

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.

**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 3, 2023**

*Masses For
The Week*



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30 a.m. Pro Populo
9:00 a.m. Robert Docs (Jane Didonato)
11:00 a.m. Mary Lou Clark (Agape Prayer Group)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, ST. JOHN DAMASCENE

8:15 a.m. Jackie Lee (Weber & Hilton Families)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

8:15 a.m. Bob Baltrinic (Family)
6:30 p.m. Sandra L. Matick (Judy Magyar-Davis)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:15 a.m. Ed Duckworth (John Duckworth)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, ST. AMBROSE

8:15 a.m. Cyril "Shorty" Wargo (Dan & Sue Wargo)
6:30 p.m. Gary Heller (Family), *Anointing Mass*

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, SOLEMNITY OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

7:30 a.m. Ellen Kurek (Lou & Laurene Scala)
9:00 a.m. Mary Franz (Family)
6:30 p.m. Mary Jo Mellody (Mellody Family)
Steve Kramer – Month's Mind

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:15 a.m. Phillip Katigbak (Mariza Meredith)
5:00 p.m. Al Fortine (Fortine Family)

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)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

ARE YOU CARRYING TOO MUCH?



Every week, I like taking my dog, Blaise, to my grandpa's property in the Wadsworth area. I will run him down the driveway and almost always he stops and picks up a stick. But not any kind of stick, however. He is always on the hunt for BIG STICKS! As you can see in this photo, he was carrying a 7-foot-long stick! (Maybe he has little dog syndrome, haha!) What happens because of this is that he struggles to carry it. He'll drag it along with much distress and discomfort. Why do I bring this up as we enter into the Advent Season? Precisely because each and every one of us does this in so many ways in our lives. Sometimes we overschedule ourselves. Sometimes we fill our days with so many things that aren't essential to our spiritual growth. Sometimes we make too many faith commitments and set ourselves up for failure. Whatever they are, we know what they are.

Advent is a great time to let go of the BIG STICKS we are carrying and grab a hold of sticks that are manageable, healthy and holy in our lives. Most times when I walk Blaise, I will pick up a 1-foot-long stick and he grabs it proudly and walks with ease.

As we enter into the season of Advent, what are the big sticks that we are carrying in our lives? What can we let go of so our lives can be manageable again? Life is too short to carry burdens we were never meant to carry in the first place. This season of Advent is actually only three weeks long. Take a moment and prayerfully discern all the Eucharistic Adoration prayer opportunities we are offering at the parish. What if you simply chose one way to pray for these three weeks? Do you believe one thing is enough for you to do during Advent? Yes, I do, because that one thing is Jesus!

**He is enough,
Fr. Jeremy**

P.S. Blaise gets the bulletin article this weekend because December 3rd is his birthday. It is also Dc. Richard Butz's birthday as well. Wish him a Happy Birthday when you see him. God bless!

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

- Donut Sunday, following 7:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Masses (Gym)
- Donuts with Santa, following 9:00 a.m. Mass (Gym)
- Adoration between 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Masses
- Boy Scouts, 4:30-6:30 p.m. (Gym)
- Youth Group, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (Upper Room)
- Nine Nights of Night Prayer, 8:15-9:00 p.m. (Church)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 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)
- Nine Nights of Night Prayer, 8:15-9:00 p.m. (Church)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- Parish Cluster Confessions, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (Nativity, Akron)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)
- RCIA, 7:00 p.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Nine Nights of Night Prayer, 8:15-9:00 p.m. (Church)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30 p.m. (Upper Room)
- Nine Nights of Night Prayer, 8:15-9:00 p.m. (Church)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 6:00-6:30 p.m.
- Vigil Mass for The Immaculate Conception, 6:30 p.m.
- Nine Nights of Night Prayer, 8:15-9:00 p.m. (Church)

DAY, DECEMBER 8

- Holy Day of Obligation, Masses 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., & 6:30 p.m.
- Youth Choir, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Church)
- Nine Nights of Night Prayer, 8:15-9:00 p.m. (Church) with Ice Cream Social (Memorare Center)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

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

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, 7:00-7:30 p.m. (Church)

ADORERS NEEDED

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

Jim & Lori Gutbrod received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

COLLECTION INFORMATION

November 18 & 19

	Offertory
Sunday	\$ 13,780.00
Assessment	\$ 35.00
Capital	\$ 335.00
School	\$ 35.00
All Saints	\$ 10.00
Human Development	\$ 230.00
Retirement for Religious	\$ 25.00
Mission Sunday	\$ 10.00
Military Archdiocese	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 14,510.00

November 25 & 26

	Offertory	Faith Direct
Sunday	\$ 15,163.25	\$ 6,427.46
Capital	\$ 180.00	\$ 132.00
School	\$ 157.00	\$ 157.00
All Saints Day	\$ 130.00	\$ 177.00
Human Develop.	\$ 55.00	\$ 247.00
Mission Sunday	\$ 5.00	
Assessment		\$ 52.00
Special Gift		<u>\$ 50.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 15,690.25	\$ 7,242.46
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 22,932.71	

Our parish is blessed by your generosity!

CELEBRATE THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

This Friday, December 8th, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. **This is a Holy Day of Obligation.** Please come celebrate Our Lady who was conceived without any stain of sin! Masses will be offered at 6:30 p.m. (vigil) on Thursday and at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 6:30 p.m. on Friday. Don't miss the special Marian-inspired ice cream flavor at the Nine Nights of Night Prayer Ice Cream Social on Friday the 8th following Night Prayer at 8:15 p.m.!

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 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.

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 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



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).

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/>.

**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

YOUTH GROUP

You asked. We answered: Dodgeball Night.
Sunday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gym

If your last name begins with...then wear:

- A-F...red shirt
- G-M...green shirt
- N-T...blue shirt
- U-Z...white shirt

We end at 8:15 p.m. to attend nine Nights of Night Prayer in the church. Bring all your friends! Contact Shirley Clark with questions at sclark@stfparish.com or 330-644-2225, ext. 215

A MESSAGE FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY:

Come, Lord Jesus, Come! Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for Jesus. If your heart is feeling heavy during this Advent season, consider looking into receiving support from Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers are parishioners that have received 50 hours of training to provide confidential, one-on-one Christian care to people just like you that are navigating a life-altering event. Don't travel alone. Allow a Stephen Minister to support you during your journey. Contact one of our Stephen Leaders to learn more, Ann Clark at aclark2@stfparish.com or Bill Dickey at wdickey@stfparish.com. You can request more information or submit a prayer request in the prayer box located in the narthex in the back of the church. Allow the Stephen Ministry team to support you this holiday season.

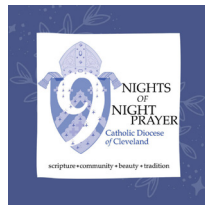
PRAYER FOR PEACE IN OUR WORLD

Join the Dominican Sisters of Peace as we pray for peace in our world through music, Scripture, and silent prayer. Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Elms Convent, 1230 W. Market Street, Akron.

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.



Our parish is one of eight parishes in the diocese participating in Nine Nights of Night Prayer, November 30 through December 8. This is an opportunity to pray Night Prayer, the short, ancient prayer of the Catholic Church in nine beautiful churches of

our diocese. Every night, our church will be open for those who come to church often, those who have never been, and everyone in between. After prayer on December 8, come to the Memorare Center for an Ice Cream Social featuring a custom ice cream flavor inspired by the Virgin Mary. Come join us! Doors open at 8:00 p.m. Night Prayer starts at 8:15 p.m., November 30-December 8, 2023.

YOUNG AT HEART

The Queen of Heaven Young at Heart Group will have their Christmas luncheon at 1:00 p.m. at Briar Creek Lodge. You must have made a reservation previously to attend.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATION

Dinner Tuesday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. in St. Joseph's Hall, Mass at 7:00 p.m. in the church. To celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Queen of Heaven parish will have a taco dinner and a presentation by parishioners who went on pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico. Mass will follow. Reservations are required for the taco dinner. Call the parish office to RSVP at 330-896-2345 or register on the parish website at www.queenofheavenparish.org by Friday, December 8.

ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Through the Angel Scholarship Fund, you can now contribute funds that will be used to provide tuition assistance for students to attend our school, and you will receive a 100% Ohio income tax credit of up to \$750.00 (single) and \$1,500.00 (married), against your state tax liability. In other words, the state of Ohio allows you to "spend" some of the state income taxes you must pay anyway to provide tuition assistance for students seeking an education in our Catholic schools. The Angel Scholarship Fund is a win-win-win for taxpayer donors, scholarship recipients, and our diocese. If you would like to contribute, see the form on the following page.



ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Turning taxes into tuition with the Catholic Community Foundation

2023 CONTRIBUTION FORM

PLEASE NOTE: Contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2023 to be eligible for a 2023 state tax credit.

Donor Information

First Name: _____ MI: _____
 Last Name: _____
 Spouse Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Parish: _____

THANK YOU!

We will share your contact information with the school so they are able to thank you for your support. *I wish to remain anonymous*

Donation

General Scholarship Fund for
 Schools in Most Need: \$ _____
 School of my choice:
St. Francis de Sales \$ _____
 Total: \$ _____

Payment Information

I am paying by:
 Check (made payable to Angel Scholarship Fund)
 Credit Card:
 Visa Mastercard Discover AMEX
 Card Number: _____
 Expires: _____ CVV Code: _____
 Signature: _____

U23ASUNK1

Spouse Information (if additional donation)

First Name: _____ MI: _____
 Last Name: _____
 Check if address is the same
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Parish: _____

THANK YOU!

We will share your contact information with the school so they are able to thank you for your support. *I wish to remain anonymous*

Spouse Donation

General Scholarship Fund for
 Schools in Most Need: \$ _____
 School of my choice:
St. Francis de Sales \$ _____
 Total: \$ _____

Spouse Payment Information

Check if payment information is the same
 I am paying by:
 Check (made payable to Angel Scholarship Fund)
 Credit Card:
 Visa Mastercard Discover AMEX
 Card Number: _____
 Expires: _____ CVV Code: _____
 Signature: _____

U23ASUNK2

or Monthly Contribution

Would you like to STRETCH your contribution into smaller monthly payments?

Register for monthly contributions at www.catholiccommunity.org/angel, email asfinfo@dioceseofcleveland.org
 or call our office for assistance at **216-696-6525 x3670**

COMPLETE AND MAIL CONTRIBUTION FORM TO:

Angel Scholarship Fund, Catholic Community Foundation • 1404 East Ninth Street • Cleveland, OH 44114

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>.

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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