

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., 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.

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
JULY 23, 2023**

*Masses For
The Week*



**SUNDAY, JULY 23, SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo
9:00 a.m. Ruth & Clair Over
(John & Helen Deibel)
11:00 a.m. Mary Newell (Family)

MONDAY, JULY 24, ST. SHARBEL MAKHLUF

- 8:15 a.m. James Geig (Geig Family)
Joseph Latona – Month's Mind

TUESDAY, JULY 25, ST. JAMES

- 8:15 a.m. Carole Darrow (Family)
6:30 p.m. Deceased of the Newell & Ott Families
(Family)

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, SS. JOACHIM & ANNE,
PARENTS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

- 8:15 a.m. Gerald & Mary Franz (Phil & Mary Ott)

THURSDAY, JULY 27

- 8:15 a.m. Andrew Misbrener
(Marty & Liz Misbrener)
6:30 p.m. Delores Hoosic
(Deanna & Jack Andes &
Ray Winklestein)
Dr. Stephen Stone – Month's Mind

FRIDAY, JULY 28

- 8:15 a.m. Edward Bender (Marty & Liz Misbrener)

**SATURDAY, JULY 29, SS. MARTHA, MARY
& LAZARUS**

- 8:15 a.m. Ivan & Donna Weber
(Weber & Hilton Families)
5:00 p.m. Faustina & Lydia Thompson
(The Testa, Kinsman, Erby, &
Maiert Families)
*Faustina & Lydia Thomas –
Anniversary of Death*

**SUNDAY, JULY 30, SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo
9:00 a.m. In Thanksgiving for Fr. G. David Bline
(Kusnir Family)
11:00 a.m. Jackie Schnitzler (Greg & Betty Schnitzler)
Mass on the Water at the Tudor House

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Ex 14:5-18; Mt 12:38-42
Tuesday: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Mt 20:20-28
Wednesday: Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Mt 13:1-9
Thursday: Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; Mt 13:10-17
Friday: Ex 20:1-17; Mt 13:18-23
Saturday: Ex 24:3-8; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
Sunday: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12 Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52
or Mt 13:44-46

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

SUNDAY, JULY 23

- Prayers for healing after 11:00 Mass, meet by the St. Anthony Statue

TUESDAY, JULY 25

- Women's Book Study, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
(St. Gerard Room)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

- Senior Group Euchre, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
(Beatitudes Room)
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30 p.m. (Upper Room)

THURSDAY, JULY 27

- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 6:00-6:30 p.m.
- Confessions, 5:30-6:15 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 29

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Confessions, 9:00-9:45 a.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 30

- Mass on the Water, 11:00 a.m. (Tudor House)
No 11:00 Mass at the church

ADORERS NEEDED

We are in need of an Adorer for the following time:
Tuesday 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Tuesday 3:00-3:30 p.m.
If you are able to fill this, please call Joanne at 330-338-4810.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

III Richard Brown III & Kristen Krivicke
I Jonathan Petit & Mary Pratt

REST IN PEACE

Please remember in your prayers **Larry Horning** as well as **Mary Ellen Trockle**, mother of Liz Pfeiffer of our parish. May perpetual light shine upon them, and may Christ console their families and friends.

"I AM A CHILD OF GOD. YES I AM!!!"

This past weekend, I had the awesome privilege of attending a Steubenville Youth Conference with our youth group. A big thank you to Shirley Clark and our chaperones for getting everyone back home safely. The whole weekend was grace-filled, but Saturday night was a powerful time of Adoration and praise to our God as Jesus was processed through the fieldhouse. During the procession, we sang the song "Who you say I am" by Hillsong worship. Over and over, we would sing the lyrics "I am a child of God. Yes I am!" Each and every one of us that were there were able to sing that song because our parents said yes to us. We are in existence because our parents chose life. During all the turmoil of our culture and times that we are in, this song brought great peace, gratitude and thanksgiving for the gift of life that God has given me. "I am a child of God." You are too! Thank you, Lord!

Last weekend, Fr. David preached on issues in our time that deal with the gift of our lives. While I was going to write an article on this, his homily hit the points we need to be aware of quite well. So, I am giving the rest of this bulletin article to him. Thanks, Fr. David....

"Moral principles do not depend on a majority vote. Wrong is wrong, even if everyone is wrong. Right is right, even if nobody is right." As Catholics, we know what is moral and what is not because God is the author of morality, and it has been revealed in a person, Jesus Christ, and in the Church He established. In today's Gospel, Jesus declares, "Whoever has ears ought to hear." We preach the Gospel and share the dignity of the human person because that's who we are and what we are called to do – despite how it may be received.

Unless you've been in a coma or a cave these past weeks and months, you've probably been hearing debate over not one, but two "Issue 1s" which are being put to Ohio voters for consideration. It can get a bit confusing since both are "Issue 1". The first up for a vote is only a few weeks away, on August 8th. If passed, Issue 1 would make it more difficult for Ohioans to change the state constitution. Currently, it takes a simple majority vote to pass a change to the constitution. The amendment proposes to change the constitution to require a vote of 60% of voters to amend the constitution going forward. The diocese of Cleveland received numerous calls in recent weeks, some from those disappointed their parish opted to support Issue 1 and others angry over their parish's silence on Issue 1.

The Bishops of Ohio opted not to take a specific stance on August 8th's Issue 1 since, on its own, it deals with a procedural question, what level of support should be necessary to amend our state's constitution, and not a moral one. This means that it is possible for Catholics to reasonably disagree whether a 50% or 60% threshold is best for Ohio.

Both supporters and opponents of the proposal to require a 60% majority vote to amend the constitution going forward **have admitted** that it will have a direct impact on November's ballot issue. The fact is that a YES vote to Issue 1 in August will make it more difficult in the November election to pass the dangerous and immoral amendment to the Ohio Constitution enshrining unrestricted access to abortion. There is no ambiguity that abortion, as something that is intrinsically (in itself) always evil, must be opposed as it directly undermines the dignity of each human life.

While the language of November's ballot issue is intentionally vague, it directly assaults human dignity and parental rights by:

- permitting abortion through all 9 months of pregnancy*
- permitting abortion for minors without parental consent or knowledge*
- permitting the use of hormones and life-changing surgery for children without parental consent or knowledge*

November's issue 1 must be opposed with all of our energy and resources, but what about August 8th?

First, we should each be praying EVERY DAY that God's will be done and that hearts be converted to God's will for the outcome of August 8th's election. The advantage of praying for God's will and not our own is that we are assured of praying for the ideal outcome, even if we disagree over what that outcome should be.

Second, we should be talking with our family, friends, and neighbors about the issues that are at stake in these elections. It may be uncomfortable, but it is part of our history. It is only very recently that society somehow decided that politics and religion are not appropriate topics for polite conversation. Our ancestors talked about these things often, precisely because they are important – far more important than the weather, which celebrity did what, or how our favorite sports team is doing. Of course, Christian charity must prevail. Having a discussion is not a license to be a jerk.

Third, all of us of voting age must be registered to vote (you still have time for November), and we should vote both on August 8th and again in November. Early voting is available. Friends have cars and would likely assist with a ride if you need one. The Church, including Pope Francis, has been consistent in declaring that part of our obligation to share the Gospel is to engage in politics. Pope Francis states, "Everyone must engage in politics, which is simply what it means to take part constructively in the life of a nation or society." Even the Gospel has "a political dimension" in that it seeks to convert "the social, including religious, mindset of the people." We can and must vote for the morality that we know to be true.

In the spirit of my second point, I can share that I, PERSONALLY, believe that raising the threshold for the passage of future amendments to 60% on August 8th would make November's issue harder to pass and that is a good and prudent reason to vote Yes on August 8th. I accept that others may not agree with this conclusion even if they are united with me in opposition to the evil amendment that is on the ballot in November.

Even if expanding abortion was not on the ballot in November, I have serious doubts as to the wisdom of allowing a bare majority (50% + 1) to amend the constitution when we are so divided as a state, instead of seeking a higher percentage of support that would likely require some level of compromise. Ironically, two of the main groups opposing Issue 1 in August, require a supermajority in their own internal governance, with the ACLU requiring 60% and Planned Parenthood requiring a two-thirds majority to amend their bylaws. Some food for thought.

Whoever has ears ought to hear. Pray. Discuss. Vote.

God bless all of you!

Fr. Jeremy

P.S. Please come to the **11:00 a.m. Mass on the Water at the Tudor House** next weekend, July 30. Please bring your own chairs, towels to sit on, and picnic items so we can enjoy each other and celebrate the gift of this awesome parish!

COLLECTION INFORMATION

July 15/16 Offertory

	Sunday	Faith Direct
Sunday	\$ 13,783.00	\$ 12,881.07
Assessment	\$ 26.00	\$ 110.00
Capital	\$ 230.00	\$ 150.00
School	\$ 150.00	\$ 330.00
Assumption	\$ 20.00	
Peter's Pence	\$ 60.00	
Special Gift		\$ 200.00
TOTAL	\$ 14,269.00	\$ 13,671.07

Our parish is blessed by your generosity!

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 Clark Family received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

**FOR YOU, O LORD, ARE
KIND AND FORGIVING,
RICH IN LOVING
DEVOTION TO ALL WHO
CALL ON YOU.**

- PSALM 86:5

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS!

July 30, 11:00 a.m. – Celebrate the Present

We will celebrate Mass at the Tudor House on the water. Please bring picnic items to stay and eat together.

August 20, 12:00 p.m. – Celebrate the Future

Outdoor Mass at the Rubber Ducks Stadium followed by Rubber Ducks Game

September 10, 12:00-4:00 p.m. – Parish Festival

Come celebrate the joy of our community with a day of fun and fellowship and a closing Mass at 4:00 p.m.



**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



"Let the little children come to me..."

PSR REGISTRATION OPEN

Registration for the 2023-2024 PSR year is open now! See the parish website for information on some changes to the program format this year, the registration form, and calendar. May God bless all PSR students, teachers, and parents in the coming year!

YOUNG WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT GROUP

Are you a young woman interested in learning more about vocations to religious life? So are we! Our group gathers monthly on the fourth Monday for prayer, fellowship, and a reflection on religious life and discernment. Our next meeting is Monday, July 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Memorare Center. Questions? Please email Colleen at cwilson@stfparish.com.

MISSION APPEAL THIS WEEKEND

This weekend, St. Francis de Sales welcomes Rev. Euginius Canete, General Superior of the Missionaries of Jesus. He served as a missionary in Zambia for 10 years and is now working in his native land, the Philippines. During the Masses, an offering will be collected to support the work of the Missionaries of Jesus who serve the poor in the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and Guatemala and also minister to immigrants in the USA. Their missionary efforts include evangelization, education, socio-economic and disaster aid, and healthcare. Thank you in advance for giving Rev. Canete a warm welcome and supporting the work of his community!





Join us for Mass at the Tudor House as we continue to thank God for 75 years as a parish community!

Sunday, July 30 at 11:00 AM*

655 Latham Ln, Akron, OH 44319

Seating is available but limited.

Bring chairs or blankets in case additional seating is needed.

All are welcome to bring a picnic lunch to eat together after Mass.

**There will be no 11:00 Mass at the church.*

CYO FALL SPORTS REGISTRATION

Hello, St. Francis Families,

CYO Fall Sports registration is now open for Volleyball and Cross Country. All participants need new Pre-Participation Forms for the 2023-2024 season. CYO sports are open to all current Church families, PSR families and Parish School families.

Volleyball

2nd and 3rd Grade Co-Ed (Coach needed)
 4th Grade Girls (Coach needed)
 5th, 6th & 7th Grade Girls
 (Coaches returning)
 8th Grade Girls (Coach needed)
 High School 9-12 Grade (Coach needed)

Cross Country

1st, 2nd and 3rd

Students run 1 mile, Meets held on Saturdays
 (Coach[es] needed)

4th and 5th

Students run 1.5 miles, Meets held on Sundays
 (Coach Returning)

6th, 7th and 8th

Students run 2 miles, Meets held on Sundays
 (Coach Returning)

Flag Football

We have had interest in Flag Football this year. We have one coach and are looking for two more. Registration is now open for Grades 1-4.



Coaches need to be 16 years old to be an assistant coach or 18 or older to be head coach. They must also complete all training and certifications before they may coach.

If anyone is interested in any of the above programs or has any questions, please contact:

Katie Kinsinger, Athletic Director at athleticdirector@stfparish.com or by phone at 330-714-1777.

Register here! <https://backoffice.sportspilot.com/register/family/default.asp?asoid=106284>

RIGHT TO LIFE ACTION COALITION OF OHIO TRAVELING TOWN HALL MEETING

Tuesday, July 25, 2023, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Queen of Heaven Parish Life Center

Be prepared to defeat Ohio's pro-abortion constitutional amendment and help us get out the vote for the special election in August. These sessions ("The Fall of Roe-Now What?", "Understanding the Ohio Pro-Death Ballot Initiative", and "The Reality of Abortion") will educate and equip you, your family, friends, and co-workers to defend pre-born children and family values. Admission is free. Freewill donations will be accepted at the door. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Kate Makra at kate@clevelandrighttolife.org.

BALL PARK MASS

Get your tickets soon! St. Francis de Sales will have Mass at Canal Park Stadium Sunday, August 20. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. with Praise and Worship led by Mercy Divine at 11:40 a.m. Mass will be at noon, but stay around for family fun and games and to see the Akron RubberDucks take on the Erie Sea Wolves. Buy your tickets at <https://fevogm.com/event/Stfrancisdesales23>.

CYO OFFICIATES

The Diocese of Cleveland CYO are seeking high school, college students and adults interested in officiating: **Soccer, Volleyball, Flag Football, and Rookie Tackle.** Training will be provided. Officials are paid a fee to officiate. There will be mandatory training sessions. Equipment is provided at no cost – whistles, shirts, penalty flag, markers and stopwatches. If you are interested, please contact the following:
 Flag Football and Rookie Tackle: Todd Shapiro ohiodude441@aol.com
 Soccer: Dan Frey dgfrey2003@yahoo.com
 Volleyball: Dale Gaydos gaydosdale@gmail.com

YOUNG AT HEART PICNIC

The Queen of Heaven Young at Heart Group (for anyone 55 years of age and older) is having their Annual Picnic Monday, August 7 at 1:00 p.m. in the Pavilion at Queen of Heaven Parish. Chicken and hot dogs will be provided, and members will bring a dish to share. There will be games and a "Funny Hat" contest.



EARLY VOTING INFORMATION

Those who cannot make it to vote in the Special Election on August 8 or will be out of town then can vote early at the Board of Elections or designated location in their county of residence. Voting hours are available between July 11 and August 6. To find a time and location, visit https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/early-voting/.

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