

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-NINTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 22, 2023**

*Masses For
The Week*



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

- 7:30 a.m. Pro populo
9:00 a.m. Cindy Matheny (Louis & Laurene Scala)
11:00 a.m. Urbino Di Giacomo
(John & Marianna Di Giacomo)
Cindy Matheny – Anniversary of Death

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, ST. JOHN OF CAPISTRANO

- 8:15 a.m. Harvey G. Phillips (Ann Marie Phillips)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, ST. ANTHONY MARY CLARET

- 8:15 a.m. Sue Kurtz (Dan & Sue Wargo)
6:30 p.m. Mary Franz (Bev Guglielmo)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

- 8:15 a.m. Ed Blackert (Dan & Sue Wargo)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

- 8:15 a.m. Jerry Engler (Galati Family)
6:30 p.m. Jim Mesko (Zibritosky Family)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

- 8:15 a.m. William Yingling (Family)
9:00 a.m. Tony & Ruth Zuchowski on 50th
Anniversary (Family)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, SS. SIMON AND JUDE

- 8:15 a.m. James Dayberry (Sister, Linda)
5:00 p.m. Dave & Joan Brubach (Family)

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, THIRTIETH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

- 7:30 a.m. Mary Louise DeMinico
(Theresa & Dorothy Zachorowski)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
11:00 a.m. Vincent Delagrance
(The Schnitzler Family)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Rom 4:20-25; Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75;
Lk 12:13-21
Tuesday: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Lk 12:35-38
Wednesday: Rom 6:12-18; Lk 12:39-48
Thursday: Rom 6:19-23; Lk 12:49-53
Friday: Rom 7:18-25a; Lk 12:54-59
Saturday: Eph 2:19-22; Lk 6:12-16
Sunday: Ex 22:20-26; 1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40

HAVE NO ANXIETY AT ALL

St. Francis de Sales famously declared: "Anxiety is the greatest evil that can befall a soul EXCEPT sin. God commands you to pray, but He forbids you to worry."

Feeling judged at all? Who chooses to be anxious? Note that St. Francis says EXCEPT sin. It is not a sin to be anxious, but if the devil is unable to tempt us into breaking our relationship with God then the devil is content to turn our focus away from Christ and the love of others and onto our fears – our world becomes very small.

Just the other week, we heard in our second reading, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God" (Phil. 4:6-9).

St. Paul would not need to keep reminding his audience to "have no anxiety" if they were not suffering from it. How are we to respond to the avalanche of very real concerns, both personal and in our broader world, that confront us daily?

We are invited to consider what the Lord is asking us to do in the present moment, who are the people and what are the tasks in front of us, and to be faithful to them. Writing after the atomic bomb was created and many were living in fear, C.S. Lewis wrote, "If we are going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things – praying, working, teaching... not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies, but they need not dominate our minds."

There is a place in our lives for news of the world, but perhaps far less than most of us consume. It is one thing to learn of, say, the status of the Holy Land, and another entirely to spend hours watching footage of the recent attacks. The first might well motivate us to pray, but the second only feeds anxiety.



We all need an identity check, to remember that we are not the Savior. We grow in our ability to live with uncertainty precisely by being faithful to our duty to love God and love our neighbor in challenging times. When we are afraid, Jesus is knocking at the door of our hearts. And we have two choices: we can worry about our problems, or we can open the door and let Him into our lives. One option brings misery, the other brings peace and eternal life. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me" (Rev 3:20).

**Peace,
Fr. David**

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

- Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast, after all morning Masses (Gym)
- Prayers for healing, after 11:00 a.m. Mass, meet by St. Anthony Statue
- Boy Scouts, 4:30-6:00 p.m. (Gym)
- Youth Group, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (Upper Room)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 9:00-9:30 a.m.
- PSR & Ignite, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Young Women's Discernment Group, 7:00 p.m. (Archangels Room)
- Second Grade Parent Reconciliation Meeting, 7:15 p.m. (Church)
- Men's Basketball, 8:30 p.m. (Gym)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

- 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, OCTOBER 28

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Confessions, 9:00-9:45 a.m.
- Holy Hiking, 11:00 a.m. (Nimisila Reservoir Parking Lot C)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

- Boy Scouts, 4:30-6:00 p.m. (Gym)
- Youth Group Bonfire, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (Memorare Center)

ADORER NEEDED

We are in need of an Adorer for the following time:
Thursday 12:30-1:00 p.m.
If you are able to fill this, please call Joanne at 330-338-4810.

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.

Stanley & Joette Olesky received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

COLLECTION INFORMATION

October 14/15

	Offertory	Faith Direct
Sunday	\$ 14,674.00	\$ 14,025.20
Assessment	\$ 20.00	\$ 100.00
Capital	\$ 90.00	\$ 150.00
School	\$ 10.00	\$ 330.00
All Saints	\$ 45.00	
Communications		\$ 10.00
Mission Sunday		\$ 110.00
Special Gifts		\$ 1,756.70
TOTAL	\$ 14,849.00	\$ 16,471.90
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 31,323.90	

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 at 330-644-2225.

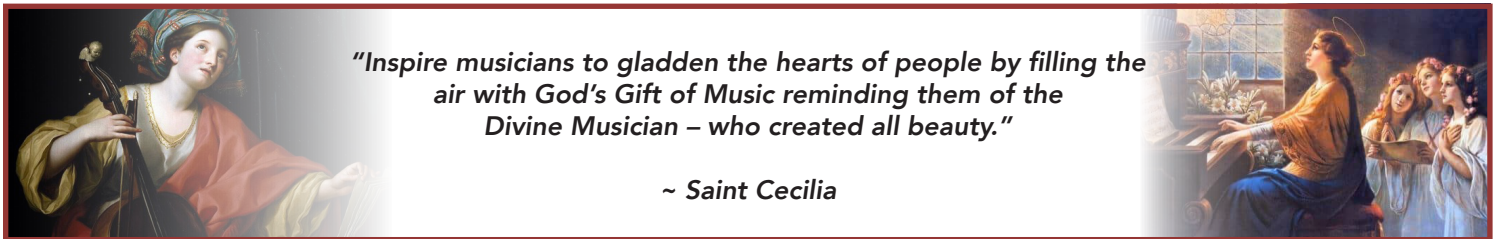
YOUTH CHOIR

The St. Francis de Sales Youth Choir is forming for 2023-2024 to continue enhancing Liturgies and opportunities for prayer bringing us all closer to God. **Youth currently in GRADE 3-GRADE 8 who attend St. Francis de Sales PSR or Day School or are home-schooled** are invited to join the **YOUTH CHOIR**.

The purpose of the Youth Choir is to give the children another opportunity to fully participate during Liturgies and prayer. They will praise and worship God in song in order to enhance the Liturgy – remember – “singing is praying twice.” Participating will also allow the children to grow stronger in their faith. The children will need to be quiet and reverent and have the self-discipline to keep each worship opportunity a prayerful experience for all. Day school students can put the form in my mailbox at the school. PSR and homeschool families, please bring the form to the November practice but email me, too, so I can plan accordingly.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 330-644-2225, ext. 212, or email me at cmcvicker@stfparish.com.

Colleen McVicker, Director of Music Ministry



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES YOUTH CHOIR SCHEDULE 2023-2024

P=PRACTICE 4:30-5:30 in the church
M=MASS (9:00 am Mass)
L=PRAYER LITURGY

P – NOVEMBER 3
M – NOVEMBER 5

EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTIONS
P – NOVEMBER 16 (THURSDAY)
L – NOVEMBER 19- CLOSING VESPERS 6:30

P – DECEMBER 1
M – DECEMBER 3 (ADVENT)

P – JANUARY 5 (NO PRACTICE – **SEE YOU SUNDAY**)
M – JANUARY 7

P – FEBRUARY 2
M – FEBRUARY 4

P – MARCH 1
M – MARCH 3 (LENT)

P – APRIL 12
M – APRIL 14

P – MAY 3
M – 11:00 A.M. MAY 4 (SATURDAY)
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MAY

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES YOUTH CHOIR

PLEASE only sign up ONE CHILD PER FORM:

STUDENT'S NAME _____
has permission to participate in the St. Francis de Sales Youth Choir. He/She will make a full commitment to participate, act reverently, and prayerfully praise and worship God.

GRADE LEVEL: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN 1: _____

CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN 2: _____

CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE _____

ALLERGIES/MEDICAL CONDITIONS:

PARENT SIGNATURE _____



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!

- **Election Day Transportation:** Need a ride to the polls? We have parishioner volunteers who can help. A sign-up sheet is available in the church narthex or call Joanne Reich at 330-338-4810.
- **Literature on Issue 1:** Pamphlets and flyers on Issue 1 are available on the table in the narthex. Please pick some up to inform yourself and spread the word about the issue to your family and friends.



YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, October 22
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Upper Room



We continue our discussion on the Mass: *Finding Truth in the Word*. All high school teens are invited!

Upcoming YG events:

- October 29: Bonfire 7:00-9:00 p.m., fire pit behind Memorare Center
 - November 1: Eucharistic Rally and All Saints Day Mass Cleveland Ohio, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 - November 5: YG Night, Upper Room, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- Shirley Clark sclark@stfparish.com
330-644-2225, ext. 215

ALL SOULS' DAY MASS AND CANDLE LIGHTING



During the 6:30 p.m. Mass on All Souls' Day, Thursday, November 2nd, we will have our annual Candle Lighting Ceremony. We will read the names of all parishioners who have died since last All Souls' Day and a candle will be lit for your deceased loved one. Please contact the parish office at 330-644-2225 or Ann Clark at 330-882-6919 or email her at aclark2@stfparish.com by Monday, October 30th. You will be able to pick up the candle in the narthex before Mass between 5:45 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. The Mass will be livestreamed and available to view on the parish YouTube page: <http://bit.ly/3PIUe4M>.

SFDS 50th REUNION

The St. Francis de Sales grade school graduating class of 1973 is holding a 50-year class reunion on November 18, 2023. They are looking for classmates that graduated from St. Francis in 1973 or anyone that was in their class at any time between 1965 (first grade) and 1973 (8th Grade). Please contact them at Billmary1562@hotmail.com or paul.hirschfelt@gmail.com or follow them on Facebook at STFFparish 1973 class reunion for more details.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

What do Stephen Ministers do? Stephen Ministers are members of our parish who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people who are facing a crisis or simply going through a difficult time. A Stephen Minister meets with his or her care receiver once a week for around an hour to listen, care, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual encouragement. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers. To find out more about how someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Bill Dickey at wdickey@stfparish.com) or Ann Clark at aclark2@stfparish.com).

The
CLEVELAND CAVALIERS

Present

CYO Night

St Francis de Sales - Akron

Friday, October 27th
7:30PM



VS.



What's included?

- **Discounted Tickets**
 - Portion of the Proceeds are Donated to St Francis de Sales - Akron
- School with the Most Tickets will Receive an "On-Court Experience" for 50 students.

Purchase Tickets Here!



Questions? Contact rcasey@cavs.com

Philmont Scout Ranch
Troop 215 Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser



Join Boy Scout Troop 215 at St. Francis de Sales School (4019 Manchester Rd) on Sunday, October 22 after 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 AM Masses for a delicious breakfast!

All funds will go towards the Troop's once in a lifetime trip to Philmont Scout Ranch, a high adventure base in New Mexico, as well as many other local and national trips. The troop will be embarking out in June 2024 and needs your support!

Kids 12 and under - \$4
Adults - \$8

Cash or card (with a \$1 convenience fee)

Additionally, If you would like to advertise your business we have a great opportunity for you. For only \$25 your business will be featured on our placemat of supporters that we will use at the breakfast. We estimate that the ad will be seen by at least 300 people. The Business Card and payment will need to be made by October 17th. The checks should be made payable to Boy Scout Troop 215. Contact Sara Benoit at sarabenoit1979@gmail.com. We will be glad to make arrangements for pickup.





ADOPT A CHILD FOR CHRISTMAS 2023



Once again this year, St. Francis de Sales Parish will team up with Green Good Neighbors to support local needy families. There are three opportunities to give:

- Personalized, wrapped Christmas gifts for children
- Gift cards for families (Cards will be purchased through the St. Francis de Sales Scrip Gift Card program and delivered to Green Good Neighbors to distribute.)
- Unwrapped gifts for children

Please return this form by the dates requested below.

If you choose to place your envelope in the collection basket, be certain it is received in the parish office by the designated deadline. If you choose to mail it, please allow enough time for Postal Service processing.

**St. Francis de Sales Parish
Adopt a Child Program
4019 Manchester Road
Akron, Ohio 44319**



Your Name _____

Your Address _____

Your City and ZIP Code _____

Your Phone Number _____

OPTION 1 – RETURN FORM BY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023

I would like to participate in the Adopt a Child Program this Christmas.

Number of children for whom I would like to purchase \$25 gifts _____

We will send the gift tag(s) for each child you sponsor to the mailing address you listed above. **Tags will not be distributed after Mass.** The tags will have details about the child so you may shop accordingly; please wrap your gift(s) and attach the gift tag. Please drop off these gifts on Sunday, December 3rd after the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses in the pavilion.

OPTION 2 – RETURN FORM AND CHECK BY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023

I prefer to donate \$25 for the purchase of gift card(s) for a family.

Amount of your donation _____

Please make your donation in increments of \$25. If you choose this option in lieu of purchasing a gift, please complete this form and include it with your check, payable to St. Francis de Sales.

OPTION 3 – RETURN FORM BY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023

I will purchase \$25 worth of **toys, games, books or sporting equipment** for children of any age — infants through high school.

These gifts should remain unwrapped. Please bring them to the parish pavilion on Sunday, December 3rd as instructed in Option 1.

For questions, please feel free to call/text

Michele Steurer at 330-618-5545 or call the Parish Office – 330-644-2225

HOLY LAND WOOD CARVINGS

The Holy Land Shepherds will visit our parish November 4 and 5 to sell beautiful olive wood carvings from the Holy Land. The sale of these items supports the Christian Community in the Holy Land which has suffered many hardships, especially in light of the recent attacks. Purchases can be made with cash, credit card, or check. The Holy Land Shepherds value your support!

43RD ANNUAL HAPPY HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR

St. Matthew Council of Catholic Women is sponsoring their 43rd bazaar on Saturday, November 11, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Sunday, November 12, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the St. Matthew Fr. Silva Activity Center and School, 2580 Berne Street, Akron. The events will feature over 100 craft exhibitors, a raffle, their famous cabbage rolls, nut rolls, baked goods, a chance to visit with Santa and more!

**SS. ANNE AND JOACHIM GRANDPARENTING GROUP**

It's something new for Grandparents! If you are a Grandmother or Grandfather and would like to learn some practical tips for connecting with your grandkids to help them carry on the Catholic Faith, join us on Friday, October 27th in Room 111 at 6:30 p.m., Friday, November 17th, and Friday, December 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the PAC for the next meeting of the SS. Anne and Joachim Grandparenting Group. This is a cluster ministry hosted by St. Paul. NOTE: For this meeting, enter through the school doors off the North parking lot.

COLLECTION OF UNWANTED MEDICATIONS AND GLASSES

October 28 is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. From 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the old First Merit parking lot on 2nd Street N.W. at W. Tuscarawas Avenue, drive up and hand your unwanted pills to a police officer. There is no need to get out of your vehicle. If you have eyeglasses, frames or lenses you no longer use, bring those along as well; they will be given to the Lions' Club for recycling to the needy. To date, the Barberton PD has removed 3,200 pounds of unwanted meds from our community. If you can't get to this event, there is a medication drop-off in front of the Main Fire Department at 580 Wooster Road W., or in the City Hall basement of the Police Station. Glasses may be dropped off at the Barberton Library during open hours.

FAITH AND SCIENCE WORKSHOP

The ITE Project is hosting its first *Faith AND Science: Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship workshop* to ask the hard questions and talk about the uncomfortable aspects regarding our role in creation. Join The ITE Project on November 4th from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Coventry Oaks Lodge in Akron. The day will include guided discussions by experts, presentations, and panel discussions. Presenters for the day include Dr. Hitzhusen of The Ohio State University, Father Dominic Gideon of St. Albert the Great, and Molly Burhans the founder of GoodLands – Making Land Work for Good. Also joining the panel will be representatives of the Summit County Metro Parks. A catered lunch and a hot chocolate bar is included. This event is open to all who are concerned for our environment and wish to participate in healthy discussions about it. *RSVPs required for planning purposes* <https://www.theiteproject.com/events/faithandscience23>

St. John Vianney Catholic Church Pilgrimage to

**PILGRIMAGE: GREAT SHRINES OF FRANCE**

Fr. Alex Clark will be serving as spiritual director on a pilgrimage to holy sites in France, including Lourdes, Lisieux, Normandy, Chartres, Paris, Ars, and more. The trip will be June 9th-20th, 2024, departing from Cleveland. Tickets are \$6,379.00 per person. To learn more about this opportunity to walk in the footsteps of some of the greatest French saints, visit www.pilgrimages.com/travelconnection, and use the login "Saint" and the password "Francis206" to sign in.

**“JESUS IS NOT AN IDEA
OR A FEELING OR A MEMORY.
JESUS IS A LIVING PERSON
ALWAYS PRESENT AMONG US.
LOVE JESUS PRESENT
IN THE EUCHARIST.”
ST. JOHN PAUL THE GREAT**



ZOOM SESSION ON DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

Concerned about a family member's abuse of alcohol or other drugs? News headlines continue to highlight dire consequences related to abuse of alcohol and other drugs reminding us of the importance of the ongoing search for effective solutions. St. Malachi's Samaritan Ministry invites you to a virtual program on *Abuse of Alcohol and Other Drugs: The Impact on the Family* on Saturday, November 4th from 1:00-3:30 p.m. via ZOOM to educate and provide valuable resources in helping you to understand your role in trying to eliminate the consequences of America's #1 public health problem. To register, scan the QR code. If you have questions, please contact Judy Stowe at 216-280-0675 or judystowe@gmail.com OR St. Malachi's at 216-861-5343.



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