

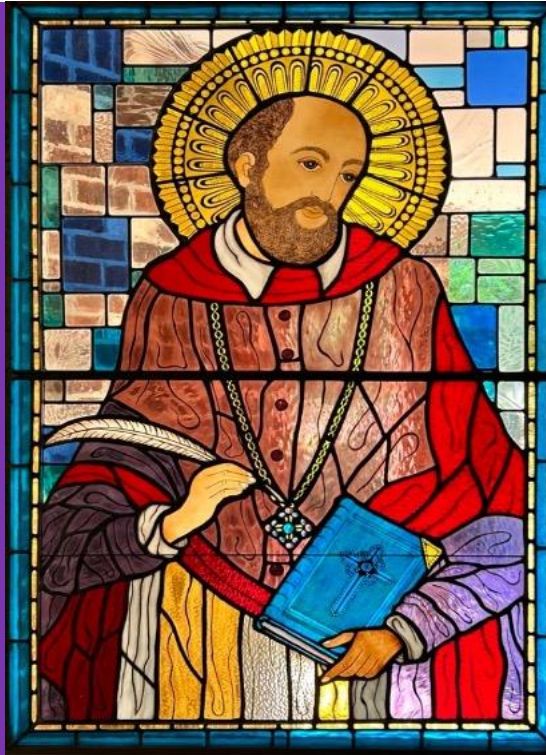
# Church of Francis de Sales

176 Lovers Lane – Mathews, Virginia 23109

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

Mass Intention for the Repose of the Soul of Andrew Olson.



First Reading: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7:  
Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down!

Responsorial Psalm 80:  
“Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.”

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9:  
We wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Mark: 13:33-37:  
Be watchful! You do not know when the Lord of the house is coming.

Greeter: M. Olson

Usher: E. Lipinski / J. Oliver

Lectors: E. McNamee / M. Flaherty

Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: J. Dawson / S. Haas / M. Flaherty

Counters: H. Keitz / R. Engle

## Church of Francis de Sales

Roman Catholic Church  
176 Lovers Lane – Mathews, Virginia 23109

Parochial Administrator: Reverend Fr. Johnny Mintah Mensah  
Rectory: 804-286-9271

Parish Administrator: Paul Flaherty

Parish Secretary: Mary Marshall

Parish Office: 804-725-2776

Office Hours:

Monday 8am-4pm

Tuesday 8 am-4pm

Friday 8am-Noon

E-mail: [office@fdschurch.org](mailto:office@fdschurch.org)

<https://www.FdSChurch.org>

*Please submit any announcements for the bulletin to the Parish Office no later than Tuesday at 4:00 PM*

## Our Liturgy Schedule

Sunday Mass: 11:00am

Tuesday Daily Mass: 9:00am

Friday Daily Mass: 9:00am

Holy Days: 6:30pm

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday: Devotions to the Sacred Heart      Mass at 9:00am followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday: Fatima Devotions Rosary at 9:30am followed by Mass at 10:00am

### SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation on request.

Marriage: call the priest at least six months in advance.

Baptism: call the priest at least one month in advance.

*Anointing of the Sick at any time upon request.*

## Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word:

“Watch!” The final word of today’s Gospel bids together our readings on this first Sunday of Advent. Isaiah watched for the Lord, anticipating that one day God would come down from the heavens and rescue the Chosen People. Paul exhorted the Corinthians to be watchful for the day when the Lord would return. Jesus Himself compared the Second Coming to the head of the house returning at a time you least expect. May God’s word remind us to wait watchfully for the Lord.

## This Week in the Liturgy of the Church

FRI	Dec 1	9:00 AM	Weekday Mass Friday. 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Devotions to the Sacred Heart, Mass at 9:00 AM followed by Eucharistic Adoration. Mass intention for the Repose of the Soul of Paul Thomas Royals.
SAT	Dec 2	9:30 AM 10:00 AM	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday: Fatima Devotions Rosary at 9:30 AM followed by Mass at 10:00 AM.
TUES	Dec 5		<u>No</u> Weekday Mass will be celebrated on this day.
FRI	Dec 8	9:00 AM	Weekday Mass Friday of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Week of Advent.

## Upcoming Events in the Life of our Parish

WED      Dec 20      6:30 PM      Reconciliation Service at the Church of Francis de Sales.

### FdS Parish Offertory

Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

*Parish Offertory Income Collection will be provided in the Sunday Bulletin on the 3rd and 4th Sunday of the month.*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY WHICH  
HELPS OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY THRIVE.**

## Our Announcements

**Please Stay After Mass:** Immediately following Sunday's Mass, we will host a special program entitled: "All Are Welcome, Can All Receive?" We will have coffee, donuts, and a 30-minute presentation which should answer your questions about how an essential truth of our faith is put into practice to bring everyone closer to Christ. This presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer session with Fr. Koo. Please join us!

The Church of Francis de Sales Social Outreach Committee will be providing **Christmas Stockings or Shoe Boxes** for the seniors at the Mathews County Senior Center again this year. Please pick up an ornament tag (there are 18 pink tags for the ladies and 5 blue tags for the gentlemen), from the Angel Tree located in the back of the church. Fill the stocking or box (wrap the gifts), attach the tag, and return the stocking or box to the church no later than **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**. We need to have them ready by December 14<sup>th</sup> for delivery to the seniors. A list of suggested items that you might want to include in the stockings will be by the angel tree. If possible, could you please provide a small gift card for food from Walmart, Food Lion or Dollar General in your gift box? Please help to make Christmas a little brighter for our seniors in Mathews County this year.

**Hospitality Sunday** will be held this month on **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** after Mass. To celebrate this day with a festive Christmas spirit, we are asking all participants to bring their favorite Christmas cookies or dessert. Break out those tried and true recipes to share with our community the favorites that have made your family traditions so special. As usual, coffee and drinks will be provided. We look forward to jovial fellowship as we enjoy some Christmas treats.

AS WE PREPARE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S BIRTH, PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE RECONCILIATION SERVICE ON **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 6:30 PM** AT THE CHURCH OF FRANCIS DE SALES.

### **Happy Advent? Don't Celebrate Yet!**

Welcome to the season of Advent and the beginning of the Church's liturgical year! Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") encompasses the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

People have anticipated Jesus' return since the earliest days of the Church; however, our readings during this season remind us to *be prepared* for His second coming rather than focus on *when* He is coming. We will be reminded of our obligation to prepare for Christ's coming by Fr. Koo's purple vestments, but Advent is not entirely a penitential season like Lent. While many of us go back to our childhood days and remember Advent as a waiting period for Christmas, it is more of an opportunity to change our ways and start over—read: repent! Consider it time to get off the naughty list and start getting onto the nice. This is a time to prepare, quiet, and discipline our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. We will offer an Advent Penitential Liturgy at our Church of Francis de Sales on **Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**.

If we are seeking ways to be inspired to change our ways during Advent, we need look no further than the great saints that fill the calendar this season. In this month we meet the real Santa Claus, a missionary priest, doctor of the Church, visionary, bishop, pope, and a martyr. We also have two of Marian feasts (including the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th, a holyday of obligation).

Each week of Advent has a theme (as does every week in our liturgical calendar). The first week's theme is hope, the second week's is peace, the third is joy (when the liturgical color is rose, which indicates joy), and the fourth week's theme is love. These colors and themes are carried over to the candles of the Advent wreath and the prayers that we say when each of the candles is lit.

Contrary to TV ads that tell us we are in the "Christmas season," our liturgical season of Christmas does not begin until the vigil masses of Christmas Eve and ends, this year, after the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. If you are looking for an excuse to leave your Christmas decorations up longer, like we do in our home, you can go "old school" and wait until Candlemas (The Presentation of the Lord) which occurs this year on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We find ourselves getting all wrapped up in the hectic activities of the secular "silly season." Each of us can make some time early each day, or at some time with our family, to find a different rhythm in our lives by allowing this Advent season to help renew our desire for His coming and be prepared for Him whenever it may be.

**Special Intentions for Mass:** If you would like to have a Mass offered for the intention of a loved one, friend, or another special request, please stop by the parish office and we will be happy to assist you!

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER		
Parishioners	Family	Friends
Joe King	Dottie Long	Laurel & Allen Robins
Jean and Bob Tanner	Rita Guarino	Joy Long
Anna Deagle	Fred Moody	William Scott Smith
Sharon Simmons	Timothy Farrell	Ben Leigh
Alice Mercer	Margaret McLaughlin	Nan Seals
Gloria Bosley	Ruth Brown	Kenneth Marshall
Matthew DeForge	Maria Hurst	Lourdes Parker
Sally Howland	Scott Oliver	Tom Justis
Michelle Oliver	Sylvia Oliver	Maureen Connolly
Jim Pavik	Catherine Bennett	Norm Connolly
Grace Hall	Justin Bennett	
Cathy Walker	Debbie Marceau	
Rita Engle	David Colligan	
Paul Reardon	Melissa Wilson	
Nicholas Koch	Moo Svendson	
	Kathleen Cala	
	Vicki Krieger	
	Patsy Lynch	

**Please Pray for Our Military Men, Women, and Their Families.  
 Lord, hold our troops in Your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and  
 their families for the selfless acts they perform in our country's time of need.  
 We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

MSgt Kristin Buludis	Daughter of Randy & Terry Dobson	US Air Force	Langley AFB, VA
CPT Andrew Bohn	Son of Jeff Bohn & Suanne Dittmeier	US Army	Fort Gregg Adams, VA
CAPT Ryan Carey	Son of Jack & Ginny Carey	US Navy	Naples, Italy
SSgt Cameron Farrell	Great-nephew of Elaine Lynch	US Air Force	Tyndall AFB, FL
E6 John Robert Pizzicar	Son-in-law of Jim & Deona Pavik	US Navy	Fort Meade, MD
LT Patrick Sopko	Son of Suzanne and Ron Sopko	US Navy	Norfolk, VA
2LT Spencer Walsh	Grandson of Pat & Jimmy Walsh	US Army	Fort Hood, TX

Austin Tice, freelance journalist and former Marine Captain, captured in Syria on August 14, 2012.  
*Locations of overseas deployments are not listed for the security of all military members.*

## Our Parish Ministry and Mission Leads

<b>Parochial Administrator, Liturgy</b>	Fr. Johnny Mintah Mensah
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Paul Flaherty
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	Mary Marshall
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Jon Oliver
<b>Bulletin</b>	Elaine Lynch
<b>Bulletin Advertisements</b>	Paul Reardon
<b>Columbarium</b>	Paul Flaherty
<b>Counters Chair</b>	Christine Dehnert-Fernald
<b>Environment</b>	Pat Lipinski
<b>Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Paul Reardon
<b>Faith Formation - Elementary</b>	Michelle Haas
<b>Faith Formation - Adult</b>	Ed McNamee
<b>Faith Formation - High School</b>	Courtney Hudson
<b>Finance Council Chair</b>	Leon Iveson
<b>Funeral Coordinator</b>	
<b>Greeters</b>	Paul Reardon
<b>Grounds Manager</b>	Alan Downs
<b>Hospitality / Funeral Receptions</b>	Mary Flaherty
<b>Lectors Ministry</b>	Ed McNamee
<b>Liturgy</b>	Michelle Oliver
<b>Memorial Bricks</b>	Paul Flaherty
<b>New Members</b>	Pat Lipinski
<b>Faith Formation - Parish Catechetical Lead</b>	Ed McNamee
<b>Parish Life</b>	Rita Engle
<b>Parish Outreach</b>	Helen Yacobucci
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	Mary Flaherty
<b>Pastoral Council Chair</b>	Eric Chadwell
<b>RCIA</b>	Cheryl Henig
<b>Sacramental Preparation - Baptism</b>	Ed McNamee
<b>Sacramental Preparation - Confirmation</b>	Jessie Miller
<b>Sacramental Preparation – 1<sup>st</sup> Sacraments</b>	Michelle Haas
<b>Ushers</b>	Ed Lipinski
<b>Webmaster</b>	Ed McNamee

**To get in touch with any of our ministry or mission leaders,  
or to offer your time and talents, please contact the Parish Office.**

OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN  
(Updated 2/08/23)





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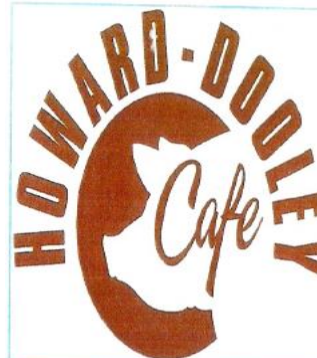
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