

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.

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 10, 2023**

*Masses For
The Week*



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo
- 9:00 a.m. Augie Szempruch (Thomas Family)
- 11:00 a.m. Dr. Al Feltrup (Cathy Feltrup)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, ST. DAMASUS I

- 8:15 a.m. Tim McDonald (Mimi McDonald)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

- 8:15 a.m. Barbara Horvath
(Horvath & Holcomb Families)
- 6:30 p.m. Pauline Blackert (Dan & Sue Wargo)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, ST. LUCY

- 8:15 a.m. Regina Kusnir (Family)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

- 8:15 a.m. Rosemarie Schrader (Family)
- 6:30 p.m. Gary Heller (Roy & Martha Conner)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 8:15 a.m. Frances McArdle (Cathy McArdle)
- 9:00 a.m. Jim Mesko (Mike & Sue Ciccolini)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 8:15 a.m. Intentions of Rita Vaughn on
103rd Birthday (Family)
- 5:00 p.m. Sally Katrinchak (Lori Phillips)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo
- 9:00 a.m. Betty Tawney (Jim & Sally Casenhiser)
- 11:00 a.m. Brian Chillik (Dennis & Carol Chillik)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday:** Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
- Friday:** Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24;
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



BEEN TO THE DENTIST LATELY?

Full disclosure. I have been a bad disciple of dentistry. As a result, I have visited the dentist four times within the last two months! And still have one more visit to go! What happened? Life happened. There was a point in time when I went to the dentist regularly. But when I became a pastor in the midst of Covid, I moved away from my previous dentist, and I began to neglect my dental health. At times, I would get a sensitive tooth and I would think about calling a dentist, but something would happen, and I would attend to another crisis. Then, there was a time when a couple of my old fillings fell out, but I thought, "I'll just keep water-picking and I'll be fine."

So, what did it take for me to go to the dentist? One day I spoke to a dentist at the parish about the need to go before I went to the Holy Land. After talking about it couple more times, he and his wife lovingly invited me to call and make an appointment. So I did. All it took was an invitation. So many times in our lives we live in fear. We don't want to spend the time it takes to take care of ourselves, especially when we are focused on helping others. Perhaps you are a busy mom, dad, grandma or grandpa and your children and grandchildren need so much. Things get placed on the back burner and life goes on. What happens is these things that we ignore begin to get worse. Like a tooth with a cavity, the decay begins to go deeper and deeper, and if not treated can be more costly to fix than if we just approached the dentist earlier on.

Why do I talk about this? Because we do the same things in our spiritual life. So often in our lives we ignore the sins we are struggling with. Instead of approaching Jesus, we let them eat away at us. We let the root sins root down deeper within our souls. But oftentimes, because we are focused on others and life in general, we put our spiritual lives on the back burner. Now is the time to do something. Now is the time to come to Jesus. I can't tell you how many times people tell me after we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation that they shouldn't have waited that long to come to Jesus for His mercy. As we journey through this season of Advent, come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Whether on a Tuesday at a Communal Reconciliation service from 5:00-6:00 p.m., or a Thursday from 5:30-6:15 p.m., or Saturday from 9:00-10:00 a.m., or by appointment, come to Jesus. I am grateful my dentist invited me to take care of my teeth. All it took was an invitation. On behalf of Jesus, I am inviting you to take care of yourself by putting yourselves in the hand of mercy itself. *"The Lord...is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9).

**He will help you if you come to Him,
Fr. Jeremy**

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

- Adoration between 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Masses
- 8th Confirmation Retreat Day, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Boy Scouts, 4:30-6:30 p.m. (Gym)
- Night Prayer & Benediction, 7:00-7:30 p.m. (Church)
- Youth Group, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (Memorare Center)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

- Women's Study Group, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Parish Cluster Confessions, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (Queen of Heaven, Uniontown)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)
- RCIA, 7:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 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, DECEMBER 14

- "Thursday Scripture Group, 12:30-3:00 p.m. (Holy Family Room)"
- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 6:00-6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

- Youth Choir, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Church)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

- Adoration between 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Masses
- Boy Scouts, 4:30-6:30 p.m. (Gym)
- Night Prayer & Benediction, 7:00-7:30 p.m. (Church)
- Youth Group Caroling, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (meet in the Memorare Center)



ADORERS NEEDED

We are in need of an Adorer for the following time:
Tuesday, 5:00-5:30 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.

Steve & Linda Postek received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

WEDDING BANNS

I Carson Brown & Mercedes Bryan
I Samuel Ruscak & Katherine Bradshaw

COLLECTION INFORMATION

December 2 & 3

	Offertory	Faith Direct
Sunday	\$ 20,384.00	\$ 11,736.39
Capital	\$ 480.00	\$ 150.00
School	\$ 260.00	\$ 330.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 40.00	
Religious Retirement	\$ 120.00	
Military Services	\$ 1.00	
All Saints		\$ 180.00
Assessment		\$ 100.00
Human Development		\$ 10.00
Special Gifts		\$ 900.00
TOTAL	\$ 21,285.00	\$ 13,406.39
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 34,691.39	

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.



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.
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.

MASS SCHEDULE

This year, the Fourth Sunday of Advent happens to be Christmas Eve. Because we rejoice in both the final Sunday of Advent and the Feast of the Nativity, there are separate obligations for the Fourth Sunday and for Christmas. See the schedule below to find a Mass for the Fourth Sunday and a Mass for Christmas that will suit your family's 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 p.m.-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



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).

To find out more about Eucharistic Revival events in our Diocese, visit <https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/eucharistic-revival/events>. To learn about the National Eucharistic Revival and find great resources to enrich your faith in the Eucharist, visit <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>.

“Do you realize that Jesus is there in the tabernacle expressly for you - for you alone? He burns with the desire to come into your heart.”


– St. Therese of Lisieux



**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




**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

A message from Stephen Ministry: The Stephen Ministers at St. Francis de Sales Parish wish you peace during this second week of Advent. We know that sometimes life circumstances make hearts feel anything but peaceful. If you or someone you love is struggling with anything that is causing anxiety or worry, maybe talking with a Stephen Minister can help. Please contact one of our Stephen Leader's for more information about Stephen Ministry: Ann Clark at aclark2@stfparish.com or Bill Dickey at wdickey@stfparish.com. You can also stop by the Stephen Ministry prayer box in the back of the church and have your intention prayed for by the Stephen Ministry team. Remember to leave your name and number if you would like a Stephen Leader to call you with more information about the ministry.

NOTICE ABOUT SPAM MESSAGES

Several parishioners have received texts or emails claiming to be from Fr. Jeremy asking for money or gift cards. If you receive any of these messages, please ignore them. They are not from Father but from a hacker.




Make friends with the angels,
who though invisible
are always with you.
SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

When you entrust yourself to your Guardian Angel, he will admonish, strengthen and enlighten you along your way to holiness. Seeking to find the way to God without his help is like traveling by ship and leaving your compass behind. When you consecrate yourself to him, he becomes your navigator! Come and learn how to grow in relationship with your Guardian Angel. Therese Holderbaum will give a talk on the angels at 6:00 p.m. on December 20th in the Holy Family Room at the Memorare Center. This will be followed by a discussion on getting to know your Guardian Angel, how to cultivate a more intimate union with him, and in your love for God, (letter 3 for those in formation for consecration). It's not too late to get started. All are invited. Please RSVP to the Parish Office at 330-644-2225 for the talk and/or the discussion.

CHURCH MICE

The Church Mice are looking for a few good women or men willing to volunteer one hour of your time on Mondays, after morning Mass, to help clean and sweep the church interior. Your consideration is greatly appreciated. Contact Beckie at 330-573-7743.




STFDS YOUTH GROUP



**CHILI &
Conversation**

DECEMBER 10TH, 7-9 PM

Abby Gresser is the new youth minister at St. Francis de Sales, and she wants to hear from the teens of the parish. Come have dinner, meet Abby, and share your memories of past youth group events & your desires for the future. All high school students are welcome! We'll meet in the Memorare Center.

**RSVP TO ABBY
AGRESSER@STFFPARISH.COM**

Dear Parishioners,

Do you know someone who has been away from the Catholic Church? Pray for them and cultivate your friendship with them. Prayer; friendship and an invitation to Catholics Returning Home could make a huge difference in their life and in bringing a soul home to Christ. You are welcome to accompany them to the meetings. Cut this portion at the dotted line below and give the invitation to your friend. Copies of this invitation are also available in the Church Foyer.



AN INVITATION TO



No matter how long one has been away or for whatever reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic Church. Our faith community misses you and is incomplete without you. Please join us for informal sessions and an update of the Catholic faith. The six-session series will be conducted in a group format:

January 10

Sharing our Stories

January 17

Sharing Stories of Faith

January 24

All About the Mass

January 31

Pope Francis and the Catholic Church Today

February 7

The Creed: What Catholics Really Believe

February 14

Reconciliation & Prayer

Come for all or part of the Wednesday evening series. Explore the way home! You will find an open door and a warm welcome!

Catholics Returning Home

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

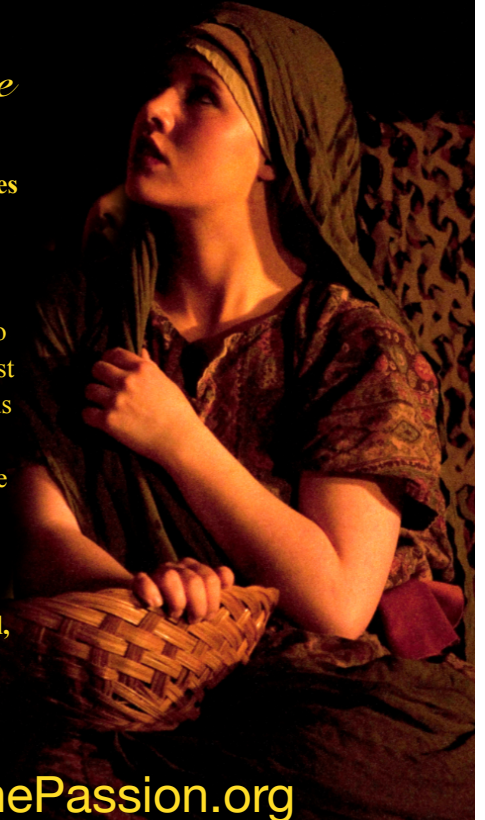
January 10-February 14, 2024

St. Francis de Sales Parish, Memorare Center
4009 Manchester Road, Akron 44319

Come, See.....

and Believe

St. Francis de Sales Parish welcomes you for **Christmas** & invites you to return this spring to see where the Christ child's journey ends and where all **HOPE** begins. See the vivid musical passion play, *Tetéstai - Here: March 22nd, 23rd, and 24th 2024*



LivethePassion.org

ART & ORNAMENT EXTRAVAGANZA

St. Luke's Lutheran Community invites you to an Art and Ornament Open House, 6:00-7:00 p.m. December 12th at St. Luke's Lutheran Community of Portage Lakes, 615 Latham Lane, Akron, OH 44319. Come and view our artwork in a seasonal open house setting and browse our ornament and holiday gifts for sale. All proceeds will go towards gifts for our residents. Donations of art or small gifts are greatly appreciated. Hospice companies may volunteer donations of holiday gift baskets to raffle off. Please contact Melissa Datlenko if interested in donating. Also, please spread the word for all to come and enjoy a festive evening! Contact Melissa Datlenko, Resident Life Coordinator/Activities Director at 330-245-7321 or melissadatlenko@stllc.org.

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 & Remain, January 25, February 22, & April 25, 2024. Join the seminary community for Adoration with praise and worship at 6:45 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Chapel at the Center for Pastoral Leadership followed by Mass at 7:30 p.m. and pizza after Mass.

Duc in Altum Come & See, February 3-4, 2024: A "come and see" weekend where men can experience life at the seminary.

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



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Cluster Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, December 12, at Nativity Catholic Church. Please bring your shawls and any work in progress. 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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