

St. Francis de Sales Church

Established in 1894

*Proclaiming the Good News of our Savior Jesus Christ
and celebrating 125 Years,
from the little church on the hillside of Lenni.*



May 17, 2020 6th Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2020 Ascension Thursday



The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ, commemorates the Christian belief of the bodily Ascension of Jesus into heaven. Did you ever wonder how the Apostles felt when they saw Jesus ascend into heaven? He tells them "Go make disciples of all nations.... And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

This is the same command He gives to each of us

Church is open daily from 9:00—5:00 for private visits.

MASS SCHEDULE: FATHER OKON WILL CELEBRATE ALL MASSES PRIVATELY. ALL SUNDAY MASS VIDEOS ARE POSTED AT

SFDSLENNI.ORG. In addition to stated intentions, Father will pray for the health and safety of all, and an end to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Sunday, May 17—William Fore

Monday, May 18—Eileen and Howard HeyDor

Tuesday, May 19—Sam and Steve Weikel

Wednesday, May 20—Private

Thursday, May 21, Ascension Thursday—Cecilia Wilt 14th Anniversary

Friday, May 22—Francis and Isabelle Sullivan

Saturday, May 23—Kenneth Wolff

Confessions each Saturday afternoon from 4:00—5:00 or by appointment

Refer and Reflect

RECTORY **610.459.2203**
 35 New Road, Box 97, Lenni, PA 19052
 Website—www.SFDSLenni.org

E-Mail-ParishOffice@SFDSLenni.org

Reverend Alan J. Okon, Pastor
 Deacon Paul A. Quinn

Sr. Betty Kirk O.S.F. **610.459.0554**
 Parish Services Director

Sr. Anne Marie Stegmaier I.H.M.
 Director Religious Education **610.500.4088**

Mrs. Marie McGonigal **610.459.2203**
 Administrative Assistant

Tammy McDonald **610.459.2203**
 Communications Secretary
 E-mail- Bulletin@sfdslenni.org

Art Kahn, Business Manager **610.459.2203**

CONVENT **610.459.2501**
 28 New Road, Aston, PA 19014
EDUCATION CENTER
 39 New Road, Aston, PA 19014

Dear Parishioners,

We hope you and your families are staying well and safe during this time.

Please know that we are so grateful to all who continue to contribute to our Parish during this challenging time. We've seen a significant increase in the use of the e-giving program, which has been very helpful. So, whether you're newly enrolled in the e-giving program, or have been using it for sometime now, or you have continued to use envelopes to make your contributions, we *thank you!*

Although we are currently unable to celebrate Mass together, the expenses of the parish have continued throughout this unprecedented time. For those who would like more information about the Parish eGiving program, set up is quick and easy and there is flexibility with payment options and timing. A secure and convenient overview of this program can be found at sfdslenni.org/egiving. A toll free number is also available for any questions that you may have.

We thank you for your continued generosity and support of Saint Francis de Sales Parish, and we look forward to the time when we are once again able to be together as a community.

May God continue to bless all of you and your families.
 In Christ,

Rev. Alan J. Okon, Jr. Pastor

Directory of Parish Organizations



Adult Choir
 Adult Education/RCIA
 Altar Society
 PREP
 Cancer Care Ministry
 Church Environment
 CYO
 Eucharistic Ministers
 Finance Committee
 Ladies' Club
 Lectors
 Liturgy Committee
 Pastoral Council
 Prayer Shawl Ministry
 Web Master
 Welcome Committee
 Women's Prayer Group
 Social/Fellowship

Nancy Brown 610.358.3112
 Sr. Anne Marie 610.500.4088
 Phil D'Orazio 610.459.0635
 Sr. Anne Marie 610.500.4088
 Lydia Lill 610.358.2627
 Barbara Jones 610.566.4149
 Paula Bonsall 610.517.6136
 Tracy Boyle 610.566.8453
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 Belle Miller 610.513.2920
 Joanne Sunick 610.459.1996
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 Steve DeLozier 484.574.4425
 Ann Fernandez 215.203.6697
 Arlene Petraghani 610.558.0588
 R. DiFebo 610.459.8971
 Sr. Betty Kirk 610.459.0554
 Gretchen DeLozier 484.362.3898



ST. FRANCIS
de Sales Parish
Lenni, PA

SFDS Parish Adjusted Schedule
Confessions 4:00—5:00 on Saturdays,
or by appointment.

At the direction of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, all Masses will be celebrated privately, not publicly, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Along with you, Father Okon understands the need for this situation, and along with you, he grieves.

The church will be open to parishioners for private prayer daily from 9:00—5:00

Each week a video of Father Okon's Sunday Mass will be posted on the parish website (SFDSLenni.org) and Facebook page ([Saint Francis de Sales Church-Aston](https://www.facebook.com/SaintFrancisdeSalesChurchAston)).

Thank you for reading this bulletin.



Questions for the Week -
May 17, 2020
6th Sunday of Easter

Reading I: Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17
Phillip preaches the Samaritan mission with success. Yet the Samaritans needed to be bonded with the mother Church in Jerusalem,

so Phillip sends for Peter and John to do so, since they were witnesses of the resurrection.
Who proclaims Christ to you?

Psalm 66: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Reading II: I Peter 3: 15-18 Peter declares that when a questioner asks about the Gospel message and the reason for hope, the teacher must answer with gentleness and reverence.
What would you say is your reason to hope?

The Gospel: John 14: 15-21 Jesus specifies how we prove our love for Him. It is in keeping His commandments. Jesus promises not to leave us as orphans but will send us the Spirit of truth to lead and guide us, and He will abide with us for all time.

How do you strive to keep the commandments in your daily life?
How do you experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Visit exploringthesundayreadings.com

Please
P R A Y
for the sick of our parish and those that care for them

Jim Gusler, Chrissy Ferris,
Bruce McManus, Greg Miller, Kevin Duckett,
Dorothy Tait, Belle Miller, Joel Rivera, Josh Farrell
Mary Ann Gilbert, Marilyn Kane
All those suffering with the Coronavirus

Lord, Hear Our Prayer

If you wish to have a family member added to our list to be remembered in prayers for sickness or health concerns, please e-mail the rectory at, ParishOffice@SFDSLenni.org

APRIL 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Please return your Rice Bowl when you are able
For more information visit our Parish website at www.sfdslenni.org.

We also have a Facebook Page at [Saint Francis de Sales Church-Aston](https://www.facebook.com/SaintFrancisdeSalesChurchAston)
Father Okon's Sunday Mass is found in both locations.

Kindly contact us at ParishOffice@SFDSLenni.org with any changes in your family information, such as a new address (physical or e-mail), phone number, change (s) in household members, Sacramental updates for any family member, etc. We depend on you to help keep our data base current. Many thanks!

Correspondence for the bulletin may be e-mailed to: Bulletin@sfdslenni.org

May 17, 2020 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

I never thought of myself this way, but soon after my beloved Dad followed my Mom to heaven about a year later, someone of my acquaintance remarked: “Now you are an orphan.” Technically speaking the person was correct, but to hear the word said brought on a sense of lonesomeness I had not foreseen. I had just chalked Dad’s passing at the time as one of those inevitable passages in life. After all, Mom and Dad had been blest to reach their nineties. Their departure for heaven was in one sense timely. All this is not to deny that I miss them both. Nearly twenty years later their absence created holes in my heart that at certain times brings out a tear or two.

These thoughts surfaced as I read the tender statement of Our Lord to His disciples as He tried to prepare them for His death. “I will not leave you orphans,” said He to them. “I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me, because I live and you will live.” You have to pause here to remember that Jesus was addressing grown men, some of whose parents may have already passed on. Regardless, you cannot listen to Jesus here and not be touched by His tender outreach, and by extension, to us. It is the same touch we try to offer indirectly to the families and friends who have lost loved ones due to this terrifying virus pandemic.

We can sometimes overlook this appealing quality of tenderness in Our Lord. The world around us endorses a kind of “stiff upper lip” at these times. Not so with the wonderful Person we join the Apostles in calling our “Master.” That virus death toll on our TV screens glosses over the pain each number causes.

All of this brings us right back to the empty tomb we so heartily celebrated some five weeks ago. I know it feels like another time indeed this year. The fact is that Jesus has been raised by His Father. He who once was dead dies no more. And more than that, the wonder of the resurrection puts a stamp of the Father’s approval on all that He said and did while He walked among us on earth. We could say that the Father did not leave His Son an orphan. Nor does He abandon us, even in this terrible time.

I think all of us will remember this past Lent like no other because of Covid-19. Many spiritual lessons have emerged, and will continue to do so as a result of this situation. One of them has to be that God truly has not left us orphans, and He never will. But we have to remember that now more than ever. “I am with you always” said He. **What is your response?**

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson



[This Photo](#)

**Pentecost is Sunday, May 31
Our Pentecost Novena begins on
Ascension Thursday and
continues for 9 days.**

**How do you want to ask the Holy Spirit to
come into your life this year?**

Novena Prayer to be said daily for 9 days:

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your
faithful.**

**And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be
created.**

**And you will renew the face of the earth.
Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit help us to relish what is
right, and always rejoice in your
consolation.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**



SFDS Anniversary Updates

The 125th Anniversary Mass

and Gala Event

IS RESCHEDULED FOR

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

11:30 MASS with Archbishop Perez

2:30 Gala Dinner at Kings Mill

ALL-CLASS REUNION UPDATE

Rescheduled to be held on Saturday,

September 12th, 2020 from 2:00PM

until 10:00 PM

A Prayer for our Graduates Dear God, We thank you so much for our graduates whom we love and for the work you are continuing to do in their lives. They are a gift to us and to many others. And during this season of new beginnings, we ask that you would make their way clear. We ask that you would keep their footsteps firm and remind them that you are with them, always. May they sense the freshness of your Spirit over their lives in amazing ways, may they be strengthened, instilled with hope, for the new roads you have in store. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Mary, Health of the Sick, sign of health, of healing, and of divine hope for the sick, we entrust to you all who are infected with the coronavirus.



Mary, Mother of Consolation, who console with a mother's love all who turn to you, we entrust to you all those who have lost loved ones in the pandemic.

Mary, Help of Christians, who come to our rescue in every trial, we entrust to your loving protection all caregivers.

Mary, Queen and Mother of Mercy, who embrace all those who call upon your help in their distress, we entrust to you all who are suffering in any way from the pandemic.

Mary, Seat of Wisdom, who were so wonderfully filled with the light of truth, we entrust to you all who are working to find a cure to this pandemic.

Mary, Mother of Good Counsel, who gave yourself wholeheartedly to God's plan for the renewing of all things in Christ, we entrust to you all leaders and policymakers.

Mary, Mother of the Church, you are enthroned as queen at your Son's right hand: we ask your intercession for the needs of our country, that every desire for good may be blessed and strengthened, that faith may be revived and nourished, hope sustained and enlightened, charity awakened and animated; guide us, we pray, along the path of holiness. Mary our Mother, bring everyone under your protection and entrust everyone to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gifts made to the Catholic Charities Appeal will provide necessary support to tens of thousands of people. These individuals are served by an array of organizations, programs and ministries throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The beneficiaries focus on five key areas:

- Education 13%
- Social Services 57%
- Evangelization, Parish and Spiritual Life 11%
- Clergy 9%
- Local Mission Activities 10%

2020 Fundraising Goal: \$12.5 Million
\$4,387,354 Raised

The link below is a message from Archbishop Perez regarding Catholic Charities Appeal. I encourage you to watch this message:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LR4i3wNOXbg&t=4s>

ALMSGIVING

If you are able to purchase an extra Grocery Store Gift Card, please consider giving it to Sister Betty (at the convent) who, in turn will send it to parishioners in need.



If you were able to use the Rice Bowl program this year, please submit your contribution in check form payable to SFDS with Rice Bowl in the memo line.

Thank You and God Bless you!

Resurrection & Restoration: Archbishop's Easter Video Series

If you missed this series, it was recorded and is available on the sites at the bottom.

The *Arise: Resurrection and Restoration* Easter video series breaks open the mystery of the Resurrection of Jesus and his power to bring us new life in the midst of the pandemic. It is also designed to help us transition back into "in person" life in the Church as the COVID19 restrictions slowly lift. These short videos, given by dynamic local speakers, will offer a teaching on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, its power to restore our lives here and now, and why the "in person" nature of our life as Catholics is so important.

How to watch: A 15-minute video will be released daily at 7 PM for 7 days beginning May 10 on the websites below. **Once released, videos can be watched/shared any time.**

Videos (English): Click on the links below to watch each video as it is released

May 10: *The Power of the Resurrection to Restore Our Lives after the Pandemic*, Meghan Cokeley, Director, Office for the New Evangelization

May 11: *Why Nothing Compares to Receiving the Sacraments in Person*, Fr. Dennis Gill, Director, Office for Divine Worship

May 12: *Restoring Our "In Person" Encounter with Christ in the Mass*, Fr. Eric Banecker, Parochial Vicar, St. Pius X, Broomall

May 13: *How Forgiveness Allows the Power of the Resurrection to Enter Our Lives*, Sr. Sheila Galligan, IHM, Professor Emerita of Theology, Immaculata University

May 14: *Helping Others Encounter the Risen Christ*, Dan Tarrant, Director, Faith for Life, St. Andrew Parish, Newtown, Founder of ReEngaged Ministries

May 15: *For Families: Returning to Normal While Preserving What We Gained during the Pandemic*, Damon Owens, Founder and Executive Director,

May 16: *Allowing the Resurrection to Take Flesh in Our Lives*, Megan Murphy, Catholic Speaker, Teacher and Evangelist

Videos will be posted on these sites:

<http://archphila.org/arise/>

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/resurrection>

<https://www.facebook.com/ArchbishopPerez>

<https://catholicphilly.com/>

ROSARY CAMPAIGN FOR AN END TO THE CORONAVIRUS

Join us online, by phone or in spirit as we pray the Rosary.

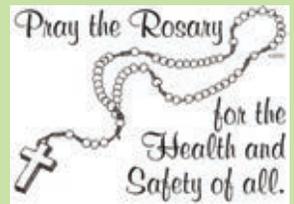
Every evening, 8:00—8:30 PM

Click the link to tune in each night at 8PM

<https://zoom.us/j/494480541>

Or DIAL-IN by telephone: (646)-558-8656

Hosted by: Meghan Cokeley, Office for the New Evangelization, Archdiocese of Philadelphia with special guests. Website: phillyevang.org/rosary



In response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, CFGP (Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia) has established the Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) to provide a quick

response to the emergency needs of the community within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. This includes food pantries, vital social service ministries and organizations, and local parishes that are working to address the emergency needs of their community. This is a difficult time for many, and we want to do our part to help those who have been impacted by COVID-19. At this time, CFGP's ERF will be raising funds specifically for Catholic Social Services (CSS) food pantries.

We are now accepting donations to the Emergency Relief Fund. Please visit www.TheCFGP.org/ERF to donate. On behalf of CFGP and all those we serve, we thank you for supporting our neighbors in need.

Lifelines

Crisis Pregnancy Hotline **610.626.4006**

Pro-Life Union of Delaware County

610.789.LIFE

www.prolifedelco.org

A Baby's Breath

484.580.6436

24hr hotline

484.571.5540

www.ababysbreath.org

Mother's Home

610.583.HOME

www.mothershome.org

Delaware County Pregnancy Center

www.dcpchester.org

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

1.877.HOPE4ME

(Post-abortion healing)

www.rachelsvineyard.org

Parish Registration

Welcome to our family of St. Francis de Sales. We are happy to welcome new members in to our community. We invite you to be a vital part of our family and hope you will support your parish with your prayers, your presence and your talents. Please contact the Parish Office at **610.459.2203** to make arrangements for registration. If you move out of our parish, or have changed your phone number, please contact the Parish Office so we can update our data base.

Sacrament of Baptism

Congratulations on the birth of your child. The Sacrament of Baptism is normally administered after the 11:30 AM Mass on Sunday. Pre-Jordan class for the parents is required prior to the scheduling of the Baptism. Parents can attend the class before the baby is born. Pre-Jordan class is held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Please contact the Parish Office at 610.459.2203 to register for the Pre-Jordan class. To schedule a Baptism, please have already obtained the certificates of eligibility and then contact the Parish Office at least two weeks in advance.

Certificates of Eligibility

Congratulations on being asked to be a sponsor at either a Baptism or a Confirmation. You have been asked to be a witness to, and role model of, your Catholic faith. A sponsor is a Roman Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation, is an active registered member of his or her parish, at least 16 years of age, and if married is in a Sacramental Marriage. Please contact the Parish Office at 610.459.2203 to request a certificate.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated each Saturday afternoon from 4:30 to 5:00, or by appointment.

Elementary Catholic School Education

SFDS Parish supports our parishioners who have chosen an Elementary Catholic School for their children. SFDS Parish has open enrollment; enabling parents to select a regional or parish school that is of their choice. For parishioners who are present, active and contributing members, for a minimum of one year, SFDS Parish will pay a subsidy of \$1000.00 per student.



Parish Office Hours

The Parish Office is open for business Monday through Friday 8:30AM to 4:30PM, summer hours, Friday's 8:30AM to 1:00PM. Weeknights and Saturdays are by appointment only. **Please refer elsewhere in the bulletin for holiday hours.**

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion

Please call the Parish Office at 610.459.2203 to schedule an appointment for the Anointing of the Sick. Every effort will be made to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick within 48 hours of it being requested. Please call the Parish Office to request a visit from an Extra Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion to receive the Holy Eucharist on Sunday mornings.

Funeral Arrangements

We are very sorry for the loss of your loved one. To make funeral arrangements, please first meet with your Funeral Director to discuss your wishes and their availability. The Funeral Director will contact our Parish Office to coordinate the date and time of the funeral. Once the funeral has been scheduled, Fr. Okon will call you to schedule a time to meet and plan the Liturgy.

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What's My Name?

The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

#WHATSMYNAME

In Remembrance of
Samantha Josephson