



**ST. FRANCIS  
DE SALES**

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*Our Hearts & Doors  
Are Always Open*

PARISH NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022

## Forming Faithful, Loving Disciples of Jesus

By Jayne Porcelli

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” We often ask our children.

“Kind!” was the answer I overheard, and was so moved by the wisdom in that one word answer.

We have been asking ourselves what is our goal in Faith Formation at St. Francis de Sales, and our answer has been: “to raise faithful disciples who love Jesus”. And, I would add, will continue to want to practice their faith *after* Confirmation...!

This is by no means an easy answer and the simple truth is, this is not the job of a catechist alone. This is the job of ALL OF US together:



parents, catechists, parishioners, family and friends.

So this is the project we are about to embark on together. Are you ready?

With the help of each one of you, parishioners and parents alike, we are aiming to help our youngsters know and love Jesus and want to serve the world in his name.

*How are we going to do this?*

I'm so glad you asked because you're going to play an important role in this mission!

Our parish Faith Formation Process recognizes that parents are the primary catechists of their children. Our job is to assist them in helping create a culture of faith in their homes, in their lives. That's where all of you, the parish of St. Francis de Sales comes in!

Four pillars of our faith, WORD, WORSHIP, COMMUNITY AND SERVICE are our primary touchstones for our new vision. . Each month

students along with their families will concentrate on one core theme from our life of faith and explore that theme through lessons with their catechist and parents (WORD), through our rituals and Sunday WORSHIP together, through gathering with the larger parish COMMUNITY to explore a certain aspect of that theme, and in working in SERVICE to our parish and neighborhood each month, under the guidance of the adults in their lives.

*What are we asking of parents?*

Parents will actively be involved in weekly Sunday Mass, in at home lessons, and in group sessions with their children twice a month.

*What are we asking of parishioners?*

We are asking you to welcome our families at Sunday worship. Be your best selves. Talk to one another. Praise their parent-



ing, love their children.

We want you to participate in our intergenerational Sundays...come talk about your favorite saint or favorite way to pray. Come help us make and serve pancakes. Come share with us why your faith is important to you, or how your job helps you serve others. Join with us as we create gift bags for our elderly or homeless neighbors. Give us ideas on how we can better serve our community. Pray for us and pray with us!

So, this is our St. Francis de Sales GOOD NEWS!

Now, go out and tell someone else our good news and come back ready to celebrate with us next Sunday! Amen?

# “Why me, Lord?”

By Br Tim Smyth, CFC



I've prayed this little prayer many times. “Why do I get asked to do things?” “Why me?”

After some reflection, the answer came. Someone sees in me a certain gift, talent, quality that is needed at the time, and then they give me the nudge to put it to use. When I was a teenager, mom would always call me when she needed something heavy lifted. When I was in the seventh grade I was asked to receive the key to the school from an outgoing eighth grader – Sister noticed some public speaking ability in me. When I was a Freshman in high school I discovered that I could sing – the choral director invited me to join the Glee Club.

As I moved on in life I began to recognize gifts, talents, and qualities in myself, so I began volunteering when I realized I had what it took to do the task. When I was in high school I made

a really strange discovery about myself. I thought I had what it took to become a Religious Brother, and so I joined the Congregation of Christian Brothers. Fifty-nine years later I think I found a match.

Now I'd like to talk about you. What gifts and talents do you have? Do you think you have any that might be useful in serving our parish community? Are you working at deepening your relationship with God? Do you think you can find an answer to the question: “Why me, Lord?” Do you think you might be able to respond with “Why not me?”

Can you read? Have you ever read out loud in a classroom, or for a group of people? I know, I know – it makes your kneecaps jump up and down – but that shouldn't stop you. If you like to tell stories, consider



Christina Schuler

becoming a Lector – that's what you're asked to do, to read the congregation a story. You don't even have to make the story up, or try to remember it, you just have to read it. Consider becoming a Lector.

Consider these encouraging words from Christina Schuler one of our lectors:

*I love being a lector at St. Francis de Sales because I love the moment where I bow before approaching the ambo and I pray “Holy Spirit, speak your Word through me. Use me for good.” I know when I face the congregation, it's not about my own performance, but rather sharing the gift of God's Word with others and being the vehicle with which it can reach our hearts.*

*This ministry has helped me get to know so many other wonderful parishioners and has connected me to other meaningful ministries, like the Social Justice Ministry. Diving into ministry within my first few weeks at the parish helped me to feel at home here.*

And more thoughts on lectoring from Marissa Bailey, who was initiated into our faith a few years ago:

*I chose to be a lector as a vocation as my way of sharing my “talent”. We are asked to share our tal-*



Marissa Bailey

*ent, time, and treasures. I don't think that I'm a talented public speaker, but God has provided me a path to practice speaking in front of large groups and I'm comfortable doing so. It is my service back to the church and back to God to share the word of the Lord with others.*

OK, so you're afraid to get up in front of a group and read, I know, that really is a big fear that many people have. Ever consider being an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist? Do you have a strong devotion to the Eucharist? Would you like to have the opportunity to share the Eucharist with other members of our Congregation? Consider becoming a Minister of the Eucharist.

“Why me, Lord?” Consider this – what gifts, talents, qualities do you have? Where did these come from? God-given? Can you find it in yourself to make a little payback? Consider volunteering for some ministry in our parish – Lector? Eucharistic Minister? Something else? See Jayne for some other suggestions.



*Kristin (pictured on right)*

One of our best qualities at St. Francis de Sales is our great gift of welcoming others when we gather. We thought it would be helpful to talk with one of our parish extroverts, Kristin McDonough, and ask HOW she learned to be so gracious and outgoing, and WHY she works so hard at greeting others.

Why is it so important that we welcome people at SFSD? Because welcoming others is a way of evangelizing, (a fancy church word for letting folks know who Jesus is, how loving he is, what our faith means to us...)

Kristin admits that she has always been an extrovert and that chatting with others

## Will You Help Make The Table Bigger?

*By Kristin McDonough*

is easy for her. She says that most of the time when she makes eye contact with folks to begin a conversation, she gets a positive response. This encourages her to keep reaching out to others.

Kristin believes that humans have a basic desire to make connections with one another, and when we reach out to others we nourish our own spirit.

Kristin is especially attracted to St. Francis de Sales because here her soul and her intellect are nourished. The community here feeds her in so many ways, not the least of which is in piquing her curiosity about life and other people. She finds a richness in the homilies and appreciates the multicultural vibrancy, describ-

ing our parish as a 'magnet for the most interesting people from all walks of life'!

This is all well and good for an extrovert ...but what about me? I'm shy, I'm an introvert, I can't possibly talk to someone I don't know.

Kristin suggests starting slowly and offers tips for moving a little bit outside your comfort zone:

- First, assume you will get a positive response!
- Make eye contact and smile with your eyes, too.
- Start with a general compliment: Oh what a great scarf, piece of jewelry, hat or t-shirt, etc. See where the conversation goes.

The truth is most people appreciate the chance to share a little about themselves, they just need the en-

couragement to start. (So... where do you live? Where are you from?) This opens doors to widen the circle of welcomers by introducing them after Mass to a parishioner you know has a similar background. And since SFDS is so international there is often an on-the-spot match.

We often use a table as a metaphor for our parish at whose table Jesus invites us all to feast.

Think of your role as being one of those 'leaves' we put in a table to make it bigger. For example, at a holiday dinner when you need to extend the table so everyone has a seat?

That is who we are .... leaves in the table of the Lord, making sure there's a place for all at the table.



*It is with tremendous sadness that we share the unexpected news that Fr Rudy (Rodolfo) Casals, SJ passed away last week.*

## Remembering Father Rudy

Fr. Rudy was a great friend to St. Francis and a most welcome addition to our pastoral team. He was a beloved part of our Spanish Mass community over the last 3 years, helping with various projects including leadership training during our Covid shutdown and our social justice ministry

Rudy had just completed his Masters Degree in Social Work from Columbia Univer-

sity and was looking forward to working with veterans suffering from trauma. As a former Navy officer, he had a passion for giving back to this community.

Rudy had many interests, he was an avid biker, camper, fan of classical music concerts in the park and a Yankee fan, to name a few. His heart was full of life and he loved to be involved in min-

istry. His smile and his laugh were infectious! He was so much fun to be around.

*He was a good man and a good priest.*

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to his mom, his aunt, his sister and the rest of the Casals family. We are so very sorry for your loss and we promise to stand with you in prayer during these difficult days.

# Why YOU should join the choir

By Nick Ducey-Gallina

Hello St. Francis! My name is Nick Ducey-Gallina, I'm one of the choir members at the 11am mass and I'd like to personally invite you to join the choir to help the church deepen their faith experience at mass. No experience is required, we welcome all skill levels and even have members who had never sung outside of the shower before joining.

There is an English choir that meets at 10:30 on Sundays before mass and a Spanish choir that meets at 12:00 before the Spanish mass. If you want to learn more feel free to text/call me at 317-509-8723 or email me at ngallina42@gmail.com

I've put together a few

FAQs that can help your decision-making process if the flow chart wasn't sufficient to guide your decision making.

## 1. Why would I want to join the choir?

Joining the choir is an opportunity to immerse yourself in the mass and deepen your faith. If you haven't sung before, there is truly something special about the emotions that are embedded in the music we sing at mass. I find that the music at mass connects me to the joy, the longing, and the hope that is embedded in the mass (and our faith!).

In addition, singing in the choir is example of putting your faith into action. Doing something brave that

helps bring people closer to Chris, what better way to answer your baptismal call than that?

## 2. I've never sung in a choir before, it sounds really scary

Singing in the choir can be scary but that's before you meet the wonderful community the choir has created. We all support each other no matter what and it doesn't hurt that John (the supremely talented pianist) is an excellent teacher.

## 3. Isn't awkward being at the front of the church during mass?

You'll find that the congregation usually looks at the priest! In addition,



there's some well-placed pillars that block line of sight to parts of the choir.

## 4. What are rehearsal obligations?

During the summer, we only meet a half hour before mass (10:30 for English, 12:00 for Spanish). In the fall, we have rehearsals on Monday nights. Not everyone makes it to every rehearsal because life often gets in the way, but we do the best we can and together we create the music you hear every Sunday.

## Stewardship Update for Summer 2022

We are aware of how every part of life has gotten more expensive in the last year. It is a challenge for all of us to continue to pay our rising bills while our income remains stagnant.

Our financial life at St. Francis is no different from yours at home. So it is with quiet optimism that we can share with you, as our accountants close our books for the past fiscal year,

our Sunday collections increased 2% (+\$8700.00) While 2% doesn't seem like a lot, given the difficulties we have experienced even this little bit is something we are grateful for.

We would like to call your attention to two details regarding our financial stability. Over the past year, our online giving has increased significantly. This has been incredibly helpful in keep-

ing us in a better position financially and allowing us to offer programs, events and services to our community. We encourage you take a moment to sign on to Tithely on our website or at Tithely.com. Using Tithe.ly is an easy way to make a financial gift to St. Francis at any time.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, many charities participate in "Giving Tues-

day" — a global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world. This year's national day of giving is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov 29. We hope our parishioners will participate in this event to raise a significant contribution for the good of our parish and the work we hope to continue doing.