

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.

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME **NOVEMBER 19, 2023**



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 7:30 a.m. Daniel Holland
(Vince & Linda Greczanik)
9:00 a.m. Ben Gregg (Jack Boyle)
11:00 a.m. Pro Populo
Jackson McCracken –
Anniversary of Death

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

- 8:15 a.m. Gary Heller (Family)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

- 9:00 a.m. Beatrice Jordan (Janet Karson)
10:30 a.m. Stephen Stone (Marty & Liz Misbrenner)
6:30 p.m. Deceased of the Casenhiser Family
(Jim & Sally Casenhiser)
Larry Stanley – *Month's Mind*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, ST. CECILIA

- 8:15 a.m. John Falasca (Jo & Bill Dickey)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, THANKSGIVING DAY, ST. CLEMENT I, ST. COLUMBAN, BL. MIGUEL AGUSTIN PRO

- 9:30 a.m. Jerry Engler (Galati Family)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, ST. ANDREW DUNG-LAC & COMPANIONS

- 8:15 a.m. Wendy Freshwater (Mariza Meredith)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

- 8:15 a.m. Aileen Ford (Daughter)
5:00 p.m. Jim Mesko (Mike & Sue Ciccolini)
Joseph Oddo – *Month's Mind*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

- 7:30 a.m. Fred Schillinger & Deceased Members
of Schillinger Family (Zaratsian Family)
9:00 a.m. Betty Geig (Geig Family)
11:00 a.m. Pro Populo

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Lk 18:35-43
Tuesday:	2 Mc 6:18-31; Lk 19:1-10
Wednesday:	2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Lk 19:11-28
Thursday:	1 Mc 2:15-29; Lk 19:41-44
Friday:	1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; Lk 19:45-48
Saturday:	1 Mc 6:1-13; Lk 20:27-40
Sunday:	Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

JESUS ENTRUSTS HIS LIFE TO US!

"Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy."

In the Gospel this weekend, we hear a parable Jesus gives about a man who, before going on a journey, entrusts his possessions to his servants. The first two responded and did things with the talents, while the last servant buried the talent – he buried the gift that was offered him.

As we celebrate Eucharistic Devotions weekend, we have to stop for a moment and think about the greatest possession God has entrusted to us: His Son, Jesus Christ! At every Eucharist, God gives us Jesus in the Eucharist and charges us with the same Gospel message – do something! Don't bury what you have been given. Embrace Him and offer Him to the world! In the Eucharist the Church both receives the gift of Jesus Christ and gives grateful thanks to God for such a blessing. "This thanksgiving is the only proper response, for through this gift of Himself in the celebration of the Eucharist under the appearances of bread and wine, Christ gives us the gift of eternal life" (uscbb.org/eucharist).



What a great reminder for us as we approach Thanksgiving. Giving thanks is the proper response after receiving the greatest gift in the world. As you celebrate Thanksgiving with your family and friends, keep the Eucharist at the core of your thanksgiving. When you feel like burying all that God has given you, GIVE! GIVE THANKS! Shout out: Thank You, Jesus! In light of this, remember to come to the Thanksgiving Mass at 9:30 a.m. on November 23rd. It has always been a particularly beautiful Mass when our community comes together in a special way to give thanks and also give to those in need. Our St. Vincent de Paul Society will be present as we restock our food pantry with food for the needy because of your goodness. Thank you for all that you do.

**Thank You, Jesus,
Fr. Jeremy**

P.S. There will be no Sacrament of Reconciliation offered from 5:30-6:15 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. Mass on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day. Enjoy your family!

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

- Boy Scouts, 4:30-6:00 p.m. (Gym)
- Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit, 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (Memorare Center)
- Eucharistic Devotions Closing Vespers, 6:30 p.m.
- Youth Group, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (Gym)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 9:00-9:30 a.m.
- PSR, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Ignite, 7:15-8:00 p.m. (Gym)
- Men's Basketball, 8:30 p.m. (Gym)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

- School Grandparents' Day, Masses at 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., no 8:15 a.m. Mass
- Women's Study Group, 9:00-10:30 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

- No School
- Parish Office Closed
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30 p.m. (Upper Room)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

- Happy Thanksgiving!
- No School
- Parish Office Closed
- Mass, 9:30 a.m.
- No Confessions

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

- No School
- Parish Office Closed

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Young Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

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

ADORERS NEEDED

We are in need of an Adorer for the following time:
Thursday, 12:00-1:00 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.

Therese Holderbaum received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

COLLECTION INFORMATION

November 11/12

	Offertory
Sunday	\$ 13,977.25
Assessment	\$ 130.00
Capital	\$ 300.00
School	\$ 110.00
Those Who Serve	\$ 100.00
All Saints Day	\$ 20.00
TOTAL	\$ 14,637.25

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.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Again this year, we will have our Thanksgiving Food Drive to restock our St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at Thanksgiving Mass at 9:30 a.m. All donations are appreciated, but due to a very generous school food drive, our pantry is only in need of the following items: canned chicken, tuna, canned fruit, canned pasta entrees, pasta sauce, cereal, macaroni and cheese, and soup. Please watch the expiration dates. We could also use monetary donations that would allow us to purchase food for our Christmas distribution. Please make checks payable to St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you!

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the soul of **Steve Kramer** and all those who have died. May the Lord grant them rest and peace and console their loved ones.



In observance of Thanksgiving, the parish office will be closed November 22-24. Please join us for Mass at 9:30 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day to thank God for His boundless generosity!

SFDS YOUTH GROUP

Euchre & The Eucharist!

Join us for Eucharistic Devotions Closing Vespers
Sunday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m. in church

Then, join us in the gym for Euchre at 7:30 p.m. Bring your best Euchre partner – you know, the one you always win with! Food and drink will be provided, as always. All high school teens (and their Euchre team) are welcome. Contact Shirley Clark with questions at sclark@stfparish.com or 330-644-2225, ext. 215

ATTENTION 5-6-7TH GRADE STUDENTS:

Join us for IGNITE!

Our Heroes the Saints: Meet the INCORRUPTIBLES
Monday, November 20 (SFDS Gym) from 7:15-8:00 p.m.

*All day school, homeschool,
public school students are invited*

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

A MESSAGE FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY:

As we prepare for this upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, we are reminded that not everyone is feeling thankful. Stephen Ministers are members of the parish that have been trained as Christian caregivers to listen and walk with you as you face the challenges ahead of you. To be matched up with a Stephen Minister, contact one of our Stephen Leaders, Ann Clark at aclark2@stfparish.com or Bill Dickey at wdickey@stfparish.com. If prayers are needed, add your intention to the Stephen Ministry box in the back of the church and the Stephen Ministry team will pray alongside you.

HEARING LOOP

St. Francis de Sales Church is equipped with an active Hearing Loop System. This system can enhance your worship experience if you have a hearing aid with an activated tele-coil (T-coil).

Please be sure that your hearing aid with an activated tele-coil is on the correct setting. If you are unsure if your hearing aid has a tele-coil, contact your audiologist to inquire. Each section of pews in the main church area has been wired for the hearing loop. The following are tips to maximize the hearing loop experience with an active tele-coil in your hearing aid:

1. Sit toward the front of the pew sections. This ensures proximity to the hearing loop wires; therefore, the signal is stronger.
2. Sit toward the end of the pew closer to the aisle. This additionally ensures you are closer to the hearing loop wires since the hearing loop wires are where the carpet and tile meet.

If you have any questions, please contact Colleen McVicker, Director of Music at the Parish Office, 330-644-2225.

A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Dear Parishioners,

As always, it is a continued effort of the Pastoral Staff at St. Francis de Sales to improve the worship experience. One way that has occurred is with a recent sound system upgrade in the church. The two new speakers that have been added in the Sanctuary by the ceiling are servicing the entire church. The technology in these speakers allows for more even coverage over the church eliminating the problem areas. There is also a new amp connected to the new speakers. These changes have made it possible to improve the sound quality at the Ambo and Priest mics with minimal difference between mics. The white speakers on the ceiling are no longer being utilized. There is a possible plan for removal in the summer. Thank you to Christopher Pepe at Clear Gold Audio and sound engineers on this project. We thank them all for their dedication in suggesting the best equipment for our space, installation and adjustments. I would also like to thank the Finance Council and you for your patience and support to improve the worship experience at St. Francis de Sales Parish. I am blessed to serve you.

God Bless,

Colleen McVicker, Director of Music

You're invited!

Donut Sunday

after all Sunday Masses

December 3

Join us for kids' crafts
and visit with
SANTA
after the
9 AM Mass
ONLY!

Advent

CONFESSIONS

- Thursdays, 5:30-6:15 p.m.
- Saturdays, 9:00-9:45 a.m.
- Cluster Communal Penance, Tuesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m.
November 28, St. Paul, Akron
December 5, Nativity, Akron
December 12, Queen of Heaven, Green
December 19, St. Francis, Akron

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

- Mondays, 7:00-8:00 a.m., 6:00-10:00 p.m.
- Tuesday-Friday, 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
(breaking for Mass)

SUNDAY NIGHT PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Every Sunday from December 10 through Easter, join us for Night Prayer from 7:00-7:30 p.m.

ADVENT WOMEN'S MORNING OF REFLECTION

Saturday, December 2, 8:15 a.m.-12:00 noon

MASS SCHEDULE

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23, Vigil – 5:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 24 – 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Feast of the Nativity of the Lord, Christmas

Sunday, December 24, Vigil – 4:00 p.m. (Youth Choir)
6:00 p.m.
Midnight (Choir Prelude at 11:30 p.m.)
Monday, December 25 – 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

Saturday, December 30, Vigil – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 31 – 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.
& 11:00 a.m.

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Sunday, December 31, Vigil – 5:00 p.m.
Adoration 6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m., 11:00-Midnight,
Praise and Worship with Benediction
Monday, January 1 – 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 6, Vigil – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 7 – 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL OPPORTUNITIES



EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTIONS, NOVEMBER 17TH-19TH

- *Opening Mass, 9:00 a.m. November 17* followed by continuous Adoration in the church until
- *Closing Vespers, 6:30 p.m. November 19*
We welcome back Fr. Samuel Leonard who will share a reflection during Vespers.
- *Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit, November 17-19.* Come “virtually visit” 151 Eucharistic Miracles in this traveling display.

NINE NIGHTS OF NIGHT PRAYER, NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 8

- Our parish, along with eight others in the diocese, will pray Night Prayer for nine consecutive nights, 8:15-9:00 p.m. After prayer on December 8, come to the Memorare Center for an ice cream social!

SUNDAY ADORATION

- During Advent, between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses, we invite you to spend some time in Adoration! The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from the end of 9:00 a.m. Mass to 10:45 a.m.

SUNDAY NIGHT PRAYER & BENEDICTION

- Every Sunday from December 10 to Easter (except Christmas Eve), come for Night Prayer and Benediction, 7:00-7:30 p.m.

MONDAY PRAYER FOR STUDENTS

- 1:30-2:00 p.m. on December 18, January 22, February 12, & March 18
- Parents and Grandparents are invited to come pray for their students, whether in our parish school, PSR, or homeschool.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER NIGHTS

- Every Thursday night from December 7 to Easter, the following prayer opportunities will be offered:
- 5:55 p.m. Rosary
- 6:30 p.m. Mass
- 7:00-7:30 p.m. Half-hour of Adoration & prayer for healing (1st Thursday), priests (2nd Thursday), families (3rd Thursday), the protection of life (4th Thursday).

Advent Women's MORNING OF REFLECTION

Women of the parish, reserve your place at this year's Women's Advent Morning of Reflection. Our theme is Holy Eucharist, Bond of Love. Plan now to enter into the season of Advent bonding with The Lord and with women in the parish as we pray together, eat together and adore together. We will gather in the church on Saturday, December 2nd beginning with Mass at 8:15 and end around noon. The morning will include:

- Holy Mass and the Rosary with meditations in the church
- A light breakfast in the Memorare Center
- A presentation on the Holy Eucharist, Bond of Love
 - Praise and Worship in the Church
 - Adoration and Confession
 - Benediction

Please rsvp to the Parish Office (330) 644-2225 no later than November 27th.





★ OFFICIAL ★

Invite to Spaghetti
with Santa &
Boy Scout Troop 215

Please join us for some Christmas Cheer!



St. Francis de Sales School
4019 Manchester Road
Saturday, December 2nd
4:00pm - 7:30pm (last seating)
Carry-out is Available!

Presale tickets: \$10 adults & \$8 kids (12 and under)
At the door: \$12 adults & \$10 kids
Spaghetti w/ Meatballs, Salad,
Dessert, and Beverage
(Gluten Free Option available at Presale)

*All funds will go towards the Troop's once
in a lifetime trip to Philmont Scout
Ranch, a high adventure base in New
Mexico. Please join us for dinner with
Santa and support the St. Francis Boy
Scout Troop 215!*



WAYSIDE FURNITURE MATCHING FUNDS EVENT

The Peter Maurin Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose focus is to provide assistance and shelter, food and clothing to those who suffer from hunger, addiction and homelessness. Once a year, Wayside Furniture in Akron has an After Thanksgiving Matching Funds Event where if anyone who walks into their store at 1367 Canton Road Akron, OH 44312 on Friday, November 24, Saturday, November 25, Sunday, November 26 and Monday, November 27 and drops off a personal check, money order, or cashier's check made out to THE PETER MAURIN CENTER, it will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$100.00 per check, per individual. If the check is for more than \$100.00, they will match the first \$100.00 of that check. If it is under \$100.00, they will match dollar-for-dollar for whatever the amount is on the check. This is such an important opportunity for us with all of the different programs we have: Food Pantry, Hot Meal Dine-in Programs, Street Ministry and Camp Visits for meals and clothing, Toiletry and Clothing Distribution, Emergency Shelter, Bus Pass Program, etc. If anyone is unable to drop off a check, please call or text Karen McNeill, Director of Community Relations at 330-814-4320 or Dave Churbock, PMC Director at 330-328-3199 to arrange pick-up. In addition, our St. Francis de Sales St. Vincent de Paul Society was also chosen as a recipient of Wayside's Matching Funds Event. If you wish to write a check for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, please indicate in the memo that your donation is for St. Vincent de Paul of St. Francis de Sales, Portage Lakes. Thank you for your consideration. Have a blessed and beautiful Thanksgiving!

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE & BAKE SALE

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church at 1044 Brown Street, Akron 44301 is holding their annual Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale Saturday, December 2nd from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 3rd from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Come peruse a large selection of Christmas decorations, wreaths, and more. You can also buy homemade baked goods and participate in a gift basket raffle.

THE ITE PROJECT

Join The ITE Project on December 9th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Holy Family Church in Stow (Lower Church Hall) to celebrate St. Juan Diego and create your own Milagros Heart in his honor! ITE will provide a taco bar, a short presentation on milagros (intention and purpose), local artisans to lead the session, and all materials needed for this incredible event! All you need to do is RSVP! For more details, visit our website: <https://www.theiteproject.com/events/milagros>.

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