

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 28, 2024



SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 7:30 a.m. Tom Richards (Bill & Anna Richards)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
11:00 a.m. Doris Pertl (Wilson Family)

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

- 8:15 a.m. Carole Darrow (Darrow Family)
Nicholas Polano – Month's Mind

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

- 8:15 a.m. William Llewellyn (Barb Yingling)
6:30 p.m. Jack Steurer (Theresa Dougherty)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, ST. JOHN BOSCO

- 8:15 a.m. Larry Stanley (Family)
John Andrews – Month's Mind

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- 8:15 a.m. Carter Andes (Family)
6:30 p.m. Anointing Mass
Evelyn & Wilson Weber (Amy & Jim Hilton)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

- 8:15 a.m. Intentions of George Ott on his birthday (Daughter)
9:00 a.m. Grace Irene Wyszynski (Specials Teacher)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, ST. BLAISE, ST. ANSGAR

- 8:15 a.m. Throat Blessing
Colleen C. Costello (Sean Costello)
5:00 p.m. Dr. Stephen Stone (Kathy & Don McCabe)
Leo Grob – Anniversary of Death

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo
9:00 a.m. Tom & Mary Flo Andrews (Ruthie Kelbly)
11:00 a.m. Jim Evans (Family)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Mk 6:1-6
Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; Mk 6:7-13
Friday: Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Mk 6:30-34
Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

BE FREE OF ANXIETY

"Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties..."
(1 Cor 7:32).

These few words express the heart of St. Paul and of our Lord Himself. I think each and every one of us can agree with this: we all want to be free from anxiety. We want to be free from worry. Fortunately, this past week we celebrated our patron's feast day, St. Francis de Sales. St. Francis provides great wisdom when it comes to anxiety and living a peaceful life...

"Anxiety is the greatest evil that can befall a soul, except sin. God commands you to pray, but He forbids you to worry..."

"Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life; rather, look to them with full hope that as they arise, God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will carry you in His arms. Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same understanding Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from suffering or will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations..."

"Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset. What is anything in life compared to peace of soul?"

May you be blessed by these words and when you find yourself in times of anxiety, turn to Jesus in prayer and find peace.



Lent is coming! It is hard to believe that Lent is fast approaching! In less than three weeks, the holiest season of conversion will be here. Please make room for Jesus this season by marking your calendar and coming to these events of spiritual growth and renewal...

- **March 1** – Praise and Worship Evening with Fr. Jacob Bearer
- **March 16** – Women's Retreat Day
- **March 18 and 19** – Parish Mission: Fr. Brian Stacy, OFM Cap: *Knowing Francis; Living Francis*
- **March 22, 23, and 24** – *Tetelestai* – A musical portrayal of the trial, execution, and Resurrection of Jesus the Messiah

Thank You, Jesus, for how You are going to bless us this Lent!

**Grateful to be with you along the journey,
Fr. Jeremy**

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

- School Open House after 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses
- Prayers for healing, after 11:00 a.m. Mass, meet by the St. Anthony statue
- Boy Scouts, 4:30-6:00 p.m. (Gym)
- Youth Group, Priests vs. Seminarians Basketball Game
- Night Prayer, 7:00-7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 9:00-9:30 a.m.
- Young Women's Discernment Group, 7:00 p.m. (Archangels Room)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

- Women's Study Group, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- RCIA, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Holy Family Room)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

- First Reconciliation, 6:30 p.m. (Church)
- Catholics Returning Home, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30 p.m. (Upper Room)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- Thursday Scripture Group, 12:30-3:00 p.m. (St. Gerard)
- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 6:00-6:30 p.m.
- Eucharistic Prayer Night for healing, 7:00-7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Young Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Feast of St. Blaise Throat Blessing at 8:15 a.m. Mass
- First Saturday Devotions, following 8:15 a.m. Mass

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- Donut Sunday, after 7:30, 9:00, & 11:00 a.m. Masses
- Boy Scouts, 4:30-6:00 p.m. (Gym)
- Cub Scouts, 4:30-6:00 p.m. (Refectory)
- Youth Group, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Night Prayer, 7:00-7:30 p.m.

ADORER NEEDED

Thank you to all who commit to a weekly time of Adoration. We need an Adorer to cover the following time slot:

Wednesday: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

If you are able to fill this slot, please contact Joanne Reich, 330-338-4810.



REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the souls of **Theresa Drexler** and **Carol Swam**, sister of parishioner Linda Sams. May they rejoice in eternal life and may Jesus and Mary console their family and friends.

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.

COLLECTION INFORMATION

January 20/21

	Offertory	Faith Direct
Sunday	\$ 12,892.50	\$ 6,189.58
Assessment	\$ 25.00	\$ 53.00
Capital	\$ 249.00	\$ 133.00
School	\$ 130.00	\$ 133.00
Christmas	\$ 10.00	
Catholic University	\$ 190.00	\$ 73.00
Memorial Gift		\$ 25.00
Latin American Missions		\$ 148.00
Solemnity of Mary		\$ 113.00
TOTAL	\$ 13,496.50	\$ 6,867.58
GRAND TOTAL	\$20,364.08	

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.

**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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

Senior Valentine's Day Luncheon

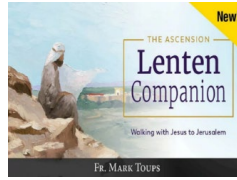
**FEBRUARY 10TH
11:30AM - 2PM**

**FOOD
GAMES
PRIZES**

**ST. FRANCIS DE SALES
MEMORARE CENTER**

**SIGN UP
IN THE NARTHEX
AFTER ALL MASSES**

LENTEN SCRIPTURE STUDY



This Lent, experience deeper peace and healing as *The Ascension Lenten Companion* by Fr. Mark Toups immerses you in Christ's final journey to Jerusalem, inviting you to reflect on Jesus' suffering and death, and inspiring you to celebrate His Resurrection. The book will guide you, day by day, to an encounter with the person of Christ and help you arrive at Easter transformed by God's love. It will lead you inward to experience deeper prayer and renewed focus in this powerful season. The Lenten Companion is a study program that begins Ash Wednesday and ends the week of March 24th, 2024. (Holy Week). Meeting days and times will vary. Small groups meet once a week during Lent. Weekly meetings 1-1.5 hours per week. Cost is \$10.00. This includes the workbook. Sign-ups are available in the narthex. For more information, contact Frank Noffsinger at 330-990-0139 or email franknoffsinger@gmail.com or Linda Hetson by email at lindahetson@gmail.com

A MESSAGE FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY: WHEN "PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER" DOESN'T WORK

You've heard it time and time again: "Pull yourself together. Cheer up....Tough it out...It's not that bad." Perhaps people have said it to you. Or perhaps you keep saying it to yourself, but it hasn't helped. You're still hurting. Things are coming apart. Here's the good news: you don't have to go through your struggles alone. Help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers who will walk with you, listen to you, and provide confidential, one-to-one care as you search through the pieces and find what is truly in your heart. To learn more about what Stephen Ministry can do for you, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Ann Clark at aClark2@stfparish.com or Bill Dickey at wdickey@stfparish.com. You can also request more information or submit a prayer request in the prayer box located in the narthex in the back of the church. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you.



**REQUEST FOR
2023 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

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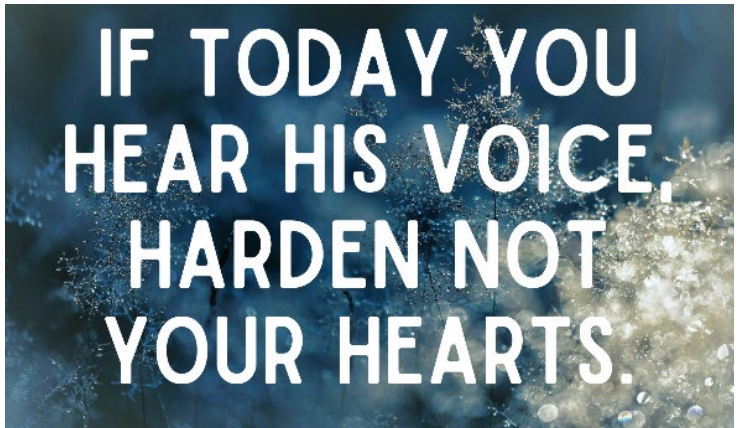
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Please place this completed form in the collection basket and your statement will be mailed to you.



**IF TODAY YOU
HEAR HIS VOICE,
HARDEN NOT
YOUR HEARTS.**



CYO FALCONS SPRING SPORTS INFORMATION

It's that time of year again to register for our spring sports! All registrations opened on January 17th, 2024. If your child is interested in playing any of our sports offered, please sign up as soon as possible. This year, we will be offering the following sports at St. Francis de Sales for the Spring.

TRACK AND FIELD – GIRLS AND BOYS GRADES 1-8

▪ Grades 1-4

- Practice two times a week, Tuesday and Thursday nights
- Meets are run on Saturdays.
- 100M, 200M, 400M, 800M, 1600M (1 Mile) 4x100 Relay
- Standing Long Jump, Running Long Jump, Shot Put

▪ Grades 5-8

- Practice two times a week, Tuesday and Thursday nights
- Meets are run on Sundays.
- 100M, 200M, 400M, 800M, 1600M (1 Mile), 4x100 Relay
- Standing Long Jump, Running Long Jump, Shot Put, Discus, High Jump

We are currently seeking coaches for both Track teams for the following positions, Hurdles, Shot Put, Discus, and High Jump. If you or anyone you know would be interested in helping this amazing program, please reach out to our Athletic Director.

VOLLEYBALL – GIRLS AND BOYS GRADES 3-8

For our spring teams, we will need coaches. If anyone is interested, please reach out to the Athletic Director for more information.

Practice times and game days are TBD, depending on coach availability. The sooner we have coaches lined up, the faster we can create a practice schedule. Most practices will be in the evenings, Monday through Friday.

NEW THIS YEAR

Lacrosse, Baseball, Softball, Coach Pitch (grades 1 & 2), Tennis (3-8)

We are opening registration for the above sports offered by CYO. However, because St. Francis does not normally offer them, it can be difficult to form full teams for these sports. There is the obstacle of a field or facility to be able to practice in. If you are interested in one of these sports, we would be merging with other local CYO teams to form full teams. Please reach out to your Athletic Director for more information or any questions you might have.

Contact Katie Kinsinger, Athletic Director at athleticdirector@stfparish.com

REGISTRATION LINK

Registration is available online at,
<https://reg.sportspilot.com/106284>

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME

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. This series will be conducted in a group format:

January 31 – *The Creed: What Catholics Really Believe*
February 7 – *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 7, 2024

St. Francis de Sales Parish, Memorare Center
4019 Manchester Road, Akron 44319

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL OPPORTUNITIES**SUNDAY NIGHT PRAYER & BENEDICTION**

- Every Sunday until Easter come for Night Prayer and Benediction, 7:00-7:30 p.m.

MONDAY PRAYER FOR STUDENTS

- 1:30-2:00 p.m. on 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 until 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/>.

“Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on Me will have life because of Me.”
– John 6:57

**MASS**

- ~ Monday through Saturday, 8:15 a.m.
- ~ Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
- ~ Saturday Vigil, 5:00 p.m.
- ~ Sunday, 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.

ADORATION

- ~ Mondays, 7:00-8:00 a.m., 6:00-10:00 p.m.
- ~ Tuesday through Friday, 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. (Breaking for Masses)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays, 7:00 p.m.

With SFdS School, Mondays, 2:15 p.m.

With PSR, Monday, March 25, 7:00 p.m.

CONFESSION

- ~ Saturdays, 9:00-9:45 a.m.
- ~ Thursdays, 5:30-6:15 p.m.
- ~ Tuesday, **Cluster Parishes**, 5:00-6:00 p.m.
 - February 20 – Queen of Heaven
 - March 5 – St. Francis de Sales
 - March 12 – Nativity of the Lord Jesus
 - March 19 – St. Paul
- ~ **Diocese-wide Evening of Confession**,
February 28, 5:00-8:00 p.m.,
at all parishes in the Diocese of Cleveland

NIGHT PRAYER & BENEDICTION

Sundays, 7:00 p.m.

PRAISE & WORSHIP EVENING

Featuring Guest Speaker, Fr. Jacob Bearer
Friday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Prayer Changes Things
Presenter: Mother Gabriella
Saturday, March 16, 8:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

PARISH MISSION: KNOWING FRANCIS & LIVING FRANCIS

Fr. Brian Stacy OFM Cap. offers a two-evening mission on the spirit and example of St. Francis of Assisi
March 18 and 19, 7:00 p.m.

TETELESTAI: "IT IS FINISHED"

Cleveland Performing Arts Ministry presents a prayerful reenactment of Christ's sacrifice and triumph over death.
Friday, March 22, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 23, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 24, 2:00 p.m.

ST. BERNARD'S HUNGER PROGRAM FUNDRAISER

Over 50 years ago, St. Bernard started passing out bagged lunches from the back door of the Rectory to those who were hungry. In 2023, St. Bernard's Hunger Program served food to 23,795 people. The cost to operate St. Bernard's Hunger Program is over \$100,000.00 annually. And though this program is managed completely by volunteers, we need your help! In order to continue serving our sisters and brothers in need, we are asking for your help to support this fundraiser; St. Bernard's Night at the Races on Saturday, February 10th at 5:30 p.m. in the Social Hall at St. Bernard Church. You can participate a few ways; sponsor races or the event, buy and name horses or purchase tickets and invite your family and friends to join you for an evening of fun! No matter how you choose to support us, we are truly grateful!

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