

# 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](http://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.

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 17, 2023



### **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)

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 18**

- 8:15 a.m. Abbot Clement Zeleznik  
(His Spiritual Children)  
*Fr. Schleicher Anniversary of Ordination*

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19**

- 8:15 a.m. Robert Richard (Rick & Cathy Houck)  
6:30 p.m. Eugene Frank (Barbara Frank)  
*Deacon Frank Lonteen – Month's Mind*

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20**

- 8:15 a.m. Elizabeth Buckohr (Son, Donald)  
9:00 a.m. Kathleen & Danny Sibbio  
(Linda & Tom Berger)

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, ST. PETER CANISIUS**

- 8:15 a.m. Regina Kusnir (Family)  
6:30 p.m. Irma Dubetz (Dubetz Family)

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22**

- 8:15 a.m. Theresa Ambach (Al Schafer)

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23**

- 8:15 a.m. Sue Kurtz (Dan & Sue Wargo)  
5:00 p.m. Vigil – Rosemary Reymann  
(Cousin, Chris Kovesci)

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- No 7:30 a.m. Mass  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
11:00 a.m. Jim Mesko (Pat Mesko)  
4:00 p.m. Vigil – Casenhiser Family  
(Jim & Chris Tawney)  
6:00 p.m. Vigil – Burt Jackson (Don & Kathy McCabe)  
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass  
(Choir Prelude at 11:30 p.m.)

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25  
**Tuesday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25  
**Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38  
**Thursday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45  
**Friday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56  
**Saturday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66  
**Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27;  
Lk 1:26-38

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

### **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, 6:00 p.m.  
(meet at St. Luke's Lutheran Community)

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 18**

- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 9:00-9:30 a.m.
- Family Prayer for Students, 1:30-2:00 p.m. (Church)
- PSR & Ignite, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Ignite, 7:15-8:00 p.m.)
- Men's Basketball, 8:30 p.m. (Gym)

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19**

- Women's Study Group, 9:00-11:00 a.m.  
(St. Gerard Room)
- Parish Cluster Confessions, 5:00-6:00 p.m.  
(St. Francis de Sales)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)
- RCIA, 7:00 p.m. (Holy Family Room)

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20**

- Holy Angels Formation, 3:30 p.m.,  
(Holy Family Room)
- Angels 101, 6:00 p.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Guardian Angels Formation, 7:15 p.m.,  
(Holy Family Room)
- Flow in Faith, 7:00 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30 p.m. (Upper Room)

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21**

- No School
- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 6:00-6:30 p.m.

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22**

- No School
- Parish Office Closed
- Youth Choir, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Church)

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23**

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

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

- Adoration between 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Masses
- Prayers for healing, after the 11:00 a.m. Mass, meet  
by the St. Anthony statue
- Vigil Masses for the Nativity,  
4:00 p.m. (Youth Choir) & 6:00 p.m.
- Midnight Mass, Choir Prelude at 11:30 p.m.

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 25**

- Merry Christmas!
- Masses at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



## FROM THE PASTORS OF ST. FRANCIS PAST!

Just last week, Fr. Bline sent me an email sharing that he was going through some bulletin articles from the past and came across this one from 2015. Even though it is 8 years old, it is fantastic as it has wonderful words from all the pastors of St. Francis Past! Enjoy!

From Fr. Bline: *So guess what...I got an early Merry Christmas. About a week ago I was given a binder filled with some wonderful surprises that John Sveda (a longtime parishioner) had been keeping since he was helping with the parish newsletter that ran from 1976-1979. In it I found some treasures written by Fr. Diederich and Fr. Schleicher that fit perfectly into this glorious season of Advent/Christmas. As a gift for the season and a perfect reminder of the start of The Year of Mercy, I have included the following words from our two former pastors that I hope fill you with joy too. Pax in Emmanuel, Fr. Bline (your 3rd Pastor).*

From the Retired Desk of Your 1st Pastor, Fr. Francis Diederich (December 1976): *“Advent is a season of joyful and spiritual expectation. It prepares us for the first coming of Christ thereby directing our minds to His coming again in glory...Our mission as Catholic Christians is one of witness – proclaiming the simple message of inward peace and love that was brought to this earth by the Savior. We too, are making straight the paths for the coming of the Lord to our lives and the lives of others. We’re still in the planning stage of Christianity. It did not end when Jesus came, in fact, He specifically instructed His followers to continue what has been begun. We must again renew the hearts and minds of God’s children with the same proclamation of John. We are still very much a pilgrim Church composed of peoples who have both heard the proclamation and those who have denied it. Therefore, make way for the Lord. May we make ready a fitting dwelling place for Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

From Your 2nd Pastor, Fr. James Schleicher (December 1976): *“It is hard to believe that in less than one month I will be celebrating my third Christmas as pastor of Saint Francis de Sales Parish. They have been happy years with the joys and sadnesses that come in any life...But Christmas is a time of universal joy and happiness (and) let us draw for a moment on the happy things in our lives...Perhaps it would do some good to reflect on some of the gifts God has given to us, His children. The gift of faith is priceless. In a world where millions stumble in the darkness, we have been blessed with light, the light of Jesus Christ. The gift of health, something we take for granted unless it is suddenly taken away from us. The gift of other people, especially our parents, husbands, wives, children, those we love so dearly and those who love us in return. How barren and lonely life would be without them. The gift of God’s love, brought to mind so visibly at Christmas when we reflect that He loved us enough to send His own son to earth to redeem us. This list of God’s gifts to us could go on indefinitely, but it brings to mind the question what do we give to God in return? There’s only one gift that we can give that He really wants. That is the gift of our love, wrapped perhaps in the ribbons of self-sacrifice and sincere concern for others. We pray that this Christmas, 1976, will be a time of great grace and blessings for our parishioners - a time that we might truly reflect on God’s many gifts to us and a sincere decision on our parts return to God the gift He desires - OUR LOVE.”*

As we approach Christmas of 2023, my heart overflows with great joy and happiness for being with you as your 4th Pastor! Your faithfulness to our parish community and the love that you share gives me great reason to REJOICE!

**Happy Gaudete Sunday,**  
**Fr. Jeremy (your 4th pastor) 😊**



**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.

**Marty & Liz Misbrener** received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

**WEDDING BANNS**

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

**REST IN PEACE**

Please pray for the souls of **Vincenza Koger, Charles Reed,** and **William Verbsky,** grandfather of Fr. David. May they rejoice in God’s kingdom and may their family and friends be consoled.

**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

December 9/10

	Offertory
Sunday	\$ 14,686.00
Assessment	\$ 135.00
Capital	\$ 130.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 2,007.50
Christmas	\$ 60.00
Human Development	\$ 30.00
Religious Retirement	\$ 1,112.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 18,160.50</b>

*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, 330-644-2225.



**SFDS YOUTH GROUP**

Christmas Caroling  
 Sunday, December 17, 6:00 p.m.  
 We meet at: St. Luke’s Lutheran Community  
 615 Latham Lane  
 New Franklin, OH 44319

We will need ALL voices for this one, parents are welcome to join in as well! This is our only stop for caroling this year, let’s make it great for St. Luke’s. Wear your ugly Christmas sweater, your Santa hat, or your reindeer antlers. Bring your energy, your friends, and your Christmas spirit! Contact Shirley Clark with questions: sclark@stfparish.com, 330-644-2225, ext. 215.



**IGNiTE**  
Middle School YM  
 LK 12-19

ATTENTION 5-6-7th grade students:  
 Join us for IGNiTE!  
 Monday, December 18, 2023  
 SFDS Gym  
 7:15-8:00 p.m.

\*All day school, homeschool, public school students are invited\*  
 Contact Shirley Clark with questions:  
 330-644-2225, ext. 215, sclark@stfparish.com

**FAMILY PRAYER FOR STUDENTS**

Parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles of students in our parish school or PSR or in homeschool are invited to pray for their students. From 1:30-2:00 p.m. on *December 18, January 22, February 12, and March 18,* join Fr. Jeremy for a Holy Half-Hour to ask God to bless and protect our young people.



**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.



# 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 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/>.

*“When you look at the Crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host you understand how much Jesus loves you now,”*

– St. Teresa of Calcutta

**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

**CHRISTMAS 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. Please note that there will not be a 7:30 a.m. Mass on December 24.*

**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.

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 330-644-2225 for the talk and/or the discussion.

**GIFTS FOR BABY JESUS**

The collection of baby items for the Embrace Clinic and Care Center in Barberton will begin next weekend, December 23/24 and continue the weekend of December 30/31. There will be a crib in the narthex to place items. This is a beautiful way to honor and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ while helping those in crisis pregnancies like the family of the unborn baby you may have been praying for all year with the Spiritual Adoption program that we encourage each year. The center expressed the need for children's clothing up to size 4 (i.e., winter clothes, coats and boots).

If you wish to donate money, about \$50.00 will buy a car seat, \$100.00 will buy a crib, and \$150.00 will buy a crib and mattress. You can mail monetary donations to: Embrace Clinic and Care Center, 180 1st Street N.W., Barberton, OH 44203. Thank you very much from the Respect Life Ministry.

**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

A message from Stephen Ministry: Joy is the theme for this third candle in our Advent season. The joy of Christmas can turn into a time of painful loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time. But help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and support you through the holidays and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: Ann Clark at aclark2@stfparish.com or Bill Dickey at wdickey@stfparish.com. Stephen Ministers are there to care!

*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**

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

**BETHLEHEM CAVE AND NATIVITY MUSEUM**

The Bethlehem Cave and Nativity Museum at Nativity of the Lord Jesus Catholic Church, 2425 Myersville Road, Akron, will be open for guided tours at 2:00 p.m. daily from December 26-30, 2023. Visit a replica of the cave where Jesus was born and view over 400 Nativity sets from around the world. There is no charge, but free will donations will be accepted. For more information, email [tours@nativityofthelord.org](mailto:tours@nativityofthelord.org) or call 330-699-5086 weekdays.

**LESSONS & CAROLS**  
A Christmas Concert by  
PJ Chavez & Friends

Sponsored by Queen of Heaven  
Holy Name Society

Friday, December 22, 6:30 p.m.  
Queen of Heaven Church

Invite your family and friends  
to this free concert to celebrate the  
beauty of the Christmas Season!  
A social will follow.

1800 Steese Rd., Uniontown, OH 44685  
[www.queenofheavenparish.org](http://www.queenofheavenparish.org)

**GRIEF SUPPORT MEETINGS**

The Catholic Cemeteries Association offers free, safe, and compassionate monthly Grief Support meetings and Memorial events throughout the year. The next Grief Support meeting is Sunday, December 17th at 3:00 p.m. for in-person support (at 6 locations), and 5:00 p.m. for virtual support and the topic is "The Gift of God's Presence: You Never Walk Alone". For details, visit: <https://www.clecem.org/Information/Bereavement.aspx>. For more information or questions, call Rhonda at 216-930-4866.

**CANCER SPIRITUALITY GROUP**

A Cancer Spirituality Group for those on the cancer journey, those who are facing the diagnosis of cancer at the present time or who have faced the diagnosis in the past, who are interested in exploring and talking about the cancer experience in the context of spirituality. All are welcome! The next meeting is Thursday, December 21, at 11:00 a.m. in the conference room of the former St. Matthew School (2580 Berne Street, Akron, 44312). All meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. For more information, please contact: Pat Flaherty at 330-71-4613 or at [everhiker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:everhiker@sbcglobal.net).



### **PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR JESUS WITH AM1260 THE ROCK.**

During the Holy Season of Advent as we await the Birth of Jesus Christ, AM 1260 The Rock is broadcasting special programming to enrich your preparation. In addition, we will be offering EWTN's "The 48 Hours of Christmas," with special programming and Masses for your Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

#### **4th Sunday of Advent Masses**

8:00 a.m. Mass from EWTN Chapel

10:30 a.m. Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Mass for the Homebound

#### **Christmas Eve Masses**

1:30 p.m. Solemn Mass of Christmas Eve LIVE from Rome

10:00 p.m. Solemn Mass of Christmas Eve LIVE from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC

#### **Christmas Day Masses**

1:00 a.m. Midnight Mass from the Holy Land

8:00 a.m. Solemn Mass of Christmas LIVE from EWTN

12:00 p.m. Solemn Mass of Christmas Day LIVE from the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington DC

This schedule is subject to change. Please visit our website at: [www.am1260therock.com](http://www.am1260therock.com) for the complete and updated schedule or call us at 216-227-1260. From all of us at AM 1260 The Rock, may you have a blessed and peaceful Advent, and a very Merry Christmas.

### **THE ITE PROJECT**

Join The ITE Project on January 12th from 6 - 10 p.m. for "When God Makes You Wait -- A Half Day Retreat for the Frustrated" at Holy Family Parish in Stow. ITE's half-day retreats are intentionally designed for busy young adults searching for some self-care. The evening includes a home-cooked meal in a casual, social atmosphere, a presentation on the evening's topic by Fr Louis Thomas, and followed by contemplative Adoration, confessions, and Mass. The evening concludes with dessert. It is the perfect balance of friendship with others and friendship with the Lord and the perfect opportunity to check in with yourself about your spiritual goals in 2024. It's short, simple, and free -- yes, that's right. FREE. ALL young adults are welcome! Registration closes on January 9th! Visit <https://www.theiteproject.com/events/waitwithgod> to learn more.

**THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT**  
**REJOICE ALWAYS.**  
**PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.**  
**IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES**  
**GIVE THANKS,**  
**FOR THIS IS THE WILL**  
**OF GOD FOR YOU IN**  
**CHRIST JESUS.**

### **LOVE BEYOND WORDS**

#### **NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK KICK OFF**

All Married couples are invited to a celebration of marriage! We are going to kick off National Marriage week in style on Saturday, February 3 at St. Albert the Great Parish in North Royalton. The evening will offer Praise and Adoration at 6:30 p.m. with a reflection offered by Vicar of Evangelization Father Damian Ference. From 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. a reception will be held in the hall with dinner, drinks and a DJ for dancing. The Marriage and Family Ministry office is happy to have RAK Photobooths to provide a memory for you to take home. Tickets are \$60.00 per couple with three drink tickets per person. Register at <https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/events/2024/02/03/love-beyond-words-national-marriage-week-kick-off>.

### **FRANCE PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITIES**

**June 9th-20th, 2024:** 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 depart from Cleveland (CLE) June 9th. Tickets are \$6,379.00 per person. To learn more about this opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the some of the greatest French saints, visit [www.pilgrimages.com/travelconnection](http://www.pilgrimages.com/travelconnection), and use the login "Saint" and the password "Francis206" to sign in.

**September 23-October 4, 2024:** Fr. Norm Douglas and Fr. Dominic Gideon will be serving as spiritual directors on a pilgrimage to holy sites including Lourdes, Toulouse, Rocamadour, Paray Le Monial, Nevers, Chartres, Lisieux, Normandy, Mont Saint Michel, and Paris. The trip will be led by Deacon Robin Adair and will depart from Cleveland (CLE) on September 23rd. Find more information and register for the trip at [www.206tours.com/deaconadair](http://www.206tours.com/deaconadair).



# POUSTINIA

## Retreat 2024

SIMPLICITY, SILENCE, SOLITUDE



**MARCH 8TH - 10TH**  
**LOYOLA RETREAT HOUSE IN GREEN, OHIO**

- Friday Mass followed by 24 hours of silence, solitude, and fasting on bread and water.
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