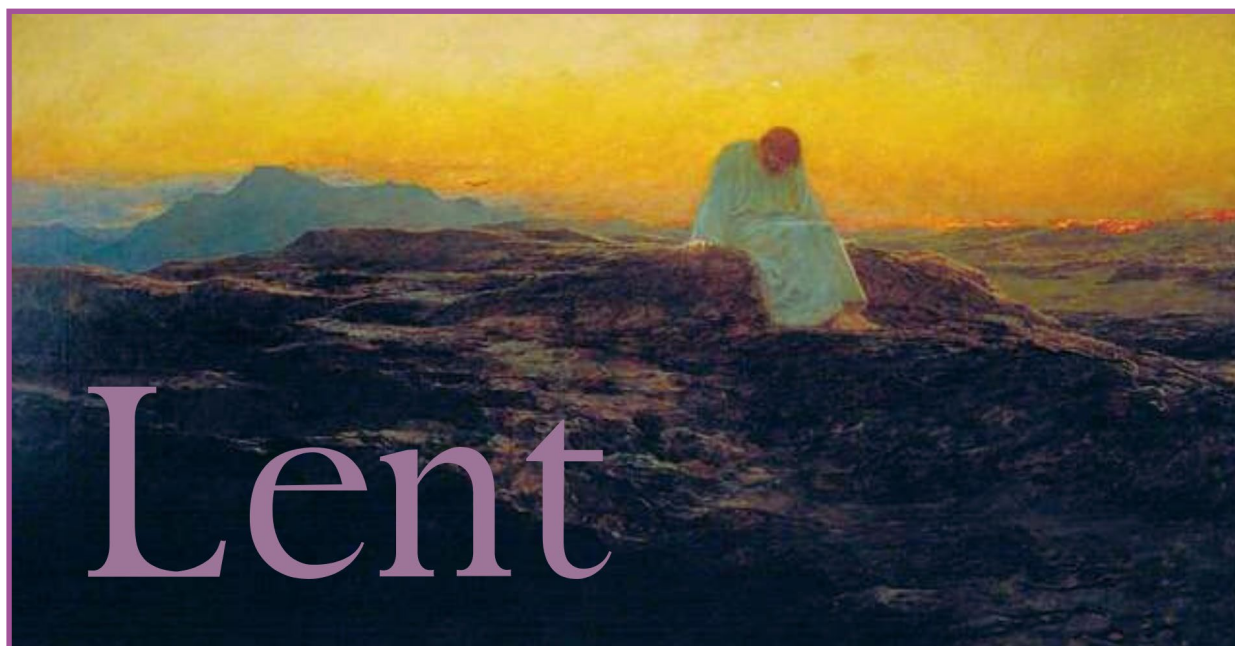


St. Francis de Sales Parish

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fr. Jeremy Merzweiler
Pastor

Fr. David Verbsky
Parochial Vicar

Raymond Herrick
Deacon

Richard Butz
Deacon, Retired

Kathryn Dougherty
Principal

Colleen McVicker
Director of Music Ministry

School:
330-644-0638 or stfparishschool.org

Parish Registration:
Please see the Priest
after any of the weekend Masses
or call the Parish Office.

Parish Office Hours:
Monday through Friday,
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Masses:	Saturday Vigil, 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, 8:15 a.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
Confessions:	Thursday, 5:30-6:15 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00-9:45 a.m.; or call the office at 330-644-2225 for an appointment.
Baptisms:	Please make arrangements with the Parish Office.
Weddings:	Arrangements with the Parish Priest are to be made at least six months before the wedding date.
Anointing of the Sick:	At any time. Please call the Parish Office at 330-644-2225.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 3, 2024



SUNDAY, MARCH 3, THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo
- 9:00 a.m. Larry Stanley (Susan Undercoffer)
- 11:00 a.m. Marge & Lou Codian
(Louis & Claudia Codian)

MONDAY, MARCH 4, ST. CASIMIR

- 8:15 a.m. Poor Souls in Purgatory (Bill & Jo Dickey)
Ron DiSpina – Month's Mind

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

- 8:15 a.m. Boggs Children (Kathy Boggs)
- 6:30 p.m. Jane Sibila (Candy & Bill Kline)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

- 8:15 a.m. Frank & Zita Carino (Carino Family)

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, SS. PERPETUA & FELICITY

- 8:15 a.m. Jerry Drexler (Ellen Alt)
- 6:30 p.m. *Anointing Mass*
Deceased of the Keblesh Family
(Anna Mantel)

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, ST. JOHN OF GOD

- 8:15 a.m. Audrey Kauffman (Kauffman Family)
- 9:00 a.m. William Verbsky (Louis & Laurene Scala)

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, ST. FRANCES OF ROME

- 8:15 a.m. Terry Wright (Charlotte Miller)
- 5:00 p.m. Donald Knee (Pauline Knee)
Ruth McCauley – Anniversary of Death

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo
- 9:00 a.m. Bill Abbott (Jim & Sheila)
- 11:00 a.m. Shannon Swaino (Schenz Family)

MARCH IS UPON US!

As we enter into the month of March, be mindful of the many ways God may want to enter into your life and help you along in the season of Lent. I know it seems like a lot crunched into a little time frame. It is. Easter comes early this year. Nevertheless, please keep your calendar open for these opportunities to grow in the faith.

▪ **Women's Retreat: March 16**

- Mother Gabriella from Christ the Bridegroom Monastery, a daughter of the parish, will come and help us enter into how prayer changes everything in our lives. Don't miss this opportunity.

▪ **Parish Mission: March 18 and 19 at 7:00 p.m.**

- Fr. Brian Stacy, Capuchin Priest, will come to discuss the spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi. Monday he will talk on *Knowing Francis* while Tuesday he will focus on *Living Francis* – truly living his life in the midst of the world. Fr. Brian was my neighbor growing up as well as classmate in high school. It will be good to welcome him back to the area. Come and support him.

▪ **Tetelestai: March 22nd at 8:00 p.m., 23rd at 8:00 p.m., and 24th at 2:00 p.m.**

- Tetelestai is the Greek word for "It is finished." This is a contemporary musical passion play about the last week in Jesus' life. In it, the Cleveland Performing Arts Ministry vividly portrays His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, His trial, execution and His Resurrection. It is free and open to the public. This is Palm Sunday weekend so it will be perfect timing to enter into His Story as we enter into Holy Week.



**God bless your Lent,
Fr. Jeremy**

P.S. Please notice the page in this week's bulletin about a Ukrainian family our Welcome Circle (from our cluster parishes) is blessed to support. There will be a basket raffle fundraiser opportunity in the Memorare Center during Coffee and Donuts this Sunday. Thanks for supporting this mission!

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Lk 4:24-30
- Tuesday:** Dn 3:25, 34-43; Mt 18:21-35
- Wednesday:** Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19
- Thursday:** Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23
- Friday:** Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34
- Saturday:** Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14
- Sunday:** 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10;
Jn 3:14-21

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE PARISH THIS WEEK...

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

- Donut Sunday, after all Sunday Masses (Memorare Center)
- Cub Scouts, 4:30-6:00 p.m. (Upper Room)
- Youth Group, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Night Prayer & Benediction, 7:00- 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 4

- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 9:00-9:30 a.m.
- Lent Scripture Study, 7:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

- Women's Study Group, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Lent Scripture Study, 9:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Parish Cluster Confessions, 5:00-6:00 p.m.
(St. Francis de Sales)
- RCIA, 7:00 p.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)
- Lent Scripture Study, 7:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30 p.m. (Upper Room)

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

- Thursday Scripture Group, 12:30-3:00 p.m.
(St. Gerard Room)
- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 6:00-6:30 p.m.
- Stephen Ministry Continuing Education & Supervision,
6:30 p.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Eucharistic Prayer Night for Healing, 7:00-7:30 p.m.
- Lent Scripture Study, 7:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

- Stations of the Cross, 7:00 p.m. (Church)
- School Play Performance, 7:15 p.m. (Gym)

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Young Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- School Play Performance, 7:15 p.m. (Gym)

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

- School Play Performance, 1:00 p.m. (Gym)
- Boy Scouts, 4:30-6:00 p.m. (Upper Room)
- Youth Group, at MHS Musical
- Night Prayer & Benediction, 7:00- 7:30 p.m.

VOCATION CRUCIFIX

"The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for His harvest" (Mt. 9:37-38).

Receiving the Vocation Crucifix and praying for vocations is a beautiful and simple way to ask the Master to send out more laborers for His harvest! Please contact the parish office any time to get your name on the list; there are many slots to be filled – 330-644-2225.

The Kish Family received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

COLLECTION INFORMATION

February 17/18

	Offertory
Sunday	\$ 12,911.00
Assessment	\$ 10.00
Capital	\$ 249.00
School	\$ 220.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$ 20.00
TOTAL	\$ 13,410.00

February 24/25

	Offertory	Faith Direct
Sunday	\$ 13,099.50	\$ 6,155.25
Capital	\$ 305.00	\$ 133.00
School	\$ 40.00	\$ 133.00
Assessment		\$ 53.00
TOTAL	\$ 13,444.50	\$ 6,474.25

GRAND TOTAL: \$19,918.75

Our parish is blessed by your generosity!

A GIFT TO OUR PARISH

Did you know you can make a gift to our parish using your IRA? If you are 70 ½ or older, you may be able to make a gift of a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA that will help our parish and reduce your taxable income. Talk to your advisors and IRA administrator or visit catholiccommunity.org/IRA to learn more. Questions? Call Therese in the parish office, 330-644-2225.

ADORERS NEEDED

Thank you to all who commit to a weekly time of Adoration.
We need Adorers to cover the following time slots:

Tuesday, 3:00-3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

If you are able to fill these slots, please contact Joanne Reich, 330-338-4810.

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the souls of **Eileen Sanders, Mary Louise Mulhollan**, aunt of Fr. John Mulhollan; **Bryon Michael**, nephew of parishioner Jeanne Wagner; and **Thalia McVicker**, mother of parishioner J.W. McVicker. May they rest in peace and may Christ console their families and friends.

**WELCOME TO
ST. FRANCIS DE SALES
PARISH**

Are you new to the parish? To register as a new parishioner, give our parish office a call at 330-644-2225, see the priest after Mass, or join us at Donut Sundays to meet with a fellow parishioner.

"BE WHO YOU ARE AND BE THAT WELL"
St. Francis de Sales



The photo above is the Hapii family who we are bringing to Akron in April as refugees and parolees from Ukraine. Sadly, the family has experienced the horrors of the ongoing war firsthand. We are a Welcome Circle; a group of parishioners from St. Francis de Sales, St. Paul's, and Holy Ghost parishes. Welcome Circles are authorized by the USCCB and the federal government.

As sponsors, our job is to provide housing, household furnishings, furniture, appliances, clothing, internet, food, transportation, household tools, legal aid, English lessons, driver's training, many types of orientation, find employment, and all basic needs of life. This is quite a list, and it will take some time, but our Welcome Circle is 100% committed to accomplishing all of it! Our goal is to have them self-sufficient within 12 months. The family is eager to work hard to accomplish this.

So far, we have accomplished the following: arranged housing, acquired a full inventory of household goods and furniture, bikes for the family, a washer and dryer, and have raised \$15,000.00. But to make this all happen successfully, we need to raise at least \$40,000.00-\$50,000.00 plus acquire a reasonably priced, dependable used vehicle for a family of five. We receive no government funding. This is a daunting task, and we are working very hard, but we and the family need your help and prayers.

This weekend, raffle baskets will be displayed in the Memorare Center after the Masses on March 2nd and 3rd. Stop by to see the prizes and buy your tickets. The proceeds will go to the Hapii family's needs. The raffle will take place at a spaghetti dinner at St. Paul's parish, 1580 Brown Street, Akron, OH 44301 on March 9th from 4:30-7:00 p.m. in Boeke Hall. \$12.00 for adults, \$8.00 for kids 12 and under. The funds raised at this dinner will also support the family.

Next weekend, there will be a second collection for the family during the Masses on March 9th and 10th.

We have set up a GoFundMe page. Go to [GoFundMe.com](https://www.gofundme.com), click the magnifying glass icon to search, type in Akron Ohio for Ukraine, then do NOT click "done", but click on the search tab. Please share the GoFundMe page with all your family and friends—this is very important!

Mother Teresa said, "If you cannot feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

Jesus said, "Whatsoever you do to the least of My people, that you do unto Me."

We thank you for all prayers and support of any amount you can give!

Any questions, please contact Fr. Jeremy or Chris Ross at 330-620-8108.

PRAYER

Changes Things

2024 Akron Catholic Women's Retreat

Saturday, March 16th

8:15 AM Mass – 3:00 PM

St. Francis de Sales Parish

4019 Manchester Road, Akron, Ohio 44319

Cost: \$30 Register by March 9th, 2024
Complete form below or register at stfparish.com

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer." – Romans 12:12*

FEATURED *Presenter*

Mother Gabriella

Christ the Bridegroom Monastery



Scan QR Code to Register!

Office Use | Payment: ☐ Cash ☐ Check

First & Last Name

Email (Required for Confirmation)

Phone Number

Parish Name

City of Parish



Lunch Included

Subs from Subway will be provided.

Please select an option:

☐ Turkey ☐ BMT ☐ Tuna
☐ Veg/GF Option Salad


- Make checks payable to **"St. Francis de Sales Parish"** with **"Women's Retreat"** on the memo line.
- Mail completed form & check to: **Attn. Therese Holderbaum, St. Francis de Sales Parish** (see full parish address above).
- St. Francis parishioners may place envelope labeled **"Women's Retreat"** in collection basket or drop off at parish office.

Questions? Contact us at 330-644-2225 or AkronCatholicWomensRetreat@gmail.com | **Follow us** on social media  

KNOWING FRANCIS & LIVING FRANCIS

Fr. Brian Stacy, OFM Cap. presents a two-evening mission on the spirit and example of St. Francis of Assisi. Fr. Stacy is a Canal Fulton native and currently serves as the Director of Formation at Capuchin College, Washington DC.

**March 18 and 19
7:00 pm
St. Francis de Sales
Parish, Akron**



CHILDREN'S MISSION

March 18 & 19, 7:00 p.m. in the Memorare Center




Children, ages 3-11, are invited to a mission of their own! We will be learning about the life of St. Francis of Assisi – just like the adults. Babysitting will be available for children younger than 3 years old. Registration is required. (Scan the QR code to fill out the registration form.) Students age 12 & older who would like to assist with either babysitting or the Children's Mission should contact Abby at agresser@stfparish.com.

QUEEN OF HEAVEN LENTEN FISH FRY DINNERS

Queen of Heaven Parish (1800 Steese Road, Uniontown) will be hosting their Annual Friday Lenten Fish Dinners in the Parish Life Center. Lenten dinners, carry-out or dine-in, will be served Fridays from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. through March 22. Dinners are as follow: fried or baked cod or 3 fish tacos for \$12.00; shrimp dinner or combo shrimp/baked or fried cod for \$14.00; pierogies, 2 slices pizza or mac-n-cheese for \$10.00; and children's or seniors' dinners – one piece fish (if getting fish) – for \$10.00. All dinners are served with a glass of water, bread and butter, coffee/tea and include two hot sides and one cold side. Extra sides and fish or pizza will be offered only with a dinner purchase for various costs. Soft drinks and desserts will also be available for purchase. Cash, checks or credit cards will be accepted. For more information, call the Queen of Heaven Parish Office at 330-896-2345 or visit our website at www.queenofheavenparish.org/lent2024.

SUPER CASH BONANZA RAFFLE TICKETS

Stop by the parish office to buy some \$5.00 Knights of Columbus Super Cash Bonanza raffle tickets. The youth group will get \$2.00 for every ticket sold. 25 raffle prizes will be awarded, with the first prize being \$414.00 per month for TEN years. So, help the Knights, help the youth, and who knows, maybe help yourself!



**REQUEST FOR
2023 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/ZIP CODE _____

ENVELOPE # _____

HOME PHONE # _____

CELL PHONE # _____

Please place this completed form in the collection basket and your statement will be mailed to you.

The Students at St. Francis de Sales Present

The Wizard Of Oz

Performances are in the gym

March 8th, 7:15 pm

March 9th, 7:15 pm

March 10th, 1:00 pm

Admission is Free

Donations are appreciated

Concessions are available



PARENT FORMATION SERIES

Parents of our PSR, parish school, and homeschool students are invited to a three-part series: "Creation in the Bible". Each session will include a short presentation and time for prayer. In addition, we will discuss how to share the fruits of your Biblical study and prayer with your children. We will meet on Mondays from 6:45-7:45 p.m. in the Holy Family Room on the following dates:

March 11th

April 8th

Come for as many sessions as you are able! Contact Abby with any questions at agresser@stfparish.com.



MASS

- ~ Monday through Saturday, 8:15 a.m.
- ~ Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
- ~ Saturday Vigil, 5:00 p.m.
- ~ Sunday, 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.

ADORATION

- ~ Mondays, 7:00-8:00 a.m., 6:00-10:00 p.m.
- ~ Tuesday through Friday, 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
(Breaking for Masses)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

- Fridays, 7:00 p.m.
- With SFdS School, Mondays, 2:15 p.m.
- With PSR, Monday, March 25, 7:00 p.m.

CONFESSION

- ~ Saturdays, 9:00-9:45 a.m.
- ~ Thursdays, 5:30-6:15 p.m.
- ~ Tuesday, **Cluster Parishes**, 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- March 5 – St. Francis de Sales
- March 12 – Nativity of the Lord Jesus
- March 19 – St. Paul

NIGHT PRAYER & BENEDICTION

- Sundays, 7:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

- "Prayer Changes Things"
- Presenter: Mother Gabriella
- Saturday, March 16, 8:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

PARISH MISSION: KNOWING FRANCIS & LIVING FRANCIS

- Fr. Brian Stacy OFM Cap. offers a two-evening mission
on the spirit and example of St. Francis of Assisi
- March 18 and 19, 7:00 p.m., Church

CHILDREN'S MISSION

- During the Parish Mission, our younger parishioners are
invited to a mission of their own!
- March 18 and 19, 7:00 p.m., Memorare Center

TETELESTAI: "IT IS FINISHED"

- Cleveland Performing Arts Ministry presents a prayerful
reenactment of Christ's sacrifice and triumph over death.
- Friday, March 22, 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 23, 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 24, 2:00 p.m.



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24

- Mass at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.
- Tetelestai Performance, 2:00 p.m.
- Night Prayer, 7:00 p.m.

HOLY MONDAY, MARCH 25

- Mass at 8:15 a.m.
- Adoration, 7:00-8:00 a.m. and 6:00-10:00 p.m.

HOLY TUESDAY, MARCH 26

- Mass at 8:15 a.m.
- Chrism Mass at Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist,
downtown Cleveland, 7:00 p.m.
- Adoration, 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

HOLY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

- Mass at 8:15 a.m.
- Adoration, 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 28

- Morning Prayer, 8:15 a.m.
- Agape Meal, 5:00 p.m. in the Gym
- Evening Mass of The Lord's Supper, 7:00 p.m.
- Adoration – Altar of Repose in Memorare Center,
8:30-11:00 p.m.
- Night Prayer and Reposition, 11:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29

- Morning Prayer, 8:15 a.m.
- Stations of the Cross, 12:00 noon
- Celebration of the Passion of the Lord/Adoration of the
Holy Cross, 3:00 p.m. (with choir)
- Celebration of the Passion of the Lord/Adoration of the
Holy Cross, 7:00 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30

- Morning Prayer, 8:15 a.m.
- Easter Egg Hunt, 10:30 a.m.
- Blessing of the Easter Food and Baskets, 12:00 p.m.
- The Great Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, 8:30 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

- Mass at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.



"Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could."

– St. Gregory Nazianzen

How is your Lenten journey working out for you? Have you noticed the abundance of food items in the Narthex the last two Sundays? Journey with the St. Vincent de Paul Society and share your "abundance" with our neighbors in need. We ask that you simply add one or two items to your grocery cart each week and share with the parish food pantry.

In conjunction with the St. Francis de Sales School and PSR students' Lenten Food Drive, the parish is collecting specific food items over the next two weekends of Lent. You may bring your contributions to church and leave them in the Narthex. This concentrated effort will stock the St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry and aid our neighbors in need.

The purpose of this Lenten Food Drive is to emphasize and reflect on the importance of almsgiving during Lent and to restock the food pantry as the needs of our neighbors have increased. We ask that you simply buy one or two of the suggested items when you do your weekly grocery shopping and think about a person or family you may be helping. For example, as you enjoy a delicious chili dinner some night, pray for the family that you have literally "served" a chili dinner to as well.

To have a well-stocked pantry, the focus will be on items we know are needed. We are suggesting the following schedule so you can plan accordingly:

March 9-10: canned corn, canned green beans, canned beans

March 16-17: paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues)

The parish school and PSR families are also participating with items more geared to family dinners and kid-friendly items to make this service project more "real" for the students.

Why are we asking for assistance besides our annual Thanksgiving food collection? Because the need has increased significantly. In 2023, the food pantry gave out 270 bags helping 539 people. The holiday requests for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, typically average 100 families per holiday. We are currently distributing 8-12 bags a week.

Here is a real case scenario to think about: M. lost everything in a home fire. The groceries he receives helps him save money so he can start over.

"You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. This is how prayer works."

Pope Francis

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL OPPORTUNITIES



SUNDAY NIGHT PRAYER & BENEDICTION

- Every Sunday until Easter, come for Night Prayer and Benediction, 7:00-7:30 p.m.

MONDAY PRAYER FOR STUDENTS

- 1:30-2:00 p.m. March 18
- Parents and Grandparents are invited to come pray for their students, whether in our parish school, PSR, or homeschool.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER NIGHTS

- Every Thursday night until Easter, the following prayer opportunities will be offered:
 - 5:55 p.m. Rosary
 - 6:30 p.m. Mass
 - 7:00-7:30 p.m. Half-hour of Adoration & Prayer for Healing (1st Thursday), Priests (2nd Thursday), Families (3rd Thursday), The Protection of Life (4th Thursday).

DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND EUCCHARISTIC ART JOURNAL

- Our Diocese invites artists to share their love for the Eucharist by submitting entries for a Eucharistic Art Journal. The prompt is "What does the Eucharist mean for you?" Entries can be works of visual art or written works. The submission deadline is April 8, 2024. To learn more, visit <https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/eucharistic-revival/art-journal>.

To find out more about Eucharistic Revival events in our Diocese, visit <https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/eucharistic-revival/events>. To learn about the National Eucharistic Revival and find great resources to enrich your faith in the Eucharist, visit <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>.

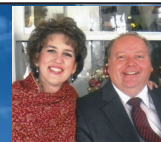
"When you approach the tabernacle remember that He has been waiting for you for twenty centuries."

– St. Josemaria Escriva

A MESSAGE FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY

The cloudy, cold days of winter can be symbolic of what may sometimes happen in life. A crisis hits, and we feel like we're buried beneath a drift of snow. Relationships can become icy, or we can feel frozen by life circumstances. Little difficulties build up like slush, making us slip and slide, causing every decision to seem treacherous. Life seems dreary, and we begin to doubt that spring will ever come. We can wonder, "Is God even there?"

Stephen Ministers are trained to provide confidential Christian care, giving you the emotional and spiritual support you need to make it through a winter in your life. To learn more about how a Stephen Minister can help you or someone you know, contact one of the Stephen Ministry Leaders: Ann Clark at aclark2@stfparish.com or Bill Dickey at wdickey@stfparish.com.

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