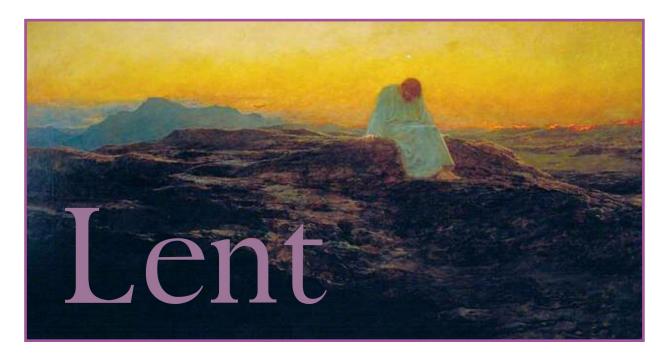
St. Francis de Sales Parish

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. and 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 LENT FEBRUARY 18, 2024



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

7:30 a.m. Pro Populo

9:00 a.m. Phil Kicelemos & Mary Schell

(John & Helen Deibel)

11:00 a.m. Edward Murawski (Maria Murawski)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

8:15 a.m. Maria Rosa & Francesco Bonfiglio

(Anna Fana)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

8:15 a.m. Betty Logan (Kovesci Family)6:30 p.m. Fr. Schleicher (Susan Muzljakovich)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, ST. PETER DAMIAN

8:15 a.m. Sandy Fair (Mimi McDonald)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, CHAIR OF ST. PETER

8:15 a.m. Kenneth Logsdon (Diana Logsdon) 6:30 p.m. Margarita Katigbak (Mariza Meredith)

Theresa Drexler – Month's Mind

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, ST. POLYCARP

8:15 a.m. Mary Ellen Trockle

(Elizabeth & Bill Pfieffer)

9:00 a.m. Anna Feltrup

(Pinkston & Feltrup Families)

Bernard Adams – Anniversary of Death

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

8:15 a.m. Vincent Baker (Janet Karson)5:00 p.m. Margaret Herold (Kathy Patton)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

7:30 a.m. $\,$ Deceased of the Melton &

Perona Families (Perona Family)

9:00 a.m. Pro Populo

11:00 a.m. Paul & Patricia Anthony & For the

Intentions of Carl Lamont Bayless

(David Anthony)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday:Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15Wednesday:Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32Thursday:1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19Friday:Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26Saturday:Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31b-34;

Mk 9:2-10

LENT: MOVING FROM A DESSERT TO A DESERT EXPERIENCE

We all know what dessert is. After we eat our fill of a meal, we find room for something sweet and delicious. I know, as a kid, if I could do anything, it was finding room for that pumpkin pie or oatmeal cookie. On one hand, you don't really need it. But on the other hand, it is so wonderful...until it becomes too much. This is why Lent is so necessary for us every year. We need a moment to stop and think about all the "extra" things that have crept into our lives that keep us from living the life God has in store for us. Perhaps we need to ask ourselves: what is competing with my prayer time? At the end of my day, when I have already had a full day, what am I adding to it that makes me more tired, unhealthy and stressed?

In the Gospel of Mark this weekend, it says that "the Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and He remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to Him." The Holy Spirit drove Jesus into the desert experience because it is in the desert that we are able to rid ourselves of the "extra" of life and give time for what really matters. It was His time in the desert that enabled Him to realize that "the kingdom of God is at hand." When we busy ourselves with unnecessary things, we often fail to see the kingdom God is building and wants you to build up with your life.

During the season of Lent, we will be singing "Into the Desert." Many of you know the song. But I want to share some of the lyrics as an invitation to move from a dessert life to a desert life...



Come, beloved, and rest your mind; leave the things of this world behind. Here I will be your daily bread, all that you need. Into the desert I will lead; here in the silence My word will speak.

And you will find the peace you seek here in the desert.
Stay, beloved, and lose your fear;
there is healing and mercy here.
Here I will be a living stream, all that you need.

Get rid of the "extras" in your life. Create a desert experience so you can truly pray and "find the peace you seek...healing and mercy...all that you need."

Happy Lent, Fr. Jeremy FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 18, 2024

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- 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 & Benediction, 7:00-7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- No School
- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 9:00-9:30 a.m.
- Lent Scripture Study, 7:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- 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)
- Lent Scripture Study, 7:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- Thursday Scripture Group, 12:30-3:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 6:00-6:30 p.m.
- Eucharistic Prayer Night for the Protection of Life, 7:00-7:30 p.m.
- Lent Scripture Study, 7:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- Stations of the Cross, 7:00 p.m. (Church)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- 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, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Night Prayer & Benediction, 7:00-7:30 p.m.

ADORERS NEEDED

Thank you to all who commit to a weekly time of Adoration. We need Adorers to cover the following time slots:

Tuesday, 3:00-3:30 p.m.

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

If you are able to fill these slots, please contact Joanne Reich, 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.

The Tony & Shirley Clark Family received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

COLLECTION INFORMATION February 10/11 Offertory Faith Direct \$ 14,523.00 \$ 11,244.38 Sunday Assessment \$ 280.00 \$ 100.00 Capital \$ 280.00 \$ 125.00 School \$ 35.00 \$ 310.00 \$ Black & Indian Missions 305.00 Church in Latin America \$ 60.00 Catholic Education 8.00 TOTAL \$ 15,483.00 \$ 11,787.38

GRAND TOTAL \$27,270.38

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.

REST IN PEACE

Please remember in prayer the souls of *Ron DiSpina* and *Patrick Blubaugh*, brother of parishioner Kathie Masters. May the Lord receive them into His eternal joy.



Parish Name



· Make checks payable to "St. Francis de Sales Parish" with "Women's Retreat" on the memo line.

City of Parish

- · Mail completed form & check to: Attn. Therese Holderbaum, St. Francis de Sales Parish (see full parish address above).
- St. Francis parishioners may place envelope labeled "Women's Retreat" in collection basket or drop off at parish office.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 18, 2024

SUPER CASH BONANZA RAFFLE TICKETS

Stop by the parish office to buy some \$5.00 Knights of Columbus Super Cash Bonanza raffle tickets. The youth group will get \$2.00 for every ticket sold. 25 raffle prizes will be awarded, with the first prize being \$414.00 per month for TEN years. So, help the Knights, help the youth, and who knows, maybe help yourself!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY

The South Akron Knights of Columbus will be hosting our annual Friday Lenten Fish Frys. The hall at 2055 Glenmount Avenue, Akron 44319 will be open 4:30-7:00 p.m. each Friday during Lent. We offer a \$12.00 fried fish dinner, \$13.00 fried shrimp dinner, \$14.00 baked cod dinner, \$15.00 seafood platter, a \$10.00 chicken tender dinner, and a \$8.00 mac & cheese dinner. All dinners include two sides; french fries, hot rice, coleslaw, mac & cheese or baked potato. Dine in or carry out. Orders can be placed in person at the hall, by phone at 330-773-3410 or online at www.akronkofc.com. Cash and credit cards are accepted.

NIGHT OF GIVING SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Please join us to celebrate 75 years of Catholic education at St. Francis de Sales disco inferno style! The event will be held at Occasions Party Centre on February 24 from 6:00-10:00 p.m. All are welcome. Funds raised will help our school finish their flooring project. Tickets are available at https://e.givesmart.com/events/zRQ/.

REQUEST FOR 2023 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT
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CELL PHONE #
Please place this completed form in the collection basket and your statement will be mailed to you.



"If you cannot feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

Mother Teresa

Are you looking for a way to make your Lenten journey more meaningful? We are offering an opportunity for you to

help those in need simply by adding one or two items to your grocery cart each week and sharing them with the Parish Food Pantry.

In conjunction with the St. Francis de Sales School Lenten Food Drive, the parish will be collecting specific food items over the next four weekends of Lent. You may bring your contributions to church and leave them in the narthex. This concentrated effort will stock the St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry and aid our neighbors in need.

The purpose of this Lenten Food Drive is to emphasize and reflect on the importance of almsgiving during Lent and to restock the Food Pantry as the needs of our neighbors have increased. We ask that you simply buy an extra item when you do your weekly grocery shopping and think about a person or family you may be helping. For example, as you enjoy a pasta dinner, pray for the family that you have literally "served" a pasta dinner to as well. To have a well-stocked pantry, the focus will be on items we know are needed. We are suggesting the following schedule so you can plan accordingly:

February 24-25: Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Ramen Noodles March 2-3: canned tuna, canned chicken, canned meals, March 9-10: canned corn, canned green beans, canned beans

March 16-17: paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues)

The school families will be invited to share items that are related to family dinners and kid-friendly items to make this service project more "real" for the students.

Why are we asking for assistance besides our annual Thanksgiving food collection? Because the need has increased significantly. Last fiscal year, the Food Pantry gave out 270 bags helping 539 people. At Thanksgiving 2023, 98 bags were distributed aiding 313 people (compared to 72 bags in 2022) and at Christmas 2023, 105 bags were distributed, helping 343 people (compared to 91 bags in 2022). We are currently distributing 8-12 bags a week.

Here is a real case scenario to think about:

K. comes to the pantry with her adult daughter who cannot work due to cancer. She tells us each time what a blessing it is to receive a bag of groceries, toiletries, or household cleaning products if she needs them.

"For it is in giving that we receive."

Francis of Assisi



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., Church

CHILDREN'S MISSION

During the Parish Mission, our younger parishioners are invited to a mission of their own! March 18 and 19, 7:00 p.m., Memorare Center

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.

EUCHARISTIC 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. March 18
- Parents and Grandparents are invited to come pray for their students, whether in our parish school, PSR, or homeschool.

EUCHARISTIC 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).

DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND EUCHARISTIC ART JOURNAL

Our Diocese invites artists to share their love for the Eucharist by submitting entries for a Eucharistic Art Journal. The prompt is "What does the Eucharist mean for you?" Entries can be works of visual art or written works. The submission deadline is April 8, 2024. To learn more, visit https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/eucharistic-revival/art-journal

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/.

"The courage and strength that are in me are not of me, but of Him who lives in me – it is the Eucharist."

- St. Faustina

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 18, 2024



St. Jerome said: "Where Christ is, there are the angels." So then, we can say: "Where the tabernacle is, there are the angels." Through Holy Communion, we ourselves become tabernacles, and adore the Lord in our heart with the Holy Angels. St. Bernard of Clairvaux said: "When Jesus is present with His Body in us, the angels surround us as a holy guard." Therese Holderbaum will give a talk on the Holy Angels at 6:00 p.m. in the Holy Family Room at the Memorare Center on Wednesday, February 21st. The talk will be followed by a discussion at 7:15 p.m. on Angels and how they help us to pray, especially in adoration, (letter 5 for those in formation for consecration to their Guardian Angels). All are welcome. Please RSVP to the Parish Office at 330-644-2225 for the talk and/or the discussion.

A MESSAGE FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY:

We are here to care! Are you going through a difficult time – emotionally, spiritually, or relationally? Are you lonely, experiencing a crisis, or simply stressed by everyday life? You don't have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. To find out more, talk with Ann Clark at aclark2@ stfparish.com or Bill Dickey at wdickey@stfparish.com.

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. See the form on the following page to make your contribution today.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

The Diocese of Cleveland's "Protecting God's Children" program is a continuing effort to instruct and inform everyone about the protection of children from sexual abuse. To report any past or present suspected inappropriate behavior toward children by priests, deacons, religious, lay ecclesial ministers or personnel associated with the Church, immediately inform local authorities about inappropriate behavior. Also, please contact the Diocesan Response Service Office at 216-334-2999 or via email at response_services@dioceseofcleveland.org.



STUDENT AND FAMILY RETREAT DAY

The Chesterton Academy of Akron is hosting a retreat Saturday, March 2nd from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at St. Paul Catholic Church (in the PAC) in Akron. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. for registration. Open to mature 6th graders through high school. Lunch provided. Adoration, Confession and Enrollment in the Brown Scapular for those interested in enrolling. Topics include Lesser-Known Marian Devotions, the Freedom of Discipline, Spiritual Warfare, Mental Prayer (St. Teresa of Avila), and Vocations. Parents are encouraged to attend a free talk with Father Pfeiffer on Mental Prayer at 2:00 p.m. in the Church. Cost is \$10.00 per student/\$30.00 per family. Please RSVP to caswindyknoll@yahoo.com and a registration form will be emailed to you to either mail in or bring with you on the morning of the retreat. Perfect for students who still need to complete a retreat for Confirmation and want to grow in their spiritual life! Please join us!!

ITE PROJECT WINTER HIKE

Join ITE in the Cuyahoga National Park for a memorable hike with friends on February 24th at 10:00 a.m. The hike begins at Boston Mills Visitor Center, hikes out to Brandywine Falls, and returns. It will occur independent of the weather unless there are storm watches or warnings for Summit County. The hike is not intended to be a spiritually-focused walk; rather, it is an opportunity for young adults to enjoy friendship and the outdoors. Please visit our website for more details: https://www.theiteproject.com/events/winterhike24.

ST. MARY'S SEMINARY LENTEN EVENT

St. Mary's presents a special Lenten event on March 1st, 2024. Starting with the Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m., it will be followed by a presentation by Fr. Chris Trenta, Professor of Liturgy at St. Mary's Seminary, in the church. He will be presenting on "The Liturgy of the Eucharist". This is promising to be an excellent talk befitting the Year of Eucharistic Revival. We look forward to seeing you there!



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THANK YOU! Your support directly impacts a family's ability to afford a Catholic education.

UXXASUNK₂

Women in the Akron area are invited to a free self-defense class! This one-night class, sponsored by Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh, will give women a chance to learn from certified self-defense instructor, Chad Cunningham, simple techniques to protect themselves from danger. The session is Tuesday, February 20 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Open M Food Pantry, 941 Princeton Street, Akron 44311. No registration is necessary. If you have questions, contact Elliot Kolkovich, 330-643-7751 or ekolkovich@prosecutor.summitoh.net



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