

# The Sunday Encore

More News and Announcements from St. Francis de Sales Parish

Sunday, January 29, 2023  
The Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time

## Thanks For All Of Your Help Last Sunday

In light of our sudden and unexpected snow storm last Sunday morning, we wish to thank all who assisted in clearing our property and making it as safe as possible in the midst of the inclement weather we were challenged with last week. **Your time and effort is so greatly appreciated!!!**



We'd be in a  
**PICKLE**  
without you!

Thank you for all of your hard  
work and dedication.

## St. Francis de Sales-Our Parish Patron Saint

The following is a story and a reflection regarding our parish patron saint, Francis de Sales. We thank God for his faithful witness to the Church and may he intercede for our parish worship community.

### *Saint Francis de Sales*

Memorial: January 24

(August 21, 1567 – December 28, 1622)

#### **A Story**

Francis was destined by his father to be a lawyer so that the young man could eventually take his elder's place as a senator from the province of Savoy in France. For this reason Francis was sent to Padua to study law. After receiving his doctorate, he returned home and, in due time, told his parents he wished to enter the priesthood. His father strongly opposed Francis in this, and only after much patient persuasiveness on the part of the gentle Francis did his father finally consent. Francis was ordained and elected provost of the Diocese of Geneva, then a center for the Calvinists. Francis set out to convert them, especially in the district of Chablais.

By preaching and distributing the little pamphlets he wrote to explain true Catholic doctrine, he had remarkable success.

At 35, he became bishop of Geneva. While administering his diocese he continued to preach, heard confessions, and catechize the children. His gentle character was a great asset in winning souls. He practiced his own axiom, “A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrelful of vinegar.”

Besides his two well-known books, the *Introduction to the Devout Life* and *A Treatise on the Love of God*, he wrote many pamphlets and carried on a vast correspondence. For his writings, he has been named patron of the Catholic Press. His writings, filled with his characteristic gentle spirit, are addressed to lay people. He wants to make them understand that they too are called to be saints. As he wrote in *The Introduction to the Devout Life*: “It is an error, or rather a heresy, to say devotion is incompatible with the life of a soldier, a tradesman, a prince, or a married woman.... It has happened that many have lost perfection in the desert who had preserved it in the world.”

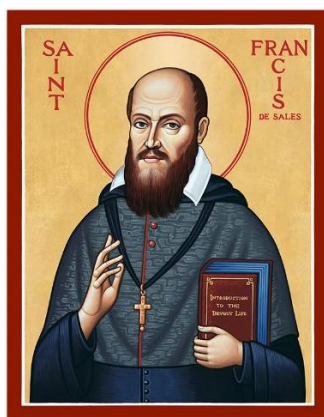
In spite of his busy and comparatively short life, he had time to collaborate with another saint, Jane Frances de Chantal, in the work of establishing the Sisters of the Visitation. These women were to practice the virtues exemplified in Mary’s visit to Elizabeth: humility, piety, and mutual charity. They at first engaged to a limited degree in works of mercy for the poor and the sick. Today, while some communities conduct schools, others live a strictly contemplative life.

### **Reflection**

Francis de Sales took seriously the words of Christ, “Learn of me for I am meek and humble of heart.” As he said himself, it took him 20 years to conquer his quick temper, but no one ever suspected he had such a problem, so overflowing with good nature and kindness was his usual manner of acting. His perennial meekness and sunny disposition won for him the title of “Gentleman Saint.”

### **Saint Francis de Sales is the Patron Saint of:**

Authors, Deafness, Journalists, and Writers



## Right Of Christian Initiation For Adults (R.C.I.A.) This Week

This Thursday (February 2) the topic for the parish R.C.I.A. program will be *Sacrament of Reconciliation – Celebrating The Mercy of God*. All are welcomed to attend. For more information please contact Al Cucchetti at 513/737-0691, or at [cucchetti1946@yahoo.com](mailto:cucchetti1946@yahoo.com)

## You're Invited-Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr's Study Of The Mass

Each Sunday from January 8 to February 12, Archbishop Schnurr will e-mail you a 25-minute episode from Word on Fire's video series The Mass featuring Bishop Robert Barron, along with his own brief insights. The series is as beautifully filmed as it is engaging, and this is an incredible chance to reinvigorate our love for Jesus in the Mass. Please sign-up for this series by going to [www.catholicaoc.org](http://www.catholicaoc.org) and on the homepage click Study The Mass With Archbishop Schnurr

## New Year's Resolutions For Catholics

The following is our final option of a New Year's resolution for members of our Catholic community. You can also be creative and practice one of your own.

Resolution: Pick A New Saint Buddy

Why not take on the tradition of choosing a different Catholic saint as a special patron this year? There are so many of them with unique graces to bestow.

Pray about your New Year and the goals you have for your spiritual life, your family, your relationships, your career, etc. Then choose a patron saint whose virtues you would like to emulate in the New Year, and entrust your year to their special intercession. Perhaps there is a particular saint whom you already admire, but to whom you have never prayed or had a devotion. Ask this saint to be your guide for 2023.

This is a great way to guard against the typical two-week lifespan of New Year's resolutions. With a new saint by your side praying for you, it will be a lot harder for your goals to slip away.

## Marriage Moments And Parenting Pointers: Food For Thought And Actions

Marriage Moments-"On your wedding day you laid your life into the hands of your spouse without knowing what the future held." (Leif Kehrwald, *Marriage & the Spirituality of Intimacy*) How have you been called to love your spouse in unexpected ways?

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Parenting Pointers-Hopefully your family is not hungry, homeless, or without enough clothing. But some are. Talk with your children about how you all might feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, or cloth the naked (Isaiah 58:7) this next week. If nothing else, donate money.

Living Laudato Si' Eco-Tip Of The Week From The SFdS Parish "Green Team"

Recycling Practices:

*The Easy One:* At home recycle glass, tin cans, newsprint, paper, cardboard, and plastic. Most curbside recycling programs take these.

*The Challenging One:* Advocate with your employer, company, or institution to recycle glass, tin cans, paper, and plastic.

This Week From U.S. Catholic Magazine

Please visit *U.S. Catholic Magazine* at [www.uscatholic.org](http://www.uscatholic.org) for this week's read and other informative and inspiring articles.

This is posted on the homepage:

*Rigid Definitions Of 'Catholic' Leave Too Many Out In The Cold: Gatkeeping Catholic Identity Leaves Those On The Margins Struggling To Find Their Spiritual Home* by Don Clemmer

Vocation Thought For The Week

*God is constantly working in our lives and calling us forward. How can we help those around us to be more in tune with how God is touching their hearts and calling them forth to new life-possibly to a religious vocation?*

Wisdom Thought For The Week:

*Do what inspires you. Life is too short not to love the job you do every day.*

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*"Christ himself says, 'I am the light of the world.' And we are the light, we ourselves, if we receive it from him...But how do we receive it, how do we make it shine?...[T]he candle tells us: by burning, and being consumed in the burning. A spark of fire, a ray of love, an inevitable immolation are celebrated over that pure, straight candle, as pouring forth its gift of light, it exhausts itself in silent sacrifice."*

*Pope Paul VI*  
The Feast Of The Presentation Of The Lord  
February 2