St. Francis de Sales Parish

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fr. Jeremy Merzweiler

Pastor

Fr. David Verbsky
Parochial Vicar

Raymond Herrick *Deacon*

Richard ButzDeacon, 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.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FEBRUARY 4, 2024



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)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, ST. AGATHA

8:15 a.m. Judy Rambacher

(Tom & Patty Hercules) Thomas Weber – Month's Mind Madeline Griffith – Month's Mind

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, ST. PAUL MIKI & COMPANIONS

8:15 a.m. Alice Fernandez (Kathie Masters)
6:30 p.m. Living & Deceased of the Shondel &

Deneke Families (Bill & Pat Shea)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

8:15 a.m. Eleanor Testa (Family)

Thomas Walsh – Anniversary of Death

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, ST. JEROME EMILIANI, ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

8:15 a.m. Joseph & Mildred Thiel (Carino Family)

6:30 p.m. Leo Hilt (LuAnn Thomas)

Edward Murawski – Anniversary of Death

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

8:15 a.m. Mary Franz (Family)

9:00 a.m. Ed Blackert (Daniel & Susan Wargo)

Lynne D'Andrea – Month's Mind

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, ST. SCHOLASTICA

8:15 a.m. Francesco Bonfiglio (Anna Fana) 5:00 p.m. Jim Mesko (Mike & Sue Ciccolini)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30 a.m. Pro Populo

9:00 a.m. John Matthews Sr. (Matthews Family)

11:00 a.m. Charles Marshall

(Aunt Mary Lu & Uncle Rex)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

 Monday:
 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Mk 6:53-56

 Tuesday:
 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10; Mk 7:14-23 **Thursday:** 1 Kgs 11:4-13; Mk 7:24-30

Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19; Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Mk 8:1-10

Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor 10:31–11:1;

Mk 1:40-45

Living for MORE!

Job spoke, saying: "Is not man's life on earth a drudgery? Are not his days those of hirelings? He is a slave who longs for the shade, a hireling who waits for his wages. So I have been assigned months of misery, and troubled nights have been allotted to me. If in bed I say, 'When shall I arise?' then the night drags on; I am filled with restlessness until the dawn..." (Job 7).

As we journey through these months of January, February and March, the quote from Henry David Thoreau comes to mind..." The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation." I can't help but think of this as we strive to wait for spring in the midst of a cold, dreary, sunless Ohio. We are waiting for buds to spring forth in our world and in our hearts. Like most of us, I am affected by the lack of sun. But while we are tempted to live a life of waiting in these months, we need to stop waiting and start living! The book of Job encourages us to ask ourselves, What is causing my misery? What is causing my restlessness? What is troubling me? In the Gospel, we see how people brought their troubles and problems to Jesus and He was able to do something about it. What a great invitation for us to stop holding onto our miseries and give them to Jesus!

The time is now to move from living a life of desperation and waiting, to a life of true living! The song from Switchfoot called "Meant to Live" comes to mind. Here are some of the lyrics...

We were meant to live for so much more,
Have we lost ourselves?
Somewhere we live inside.
We want more than this world's got to offer.
We want more than the wars of our fathers.
And everything inside screams for second life.



The second life that we long for comes to us at Easter at the Resurrection. Before that, as we approach Lent, we need to be truthful about our troubles, our miseries and our restlessness. Let's do something about them this coming season of Lent. But most of all, give them to Jesus so we can truly start living life the way God wants us to live – beyond ourselves and into the MORE of faith, hope and charity!

Start living today! Fr. Jeremy

P.S. Keep these dates free and open during Lent. God bless!

- March 1 Praise & Worship Evening with Fr. 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, 24 Tetelestai A musical portrayal of the trial, execution, and Resurrection of Jesus the Messiah

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- 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.
- Donut Sunday, after all Sunday Masses (Gym)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- PSR, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- First Communion Parent Meeting, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (Church)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- 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 8

- 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 the Sanctification of Priests, 7:00-7:30 p.m.
- Stephen Ministry Continuing Education & Supervision Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Holy Family Room)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Young Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Senior Valentine's Day Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (Memorare Center)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- Confirmation Formation, 9:00 a.m. Mass then to the Gym until noon
- Boy Scouts, 4:30-6:00 p.m. (Gym)
- Youth Group Super Bowl Party, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Night Prayer, 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 this slot, 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 Robbins Family received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

COLLECTION INFORMATION

January 27/28

,	Offertory	
Sunday	\$	13,888.00
Assessment	\$	100.00
Capital	\$	75.00
School	\$	40.00
Catholic University	\$	5.00
Latin American Missions	\$	645.00
TOTAL	\$	14,753.00
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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.







REQUEST FOR 2023 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

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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 will be 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

In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience winters in their personal lives. A recent loss through death, divorce, or relocation may leave them feeling lonely. A hospitalization, a cancer diagnosis, or ongoing medical problems may leave them feeling isolated. The loss of a job, the fear of layoffs, or a financial setback can devastate one's self-esteem. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn for support. If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring God's warm love back into your life. They provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, to support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your crisis. To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, contact 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.

MASS FOR VOCATIONS

Please join the Akron Serra Club for their monthly Mass for Religious Vocations. This month the Mass will be celebrated at St. Francis de Sales Parish on Saturday, February 17 at 8:15 a.m. The Serra Club fosters and promotes vocations to the ministerial priesthood and consecrated religious life. If you are interested in learning more about the Akron Serra Club, a representative will be available after Mass to answer questions.

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:

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

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. on February 12 & 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).

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/.

"Thou knowest, O my God, who madest us, that nothing can satisfy us but Thyself, and, therefore, Thou hast caused Thy own self to be meat and drink to us."

– St. John Henry Newman



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!

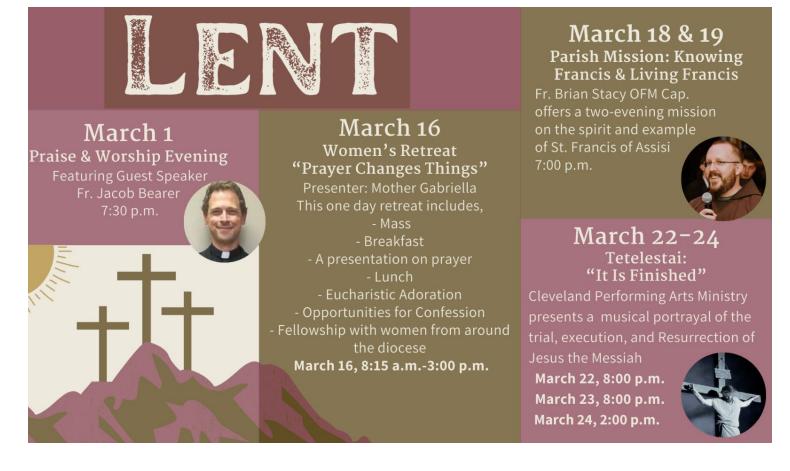
March 18 and 19, 7:00 p.m., Memorare Center

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.







CATHOLIC CHARITIES ANNUAL APPEAL



The 2024 Catholic Charities Appeal will take place next Charities weekend, February 10 and 11 at our parish. This year's

Appeal theme is "Transformed by Your Love." Thank you in advance for sharing your gifts. Your generous support will transform the lives of others, to offer dignity, possibilities, and companionship to those who are most vulnerable.

ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT 2024

Save the date for our Annual Women's Retreat, March 16 from 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This year, the retreat will focus on "Prayer Changes Things." The day includes:

- Mass
- Breakfast & Lunch
- A presentation on prayer by Mother Gabriella
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Opportunities for Confession
- Fellowship with women from around the diocese.

We hope you can join us and will invite your family and friends to share this day of renewal with the Lord!

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/. If you or your business is interested in becoming a sponsor for the event, please see the flyer on the following page.

FAMILY PRAYER FOR STUDENTS

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

WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

This Sunday we celebrate World Day for Consecrated Life. We recognize and give thanks for those who have consecrated their lives to God and the Church through the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. The consecrated life is one way that women and men live out their baptismal commitments as followers of Jesus. Please pray for all those who have made their commitments in the consecrated life and be sure to thank them on their special day.

CATHOLICS IN RECOVERY

The Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous are being presented and explained each month, one step per month at Saint Paul Catholic Church in conjunction with a wonderful Catholic Resource. This is a parish cluster group. All are welcome, no matter what the addiction or, how you think you may have been affected. It's a family disease. Education makes a difference. The next meeting will be February 17 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 111 and will cover Step 2. Call Ellen and Bill at 330-801-0463 to find out more.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Cluster Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, February 13, 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.

MASS FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF PRIESTS

Please join us for a Mass for the Sanctification of Priests and Vocations on Thursday, February 15th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul Parish, 1580 Brown Street, Akron. Holy Mass will be followed by a Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction. Please come to this Mass to pray with us.

THEOLOGY ON THE ROCKS

Join us on Monday, February 12th at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Cedars, 507 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road in Fairlawn as we welcome our guest speaker Fr. Norm Douglas, Pastor St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Akron. He will be speaking on the topic: "A Lenten Quest: Getting Centered in an off Centered World." Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m. \$15.00 admission fee. Light appetizers included. Cash bar available. To ensure an accurate count for our venue. RSVP to Keith Johnson. by February 5 at johnsonk@stsebastian.org or 330-836-2233, ext. 134. Sponsored by St. Sebastian Parish, Akron.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FEST 2024

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 4, 2024 for an inspiring day of faith, family and fun - all for FREE - The FEST. Join us on the campus of the Center for Pastoral Leadership (home of our seminaries) in Wickliffe, Ohio. Come and hear the best Contemporary Christian musicians: Casting Crowns, We the Kingdom, Cochran and Company. The FEST will close out the day with a beautiful outdoor Mass at 8:00 p.m.



Thank you for contributing to the success of our fundraiser benefiting St. Francis de Sales Parish School!





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- If you are a business, email your logo to Mrs. Dougherty

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- If you are a business, email your logo to Mrs. Dougherty



Please send in all donations and business logos prior to Friday, February 9, 2024.

Business Logos

Color logos preferred!

Please send to:

Mrs. Katie Dougherty

mrskdougherty@stfparishschool.org

Checks payable to

St. Francis de Sales School 4009 Manchester Rd, Akron, OH 44319

Tax ID: 34-079644

St. Francis de Sales Church is within the Diocese of Cleveland and is a tax exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the 1986 Internal Revenue Code.

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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