## St. Francis de Sales Church





"From the heights of heaven, jesus Christ mercifully looks down upon you and graciously invites you there."

St. Francis de Sales

My dear Parishioners,

It is impressive that God has allowed this parish to be present in Bergen County for 165 years announcing the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is a moment to give thanks to God for all the good things that have happened in our life as a parish. What is more impressive is how many good gifts has the Lord done for us. In the Paschal Seder, the Last Supper that Jesus celebrated, there is a moment in which the whole of the assembly recounts all the good things that God has done for the people during the Exodus.

This booklet is an attempt to mark 165 years of goodness of God; from the history and events but mainly by putting in front of us who is the Church. We are the Living Stones. The people that form the parish are the ones that make the Church of St. Francis de Sales, and this booklet put faces and names together.

Please join me in thanking God for all His Goodness!

God Bless!

Mis queridos feligreses,

Es impresionante que Dios haya permitido que esta parroquia esté presente en el condado de Bergen durante 165 años anunciando la Buena Nueva de Jesucristo. Es un momento para dar gracias a Dios por todas las cosas buenas que han sucedido en nuestra vida como parroquia. Lo que es más impresionante es cuántos buenos dones ha hecho el Señor por nosotros. En el Seder Pascual, la Última Cena que Jesús celebró, hay un momento en el que toda la asamblea relata todas las cosas buenas que Dios ha hecho por la gente durante el Éxodo.

Este folleto es un intento de marcar 165 años de bondad de Dios; de la historia y los acontecimientos, pero principalmente al poner delante de nosotros quién es la Iglesia. Somos las Piedras Vivas, las personas que forman la parroquia son las que forman la Iglesia de San Francisco de Sales y este libreto reúne caras y nombres.

¡Únase a mí para agradecer a Dios por toda su bondad!

¡Dios bendiga!

Meus queridos paroquianos,

É impressionante que Deus tenha permitido que essa paróquia estivesse presente no condado de Bergen por 165 anos anunciando a Boa Nova de Jesus Cristo. É um momento de agradecer a Deus por todas as coisas boas que aconteceram em nossa vida como paróquia. O mais impressionante é quantos bons dons o Senhor fez por nós. No Seder Pascal, a Última Ceia que Jesus celebrou, há um momento em que toda a assembléia reconta todas as coisas boas que Deus fez pelo povo durante o êxodo.

Este livreto é uma tentativa de marcar 165 anos de bondade de Deus; da história e dos eventos, mas principalmente colocando à nossa frente quem é a Igreja. Nós somos os Pedras Vivas, as pessoas que formam a paróquia são as que formam a Igreja de São Francisco de Sales e este livreto reúne rostos e nomes. Por favor, junte-se a mim em agradecer a Deus por toda a Sua bondade!

Deus abençoe!

Fr. Francisco J. Rodriguez Pastor



Joseph W. Cardinal Tobin



Rev. Francisco J. Rodriguez



**His Holiness Pope Francis** 

On September 1st, 2017, Fr. Francisco J. Rodriguez was named the Administrator of the parish by the Most Rev. Joseph W. Cardinal Tobin, CSsR, Archbishop of Newark. On July 1st, 2018, Cardinal Tobin assigned Fr. Francisco J. Rodriguez to be the pastor of our parish for the next 6 years.

Cardinal Joseph Tobin, graced us with his presence on September 30th, 2018 coming to St. Francis de Sales Church to install Fr. Francisco J. Rodriguez as the new Pastor that will serve the oldest parish of Bergen county.

## **Pastors** 1854-2019

Rev. F. Senez

Rev. F. Anneli

Rev. John J. Shandle

Rev. Gerard Funke

Rev. F. Mondorf

Rev. Joseph Ascheri (First Resident Pastor)

Rev. John Duffy (Acting Pastor)

Rev. Henry J. Watterson

Rev. William J. Carlin

Rev. John J. Butscher

Rev. Peter Egan

Rev. Edward McGuirk

Rev. Florence Mahoney

Rev. Ladislaus J. Wilczewski (Administrator)

Rev. Edward P. Dugan

Rev. Thomas M. Lennon (Administrator and Pastor)

Rev. Charles F. Theobald

Rev. Timothy Graff

Rev. John J. Galeano

Rev. Francisco J. Rodriguez





Fr. Francisco J. Rodriguez

Pastor



**Rev. Preston Perez** 



Mr. Edgar Caraballo Maintenance



Mrs. Maria Camacho Secretary



Ms. Yesenia Marte
Cemetery



Mrs. Judith Sanlofer
Director of Religious Education



Ms. Karina Ramirez
Coordinator of
Religious Education



Mrs. Clarena Santamaria Local Safe Environment Coordinator (LSEC)



Mr. Paul Weiner

Music Minister



Sr. Lois Parente, CSSF
Business Manager

## HISTORY OF SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH

In 1854, Lodi was the fastest growing and most enterprising village in Bergen County. It was home of Robert Rennies' world-famous Calico Printing Works, his Bleachery Mill, and the most famous flourishing general store in New Jersey. Into this setting, in June 1854, the building of Saint Francis of Sales Church commenced.

Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley appointed Father Louis Senez, Pastor of St. John's Church in Paterson, to oversee construction of St. Francis de Sales and to minister to its people. Building began at the price of \$2,500 with Father Senez supplying \$1,400 of his own funds to cover costs. The building was dedicated on Sunday, December 12, 1854. Father Senez served the church for three years without salary. At the time, the parish encompassed all of Bergen County as well as the village of Acquackanonck (now the city of Passaic). Saint Francis de Sales stands as a landmark. It is the oldest Roman Catholic church in all Bergen County, as well as one of the oldest structures in Lodi.

Throughout these graceful 165 years, Saint Francis de Sales Church has undergone many changes of beautification, with the help of dedicated Pastors and parishioners. In the spring and summer of 2019, its new Pastor, Fr. Francisco J. Rodriguez, with the generous help and contribution of the parishioners, have embarked on new projects of esthetically enhancing the beauty of this place of worship, giving Saint Francis de Sales Church a new face lift.

Saint Francis de Sales church received a new roof and the exterior of the building had its doors and hardware varnished and treated. A new drainage system was installed due to flooding issues that have caused the church grounds to become unsafe for the faithful and those who visit the church. The building had a few stucco replaced and some areas received painting as well as the replacement of some fences. And last but not least, Saint Francis biggest project and greatest accomplishment thus far has been the repaving of the church parking lot and side walks, creating a more dignified, safe environment for parishioners and visitors alike.

Years may pass and seasons come and go, and wear and tear of structural things are inevitable but the spirit of this Church and the pillars that hold up the foundation with Jesus Christ are the Pastors and parishioners who have served the community of Saint Francis de Sales with love, kindness and zeal.



















Francis de Sales was born August 21, 1567 near Annecy in what is now part of France. He became bishop of Geneva in 1602, but his residence and cathedral location were in Annecy due to the religous opposition in Geneva at the time. His diocese became very famous throughout Europe for its efficient organization, zealous clergy and well-instructed laity. St. Francis spent his life in service to the people of his diocese by preaching and giving spiritual direction. He wrote two classics of spiritual literature, namely, *Introduction to a Devout Life* and *Treatise on the Love of God*. His writings have extended hope and consolation to many others. St. Francis de Sales has been styled "the Gentleman Saint" because of his patience, gentleness and sublime yet realistic approach to God.

Francis de Sales encouraged people in every occupation and situation to pursuit the "devout life". He taught cheerfulness, optimism, and inspired common sense. During his lifetime, Francis touched the lives of thousands of people with his wise and loving counsels. His words were tender and sincere, and made one feel that they were listening to a dear and long-time friend. Francis emphasized the need for inner conversion, for the heart to begin to change so that actions would follow. He acknowledged that busyness and hectic lifestyles are normal for most people and are not obstacles to devout life; rather it is neccessary to seek God in every moment.

Francis died in Lyon on December 28, 1622 at the age of 55. Despite the resistance of the populace of Lyon to moving his remains from that city, Sales was buried on January 24, 1623 in the church of the Monastery of the Visitation in Annecy, which he had founded with Jane Frances de Chantal, who was also buried there. Their remains were venerated there until the French Revolution. Many miracles have been reported at his shrine.

De Sales' heart was kept in Lyon, in response to the popular demand of the citizens of the city to retain his remains. During the French Revolution, however, it was saved from the revolutionaries by being carried by the Visitation nuns from Lyon to Venice.

Francis de Sales was beatified in 1661 by Pope Alexander VII, who then canonized him four years later. He was declared a *Doctor of the Church* by Pope Pius IV in 1877. The Roman Catholic Church celebrates *St. Francis de Sales' feast on January 24th*, the day of his burial in Annecy in 1624. In 1923, Pope Pius XI proclaimed him a *patron of writers and journalists*, because he made extensive use of broadsheets and books, both in spiritual direction and in his efforts to convert the Calvinists of the region. St. Francis also, developed a sign language in order to teach a deaf man about God.

Because of this he is the *patron saint to the Hearing Impaired*.



ALCIVAR BEATRIZ GENESIS NUNEZ



ARELLANO ELVIRA



**ASTETE**CARMEN ROSA



BAEZ CARMEN



BORDES CAROLINA & VALENTINA CATALINA, CYNTHIA



CANTA
JEAN, VINCENT PECORARO
BENJAMIN CHINNI



CEBALLOS LETICIA



CHIMBAY AIDA CHRISTIAN, ANDREW, LESLIE



CHIMBAY BLANCA KAREN



CUCCIO JAMES



DACOSTA ANTONIO & BEATRIZ



DE LAS SALAS FANNY NORA



**DEVOE** FRANK & ANNE



**DOMINGUES**ANTONIO & IRENE



DURAN ALEX RACHEL



EKSOZ RUBY DAVID, MERT



**ELE BIONG** VICTOR MANUEL & MARIA JOSE CHRISTIAN, ANDRE



ENCARNACION MAURA



**FERNANDES**MARIA
JORDAN, LALIVIANNA



FERNANDES RAY & ESPERANSA



FERREIRA MARIA ANA RUFFEL



HESS JAMES & AIDA ESTELA CARRILHO



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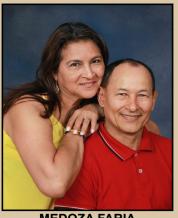
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LOMBARDI ISABELLA



MAIKISCH CHARLIE & VILMA JOE & SUE CAPOZZI



MEDOZA FARIA ROSA & ARMANDO GARCIA



MIRALLES ROSY



MODARELLI JOANNE



NASCIMENTO CARLOS & MARIA



WALTER & ERICA FRANCISCO, LUIS, STEPHANIE



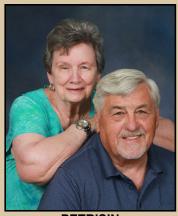
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PEREZ PRESTON



PETRISIN RAYMOND & MARY



PIRES MANUEL & JUANA



POLANCO JUAN & NANCY STEVEN



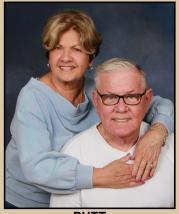
**PONTIER**ROBERT & ALLYSON
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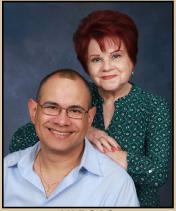
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Re:MEMBER
Church Directories

3640-C Westgate Center Circle

2: member

Winston-Salem, NC 27103

866-724-3907 Toll Free