



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

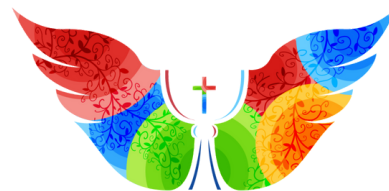
after the 8:30 AM Mass
during the week.

All are welcome to pray with us.

VISITS TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

(Praying in Church)

WEEKDAYS 9am - 4pm



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)

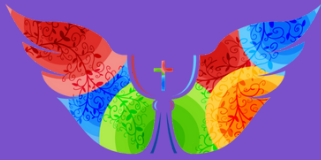
FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK

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.

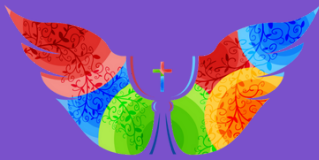
COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

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 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.

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 21
No Session on December 28

BOOK CLUB

Monday, January 12 at 8:00 PM
on Zoom
Contact Mary Braza at brazamary@gmail.com

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

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, January 10
10:00 AM in the Parish Hall

THE ASSOCIATION (Daughters) OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

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

NEW LITURGICAL MINISTERS

For more information
contact Joe Long
joelong@sfdsnycorg



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.**



GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

To help out, contact Joe Long
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 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! **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 JÓVENES 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

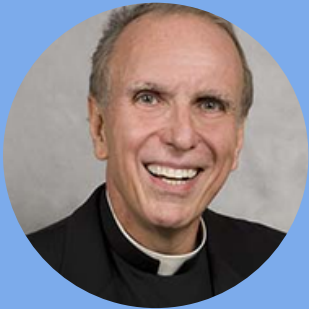
There will be Mass on
Friday, December 26 .
The parish office will be closed.

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!

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

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

OUR PARISH STAFF

NUESTRO PERSONAL PARROQUIAL



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ALBERTO PEÑA
Plant Manager



ROSALBA CRUZ
Sacristan



JOE LONG
Pastoral Associate
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