



*2019 Ministry Directory*

*St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church  
614 South Oakwood Ave.  
Beckley, WV 25801*



# *Saint Francis de Sales Church*

*614 South Oakwood Avenue  
Beckley, West Virginia 25801*

Rev. Paul J. Wharton, Pastor  
(304) 256-3594 or [pastor@sfccwv.org](mailto:pastor@sfccwv.org)

Mrs. Mary Grace De Polo-Peck, Principal  
(304) 252-4087 or [principal@sfccwv.org](mailto:principal@sfccwv.org)

Deacon Harry Evans (304) 549-4590 or [hevans@dwc.org](mailto:hevans@dwc.org)  
Deacon Jay Ziolkowski (304) 252-7835 or [deaconjayz@gmail.com](mailto:deaconjayz@gmail.com)  
Mrs. Lisa Keiling, Christian Formation (304) 207-8669 or  
[keilingforestry@yahoo.com](mailto:keilingforestry@yahoo.com)

Mr. Mark Misco, Secretary (304) 253-3695 or [mark@sfccwc.org](mailto:mark@sfccwc.org)  
Mrs. Deame, Appel, Office (304) 253-3695 or [deameappel@gmail.com](mailto:deameappel@gmail.com)

Mr. John Evans, Janitor and Maintenance  
Mrs. Luz, Housekeeping

*Rectory:* 614 S. Oakwood Ave.; Beckley, WV 25801 (304) 256-3594

*Office:* 626 S. Oakwood Ave.; (304) 253-3695  
Hours: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm, weekdays except Wednesday

*Website:* [sfccwv.org](http://sfccwv.org)  
*Email:* [church@stfrancis-wv.org](mailto:church@stfrancis-wv.org)

## *Saint Francis de Sales School*

Rev. Paul J. Wharton, Pastor  
(304) 256-3594 or [pastor@sfccwv.org](mailto:pastor@sfccwv.org)

Mrs. Mary Grace De Polo-Peck, Principal  
(304) 252-4087 or [principal@sfccwv.org](mailto:principal@sfccwv.org)

Mrs. Corey Lacey, Secretary  
Mrs. Debra Lanna, Development

*School:* 622 S. Oakwood Ave; (304) 252-4087  
Hours: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm, Monday – Friday  
9:00 am – 2:00 pm, Monday – Friday (Summer)

*Website:* [sfdbeckley.org](http://sfdbeckley.org)  
*Email:* [sfschool@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:sfschool@suddenlinkmail.com)

## *Introduction*

Except that Saint Francis de Sales Parish is a lot larger, it shares much in common with the many families that belong. Our members come in all shapes, sizes, opinions, races, intelligence, and financial status. Some are saints. Some are sinners. Most of us travel back and forth between the two points.

We are part of the Roman Catholic Church that was founded on the faith of the Apostles and Disciples who first believed and followed Jesus. We also belong to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston with all Catholics living in West Virginia.

Like any family, our parish family will have disagreements, confusion, frustration, and conflicts. But our parish family also has its joys, sharing, friendship, consolation, sense of belonging, and faith. We gather weekly to celebrate the Lord's Supper at Mass. We listen to God's Word proclaimed in church and during Christian Formation. We reach out into hospitals and homes where the sick and the elderly are found to be with them and help them.

What happens to an individual member or family happens to all of us. Saint Paul tells us that together we are the Body of Christ. One's birth is our birth; one's successes are our successes; one's sickness is our sickness; and one's death and resurrection is ours, too.

As any family, we should welcome new members whether they are Catholics coming home or moving here. Please be sure to register so we know who you are, what you need, and how we can help each other. As any family, we welcome people who want to become members of the Catholic Church and Saint Francis de Sales here in Beckley. There is a process that begins every August called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

By virtue of our baptism, we are all called and gifted to support one another and help grow the Church. In this booklet, readers will learn more about what goes on here and opportunities for involvement.

Maybe you're interested in becoming involved. All events take people with ideas, energy, know-how, and willing hands. Yours are always welcome. Organizational skills and knowing many parishioners are helpful attributes but are not necessary. If you have an event idea or are interested in joining a committee or getting involved in something new, please get in touch with the contact person.

## *Mission Statement*

We, the people of God of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church,  
Are empowered by our Baptism and guided by the Holy Spirit  
to be disciples of Jesus.

United in Eucharistic tradition and strengthened by prayer,  
we gratefully return to God the gifts of our time, talent, and  
treasure for building the community of the Church.

We are committed to one another and to the tradition  
of the Catholic Church in celebrating the Sacred Liturgy,  
proclaiming the Good News through education,  
sustaining the community of faith, and promoting peace  
and social justice for all.

## The Church Worships and Grows Spiritually

- **Mass Schedule:**

Saturday Vigil	5:00 pm
Sunday	8:30 am and 11:00 am
Holydays	8:30 am, 12:00 noon, and 7:00 pm
Weekdays	As listed in the bulletin
- **Eucharistic Adoration:** First Fridays, 9:00 am – 7:00 pm
- **Divine Mercy Chaplet:** Third Sunday of each month, 3:00 pm
- **Daily Rosary and Angelus:** Monday – Saturday, 8:00 am;  
Wednesday, 6:30 pm
- **First Saturday Novena:** First Saturday, 9:00 am
- **Our Lady of the Nations Novena:** 1<sup>st</sup> Week of October, 7 pm
- **Sacrament of Penance (Confession):** Saturday, 4:15 – 4:45 pm  
Wednesday, 6:30 -6:45 pm  
First Fridays 9:00 am; 6:30 – 6:45 pm

## The Church Celebrates the Sacraments

- **Baptism** — Since parents who desire Baptism for their children assume responsibility for spiritual formation of their child, they are to participate in a program to prepare them and the godparents (if possible) for this commitment. Baptism classes are available by appointment. Please contact Deacon Harry Evans (304) 549-4590. Children age 7 or older must take part in a special age-appropriate program. Adults seeking Baptism normally take part in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Deacon Harry Evans (304) 549-4590 or [hevans@dwc.org](mailto:hevans@dwc.org)
- **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** — The RCIA is a spiritual journey during which catechumens (those not baptized) and candidates (those baptized, but not yet Catholic) are assisted in their quest to experience conversion and spiritual growth. RCIA begins in September and concludes at Pentecost. Interested parishioners help with the weekly sessions, provide refreshments, serve as a prayer sponsor for an RCIA class member, and may serve as sponsors. To enroll, volunteer, or for more information, please contact Deacon Harry Evans (304) 549-4590 or [hevans@dwc.org](mailto:hevans@dwc.org)
- **Confirmation** — Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church. Along with Baptism and Eucharist it completes the process of becoming an adult Catholic Christian. In baptism we receive the graces of the Holy Spirit to help in our personal formation as new members of the church. In Confirmation that spirit is strengthened to prepare us to step out as intentional disciples of Jesus to evangelize the world. Confirmation of those baptized Catholic, which is conferred by our Bishop, is scheduled every other year. Teenagers who are attending Saint Francis de Sales School or participating in Christian Formation take part in a special

program lasting from fall until spring. Non-Catholics who are baptized here or Christians who make a profession of faith prepare for Confirmation through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

- **First Communion** — An important Rite of Passage for any Catholic is the day one becomes able to receive the Eucharist. At Mass we are fed spiritually through the Scriptures proclaimed and preached and the bread and wine consecrated into the Body and Blood of Christ. Second grade children and their parents take part in the special preparation program either at Saint Francis de Sales School or as part of our Christian Formation Program on Sunday mornings.
- **Reconciliation** — Second grade children and their parents take part in the special preparation program either at Saint Francis de Sales School or as part of our Christian Formation Program on Sunday mornings. Father Paul is available for this sacrament on Wednesdays from 6:30 PM until 6:45 PM as well as Saturdays from 4:15 PM until 4:45 PM. After morning Mass and before evening Mass on First Fridays Fr. Paul stays in the Reconciliation Room as long as needed. Parishioners may also contact him for a mutually convenient time. Once during Advent and Lent there is a Communal Reconciliation Service at which other priests make themselves available to celebrate the mercy and forgiveness of God.
- **Anointing of the Sick** — This Sacrament of Healing is available when requested by any parishioner. Any Catholic preparing or recovering from surgery, seriously sick, or in danger of death ought to seek this holy anointing. One cannot be anointed too early, but many are anointed too late to speak with a priest, confess sin, and receive absolution. Please contact Father Paul at (304) 256-3594 or [pastor@sfccwv.org](mailto:pastor@sfccwv.org).
- **Marriage** — Marriage preparation requires at least six months' notice to allow proper scheduling, paperwork, and pre-marital counseling. It is important not to set a wedding date before initial consultation with the Priest. Please call the Rectory (304) 256-3594 to set a date and the Office (304) 253-3695 to reserve the church.

## The Church Ministers to Each Other During Mass

The word *liturgy* is from the Greek meaning *work of the people*. There are a variety of Liturgical Ministries. We are always in need of reliable, reverent, and trained volunteers.

- **Readers** — The Reader proclaims God's Word and makes it come alive for us who hear it. Saint Paul writes, "The Sacred Scriptures... are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through Jesus Christ." (2 Tim. 3:15) From the beginning, whenever Christians gathered for the Eucharist, they listened to the Word of God. Deacon Jay Ziolkowski (304) 252-7835 or [deaconjayz@gmail.com](mailto:deaconjayz@gmail.com) trains, prepares, and schedules our Readers.

- ***Music and Singing*** — Saint Augustine wrote, “To sing is to pray twice.” The Church has always taught that music and Liturgy go together. Good music is necessary for good worship. That is why there are a variety of music ministries: Musician, Cantor, Song Leader, and Choir. The purpose of all these ministries is to help us sing better when we pray and give glory to God.

## **Musicians and Adult Choir**

### **Resurrection Choir for Funerals**

### **Youth Choir**

- ***Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*** — Like the disciples in the miracle story of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fish, these ministers help our Lord Jesus Christ distribute His Body and Blood to those eligible to receive communion. They are like waiters at the Lord’s Supper. Some of the Extraordinary Ministers help during Mass, others bring communion to those who cannot come to church, and still others serve both ways. Deacon Harry Evans (304) 549-4590 or [hevans@dwc.org](mailto:hevans@dwc.org) trains and schedules these volunteers.
- ***Altar Servers*** — Servers have a two-fold responsibility. First, servers model the activity of the congregation during worship: singing, responding, listening, keeping silent, and praying at the proper times. Second, they help the flow of the Mass by carrying the crucifix in procession, holding the Roman Missal, preparing the altar, and helping receive the gifts of bread and wine. There are other ways they help during special celebrations. Deacon Harry Evans (304) 549-4590 or [hevans@dwc.org](mailto:hevans@dwc.org) trains and schedules the servers.
- ***Ushers*** — Ushers greet and assist parishioners and visitors to the weekend and Holy Day Masses, select a couple to present the offertory gifts, facilitate the collection of offerings, perform a headcount, distribute bulletins after Mass, and check pews for items left behind. Ushers are typically scheduled on a monthly basis. A brief training is provided as needed.
- ***Art and Environment Committee*** — A group of dedicated women, men, and youth take care of the church environment to enhance the experience through the seasons of the Church according to the directives on Art and Environment in the Church. The team provides a subtle yet powerful beauty when liturgies and other celebrations occur.
- ***Altar Linen Committee*** — Members of the Altar Linen Committee clean and prepare all the linens used on the altar at Liturgical celebrations on a rotating monthly basis. To volunteer, please contact Harry Evans (304) 252-0561 or [h\\_mevans@suddenlink.net](mailto:h_mevans@suddenlink.net).

**The Church helps the Sick and Shut-in**

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY** and a priest is needed for the Anointing of the Sick, please call the rectory at (304) 256-3594 (Please leave a message) and the office at (304) 253-3695. If you are unable to talk to a person, please call one of the deacons until you talk to a live person: Deacon Harry Evans (304) 549-4590 or Deacon Jay Ziolkowski (304) 252-7835.

If you or someone you know is **IN THE HOSPITAL**, please let us know. Hospitals will not—and legally *cannot*—let us know unless you personally request your floor nurse to contact us. Anyone who is hospitalized ought to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. It is a wonderful prayer for healing in body, mind, and soul. It is a blessing indeed to receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion.

If you or someone you love is going to have **SURGERY**, please call Father Paul to arrange the Anointing of the Sick.

**IN DANGER OF DEATH** or **LIFE-THREATING ILLNESS**, please contact Fr. Paul as soon as possible. People deserve the opportunity to confess their sins, profess their faith, be anointed, and receive Holy Communion—the foretaste and pledge of eternal life. **PLEASE** do not wait until after the person is unconscious or so sedated that he or she cannot communicate.

- **Anointing of the Sick** — Call the rectory, parish office, or a deacon. For additional information, refer to “The Church Celebrates the Sacraments” as well as above.
- **Hospital** — Ask your nurse to contact the rectory, parish office, or a deacon.
- **Communion Calls** — Contact Deacon Harry Evans (304) 549-4590. Visits can be made to home or hospital.
- **Prayer Ministry** — The Bible teaches the importance of prayer in general and intercessory prayer in particular. To request prayers for you or another, or to volunteer to pray for others, please contact Harry Evans (304) 252-0561.
- **Card Ministry** — The Evangelization Committee sends cards to the shut-ins of the parish. ....
- **Health Ministry** — The Bible teaches us that our bodies are temples for the Holy Spirit and instructs us to glorify God in our bodies. The Health Ministry promotes health and wellness through various screenings and other activities.....



## The Church Helps Those in Need

- ***Supporting Food Pantries*** — The Knights of Columbus, Council 5657, sponsors monthly Food for Families Collection on the first weekend each month. Food and monetary donations help support five food pantries and one soup kitchen throughout southern WV
- ***The Giving Tree*** — The parish works with the Raleigh County Board of Education to provide Christmas gifts to students of the school system. Tags are placed on trees at the Church the weekend after Thanksgiving; parishioners select a tag and buy gifts which are forwarded to the school system for distribution. Volunteers sort the gifts and insure there are gifts for each child listed on a tag...
- ***Operation Rice Bowl*** — Catholic Relief Services sponsors this Lenten program for Catholic families to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Rice bowls are available beginning Ash Wednesday. 25% of all donations collected stay in our diocese.
- ***Catholic Charities*** — The mission of Catholic Charities is to alleviate poverty, distress, and injustice by providing comprehensive social services to the poor and vulnerable, advocating for social justice, and calling all people of good will, especially those of the Church, to service. Volunteers staff the Beckley site Tuesdays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm .
- ***Birthright*** — Birthright provides caring, non-judgmental support to girls and women who are distressed by an unplanned pregnancy. Birthright believes “It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born.” This support is provided free of charge and in a confidential manner. Services include providing information, making medical and legal referrals, and supplying resources such as clothing, diapers, and formula. Trained volunteers work at the Birthright Center located at 400 N. Vance Drive, answering the phone, receiving visitors, and assisting with organizing supplies and donations.
- ***Prison Ministry*** — Jesus welcomed into His kingdom those who visited the imprisoned. Those individuals interested in visiting the imprisoned at the federal prisons in Beckley and Welch as well as the regional jail in Beckley must undergo an extensive background check before being allowed to do so. For more information or to volunteer for this ministry please contact Deacon Jay Ziolkowski (304) 252-7835.
- ***Other assistance*** — The Church offers other types of emergency assistance on a case-by-case basis. Contact the parish office for assistance.

## The Church Evangelizes

- **Word of Mouth** — In the beginning of the Gospel According to John, two would-be disciples ask Jesus where He lived. He said simply, “Come and see.” Jesus continues to invite people to get to know Him and His Church. We are Jesus’ instruments in inviting others to come and see. Invite someone you know to Mass or other service or activity with you. Our duty is to plant seeds.
- **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** —The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) begins in early September and continues through Pentecost. Meetings are Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm. For additional information contact Deacon Harry Evans (304) 549-4590 or refer to “The Church Celebrates the Sacraments”
- **Catholic Radio** — The parish sponsors WNUX 89.7 FM, a Catholic radio station affiliated with EWTN. The station receives no support from the Diocese and depends solely on private donations.

## The Church Teaches and Grows in Faith

- **Saint Francis de Sales School** — The Parish’s Christian Formation of Children begins with children in Kindergarten. Those enrolled at our Catholic School receive instruction every day.
- **Faith Formation** — Children and Youth going to other schools meet weekly beginning the Sunday after Labor Day and ending of the third Sunday of May. Catechists and other adults are needed to help share the light of faith with these young people. Training and assistance by the director of religious education is available at all times for persons willing to participate in this ministry.
- **Adult Education** — The Education Committee sponsors a variety of Scriptural based multi-week sessions that include a video presentation followed by group discussions. The sessions are Tuesdays at 9:10 am in DeSales Hall. Check the bulletin for the current offering.
- **Church Book Club** — The Book Club discusses current as well as classic Catholic-themed books. The club meets on designated Thursdays at 9:00 in DeSales Hall. Check the bulletin for the topic book and meeting dates.
- **FORMED** — The parish offers FORMED, an on-demand platform containing thousands of movies, video programs, audio, and ebooks about the Catholic faith to all parishioners at no cost.

- **Library** — The parish maintains a library in DeSales Hall with over 900 select Catholic books. Parishioners may check out books on the honor system and return them to the library when they are finished. The library is open whenever the Church is open.
- **Spiritual Direction** — Spiritual direction focuses on forming, cultivating, and deepening an individual's relationship with the Lord. Spiritual directors are available through the WV Institute for Spirituality.
- **VIRTUS** — The parish, in its efforts to provide a safe environment and in accordance with diocesan guidelines, requires all employees and volunteers working with children and youth to complete VIRTUS training. The VIRTUS program trains volunteers in appropriate child safety measures and abuse prevention. For information contact the parish office.

## The Church Comforts Those Who Mourn

- **Planning Funerals** — In the event of the death of a loved one, please contact the rectory or the parish office. Father works in conjunction with the funeral home to plan the service and offer assistance to the family with whatever is necessary.
- **Saint Sebastian Cemetery** — The Cemetery Committee maintains the graves and grounds of St. Sebastian Cemetery located at St. Francis Lane. The group also maintains an accurate record of the deceased buried there since 1909. Meetings are scheduled from April through September.
- **Resurrection Choir** — Volunteers from the parish provide the worship music for funerals conducted at the church as requested by the family.
- **Bereavement Luncheon** — Members of the Bereavement Committee prepare and serve food for families and friends of the deceased following the funeral. The committee provides this service through donations. Volunteers help prepare and serve the food. They also help by donating food and paper products.
- **All Souls Day** — On All Souls Day the parish holds a special remembrance service at the evening Mass for parishioners who died during the previous twelve months. During the month of November the names of those deceased are displayed in the church to help us remember them in our prayers.

- ***Anna's Angels*** — Widowed and single parishioners meet informally for fellowship, including occasional outings or special events.
- ***Booklets for Grieving Parishioners*** — During the first year following the death of a loved one, Father sends a series of four booklets to the immediate family. The booklets offer advice and support to the survivors as they move through the stages of grief.
- ***Hospice*** — Hospice of Southern West Virginia serves the needs of individuals suffering from life-limiting illnesses and as well as those who care for them. The parish provides spiritual assistance to the individuals and their families. To request spiritual assistance call the parish office.

## The Church Works Together

- ***Couples for Christ*** — Couples for Christ/Youth for Christ is an international Catholic lay ecclesial movement whose goal is to renew and strengthen Christian values. They meet the third Saturday from 1:00-4:00 pm.
- ***Knights of Columbus*** — “In service to One. In service to all.” Any practicing Catholic man, age 18 or older is welcome to join. *Council #5657* meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:45 pm in the Parish Center. *The Fourth Degree Knights* perform color guard at church liturgical celebrations. *The Third and Fourth Degree Knights* sponsor Friday night Bingo and Bingo at the VA Medical Center.
- ***Ladies of Saint Francis*** — The Ladies of St. Francis serve the Church and community in a variety of ministries, including preparing for special receptions and dinners, preparing the Church for each liturgical season, and conducting fundraisers to support these activities. The Ladies meet the First Sunday of each month after 8:30 am Mass. The group is open to all ladies of the parish.

## The Church Plays Together

- ***Ageless Wonders*** — The Ageless Wonders meet the Second Sunday of the month, September through April at 2:00 pm for a meal and fellowship. Parishioners 55 and older are encouraged to join.
- ***Canasta*** — Ladies of the parish play Canasta every Wednesday at 12:00 noon in Mary's House. Another group meets the every Friday at 3:00 pm.

- **Quilting** — The St. Francis Quilters/Needlecrafters quilt for pleasure as well as for service. The group meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at Mary's House.
- **Seniors Exercise Group** — The Seniors Exercise Group meets Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:00 am in DeSales Hall.
- **Fish Dinners** — Every Friday during Lent with the exception of Good Friday the parish offers a fish dinner with a variety of seafood offerings with all the sides. Volunteers prep and cook, setup, serve, wash dishes, and clean up after the meal.
- **Winter Gala** — During February the school hosts a Winter Gala. Each year the event has a special theme and parishioners as well as community members are invited to attend. The event includes dinner, dancing, games, and a silent auction. All monies raised directly support the school.
- **International Dinner** — The Ladies of St. Francis host an International Dinner each year. Volunteers prepare their favorite ethnic dish to be served, assist with setup, serving, and cleanup.

## The Church Communicates

- **Weekly Bulletin** — A weekly bulletin is printed for distribution after the weekend Masses. The bulletin contains the Mass schedule for the week, parish activities, liturgical ministries schedules, contact information, and special announcements. This bulletin is also emailed to all parishioners with email contact information on file and is posted on the parish website.
- **Websites** — The church's website [sfccwv.org](http://sfccwv.org) provides news and updates, links to the weekly homily, the weekly bulletin, the opportunity for online giving, as well as links to other helpful resources. The school's website [sfdsbeckley.org](http://sfdsbeckley.org) contains school news, upcoming events, student and school achievements and awards, and menus, as well as useful links to outside resources.
- **Emails** — The church office sends emails to all parishioners informing them of upcoming events, notifying them of important updates, and providing them with timely information, as well as the weekly bulletin. If you are not receiving these emails, contact the parish office so your information may be added.

## The Church is Organized

- **Pastoral Council** — The purpose of the Pastoral Council is to provide vision and pastoral direction for St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church. The Pastoral Council shall serve as a medium through which the insights and concerns of the total parish community can be brought before the clergy and laity alike. It shall monitor trends in parish life. It shall be a vehicle through which the whole parish can be involved in the life of the church. It shall attempt to reflect to the pastor the thoughts, opinions, and needs of the whole parish. Membership includes nine members elected at large in staggered three-year terms and five chosen by different parish groups serving for one year. Nominations are made every spring; new members and one alternate are chosen by a discernment process. For more information, please contact parish office (304) 253-3695.
- **School Board** — The St. Francis de Sales School Board is a consultative body responsible for establishing goals and policies of the school. The council is composed of the pastor or his representative, the school principal (ex-officio), and nine representatives from the parish. Seven of the members are elected to three-year terms by a vote open to all adult parishioners. Two members of the council are appointed. Responsibilities of the council include strategic and long-term planning, fiscal planning and monitoring, public relations, building and grounds, committee and project involvement, and consultation. For additional information, please contact Mary Grace Peck, Principal (304) 252-4087.
- **Finance Council** — A Finance Council, composed of members with the appropriate expertise and possessing a love for the Church and its mission, can provide the Pastor valuable advice and assistance in the execution of his parish financial administration duties. The Council deals with anything having to do with buildings, grounds, property, and finances. The members are appointed by the Pastor. To learn more or volunteer contact Father Paul at (304) 256-3594 or [pastor@sfccwv.org](mailto:pastor@sfccwv.org).
- **Money Counters** — Each Sunday after the weekend Masses the collections are separated into various funds, counted, and prepared for deposit.
- **Parish Registration** — A Parishioner is anyone who lives within the Parish boundaries and/or attends Sunday Mass and considers St. Francis de Sales his/her spiritual home. Parishioners have the right to partake of the Sacramental Ministry of the Parish, to be provided Funeral or Memorial Services, and to have his/her children partake in the Sacramental Ministry. Parishioners are remembered in the Daily Prayers for the People, are Benefactors of the Church, are included in all spiritual and educational events of the parish, and have the opportunity to participate in the ministry of the parish. If you are not registered, please contact the office (304) 253-3695.



## The Church Plans for the Future

Both the Old and New Testaments often mention the responsibility believers have to give of one's time, talents, and treasure. When we do this, we express our gratitude for God's blessings, our faith in God, our concern for others, and our belief in the world to come. We help the Church in the mission with which Jesus gave her. One of the six precepts of the Catholic Church is that members are to provide for the needs of the church. The most common way to do this is to use the envelopes provided by the church or to set up online giving. A small but growing number of people choose to leave a portion of their estate to our church and/or school.

Charitable bequests can take various forms. You may leave a bequest of a specific sum of money, percentage of your estate, piece of property or the residual of your estate. If your will is already written, your advisor can add a simple amendment to provide a charitable bequest to Saint Francis de Sales Church or School.

Another important way of helping provide for future needs giving a lasting gift for the benefit Saint Francis de Sales Church or School by adding to an existing endowment fund or creating a new one. Distributions are limited to no more than 4.5 percent of the principle yearly so your gift and support are ongoing. Currently we have three endowment funds with the West Virginia Catholic Foundation:

1. Saint Francis de Sales Church (Beckley)
2. Saint Francis de Sales School (Beckley)
3. Saint Sebastian Cemetery (Beckley)

For more information or the proper language to use in your will, please contact Mr. Bryan Minor, WV Catholic Foundation at (304) 233-0880 or [bminor@dwc.org](mailto:bminor@dwc.org).



*Make  
yourself  
familiar with  
the angels,  
and behold  
them frequently  
in spirit;  
for without  
being seen, they  
are present  
with you.*

*St. Francis de Sales*