

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC CHURCH

13360 VALLEYHEART DRIVE, SHERMAN OAKS, CA 91423

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 05, 2026

The 250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence



“Declaration of Independence”

by John Trumbull

The oil-on-canvas work was commissioned in 1817,
purchased in 1819 and placed in the United States Capitol Rotunda in 1826.

★ ★ ★
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
250TH ANNIVERSARY
— 1776 — 2026 —

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC CHURCH

13360 Valleyheart Drive South, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

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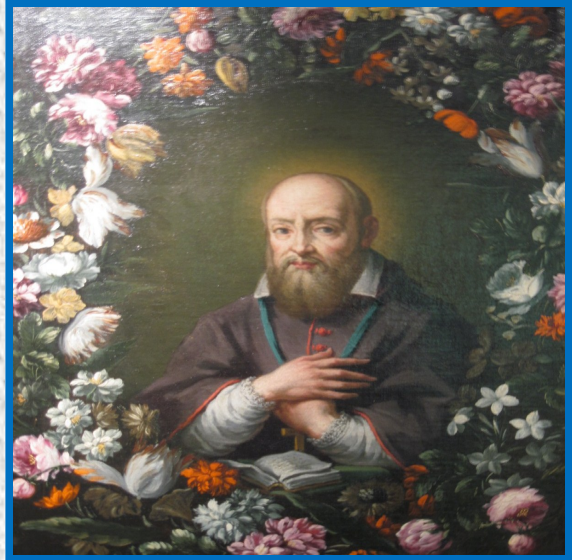
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Little Church/Sunday Pre-School
Ms. Rachel Munyaradzi - RMunyaradzi@sfdsparish.com

St. Francis de Sales School & Licensed Pre-School

13368 Valleyheart Drive South, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
Telephone: (818) 784-9573 - FAX: (818) 784-9649
Ms. Myra Goethals, School Principal
Ms. Jerri Ford, Pre-School Director



St. Francis de Sales ~ Pray for Us

MASS Times:

Monday thru Saturday: 8:15 a.m.
Saturday → Anticipated Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12-Noon

Confessions: 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays

Baptisms and Weddings:

Please make arrangements by calling the Parish Office.

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 05, 2026

Zec 9:9-10

Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14

Romans 8:9-11, 11-13

Matthews 11:25-30

SFDS PARISH REGISTRATION FORM

FAMILY NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** CA **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: (____) _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

PARISHIONER INFORMATION

ADULT NAME: _____ BAPTIZED CATHOLIC: YES _____ NO _____

ADULT NAME: _____ BAPTIZED CATHOLIC: YES _____ NO _____

CHILD NAME: _____ BAPTIZED CATHOLIC: YES _____ NO _____

CHILD NAME: _____ BAPTIZED CATHOLIC: YES _____ NO _____

CHILD NAME: _____ BAPTIZED CATHOLIC: YES _____ NO _____

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY	July 04
8:15 AM	<i>In Memory of Melody ALT & Lourdes Bilgera</i>
5:00 PM	<i>In Memory of Rose Pernice</i>
SUNDAY	July 05
8:00 AM	<i>In Memory of Alfred W. Donnelly</i>
10:00 AM	<i>In Memory of Zoltan & 2 Brothers Horosny</i>
12:00 PM	<i>For the Intentions of Cristo Senior de Esquipulas</i>
MONDAY	July 06
8:15 AM	<i>In Memory of Tran Cau</i>
TUESDAY	July 07
8:15 AM	<i>In Memory of Marilyn Bencar</i>
WEDNESDAY	July 08
8:15 AM	<i>In Memory of David Ward</i>
THURSDAY	July 09
8:15 AM	<i>For the Intentions of Rhiza Pascua</i>
FRIDAY	July 10
8:15 AM	<i>For the Intentions of Angelo Pascua</i>
SATURDAY	July 11
8:15 AM	<i>In Memory of Rose Marie Karlich</i>
5:00 PM	<i>In Memory of Bud Chapman</i>

Pray For
The Dead



*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord
and let Your perpetual light shine
upon them. May their souls and
the souls of all the faithful departed
rest in peace. Amen*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially:

Sean Aguirre, Gisele Hayek, Susan Ho, Angela Samona,
Denise Loren, Marilyn Bencar, Leticia Romero, Alex Challoy,
Carmel Rattigan, Kathy Molloy, Glenn J. Lawlor, Jr.,
Olga Oshiro, Maria Berreondo, Tanya Valazquez,
Catherine Crews, Deana Domsten, Mary Ann Bleebs,
Kerry Wyse, Louise Brancale, Charlie Ho, Jackie Ward-Smith,
Ann Murcia, Rosemary Schreiber, Deb Marsdale, Linda Lucas,
Vickie Council, Joan Gore, William Moulprie, Rose Bann,
James Armstrong, Sr., Catherine Mwamba, Kathy Polk,
Pat Yahnke, Linda Mauleon, Sandra Mitchell, Sharon Crigler,
Samiee Nejad, Mary Bailey, Eric Duran, Tina McConnell,
Patrick McDougall, Tish Mc Daniel, Nina Barnes, Jana Rattigan,
Jezebel Todd, Lauren Britton, Jen Welch, Bob Dixon,
Tony Guadagno, John Proscetto, Dexter Gray, Annie Salazar,
Jim Earnhart, Joseph Stockert, Rose Ang, Sheila van der Veen,
Leonila Siga-an, Jonathan Jacobs, Sammi Petri,
Georgina Nicoletti, Lindsay Dean, Saverio Barbieri, Davis Weld,
Kevin Hogan, Catherine Sweeney, Jeffrey Paynton,
Tommy Fitzpatrick, Doris McNary, Marilyn Sidley,
Karin Quinn Forward, Susan Maria, Kevin Patrick, Sean Kevin,
Bruce Johnson, Virginia Johnson, Fran Hurton, Arnaud Gregori,
Mary Henriksen, Dominic Mantei, Edith Reeves, Stefanie Gabler,
Jake Patterson, Rose Rios, Anita & Austen Canzano,
David Bell, Marie Schewe, Tom & Judy King, Jonathan Masse,
Steve Dee, Darya Williams, Gus Calderon, Robert Willing,
Josue Meza, Thomas Oliver, Philip Graber, and Blake Cline

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday, 07/05	14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday, 07/06	<i>St. Maria Goretti, Virgin & Martyr</i>
Wednesday, 07/08	<i>St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs</i>
Saturday, 07/11	<i>St. Benedict, Abbot</i>

CONTRIBUTIONS to the CHURCH

Weekend: 06/26 - 06/28/2026

Collections: \$7,061.00

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July 4, 2026

250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence explained to the world why 13 colonies decided to separate from Great Britain and claim for themselves a place among the family of nations.

For this 250th Anniversary of the United States of America, I offer for your reflection this column of Ms. Peggy Noonan. Peggy Noonan is a calm, reasoned, and insightful writer on American Politics. My hunch is that Ms. Noonan, born and raised in Brooklyn, New York and now residing in Manhattan, had the Statue of Liberty in mind as she penned this column. Lady Liberty, a gift of friendship from France in 1876 as we marked our 100th Anniversary of Independence, stands at the entrance to New York Harbor. Lady Liberty holds a torch in her right hand, representing enlightenment. In her left arm, she cradles a tablet reading "July IV, MDCCLXXVI" (July 4, 1776), a reference to the *Declaration of Independence*.

In the pedestal is part of a poem written by Emma Lazarus in 1883:

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

I wish you a peaceful and safe, and Happy 4th of July on this 250th Anniversary of our country.

‘Rocky’ and the Love of America

Theme of the bicentennial blockbuster: Anyone can come here from anywhere and become anything.

Peggy Noonan

The Wall Street Journal: June 18, 2026

This week we go full “hoke,” in a piece about a little bit of hokiness that, 50 years ago, America saw right through and embraced to its deepest heart.

A prelude: We need more love in things. The 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, a transcendent moment in the political history of man, comes in a few weeks. Do we sense the mounting excitement? I do not, not yet. But we should all be gentle about it and treat it as something with meaning, and also maybe use it as a corrective for our kids and the young people in our lives. They haven’t seen America publicly loved a lot the past few decades.

I think the right approach to this moment is a little romantic realism, and we might jump-start it by watching a movie.

So: 50 years ago, America’s Bicentennial was a giant and memorable event—the Tall Ships in New York, the tapping of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, the parades and fireworks. But what most captured the Spirit of ’76 wasn’t murals of Revolutionary War marchers with drums and flags or the “Bicentennial Minute” on CBS-TV.

It was a movie, the biggest Hollywood grosser of the year. Everyone went. The tag line on the original poster said it all: “His whole life was a million-to-one shot.”

“Rocky” was hokey, sentimental, dealt freely in stereotypes. But it summed up, without even trying, what a spectacularly new thing in history America was, because the meaning of the movie was the American promise: Anyone can come from anywhere and become anything.

The mook from the mean streets can become a champ. That’s all. It’s the oldest story in America.

Movies, like people, have a historical context, and Rocky’s was Watergate, Vietnam, a bad economy, high inflation. People were feeling stupid to have believed all those things they believed in World War II. And the little movie came along and lifted everyone’s spirits, reminded us of the romance in the realism.

(Continued to the next page...)

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They started filming in January 1976; the no-name actor who wrote the script, Sylvester Stallone, would star. They shot it quickly and for just more than \$1 million—it was rough and scrappy filmmaking, hand-held cameras, and insufficient permits and permissions.

Rocky Balboa is a stumblebum club fighter making \$65 a fight and working on the side as collection man for small-time mobsters. He can't pay for his locker at the gym, lives alone in a rented room with two pet turtles, and a poster of Rocky Marciano on the wall. There's a girl named Adrian who works in a pet shop. He goes by, tells her the parakeets are like "flying candy." She's shy, he woos her.

Rocky by his own description: "I'm a plate of leftovers." "I'm at least half a bum."

Adrian thinks maybe she's half a bum, too.

Still, he's a fighter, respects his craft. And she is grateful to be loved.

Here enters Apollo Creed, heavy-weight champion of the world, a brilliant showman inspired by Muhammad Ali. The anniversary of 1776 is coming, and Creed wants to put on an extravaganza, a Bicentennial Super Battle, a title fight to make money. But nobody will fight him. So, he comes up with an idea—a title bout in the city that started America, Philadelphia, and he'll give some local fighter a chance, some "snow-white underdog."

"This is the land of opportunity, right?" They choose Rocky Balboa, who calls himself the Italian stallion. Italians discovered America, right? Creed asks. The people will love it.

Aspects of our racial theatrics were well in place, were well-worn clichés, 50 years ago.

And so Rocky begins his famous, punishing regimen—up at 4:00 a.m., five raw eggs for breakfast, running through the streets, and up and down the steps of the grand Philadelphia Museum of Art, sparring with slabs of beef in a meat freezer.

The night before the fight, he confesses to Adrian, "All I wanna do is go the distance." If he's still standing at the end, even if Creed has busted his head open, "I'm gonna know for the first time in my life that I weren't just another bum from the neighborhood."

Creed enters the arena the night of the fight, dressed as George Washington, on a big white horse, throwing dollar bills at the crowd. The crowd adores him.

The first round, he toys with Rocky—stinging jabs, taunts. Rocky knocks him down. Creed has never been knocked down. His corner man tells him, "He doesn't know it's a show, he thinks it's a fight!"

The next few rounds are the Battle of the Somme, endless bombardment but the battle lines don't move. Rounds 7 through 14 are Verdun, brutal attrition, with lines collapsing and re-forming. When Creed knocks Rocky down, Rocky's trainer desperately shouts, "Stay down!" But Rocky gets up.

Final round they're exhausted, bloody.

The bell rings. Rocky's still standing.

The judges call a split decision.

And here in the melee in the ring, in his great moment, Rocky doesn't boast or dance, turns away from the mics being thrust in his face. He just stops and bellows out the word that means most to him.

"Adrian!"

The mouse of a woman who believed in him, who helped him, a nobody just like him, mouse to his mook.

"Adrian!"

Because the point of everything is love, the central fact. Because love, for a person, a people, God, is all that matters and in the end all that's left.

She isn't a mouse now.

"Rocky! Rocky!" And she fights through the crowd, through the hulking mob, to get to him. (Continued)

(Continuation of...)

'Rocky' and the Love of America

Theme of the bicentennial blockbuster: Anyone can come here from anywhere and become anything.

Peggy Noonan

The Wall Street Journal: June 18, 2026

And she fights through the crowd, through the hulking mob, to get to him.

There are finer moments in American cinema, more brilliant, more profound and poetic, but there is no greater moment in American cinema. And if you aren't moved by it, there is something wrong and you must investigate your sodden heart.

Anyone from anywhere can become anything. Life is hope. (Let Brunson try a 3, Anunoby will tip it in!) And the most crazily hopeful of all lives are lived, still, here. Why do you think the immigrants come?

The old parchment proclaims we are all equal, free, and deserve a shot. That's the romance of this old place and must stay the realism. This coming big birthday let's just remember. And remind.

"This story shall the good man teach his son . . ."

Need for Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Your parish needs you to assist her as a lector or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, especially at the Saturday after-noon 5:00 Mass and on the Sunday 12 noon Mass.

When the Church gathers to celebrate the Mass, or any other Sacrament, her members do not gather simply as a crowd, as an amorphous, undifferentiated group of people. They gather in a variety of ministries and roles. Baptism is our rebirth into the life of grace and into the life of the Church. In fact, the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* of the Second Vatican Council tells us that participation in the liturgy is the right and duty of all the baptized.

The first qualification, then, for any participant in the Celebration of the Eucharist is that he or she has been baptized into the Body of Christ, the Church. Each time the members of the Church gather to worship, they do so because their baptism demands this of them. After Baptism, then those who are Lectors or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will have made First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Should you wish to give a little time to your parish in this manner, please E-mail me your name ---

mwakefield@sfdsparish.com

LOAVES AND FISHES

Loaves and Fishes is looking for help sweeping and cleaning their facility. It would only be a few hours a month. The pantry is located at 7309 Van Nuys Blvd. If you can help, please call Barbara Ausburn at 818-997-0943, Monday or Wednesday.

Did You Know?

What Is Grooming?

Child safety experts consider grooming a core component of sexual abuse. Grooming is a manipulative process in which a person who intends harm gains access to a child, often through behaviors that seem innocent, and builds up a relationship that will ultimately allow the predator to abuse the child. Children who are groomed are slowly taught to accept and excuse any behaviors by the predator, because of the relationship that has been built up over time. A predator relies on manipulation to reduce a child's resistance and to maintain secrecy.

For more information on grooming, read the VIRTUS® article

"*Behind the Smile: Uncovering the Warning Signs of Grooming, Part 1*" at: lacatholics.org/did-you-know

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Travis Lawmaster at (818) 340-6500 or by E-mail: tlawmaster@4Lpi.com

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