



# 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."**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 21, 2025**

## ANGELS

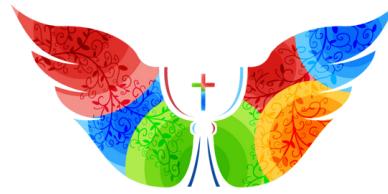
Angels, we have heard on high, sing sweetly o'er the plain. Our voices blend with theirs in an unending hymn of praise at every Mass. They've made it big in recent years on Broadway, major league baseball, the best-seller list, and the top 40. Few doubt their influence. Angels have secured a place in popular spirituality. The faithful who try to make sense out of good fortune or coincidence frequently attribute the incidents to the presence and activity of angels. For many, they resemble benign spiritual hackers who break into the data of our lives and rearrange the bits according to their own plan. However, in Scripture and in liturgy, they play a far less mischievous role. Angels, properly speaking, are messengers. In the Old Testament they appear nearly as manifestations of God. When you ask people to deliver a message for you, you expect their words to be received as your own, their presence to represent your own. That's what angels did in the Bible. The Book of Tobit tells of the angel Raphael who heals on behalf of God. Michael appears as the protector against evil in Daniel 10:21, Jude 9, and Revelation 12:7. And Gabriel brings the good news of salvation to Zechariah (Luke 1:11) and to Mary (Luke 1:26-27). However, Paul warned the Colossians against the worship of angels (Colossians 2:18). At Mass, angels turn their attention toward God. They appear in every preface, before we sing the "Holy." The first Eucharistic prayer asks that God's angel take the sacrifice to God's altar on high. During the Creed we acclaim the God who has created not only things visible, but also invisible—like angels. And in the fall each year the archangels get their own feast (September 29) and the guardian angels follow (October 2). Prior to 1965, we used to end every Mass with a prayer to St. Michael. Thus, angels have secured a place in the Scripture and liturgy of our Church. For us, they have performed as messengers of God's word. For God, they worship with all creation. As messengers and worshipers, they model the responsibilities we share in the church to spread the good news and praise God.

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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

## 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

## MASS INTENTIONS

### **Sunday, December 21, 2025**

9:00am- Roseanne Nicklass & Family

11am- Elba Delgado (D)

12:30pm- Myrta Vargas (L)

### **Monday, December 22, 2025**

8:30AM- Kerry Lee (D)

### **Tuesday, December 23, 2025**

8:30am- Shannon Lee, Prudencio Fiel, Alberto Ramirez

### **Wednesday, December 24, 2025**

**4:30pm**-Christmas Eve Mass

### **Thursday, December 25 2025**

**10:00am**-Christmas Day Mass

### **Friday, December 26, 2025**

**8:30am**-**Mass** (Church Office will be closed)

## 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 9th-Dec 15th**

\$5,257.15 online debit giving

\$1,729.00 Sunday collection basket

Mailed in Checks

TOTAL \$6,986.15

Second Collection-Retired Religious-\$683.00

## 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.

## 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](mailto:travisbloom@sfdsnyc.org)

## BOOK CLUB

Monday, January 12 at 8:00 PM  
on Zoom

Contact Mary Braza at [brazamary@gmail.com](mailto:brazamary@gmail.com)

## YOUNG ADULT GROUP -20 and 30 year olds

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

## GRUPO DE JOVENES ADULTOS

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

## THE ASSOCIATION (Daughters) OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

Next meeting is  
Sunday, January 11 at 1:45 PM  
Church Office

## CONNECT & ENCOUNTER

Those interested in becoming Catholic,  
seeking Confirmation  
or anyone with have questions

**Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Church Office**

## CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

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

Sunday, December 21  
Sunday, January 11  
2:00-4:00 PM  
in the parish hall

## SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

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

## HOPE WALK

Saturday, January 10  
**10:00 AM in the Parish Hall**

## NEW LITURGICAL MINISTERS

For more information  
contact Joe Long  
[joelong@sfdsnyc.org](mailto:joelong@sfdsnyc.org)



*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.



*Contemplá 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.*



# GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

To help out, contact Joe Long  
[joelong@sfdsnyc.org](mailto:joelong@sfdsnyc.org)  
or text Joe at 910-354-9674

**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 gift 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! **7**

# 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.



## YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

*for those in their 20's and 30's*

**Wednesday, January 7**

Young Adult Mass, 7:00 PM

St. Patrick Cathedral

**Wednesday, January 14**

Faith and Fellowship

7:00 PM

Parish Hall

## GRUPO DE JOVENES ADULTOS

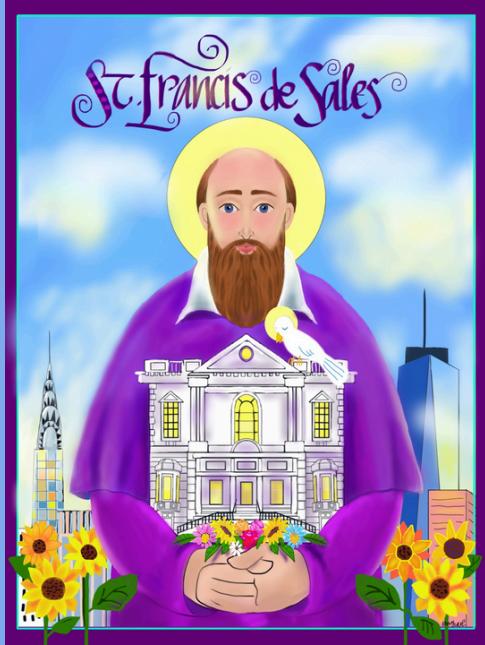
*para aquellos en sus 20 y 30 años*



Próxima Reunión  
martes, 6 de enero  
7:00-8:30 PM  
Salón Parroquial

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Celebration of Our Parish Patron's Feast*



**January 15-January 23**  
Novena of St. Francis de  
Sales

**January 22-January 24**  
Three Days of  
Celebration

**Presentations by**  
**Brother**  
**Michael O'Neill McGrath, OSFS**  
**Artist**



*Merry Christmas*

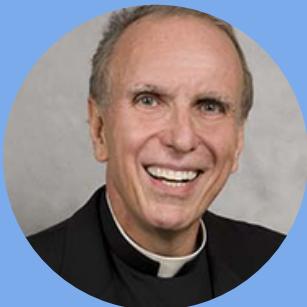
There will be Mass on  
Friday, December 26 .  
The parish office will be closed.

# TEXTS THAT UNITE AND TEXTS THAT DIVIDE

## A CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM INTERFAITH CONVERSATION



**Imam Gazi Aga**  
North East Islamic  
Community Center



**Fr. Tony Ciorra, PhD**  
St. Francis de Sales  
Church



**Emre Celik**  
Peace Island Institute  
MODERATOR

How do sacred texts call us to peace, and how have they sometimes been used to separate us? Join us for an evening of thoughtful dialogue as we explore how different religious traditions read their texts and how passages have been interpreted in ways that either foster unity or create division.

Our speakers will reflect on themes such as the understanding of God, prayer, and social justice, and how we can read these texts today in a way that promotes respect and peace. They will guide an open, welcoming conversation, inviting all to consider how the sacred texts of Christianity and Islam can build bridges across communities.

**All are welcome!**

**St. Francis de Sales  
Catholic Church  
135 E. 96th St., NYC  
stfrancis96.org**

**Monday, January 26  
6:30 PM-8:30 PM**

# OUR PARISH STAFF

## NUESTRO PERSONAL PARROQUIAL



KATHY CALDERÓN  
Office Manager  
[kathycalderon@sfdsnyc.org](mailto:kathycalderon@sfdsnyc.org)



FATHER PHILIP J. KELLY  
PASTOR  
[fatherkelly@sfdsnyc.org](mailto:fatherkelly@sfdsnyc.org)



TRAVIS BLOOM  
Director of Music Ministries  
[travisbloom@sfdsnyc.org](mailto:travisbloom@sfdsnyc.org)



ALBERTO PEÑA  
Plant Manager



ROSALBA CRUZ  
Sacristan



JOE LONG  
Pastoral Associate  
[joelong@sfdsnyc.org](mailto:joelong@sfdsnyc.org)

### 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](http://www.stfrancis96.org)