

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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

*Masses For
The Week*



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, TWENTY-FIFTH
SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

- 7:30 a.m. Delores Hoosic
 (Tom & Mary Ann Andes)
 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
 11:00 a.m. Betty & Jim Geig (Geig Family)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- 8:15 a.m. Jim Durkin (Nancy Durkin)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, SS. COSMAS & DAMIAN

- 8:15 a.m. Jim Mesko (Marty & Liz Misbrener)
 6:30 p.m. Mary Rossi (Jackie & Paul Heilman)
Charles Hamilton (Anniversary of Death)
Dan Salopek (Month's Mind)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, ST. WENCESLAUS &
ST. LAWRENCE RUIZ & COMPANIONS**

- 8:15 a.m. Jean Hanzel (Maxine Schultz)
 6:30 p.m. Roger Matz (Stecz Family)
Gemma Roberts (Anniversary of Death)

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, SS. MICHAEL, GABRIEL,
& RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS**

- 8:15 a.m. Mickey Sullivan (Family)
 9:00 a.m. Jack Burrell (Tuesday Scripture Group)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, ST. JEROME

- 8:15 a.m. Intentions of Fr. Bline (JLWS)
 5:00 p.m. Pro Populo

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

- 7:30 a.m. Jack Wood (Rosalie Danko)
 9:00 a.m. Health and Blessings for Louis &
 Laurene Scala (Margaret Zeis)
 11:00 a.m. Augie Szempruch (Wife, Cynthia)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Ezr 1:1-6; Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6
Thursday: Hg 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Jn 1:47-51
Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Lk 9:43b-45
Sunday: Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5;
 Mt 21:28-32

**ARE YOU ENVIOUS BECAUSE
I AM GENEROUS?**

I have to say, every time I hear this Sunday's Gospel I think of my grandpa. He is 89 years old, and he is not baptized. I have had conversations with him over the years and he kind of laughs it off and tells me to baptize him before he dies. I think I'll keep asking though.

Now, since I've been a priest for eight years, I have seen people coming into the Church in the last moments of their lives. I have baptized people right before they died. And again, this Gospel comes to mind. I think many of us who have lived the Christian life our whole lives can be filled with the same jealousy that the workers felt in the Gospel today.

"These last ones worked only one hour, and you've made them equal to us who bore the day's burden and the heat." This is unfair. What Jesus reminds us of in the story He shares is that it is not unfair. He says, "My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree for me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go."

We are constantly comparing ourselves with others, calculating everything, yet God does not. He is generous, He is loving, He made us to return back to Him. Our God and Lord did not go through what He went through so that few could be saved. He was generous with His life on the cross. How could we expect any less from Our Lord?



Here's a picture from our last Holy Hiking adventure at the Gorge Metro Park. Here's a list of the remaining hikes....

- September 30 at 11:00 a.m. –
Canal Fulton Lock 4 Trailhead at Lock 4 Park
- October 7 at 11:00 a.m. –
Silver Creek Park – Pheasant Run Shelter
- October 14 at 11:00 a.m. –
Firestone Metroparks Tuscarawas Shelter
- October 21 at 11:00 a.m. – No Hiking
- October 28 at 11:00 a.m. –
Nimisila Reservoir Parking Lot C4

Let's pray that God will continue to bless us with good weather.

**May God's peace and joy be with you,
Fr. Jeremy**

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- Prayers for healing after the 11:00 a.m. Mass, meet by the St. Anthony statue
- Youth Group, 7:00 p.m. (Gym)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 9:00-9:30 a.m.
- PSR, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Young Women's Discernment Group, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (Archangels Room)
- Men's Basketball, 8:30 p.m. (Gym)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- Senior Euchre Group, 1:00-4:00 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)
- Issue 1 Informational Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Gym)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)
- *What We Believe* Study, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30 p.m. (Upper Room)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- 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.
- *What We Believe* Study, 7:15-9:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Confessions, 9:00-9:45 a.m.
- Holy Hiking, 11:00 a.m. (Canal Fulton Lock 4 Trailhead)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

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

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the soul of **Anthony Klisan**. May the Lord welcome him into eternal joy and give his family hope and peace.

WEDDING BANNES

- III. Tobias Snyder and Stephanie McNeill
- II. Thomas Bullock and Emily Clark

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.

Joan Spalding-Heade received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.



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

September 16/17

	Offertory
Sunday	\$ 13,677.25
Assessment	\$ 68.00
Capital	\$ 260.00
School	\$ 25.00
Catholic Communications	\$ 10.00
Faith & Values	\$ 10.00
TOTAL	\$ 14,050.25

Our parish is blessed by your generosity!



COUPLE TO COUPLE MINISTRY

Do you have a heart for the Sacrament of Marriage? Are you as a couple, looking for a way to minister and share the great gift that the Sacrament of Marriage has been in your life? The Couple to Couple marriage mentoring ministry is looking to add a few more couples to their group to help walk engaged couples through their marriage preparation. Some training is required and most couples will only have one engaged couple to minister to per year. There will be an informational meeting on Friday, November 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Memorare Center. RSVP to Maggie and Art Klatt at mklatt@stfparish.com if you are able to join us to learn more!

SFDS YOUTH GROUP

We meet SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 7:00 p.m.:
Ultimate Photo Scavenger Hunt Kickoff!

Bring your team (sister, brother, friends...you get the idea) of 4-6 people. Your team needs an ADULT DRIVER; bring one of those, as well. Meet in the gym for food, fun, lots of photos! Contact Shirley Clark with questions at sclark@stfparish.com 330-644-2225, ext. 215.

STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE THERE TO CARE

Are you going through a difficult time – emotionally, spiritually, or relationally? Are you lonely, experiencing a crisis, or simply stressed by everyday life? You don't have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. To find out more, contact parishioners Ann Clark (aclark2@stfparish.com) or Bill Dickey (wdickey@stfparish.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 7 & 8

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 & God Bless.

ROSARY FOR LIFE

October is Respect Life Month and the Month of the Holy Rosary. The Respect Life Ministry would like to, as in past years, pray the Rosary for the respect of all life on Sunday, October 8, at Noon following the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Please join us on the lawn up at Manchester Road to give a powerful witness for about one-half hour. This can be part of the 54-day Rosary Novena that the people have been praying before the weekday Masses and following the Saturday morning Mass. God bless you all for your prayerful consideration.

BLUE MASS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023
5:00PM

A Blue Mass is a Mass celebrated annually in the Church for those employed in the field of public safety.

We invite police officers, firefighters, and first responders, along with their families and the families of those fallen in the line of duty.

Rosaries will be given to those who work to protect our community.

All are welcome to attend and show support and gratitude to the men and women who keep our community safe.

SFDS ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY

Attention all students, 5th grade and up: We will be training new servers in October. Please complete a registration form, found in the bulletin or on the Parish website. These can be returned to the Parish Office or given to day school teachers.

Adults are welcome, too! We could use a few more volunteers for our adult server crew. Please pray about joining the ranks, it's such a privilege to serve at the altar!

Contact Shirley Clark with questions at sclark@stfparish.com or 330-644-2225, ext. 215.

complete and return to
your teacher or
Mrs. Clark by
October 9, 2023

Altar Server Registration Form

The Altar Server Ministry is a unique one in the Catholic Church. The Altar Server fulfills a very important role at Mass. When you serve the priests and deacons, you serve the people of God, and above all, you serve Christ our Savior.

Young people from high school to the 5th grade are invited to serve in the Altar Server Ministry at St. Francis de Sales.
5-8th grade students serve at our Parish weekday Masses. ~ 9-12th grade serve at the weekend Masses.

Please Print:

Last Name		First Name	
Address		City	Zip Code
Telephone		Email	
School	Home Parish		Grade

I would like to commit to serving in the Altar Server Ministry at St. Francis de Sales Parish. I accept the responsibilities of this position and will do my best to honor Our Lord at Mass, and to assist at the altar prayerfully, with reverence and respect.

Student Signature

We give permission for our child to serve in the Altar Server Ministry at St. Francis de Sales Parish and we will assist our child to make certain that they meet the schedule requirements and support them in this ministry of service.

Parent/ Guardian Signature

Serving at the altar is a privileged way to draw closer to Jesus, which in turn enables you to open yourselves to others, to journey together, to set demanding goals and to find the strength to achieve them. The closer you are to the altar, the more you will remember to speak with Jesus in daily prayer; the more you will be nourished by the word and the body of the Lord, the better able you will be to go out to others, bringing them the gift that you have received, giving in turn with enthusiasm the joy you have received.

Pope Francis, August 4, 2015

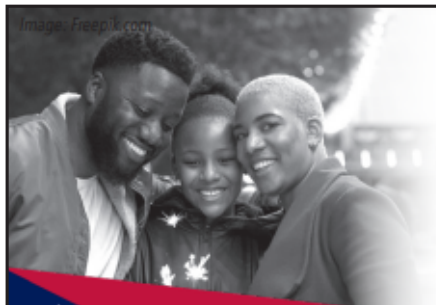


Notes for November



Check here for updates on how our parish is spreading the word about the extreme amendment on the ballot this November which would allow for abortions up to birth and endanger parents' right to guide their children's health decisions. Thank you for praying and staying informed!

- **Voter Registration Fair:** After the vigil Mass on September 30 and Sunday Masses on October 1, come register to vote or update your registration! Visit the table in the narthex after Mass, and volunteers will be able to assist you. *There will also be registration opportunities at the Informational Meeting on September 27.*
- **40 Days for Life:** For 40 days, from September 27 through November 5, parishioners and other Christians will gather on the sidewalk of the abortion clinic at 2127 State Road, Cuyahoga Falls in groups of 3-5, to stand for life and to pray to end abortion. If you'd prefer to offer a Holy Hour in the church to support and join this prayer effort, that is also an option. Contact Lori at gutbrods@att.net.
- **Fundraiser for Protect Women Ohio:** Join our parish priests and representatives from local and state pro-life organizations for a fundraiser to benefit Protect Women Ohio, the coalition formed to campaign for the defeat of Issue 1. The reception will be held September 26, 2023 with an event committee reception from 5:00-5:30 p.m. and general reception from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the home of Barbara and David George, 5614 Fairfield Lane, Wadsworth, Ohio 44281. Please contact amykerschner@outlook.com or visit <https://secure.winred.com/protect-women-ohio/9262023> to RSVP or learn how to support the event.



What is **Issue 1** All About?

Informational Meeting

Hosted at St. Francis de Sales Parish
4019 Manchester Road, Akron, OH 44319

STAKES ARE HIGH **IN OHIO** THIS NOVEMBER ELECTION!

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023 | 6:30 PM

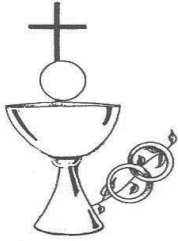
Join us in the **School Gymnasium** to learn from representatives of **Susan B. Anthony** and **Protect Women Ohio** on how Issue 1 will affect our families and communities should it pass.

In short, **Issue 1** would:

- Allow abortion up to birth.
- Take away parental control over life-altering decisions their children may face.

SUPPORT FOR OUR SEMINARIANS

The Parents of Priests Organization of our Cleveland Diocese works to support the needs of the seminarians at Borromeo and St. Mary Seminaries in many ways, including financial and spiritual support. One of the ways that members of the Diocese, and especially our St. Francis de Sales Parish, can assist these men is through spiritual support. Each day is designated for prayer support for a seminarian, as well as our Pope, Bishop Edward Malesic, Pastors, Priests, and other related intentions. Please use this calendar insert and keep it in a place where you can see it each day and thoughtfully say a prayer of support for the name listed that day, as well as a prayer for an increase in vocations. Also, do remember to pray for the others in our parish who are discerning their vocations.



October 2023



Seminarian Calendar prepared by Parents of Priests—Diocese of Cleveland
 Calendar at: seminarians.parentsofpriests.net
 Priest & Seminarian calendar online at: priests.stpatrick.cc



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <i>Pray for Bishop Gries</i>	2 Joseph Rohan Theology I	3 Joshua Stecz Theology I	4 Craig Ziobert Theology I	5 Johannes Benninghoff Pre-Theo II	6 Jake Cermak Pre-Theo II	7 Steve Zbiegien Pre-Theo II
8 <i>Pray for All Pastors</i>	9 Gregory Hovan Pre-Theo I	10 William Martzaklis Pre-Theo I	11 John Scantling Pre-Theo I	12 Connor Trout Pre-Theo I	13 Christopher Villarreal Pre-Theo I	14 Benjamin Baratian Borromeo-4
15 <i>Pray for All Deacons</i>	16 Jonathan Green Borromeo-4	17 Andrew Bendahan Borromeo-3	18 Thomas Byrne Borromeo-3	19 Augustine Drexler Borromeo-3	20 Stephen Vavro Borromeo-3	21 Miguel Estrada Borromeo-2
22 <i>Pray for the Rector Fr. Turner</i>	23 Dan Jordan Borromeo-2	24 Nathan Menkhaus Borromeo-2	25 Zachary Smith Borromeo-2	25 Steven Vasko Borromeo-2	27 Matthew Wasinski Borromeo-2	28 Christopher Yankay Borromeo-2
29 <i>Pray for Parents of Priests</i>	30 John Paul Antalek Borromeo-1	31 Dylan Ellis Borromeo-1	<p><i>For God is the One who gives seed to the farmer and then bread to eat . . . and He will produce a great harvest of generosity in you.</i></p>  <p style="text-align: right;"><i>2 Corinthians 9:10</i></p>			



Opus Sanctorum Angelorum, a movement dedicated to spreading awareness of the powerful presence of the angels in our spiritual lives, will host an Evening of Recollection at St. Francis de Sales on October 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the church. Fr. Wolfgang Seitz, ORC, will preach on the topic *Angels in the Life of the Holy Family*. Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. following the conference. All are welcome! Contact Therese Holderbaum at the Parish Office for more information at 330-644-2225.



OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, October 4

Discover the transformative power of an all-girls education! Join us for an exclusive tour of our High School led by an Elms Ambassador, connect with our dedicated teachers and coaches, and get to know our vibrant Elms community. Learn about scholarship opportunities and financial aid options. Our doors will be open to welcome you from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Come and explore what The Elms can offer you. Reserve your spot now at www.theelms.org/apply or call 330-752-2507.

CONFERENCE ON GENDER IDENTITY

Holy Family Parish, the Diocese of Cleveland Marriage and Family Ministry, and TOB Cleveland are hosting the conference "A Pastoral Response to Gender Ideology" on December 9 from 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The event will feature 4 talks and an expert panel. Registration opens October 1st. Have questions or interested in being an event sponsor? Contact Deacon John Green at jgreen@dioceseofcleveland.org.

WELCOME CIRCLES FOR UKRAINE



A Welcome Circle is a grassroots group, sponsored by the USCCB, organized to bring a Ukrainian refugee family to the U.S. for a two-year period. These group provide financial support and assist with other immediate needs such as housing, transportation, medical care, and education. Our neighborhood Welcome Circle is developing. So far, we consist of parishioners from St. Francis de Sales Parish, Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church, and St. Paul Parish. We could use your help! Questions, contact Mike Mosyjowski at 330-644-3063 or John Niles at 330-819-9852.

2023 FIRST STEP PROGRAM

Attempting to pick up the pieces of one's life after the tragedy of divorce is an area that can impact a person's relationship with God and the Church. One of the significant issues a person faces is their place in the Church. Does the Church still care about me even though I am divorced? Am I allowed to go to Mass? Can I receive Communion? How can the Church help me heal? If I decide to marry again, what do I have to do?

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Cleveland offers its First Step Program to help individuals deal with these questions in order to renew and strengthen their relationship with God and the Church. The program will be offered on Tuesday, September 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall of Prince of Peace Parish, 1264 Shannon Avenue, Norton, OH. For more information, visit www.dioceseofcleveland.org/tribunal or call 216-696-6525/800-869-6525, ext. 4000.

COME LEARN ABOUT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Learn how the Knights of Columbus can help you protect your family and plan for your retirement, while supporting an organization that contributes to important charitable causes aligned with your Catholic values. You are invited to join us for a Fraternal Benefit Event to learn more about the financial services and fraternal benefits offered by the Knights of Columbus. Monday, October 9th, 6:30 p.m., at St. Paul Parish in the PAC. Refreshments will be provided. Please reach out to Owen Shaffer at 330-805-4530 or owen.shaffer@kofc.org to register.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPENS HERE

The City of Green Drug Task Force Human Trafficking Awareness Committee invites parents, teens, and the community to this informational event on what human trafficking looks like in our area. Hear from nationally renowned experts, learn to recognize the signs of trafficking, and listen to firsthand accounts from local survivors. This free event will be Saturday, October 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the Green High School Auditorium (1474 Boettler Road). A Livestream and recording will be available at www.cityofgreen.org/youtube. Learn more at www.cityofgreen.org/drugtaskforce.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8-9

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time





SUPPORT LOYOLA RETREAT HOUSE

The Loyola Retreat House Reverse Raffle will be held Wednesday, October 11 at Guy's Party Center. Attendees have an opportunity to win the \$2,500.00 Grand Prize. Tickets are \$125.00 per couple, which includes two buffet dinners, hors d'oeuvres, and an open bar! Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For tickets, please contact Katy Karg at 330-896-2315 or Dan O'Connell at 330-896-2430.

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