

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.

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, TWENTY-THIRD
SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo
9:00 a.m. Bruno Codispoti (His Wife)
11:00 a.m. Patricia Delagrang
(The Schnitzler Family)
4:00 p.m. In Thanksgiving for Our Parish

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

- 8:15 a.m. Mike Trivisano (Ruthie Kelbly)

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, THE MOST HOLY
NAME OF MARY**

- 8:15 a.m. Special Intention (Melody Family)
6:30 p.m. Bob Baltrinic
(Delorse Kennedy & Family)

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13,
ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

- 8:15 a.m. Ivan & Donna Weber
(Weber & Hilton Families)

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, THE EXULTATION OF
THE HOLY CROSS**

- 8:15 a.m. Diane Dvorak (Ruthie Kelbly)
6:30 p.m. Mary Franz (Croatian Kolo Dancers)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, OUR LADY OF SORROWS

- 8:15 a.m. Elizabeth Buckohr (Son, Donald)
9:00 a.m. Mary Ellen Truckle (Fran Schnidewolf)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, SS. CORNELIUS &
CYPRIAN**

- 8:15 a.m. Jim Mesko (Pat Mesko)
5:00 p.m. Zita Carino (Baker Family)

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, TWENTY-FOURTH
SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

- 7:30 a.m. Daniel Holland (Vince & Linda Greczanik)
9:00 a.m. Anna Feltrup (Kathie Masters)
11:00 a.m. Pro Populo

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Col 1:24-2:3; Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday: Col 2:6-15; Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday: Col 3:1-11; Lk 6:20-26
Thursday: Nm 21:4b-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Jn 19:25-27 or
Lk 2:33-35
Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17; Lk 6:43-49
Sunday: Sir 27:30-28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35



LET'S LOVE THE CHURCH WE'RE IN!

*"Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another"
(Romans 13:8).*

This weekend is our Parish Festival Weekend! Praise God! During this weekend, we continue to celebrate 75 beautiful years of parish life! In light of this, I would like to share something from the booklet for the Dedication of the new St. Francis de Sales Church on July 11, 1971...on page 16, you can find a poem titled "Problems at Church."

PROBLEMS AT CHURCH

If you should find the perfect church
Without one fault or smear
For goodness sake! don't join that church;
You'd spoil the atmosphere.
If you should find the perfect church
Where all anxieties cease,
Then pass it by lest joining it
You mar the masterpiece.
If you should find the perfect church
Then don't you ever dare
To tread upon such holy ground;
You'd be a misfit there.
But since no perfect church exists
Made of imperfect men,
Then let's cease looking for that church
And love the church we're in.
Of course it's not a perfect church.
That's simple to discern.
But you and I and all of us
Could cause the tide to turn.
What fools we are to flee our post
In that unfruitful search
To find at last where problems loom
God proudly builds His Church.
So let's keep working in our church
Until the resurrection,
And then we each will join God's Church
Without an imperfection.

from the book
A Gift of Gladness
by PERRY TANKSLEY

What a gift it is to be a part of a broken, messy, imperfect church! Read this poem a few times. Let it soak in. Sometimes in life, we keep searching and searching for something that doesn't exist. Take a moment to remember and give thanks to God that we are here, that we have God and we have this community to help us turn to Him in the midst of all the imperfections.

Now, I want to go to the other Dedication booklet from 1951 and share the first page, which is an appeal to our patron, St. Francis de Sales....

St. Francis de Sales, patron of our parish, come celebrate with us today. Walk with our Bishop as he gives our gift to God, then walk with us when, pridefully, we show our church and school to friends! Inspire us to see our gift in its true light. OUR GIFT TO GOD. . . ? Is it not . . . rather . . . a GIFT FROM GOD . . . TO US . . . ? . . . this opportunity to build a Church to harbor His Real Presence . . . this privilege of building up a school wherein our children's souls will find as much enrichment as their minds . . . this pleasant task of making friends around our Church and working with them . . . joyfully . . .



This parish is a gift! Let's never forget the opportunity, the privilege, the joy that having a church community brings to our lives. And let's not keep this good news to ourselves. Let's continue to share this gift with the world! Where do we go from here? As we head toward the next 75 years of parish life here at St. Francis de Sales, let us take to heart the words of St. Francis de Sales. These words were found on the back of Fr. Diederich's Funeral Card...Have Courage..."Do not look forward to what might happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations."

With gratitude for all God has done and will continue to do!

Fr. Jeremy



Past...

...and Present



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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

- Parish Festival, 12:00-4:00 p.m.
- Outdoor Closing Mass at 4:00 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

- Avila Holy Hour for Vocations, 9:00 a.m.
- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 9:00-9:30 a.m.
- PSR Opening Mass, 6:30 p.m. (Church)
- Men's Basketball, 8:30 p.m. (Gym)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- Women's Study Group, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- RCIA, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (Memorare Center)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

- Senior Euchre Group, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
(Beatitudes Room)

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

- Thursday Scripture Group, 12:30-3:00 p.m.
(St. Gerard Room)
- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 6:00-6:30 p.m.
- Confessions, 5:30-6:15 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Confessions, 9:00-9:45 a.m.
- Holy Hiking, Gorge Metropark, 2:00 p.m.



ADORER NEEDED

We are in need of an Adorer for the following time:
Tuesday, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

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

COLLECTION INFORMATION

Information about the September 3/4 collection will be published in the forthcoming bulletin.

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 Wilson Family received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

UPCOMING FALL BIBLE STUDY

Discover the Amazing Riches of the Catholic Faith. Founded by Christ Himself, the Catholic Church is where we encounter God in His Word, His sacraments, and His saints. The Church proclaims the fullness of truth and fullness of life. Whether you have been Catholic all your life or are just beginning to explore the faith, in this study you will be profoundly moved by the beauty and the richness of the Catholic Church. *What We Believe* is a 10-part study program that begins the week of September 11th, 2023. Days and times will vary. The cost is \$30.00. This includes workbook and live stream for one year

Sign-ups are available in the narthex. For more information, contact Frank Noffsinger at 330-990-0139, or email franknoffsinger@gmail.com.

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

HOLY HIKING

This fall, join Fr. Jeremy and your fellow parishioners for hiking and prayerful appreciation of the goodness of God!

September 16 – 2:00 p.m. – Gorge Metro Park

September 23 – No Hiking

September 30 – 11:00 a.m. – Canal Fulton

Lock 4 Trailhead

October 7 – 11:00 a.m. – Silver Creek Park –

Pheasant Run Shelter

October 14 – 11:00 a.m. – Firestone Metroparks

Tuscarawas Shelter

October 21 – No Hiking

October 28 – 11:00 a.m. – Nimisila Reservoir

Parking Lot C

**HOLY ANGELS**

Wouldn't it be wonderful to imitate our Guardian Angel? By his humility and love, he has proven himself in fidelity and divine love. He now works in hiddenness, with selfless love for the good of our soul and of others. He has patience with us when we sin, and always seeks only our advancement in goodness. He never seeks his own glory, comfort or pleasure, but only the glory of God. He helps whenever he sees a need and never looks for recognition or thanks. When we ignore him or forget that he even exists, he continues to love us, to pray for us, and to do all in his power to lead us to God.

All are invited to a talk on the Holy Angels on September 20th at 6:00 p.m. in the Holy Family Room at the Memorare Center. You are welcome to stay and participate in a discussion about practical ways of living "with" your Guardian Angel in daily life (letter 12 for those in formation for consecration to their Guardian Angel). Please RSVP to the Parish Office at 330-644-2225 for either or both.

Mark your calendars for a wonderful evening of reflection with Fr. Wolfgang from Opus Angelorum. On October 10th, he will give a talk called "The Holy Angels in the Holy Family" in the church at 6:00 p.m. followed by Mass. More details to come...

WHO ARE THE AVILAS?

In 1971, Fr. James Viall, a classmate of Fr. Schleicher's, saw a need for lots more priests, deacons, vowed religious, dedicated singles, and God-centered families. After much prayer and study, he established the Avilas of the Diocese of Cleveland. Bishop Anthony Pilla designed the logo for this newly established ministry. In 1996, Fr. Schleicher initiated a parish Avila Prayer group here at St. Francis. He led the first Holy Hour, assisted by Richard Butz (before he became a deacon). In the 27 years of Holy Hours for Vocations, led mostly by our Deacons, we've seen many new vocations coming from our beloved parish. *Prayer can move mountains!* If you've never attended an Avila Holy Hour, please consider praying with us at 9:00 a.m., the second Monday of each month. *We hope to see you at 9:00 a.m. on September 11.* For more information, please call Mary Ott at 330-620-9181.



"Inspire musicians to gladden the hearts of people by filling the air with God's Gift of Music, reminding them of the Divine Musician – who created all beauty."

~Saint Cecilia

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Francis de Sales' Music Ministry.

Have you been inspired to pursue a ministry through music?

Do you find yourself being more fulfilled through music?

Do you love to praise God through song?

Do you have a desire to help others worship more deeply?

Inspired to join the Hand Bell Choir?

Do you have a hidden talent for playing any string, brass, or percussion instrument proficiently?

Join the choir!

Practices on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the church.

If interested in ministry through music, please email Colleen McVicker, Director of Music, at cmcvicker@stfparish.com or leave a message at 330-644-2225, ext. 212.

LOOKING FOR FUN AND ADVENTURE?

Cub Scout Pack 3215 will be having a signup night on Wednesday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the pavilion. This is for students, grades K-5th. Cub Scouts is a fun, family-friendly activity that teaches kids values and includes outdoor activities. Suitable for all youth with all abilities. Come and learn more. Any questions? Please email Joe Testa at jtesta5@neo.rr.com.

WALK FOR THE POOR

This event will support our St. Vincent de Paul Society here at St. Francis! To donate, go to <https://www.fopwalk.org/>. Go to State – Ohio, select walker Cathy Feltrup, and click on Donate. Select PayPal for credit card donations. You can also write a check to St. Vincent de Paul, put in the memo WALK FOR THE POOR, and drop it in the Poor Box in the back of the Church. God Bless you!!

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE & BLANKET SUNDAY

October 7th & 8th

Drop off your donation after all Masses at the Pavilion in the Parking Lot. We are collecting: blankets, winter coats, jackets, gloves, hats, scarves, winter shoes and boots, hoodies, sweatshirts, sweatpants, socks, jeans, long underwear, chapstick, body lotion, deodorant, disposable razors, baby wipes, shampoo, and bug repellent. This benefits the Peter Maurin Center, the Kenmore Free Store, and the Ozanam Center. Please remember those in need as you clean out your closets! Thank You and God Bless.

THE BRIDEGROOM'S BANQUET

You're invited to the "Bridegroom's Banquet," a benefit dinner for the nuns of Christ the Bridegroom Monastery, on Saturday, November 4, at the Astrodome Event Center in Parma, OH. There is no cost to attend the dinner, but registration is required (by October 16). Adults 21 and older may attend. Enjoy a dinner, entertainment, and an evening with the nuns and their guests. Watch the premier of the nun's new video which will complete the three-part series on poverty, chastity, and obedience. Learn more about and support the nuns and their life of prayer and hospitality. Donations given at the event or designated ahead of time will be doubled by matching donors. For more information and to register, please visit www.christthebridegroom.org. With questions, call 440-834-0290.

Food, Fellowship and Faith for Adults

THEOLOGY on the ROCKS

Monday, September 18th

The Crusades: Catholic Imperialism at its Finest?

Fr. Louis Thomas
Pastor,
St. Andrew the Apostle, Norton

Our Lady of the Cedars
507 S Cleveland Massillon Rd
Fairlawn, OH 44333

Doors Open 7:00 pm, Speaker 7:30 pm
\$15.00 Admission includes light appetizers. Cash bar available.



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**SS. ANNE & JOACHIM
GRANDPARENTING GROUP**

It's something new for Grandparents! If you are a Grandmother or Grandfather and would like to learn some practical tips and resources for connecting with your grandkids to help them carry on the Catholic Faith, join us on Friday, September 29th at St. Paul Parish, 1580 Brown Street, Akron, 44301 in the PAC (Parish Activity Center) at 6:30 p.m. for the first meeting of the SS. Anne and Joachim Grandparenting Group. This is a cluster ministry hosted by St. Paul. Questions? Contact Ellen Barber at 330-801-0463.



HelpOurMarriage.org
RETROUVAILLE
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Have you as a couple grown apart?
Do you often fight without ever resolving the conflict?

The Cleveland Retrouvaille Community is presenting a weekend retreat from September 22 to 24 for couples seeking healing in their marriage. For more information or to register, visit www.helpourmarriage.org





PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Cluster Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, September 12, at Nativity Catholic Church. Please bring your shawls and any work in progress. Also, donations to our homeless shelter can be brought at this time. If anyone in the parishes knows of someone in need of a prayer shawl or if you have any questions, please contact Barb Zimmerman at 330-699-4769 or Louise Golden at 330-571-3384.

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