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.



7:30 a.m. Costello Family (Sean Costello) 9:00 a.m. Mary Lou Clark (Agape Prayer Group) 11:00 a.m. Pro Populo Anthony Klisan – Month's Mind

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:Jon 1:1–2:2, 11; Lk 10:25-37Tuesday:Jon 3:1-10; Lk 10:38-42Wednesday:Jon 4:1-11; Lk 11:1-4Thursday:Mal 3:13-20b; Lk 11:5-13Friday:Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Lk 11:15-26Saturday:Jl 4:12-21; Lk 11:27-28Sunday:Is 25:6-10a; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20;
Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

MAKE YOUR REQUESTS KNOWN TO GOD

"Brothers and sisters: Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:6-9



If you didn't know, this time next week, I, along with 41 others, will be leaving for a 10-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where we will walk where Jesus walked and pray where Jesus prayed. The picture above is one of my favorite places to pray in the world – Eremos Cave – where Jesus prayed and overlooked the Sea of Galilee. You can see my fellow brother priests in this photo (see if you can find Fr. Mark Ott). We journeyed to the Holy Land in 2017. I hope to go back to the cave when we visit Capernaum.

While there are so many beautiful places to visit in the world, at the end of the day, it doesn't matter so much where you pray as much as how deeply you are engaged in relating the matters of your heart to the Father. We are called to make our requests known to God. We need to let God know of these requests that come from the core of our being. God wants us to give Him these needs so that we can receive the "peace of God that surpasses all understanding..." Isn't that what we long for daily anyway?

I think a wonderful way to make your requests known to God and to receive the peace of God is by praying the Rosary. On October 7, the Church celebrates Our Lady of the Rosary. Mary promises peace to the world if we simply just stop and pray the Rosary with her. One practice I like to engage in while praying the Rosary is before I pray each decade, I think of a request I need to let God know – perhaps a person who is struggling or an issue or a decision I am trying to make – whatever it is, each decade is an opportunity to entrust each "request" to God. We need to entrust our lives to God. Give the Rosary a chance to be that vehicle that will help you entrust all things to His everlasting providence.

Peace and blessings, Fr. Jeremy

P.S. Please make your requests known to me and I will be happy to take them on pilgrimage with me and offer them to the Father for you, frmerzweiler@stfparish.com.

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

- St. Vincent de Paul Society Clothing Drive, After all morning Masses (Pavilion)
- St. Francis of Assisi Pet Blessing, 4:00 p.m.
- Boy Scouts, 4:30-6:00 p.m. (Gym)
- Youth Group, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (Upper Room)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

- Women's Study Group, 9:00-10:30 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- What We Believe Study, 9:00-10:30 a.m. (Beatitudes)
- Evening of Recollection, 6:00 p.m. talk and
- 7:00 p.m. Mass (Church)
- RCIA, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Memorare Center)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

- Senior Euchre Group, 1:00 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)
- 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, OCTOBER 12

- Thursday Scripture Group, 12:30-3:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 6:00-6:30 p.m.
- Youth Choir, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Church)
- Confessions, 5:30-6:15 p.m.
- What We Believe Study, 7:15-9:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Young Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Confessions, 9:00-9:45 a.m.
- Holy Hiking, 11:00 a.m. (Firestone Metropark Tuscarawas Shelter)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

- Confirmation Formation, 9:00 a.m. Mass (then to the Gym) until 12:00 p.m.
- Rosary Devotion and Procession, 3:00 p.m. Loyola Retreat Center
- Boy Scouts, 4:30-6:00 p.m. (Gym)



ADORATION

Thank you to all those who commit to spending time in Adoration each week! All time slots have been filled, but anyone is welcome to come rest in the Lord's presence: Monday: 7:00-8:00 a.m., 6:00-10:00 p.m. Tuesday-Friday: 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. (breaking for Masses)



"BE WHO YOU ARE AND BE THAT WELL." St. Francis de Sales

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 Dan & Molly Klatt Family received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

<u>COLLECTION INFORMATION</u> September 30/October 1			
		Offertory	
Sunday	\$	15,639.00	
Capital	\$	271.00	
School	\$	185.00	
All Saints	\$	20.00	
Catholic Communications		15.00	
TOTAL	\$	16,130.00	
Our parish is blessed by your generosity!			

SFDS YOUTH GROUP

We need community. God made us that way because in community we can experience God in a unique way. We can pray on our own, but we also need a community to pray with, as well. Jesus gave us a ritual that was special and would unite us with Him in a profound way. This ritual is the Mass. Join us as we reintroduce ourselves to the importance of the Mass and the Eucharist. Sunday, October 8, 2023, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Upper Room. All high school students are welcome! Contact Shirley Clark with questions at sclark@stfparish.com or 330-644-2225, ext. 215.



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.
- A Reflection on Parental Rights from One of Our Teen Parishioners:

The worst feeling ever is when I get hospitalized at 3:00 a.m., vomiting and in pain, and the hospital staff makes Mom leave the room to ask me questions that she apparently can't hear. The questions that they ask me have nothing to do with why I am in there. It is all about being gay and transgender. I never tell them what goes through my mind when they ask me those stupid questions. Mom doesn't have a choice to stay or not. Now, whenever they ask Mom or Dad to leave the room again, I'm going to say very politely, "No, they are staying. I already know the 30 questions you're going to ask me, so just ask in front of my parents." I have NO secrets from Mom or Dad, and I never will. I always end up telling them both what they ask me in the hospital because I'm a child and it has nothing to do with why I am there vomiting or in severe stomach pain. It's very upsetting to me especially since they don't give Mom the option to stay and they say, "Anything that gets repeated back to me, your parents won't find out." Don't you think that if I had something mentally going on my parents should know? It's sickening and I'm very passionate about parents having parental rights over their children. I may be 14 on Friday, but I am a child, and my parents deserve to make the best decisions for me that I could never make on my own. That's why God gave us parents, so they can lead us to a great, healthy life. If it weren't for parents, we wouldn't know how to survive. -H.K.

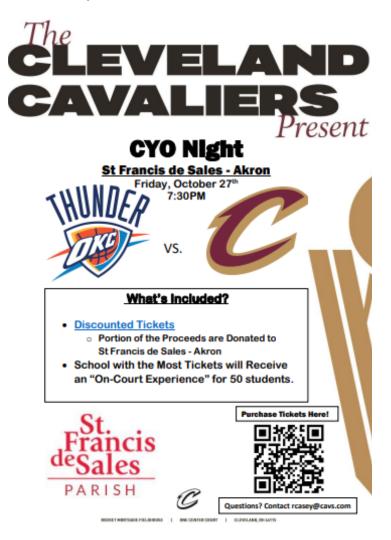
ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SCHOOL 1973 CLASS REUNION

If you graduated from St. Francis de Sales school in 1973 or were in that class anytime between 1965 (1st grade) and 1973 (8th grade), we want to invite you to attend your 50-year Grade School Reunion. Save the date of November 18, 2023, for a night of memories, and good times right here where it all happened 50 years ago. You will have the option of attending a 5:00 p.m. Mass after which we will meet in the Upper Room on the St. Francis de Sales campus. We are planning a tour of the school, food, and beverages (BYO adult beverages), a campfire (weather permitting) and a night of reminiscing with the people who shared our childhood.

Follow us on Facebook at STFParish 1973 Class Reunion and watch for more information in the weekly bulletin. Please help us by providing this information to any classmates or their family you are still in contact with who are outside of the parish. If you were in our class for one year or all eight years, we want you to feel welcome. If you are interested, please RSVP (we need a count for food) to Mary (Andrews) Simmons at Billmary1562@hotmail.com or 330-807-4343 or Paul Hirschfelt at Paul.Hirschfelt@gmail.com by November 1, 2023. Cost will be \$20.00 per person at the door.

ROSARY PROCESSION AT LOYOLA

The annual Rosary Devotions and Procession at Loyola Retreat House will be held Sunday, October 15th at 3:00 p.m. Come celebrate the Month of the Rosary and pray for the protection of life. Afterward, all are welcome to stay for a cider and donuts social.



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



COUPLE TO COUPLE MINSITRY

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.



Opus Sanctorum Angelorum^{*} Evening of Recollection

October 10, 2023

St. Francis de Sales Parish 4019 Manchester Rd. Akron, OH 44319

Conference Topic: The Holy Angels in the life of the Holy Tamily

Preached by: Fr. Wolfgang Seitz, ORC Order of Canons Regular of the Holy Cross

6:00 pm Conference 7:00 pm Holy Mass with formal reception of the Consecration to the Guardian Angels to those who have completed their year of formation. Possibility to apply for the formation year towards the Consecration to the Guardian Angel.

Please belp to spread the word!

Opus Angelorum has the special mission to promote the awareness of the powerful presence and help of the Holy Angels in our spiritual lives. The movement is particularly dedicated to the sanctification of the priesthood. For more information on Opus Angelorum, please visit: https://opusangelorum.org/

For more information: Call Therese at St Francis de Sales Parish Office (330-644-2225 estatis: pep.organisticary.org enell: contect@organisticary.org ful: 330-969-9900

STEPHEN MINSITRY

Lonely? Experiencing a Difficult Time? Don't suffer alone! Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and help you through a crisis or difficult time. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care.

Look for the new Stephen Ministry Prayer Box in the narthex as you enter the church. Any prayer intentions placed in this box will be remembered during the Stephen Ministers' monthly meetings. You can also use this box to submit your contact information if you would like to have one of our Stephen Leader's contact you to share more information about how a Stephen Minister can walk with you through this difficult time.



HOLY ANGELS

If you've been wanting to learn about the Holy Angels and just haven't gotten around to it, NOW is the time! Come to a talk on the Angels at 6:00 p.m. on October 18th in the Holy Family Room at the Memorare Center and hear what an amazing gift the Holy Angels are and how they help us every day! If you want to know more, you can start the formation for consecration to your Guardian Angel that night. This formation can be done on your own at home, or monthly in a discussion group on the third Wednesday each month for a year. You can get your book when you come for the talk. Please call the Parish office at 330-644-2225 to RSVP. The Church has made it possible for us to work effectively with the Holy Angels through formal consecrations to our Guardian Angels and all the Holy Angels. This is important because there is a battle raging for our souls, the souls of our children, our families and our friends, and the Holy Angels want to help us in this fight. Just as our Lord Jesus was strengthened by an Angel before His passion and death on the cross, we too can be strengthened by actively participating in this work of the Holy Angels. If you've already been formally consecrated to your Guardian Angel but haven't yet been consecrated to all the Holy Angels, call Therese Holderbaum at the Parish office to hear how to get started.

ANNUAL AVILA DAY OF PRAYER

All are welcome at our newly remodeled Borromeo and St. Mary Seminary, 28700 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe, OH 4409, on October 18, 2023. The day will include breakfast and lunch, talks by Fr. Damian Ference and Fr. Kevin Estabrook, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass celebrated by Bishop Woost, and the Rosary. Registration flyers are available in the vestibule pamphlet rack. The donation for attendance is \$30.00 per person. RSVP by Monday, October 9. A carpool will leave from St. Francis at 7:45 a.m. For more information, call Mary Ott at 330-620-9181. Don't forget our regular monthly Holy Hour at 9:00 a.m., October 9.

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 this 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.

DIOCESE VOCATION OFFICE EVENTS

The Vocation Office has many events planned for 2023-2024. Here are a few in the coming months!

(R&R) Receive and Remain, October 26 and November 30: Join the seminary community for Adoration with praise and worship at 6:45 p.m. followed by Mass and pizza after Mass. Duc in Altum Come and See, December 1 through 3: A come and see weekend where men can experience life at the seminary.

Family Day at the Seminary, November 12: Families are welcomed to the seminary for a day of prayer and fellowship with our seminarians. The day will include Mass, brunch, and seminary tours.

For details about these events or to learn more, visit CLEpriesthood.org or call 440-943-7630.



Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Phil. 4:8

ITE PROJECT

Bonfire Chat – Join the ITE Project and Fr. Jacob Bearer on October 20 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at St. Francis de Sales for an evening under the stars praying the Rosary, talking about Our Lady, and growing in faith and fellowship. Light appetizers will be available. In the event of rain, meet in the Memorare Center.

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 quided 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 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*. Visit:

https://www.theiteproject.com/events/faithandscience23.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



The Cluster Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 10, 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

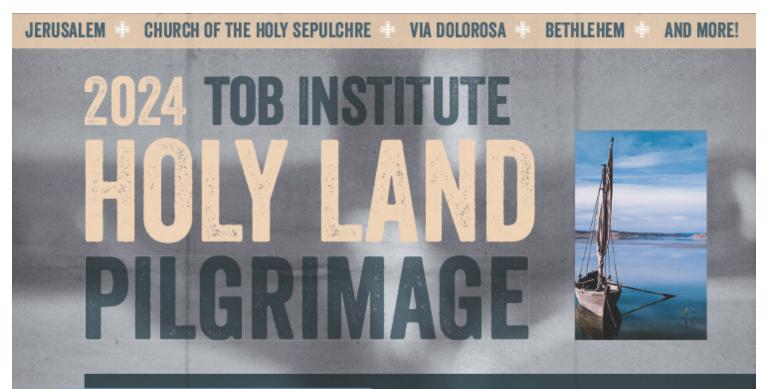
at 330-699-4769 or Louise Golden at 330-571-3384.

DIVORCED, SEPARATED, AND WIDOWED CATHOLICS OF AKRON

A "Caring and Sharing" session for those struggling with divorce, separation, or widowhood will be held on Monday, October 9th from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary's Convent Building, 1945 Portage Trail in Cuyahoga Falls. Marlene Maruna, a retired social worker, will facilitate the session. This event is open, at no charge, to people of all faiths. For information, call Marlene, 330-607-6284.

CYO OFFICIALS NEEDED

The Diocese of Cleveland CYO are seeking high school and college students and adults interested in officiating basketball. Trainings will be held starting on Sunday, October 15 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for six consecutive Sundays. The trainings will be held at Walsh Jesuit High School, 4550 Wyoga Lake Road, Cuyahoga Falls, 44224. The training sessions are mandatory. If you are interested, please register at: https:// www.surveymonkey.com/r/W9X6XJF or you may contact Tim Shovlin, Academy Assigner at: tshovlin@neo.rr.com.





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and the TOB Institute Team







September 3-13, 2024 \$5,085/person from NYC area (EWR or JFKTBD)* \$3,585 land only*

* Based on double occupancy, Limited # of single rooms available at additional cost,
 Includes: Round-trip airfare from NYC area (EWR or JFKTBD) to Tel Aviv (est. \$1,500. Air pricing will be available in late October) • Tips for guide, driver, local guides • English-speaking Christian guide & whisper sets • Breakfast and dinner daily & special meals • Daily Mass arrangements • Daily formation with Christopher West, chaplains, TOBI Team • First-class hotel accommodations • Private air-conditioned tour bus • All admission charges per the itinerary • Porterage for one suitcase at all hotels • Select Travel Portfolio • Airline tax and fuel surcharge included & subject to change

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OPTIONAL EXTENSION with TOBI Team to Jordan/Petra Sept. 13-16!





