

# 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*

**Kathleen Ott**  
*Pastoral Associate*

**Colleen McVicker**  
*Director of Music Ministry*

**School:**  
330-644-0638 or [stfparishschool.org](http://stfparishschool.org)

**Parish Registration:**  
Please see the Priest after any of the weekend Masses.

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

**Masses:** Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m., 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.

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 2, 2023**

*Masses For  
 The Week*



**APRIL 2, PALM SUNDAY**

- 7:30 a.m. Dolores Hoosic (Mr. & Mrs. Mark Kosco)
- 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
*Blessing of Sixth Grade Students*
- 11:00 a.m. Mary Lou Clark (Agape Prayer Group)

**APRIL 3, MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK**

- 8:15 a.m. Adolf & Hilda Brucker (Deb & Dave Pekar)

**APRIL 4, TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK**

- 8:15 a.m. Deceased of the Durkin & Hunt Families  
 (Nancy Durkin)
- 6:30 p.m. Donna Ott (Ott Family)

**APRIL 5, WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK**

- 8:15 a.m. Deceased of the Grable & Hoyer Families  
 (Karen Grable)

**APRIL 6, HOLY THURSDAY**

- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

**APRIL 7, GOOD FRIDAY**

- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 12:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
- 3:00 p.m. Veneration of the Holy Cross (with Choir)
- 7:00 p.m. Veneration of the Holy Cross

**APRIL 8, HOLY SATURDAY**

- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 12:00 p.m. Food Blessing
- 8:45 p.m. The Great Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

**APRIL 9, EASTER SUNDAY**

- 7:30 a.m. Victims of the War in Ukraine
- 9:00 a.m. Priest's Intention
- 11:00 a.m. Sanctification of Priests

**GOD ONLY LOVES AND SAVES**

As St. Francis de Sales put it, we are entering into the "Academy of Love" as we enter into Holy Week. This is what our God desires to teach us – love. He desires to love and save us. Pope Francis wrote this... "The Cross is the word through which God has responded to evil in the world. Sometimes it may seem as though God does not react to evil, as if He is silent. And yet, God has spoken, He has replied, and His answer is the Cross of Christ: a word which is love, mercy, forgiveness. It also reveals a judgment, namely that God, in judging us, loves us. Remember this: God, in judging us, loves us. If I embrace His love, then I am saved; if I refuse it, then I am condemned, not by Him, but my own self, because God never condemns, He only loves and saves."

God only loves and saves. Take a moment to receive that truth.

It is so evident as Jesus hangs on the Cross and offers forgiveness to humanity as "they know not what they do." Even in the midst of horrifying pain, He offers love and forgiveness. God only loves and saves. As you enter into Holy Week, keep this truth in mind. As you journey with Jesus this week, be mindful of the many ways Jesus loves us as His people. Keep love at the center of it all. Holy Week is a privileged time where we are called to draw near to Jesus. Enter into these times and let God do what He wants to do in your life: love and save.

Lastly, pray for those who are entering the Catholic Church in our parish and throughout the world. We rejoice with them as God shares with them His immense love.

Looking forward to praying with you on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.

**Be open to His love,**

**Fr. Jeremy**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Monday:</b>	Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25
<b>Thursday:</b>	Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21 or Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
<b>Friday:</b>	Is 52:13-53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42
<b>Saturday:</b>	Gn 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a; Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ex 14:15-15:1; Is 54:5-14; Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Rom 6:3-11; Mt 28:1-10
<b>Sunday:</b>	Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10



### **Palm Sunday, April 2**

Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., & 11:00 a.m.  
 Outdoor Stations of the Cross, 3:00 p.m.  
 Final Night Prayer, 9:00 p.m.

### **Holy Monday, April 3**

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

### **Holy Tuesday, April 4**

Mass at 8:15 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.  
 Adoration, 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.  
 Chrism Mass, 7:00 p.m.  
 (Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist)

### **Holy Wednesday, April 5**

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

### **Holy Thursday, April 6**

Morning Prayer, 8:15 a.m.  
 Adoration, 7:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m.  
 No Confessions  
 Evening Mass of The Lord's Supper, 7:00 p.m.  
 Final Adoration, 8:30-11:00 p.m.  
 Night Prayer and Reposition, 11:00 p.m.

### **Good Friday, April 7**

Morning Prayer, 8:15 a.m.  
 Stations of the Cross, 12:00 p.m.  
 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, April 8**

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, April 9**

Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

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

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 2**

- Book Study, 10:10 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- BSA Cub Scouts, 1:00 p.m. (Gym)
- Outdoor Stations, 3:00 p.m.
- BSA Boy Scouts, 4:30 p.m. (Refectory)
- Night Prayer, 9:00 p.m. (Church)

### **MONDAY, APRIL 3**

- Families for Families, 6:30 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- PSR, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- Men's Basketball, 8:30 p.m. (Gym)

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 4**

- Women's Book Study, 9:00 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Lent Bible Study, 9:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Lent Bible Study, 1:00 p.m. (Coutts' Home)
- RCIA, 7:00 p.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5**

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

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 6**

- Morning Prayer, 8:15 a.m. (Church)
- Thursday Scripture Group, 12:30 p.m.,  
 (St. Gerard Room)
- No Confessions
- Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:00 p.m.
- Adoration in Memorare Center after Mass
- Night Prayer & Reposition, 11:00 p.m.

### **FRIDAY, APRIL 7**

- No School
- Parish Office Closed
- Morning Prayer, 8:15 a.m. (Church)
- Stations of the Cross, 12:00 p.m. (Church)
- Celebration of the Passion of the Lord &  
 Veneration of the Holy Cross, 3:00 p.m. (with choir)
- Celebration of the Passion of the Lord &  
 Veneration of the Holy Cross, 7:00 p.m.

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 8**

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Morning Prayer, 8:15 a.m.
- Brunch with the Bunny, 9:00 a.m. (School)
- Egg Hunt, 10:30 a.m.
- Food Blessing, 12:00 p.m.
- The Great Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, 8:45 p.m.

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 9**

- Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

Information on the March 25/26 Collection will be published in the forthcoming bulletin.

*Our parish is blessed by your generosity!*

**ADORERS NEEDED**

We are in need of Adorers for the following times:

- Tuesday, 5:00-5:30 p.m.
- Friday, 5:00-5:30 p.m.

If you are able to fill one of these, please call Joanne at 330-338-4810.

**VOCATION CRUCIFIX**

Whether God calls us to the priesthood, religious life, marriage, or the single life, we all need His constant, loving support to answer Him faithfully. In His wisdom, He uses our prayers to strengthen each other's vocations. Please consider bringing the Vocation Crucifix into your home to pray that all will discover and live the joy of God's call for them! Contact the parish office any time to get your name on the list at 330-644-2225.

**George & Ruthie Kelbly** received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

The Parish Office will be closed this Friday, April 7, in observance of Good Friday and closed April 10 and 11 in observance of Easter. April 12 through 14, the office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. We wish you a blessed Holy Week and joyful Easter!



Rice Bowls will be collected next Sunday, April 9. If you are able, please count the money inside your box and write a separate check to St. Francis de Sales and place it in an envelope marked "Rice Bowl." Thank you for helping those in need!

**REST IN PEACE**

Please remember in your prayers the souls of **JoAnn Mitseff, Charles Schaefer, Thomas Walch, Ruth McCauley, Michael Mollica** (brother of Gina Koncz of our parish), **Eugene Hetson** (father of Gary Hetson of our parish), and **Donald Brasaemle** (father of Erin Bennett of our parish).

**BLOOD DRIVE**

On April 11, St. Francis will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive in the school gym from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Thank you for taking the time to give this special gift of life.

**YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER**

We are selling Knights of Columbus Raffle Tickets as a fundraiser for our youth group:

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3rd Prize: \$12,720.00 (\$212.00 per month for 10 years)  
Many more cash prizes awarded!

Stop by the Parish Office to get your tickets today and support our youth group!!

Contact Shirley Clark with questions at 330-644-2225, ext. 215 or [sclark@stfparish.com](mailto:sclark@stfparish.com).

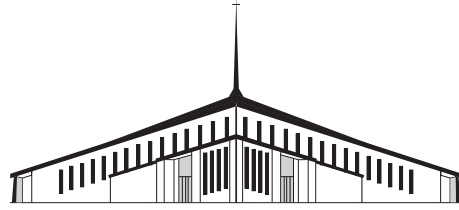
**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Easter can be a time of loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time. If the joy of Easter seems far away, help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, and pray with and for you. Stephen Ministers have been specially trained to meet your emotional and spiritual needs; male Stephen Ministers are matched with men, and female Stephen Ministers are matched with women. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders:

Ann Clark: [aclark2@stfparish.com](mailto:aclark2@stfparish.com)

Bill Dickey: [wdickey@stfparish.com](mailto:wdickey@stfparish.com)

Jessica Quentin: [jquentin@stfparish.com](mailto:jquentin@stfparish.com)



***We welcome our newest parishioners...  
we're so happy you're here!***

***Aiello, Francesca  
Bangerter, Charles & Jill  
Cafarelli, Mary  
Cromer, Kerry, Jeannette, & Gavin  
Demars, Olivier, Jessica, Louis, & Maxime  
Dougherty, Kyle, Rebecca, David, & Alexander  
Easterling, Jason, Alyson, & Paisley  
Hammack, John, Jennifer, Logan, & Ethan  
Kramer, Steve & Michele  
Lann, Derek, Kessleen, & River  
LoRocca, Janice  
LaRocca, Jerry & Mary Ann  
Lockwood, Daniel, Lindsay, Jackson, & Blake  
Lynch, Michael, Lisa, Finnegan, & Brogann  
Molnar, Joseph & Karen  
Motil, Brian & Sarah  
Scarpitti, Vincent  
Stauffenger, Samuel, Laura, Vail, Pave, & Espy  
Vance, Jason & Gabriel  
VanDevere, Scott, Sara, & Leon  
Yellig, William & Mädi***

***And the newly Baptized...  
welcome to our faith community!***

***Grayson Vermont Butz  
Erik Juul Easley  
Eva Rose Easley  
Bentley Marie Lynn Little  
Enzo Bain Lloyd  
Chase Emerson Mullins***

***Ellie Rose Mullins  
Rocco Dale Perona  
Adam Joseph Pohl  
Theodore Neil Rubenstein  
Isla Elise Underwood  
Quinn Lucia Zimbardi***



**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of our parish is in need of helpers at the Ozanam Center on Saturday, April 15. We will team up with Queen of Heaven Parish. Please come if you can – we'll meet at 9:00 a.m. at the center, located behind Visitation of Mary Parish, at 93 Kent Street, Akron 44305.

**TALK ON MARIAN APPARITIONS  
AT MEDJUGORJE**

Ivan Dragicevic, a visionary from Medjugorje, will be hosted from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. for an evening of prayer at St. Mary Parish in Akron on Friday, April 14, and at St. Justin Martyr Church in Eastlake on Sunday, April 16. The evening of prayer will include the celebration of Mass, recitation of the Rosary, and conclude with Ivan speaking. You may bring articles to be blessed and petitions to be recommended in prayer. There will be a freewill offering. For more information, please contact Peggy Golden at [mepgoldie@gmail.com](mailto:mepgoldie@gmail.com).



**THE ROCK AM1260**

Looking for a way to enrich your Holy Week experience? AM1260 The Rock, offers a full array of special programming that will help you pray, meditate, and enter more deeply into the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Whether you listen on the radio, through our mobile app, or on your computer, AM1260 The Rock can accompany you during the holiest season of the year. Go to [www.am1260therock.com](http://www.am1260therock.com) to find the entire Holy Week and Easter Schedule or call us at 216-227-1260 to obtain a printed copy. From everyone at AM1260 The Rock, may you continue to have a blessed Lent, a spiritually fruitful Holy Week, and a Joyful Easter!

ROB GARDNER'S  
**LAMB  
of GOD**

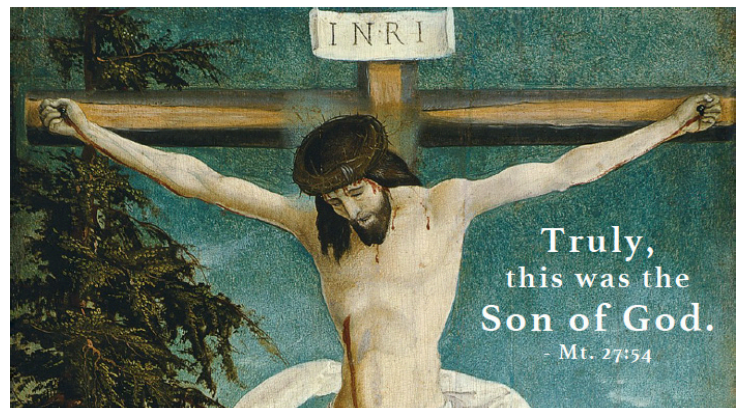
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SATURDAY, APRIL 22 - 7:30 PM  
SUNDAY, APRIL 23 - 2:00 PM

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The Demkee Family Scholarship Fund of the Catholic Community Foundation will award one \$1,400.00 scholarship to a student enrolled at the University of Akron or satellite. Applicant must be a parishioner at a Catholic parish in Wayne or Summit County and maintain a 3.0 GPA. Scholarship applications are available online at: [www.catholiccommunity.org/grants](http://www.catholiccommunity.org/grants) or call toll free at 800-869-6525, ext. 8070.

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