:** “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”
4. The priest will invite you to trust in God. He may also read a text of Sacred Scripture.
5. **Say these or similar words:**

“Bless me Father for I have sinned. It has been _____ long since my last confession. These are my sins...”

6. **Tell the priest your sins. Then say these or similar words:** “For these and all of my sins, I am sorry.”
7. **Accept your work of penance (prayers, act of kindness, etc.) to help make satisfaction and amend your life.**
8. **Express your sorrow for your sins (Act of Contrition) in these or similar words:**

“O my God, I am sorry and repent with all my heart for all the wrong I have done
and for the good I have failed to do,
because by sinning I have offended you,
who are all good and worthy to be loved above all things.

I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to do penance, to sin no more,
and to avoid the occasions of sin.

Through the merits of the Passion of our Savior Jesus Christ, Lord, have mercy.”

9. **Receive God’s forgiveness as the priest prays the Prayer of Absolution.**
10. **At the end of the Prayer of Absolution, reply:** “Amen.”
11. **Give praise to God. When the priest says:** “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,”
conclude: “For his mercy endures forever.”
12. **Go in peace and remember to say or do your penance.**



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

The Office of Liturgy and the O.C.I.A.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES ASSOCIATION

WWW.SFDSASSOCIATION.ORG



***A spiritual family for Catholic women
who desire to live a devout life.***

The Association offers an answer for those seeking to live their faith more fully,
find a source of joy in spiritual friendship, and solidarity within a spiritual family,
locally and globally.

To learn about Salesian spirituality and the St. Francis de Sales Association,

Come to our meeting:

Sunday, December 14 at 1:45 in the Parish Office

**Please email haydee@sfdsassociation.org
for more information and to attend.**

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

for those in their 20's and 30's



Advent-Christmas Party
Thursday, December 18

at 7:00 PM
in the parish hall

GRUPO DE JÓVENES ADULTOS

para aquellos en sus 20 y 30 años



Próxima Reunión
martes, 16 de diciembre
7:00-8:30 PM
Salón Parroquial

GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 24 Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord

3:30 PM Concert and Carols

Children's Procession with the Christ Child

4:30 PM Mass

after Mass Meet and Greet

December 25 Nativity of Our Lord

9:30 AM Concert and Carols

10:00 AM Mass

after Mass Meet and Greet

December 21

after All Masses

Meet and Greet and the Decorating of the Trees

*We are inviting each household
to make or bring a Christmas
tree decoration from home to
add to our parish tree. (make
sure you put a tag on it with your
name.)*

Liturgical Ministers: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

We are seeking lectors, Communion ministers, altar servers, ushers, and greeters for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Your ministry helps us welcome every person with reverence and joy.

Children's Christmas Procession

All children (5 and up) are invited to take part in the Christmas Eve procession with the Christ Child at the beginning of Mass. Children will gather in the parish 30 minutes before Mass. This simple and joyful procession helps us celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Cookie Donations and Gift Baggers

We are preparing Christmas cookie gift bags for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day that will be distributed outside on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day..

We welcome donations of cookies—homemade or store-bought.

Please bring them to the parish hall on December 21

We also need help making the gifts bags.

We will do this Sunday, December 21 at 2:00 PM
in the Parish Hall.

Christmas Hospitality Volunteers Needed

This Christmas we will welcome our neighbors with hot chocolate and gift cookie bags. We need friendly volunteers both inside and outside to greet people, offer refreshments, and create a spirit of warmth and joy.

Christmas Eve help is needed:

2:30 – 4:30 PM and 5:30 – 6:45 PM

Christmas Day help is needed:

9:00 – 10:00 AM and 11:00 – Noon

You may serve at one or more times. Smiles and helping hands are all that's required!

GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

Name: _____ Email : _____

Phone: _____

DECEMBER 21

Meet and Greet, Set up, Clean up,

_____ 9:00 Mass, _____ 11:00 Mass, _____ 12:30 Mass

Assist/Monitor Tree Decorating,

_____ 9:00 Mass, _____ 11:00 Mass, _____ 12:30 Mass

___ Help create small cookie bags, 2:00 PM in parish hall

___ Make or donate cookies for the cookie bags

DECEMBER 24

___ Inside Hospitality

___ Set up for Hospitality

___ Clean up for Hospitality

___ Outside Hospitality

___ Participate in the Procession of Children and Youth

___ Serve as a reader at Mass

___ Serve as a Communion Minister at Mass

___ Serve as an altar server at Mass

___ Serve as a Ushers/Greeters at Mass

DECEMBER 25

___ Inside Hospitality

___ Set up for Hospitality

___ Clean up for Hospitality

___ Outside Hospitality

___ Serve as a reader at Mass

___ Serve as a communion minister at Mass

___ Serve as an altar server at Mass

___ Serve as an Usher/Greeter at Mass

Behold the Light...

Wonder at the Mystery

Christmas Eve

Festive Concert & Carols – **3:30 PM**

Procession with the Christ Child

Mass – **4:30 PM**

Christmas Day

Festive Christmas Prelude – **9:45 AM**

Mass – **10:00 AM**

Wherever you are
on your journey,
come celebrate with us.

Experience
the beauty of Christmas
at St. Francis de Sales.



Contempla la Luz...
Maravíllate ante el Misterio

Nochebuena

Concierto festivo y villancicos – **3:30 PM**

Procesión con el Niño Jesús

Misa – **4:30 PM**

Navidad

Preludio navideño festivo – **9:45 AM**

Misa – **10:00 AM**

**Dondequiera que estés
en tu camino,
ven a celebrarlo con nosotros.**

**Vive la belleza de la Navidad
en San Francisco de Sales.**



GAUDETE SUNDAY

The season of Advent is a time of waiting and preparation, a time for reflection and hope as Christians prepare for the coming of the Lord. Within this solemn framework, the third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, stands out with a special note of joy. But what exactly does this day mean, and why is it so important?

What Is Gaudete Sunday?

The name “Gaudete” comes from the first word in Latin of the Introit of the Mass for this day:

“Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete”, which translates to “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). This verse, taken from the words of St. Paul, encapsulates the spirit of the day: an invitation to joy in the midst of waiting.

Gaudete Sunday is celebrated on the third Sunday of Advent and marks a shift in the tone of the liturgical season. While the first two Sundays of Advent have a more penitential and preparatory character, this Sunday offers a respite, a moment to rejoice in the nearness of Christmas.

The Liturgical Joy of Gaudete Sunday

On this day, the liturgical color changes from purple (a symbol of penance) to rose, a color that reflects joy and gladness. The priest may wear rose vestments, and the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored, is lit to highlight this change.

Gaudete Sunday is not just a reminder of the joy that comes with the proximity of Christ’s birth but also a teaching about the nature of true Christian joy. It is not about superficial happiness but a deep and lasting joy that springs from our relationship with God.

History and Theological Context

Gaudete Sunday has ancient roots in the Church. During Advent, the early Church established a time of fasting and penance similar to Lent. However, to encourage the faithful, a day of relief was introduced, a moment to remember the joy we anticipate in the coming of the Lord.

Theologically, Gaudete Sunday invites us to reflect on the balance between penance and joy.

Advent is not just a time of austere preparation; it is also a time to experience the joyful anticipation of the fulfilled promise: the coming of Christ as the light of the world.

St. Augustine wrote about this Christian joy, reminding us that joy is not found in the fleeting pleasures of the world but in the eternal love of God. In this context, Gaudete Sunday is a reminder that even amid our struggles and sacrifices, we can find comfort and joy in the hope of salvation.

Relevance for Today’s World

In a world full of uncertainty, anxiety, and distractions, the message of Gaudete Sunday resonates with special

strength. It invites us to pause and remember that the source of our joy is not found in material things but in our relationship with God and the fulfillment of His promises.

Christian joy does not ignore the difficulties of life; it transcends them. This joy is a spiritual strength that sustains us in times of trial and inspires us to be witnesses of hope in a world that often seems to lose it. In a social context where many people seek happiness in external achievements or possessions, Gaudete Sunday offers a radical alternative: a joy that does not depend on external circumstances but on the living presence of Christ in our lives.

Practical Applications of Gaudete Sunday

Cultivate Gratitude: Take a moment to reflect on the blessings in your life. Gratitude is a doorway to true joy. Make a list of things you are thankful for and offer a prayer of thanksgiving.

- **Bring Joy to Others:** Share the joy of Advent with those around you. This can be through simple acts such as offering a smile, listening to someone in need, or sharing a gesture of generosity with those less fortunate.
- **Strengthen Hope:** Amid challenges, remember St. Paul’s words: “Rejoice in the Lord always.” Dedicate time to prayer and Scripture reading to renew your hope in God’s promises.
- **Prepare Your Heart:** Use this time to examine your relationship with God. If possible, participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The joy of a heart reconciled with God is a special gift of Advent.
- **Reflect the Light of Christ:** Like the rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath, be a reflection of Christ’s light in the world. In your home, community, and workplace, strive to be a living testimony of Christian joy.

A Final Call to Joy

Gaudete Sunday is much more than a special day on the liturgical calendar. It is an invitation to live Advent with a heart full of hope and joy. It reminds us that, even in waiting, there are reasons to celebrate because the Lord is near.

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS.
I SAY IT AGAIN, REJOICE!

OUR PARISH STAFF

NUESTRO PERSONAL PARROQUIAL



KATHY CALDERÓN
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TRAVIS BLOOM
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ALBERTO PEÑA
Plant Manager



ROSALBA CRUZ
Sacristan



JOE LONG
Pastoral Associate
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WEEKEND ASSOCIATES

REV. ANTHONY CIORRA

REV. JOHN SWOPE, S.J.

OFFICE HOURS~HORARIO DE OFICINA

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9am - 5pm

SUNDAY 10am - 2pm

CHURCH HOURS

WEEKDAYS 9am - 4pm

**CONNECT
WITH US**



**Síguenos
en las redes sociales**



135 East 96th Street
New York, NY 10128



212-289-0425



Facebook: Church of St. Francis de Sales



Instagram

@sfdsnyc



YouTube

@sfdsnyc



www.stfrancis96.org