

The measure of love is to love without measure.

# St. Francis de Sales Parish

**BE FAITH-FILLED. BE OF SERVICE. BE DEVOUT.**



## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### Masses

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

### Confessions

Thursday: 5:30-6:15 p.m.  
Saturday: 9:00-9:45 a.m.  
or call the office to make an appointment.

### Adoration

Monday 7:00-8:00 a.m., 6:00-10:00 p.m.,  
Tuesday-Friday, 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.  
(breaking for Masses)

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Please call the parish office at 330-644-2225  
to make arrangements for

**Baptisms | Anointing of the Sick  
Funerals | Weddings**

Arrangements for weddings are to be made  
at least six months prior to the wedding date.

## EDUCATION

**St. Francis de Sales Parish School**  
330-644-0638 | [stfparishschool.org](http://stfparishschool.org)

**PSR, Youth Ministry & Faith Formation**  
Call the parish office at 330-644-2225  
to enroll or find out more.

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,  
MARY, & JOSEPH  
DECEMBER 29, 2024**



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,  
MARY & JOSEPH**

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo  
9:00 a.m. Carol Swam (Sister, Linda)  
11:00 a.m. Marie Kendrick (Daughter)  
Nicholas Polano – Anniversary of Death

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 30**

- 8:15 a.m. Jeanie Sandlin Hays (Mary Tammany)

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, ST. SYLVESTER**

- 8:15 a.m. Miles G. Morris (Family)  
5:00 p.m. Pro Populo  
John Andrews – Anniversary of Death

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, MARY, THE MOTHER OF  
GOD**

- 9:00 a.m. Thomas & Jessica Weber  
(Amy & Jim Hilton)  
11:00 a.m. Margaret Swenberg (Joe & Carolina Fatica)

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, SS. BASIL THE GREAT &  
GREGORY NAZIANZEN**

- 8:15 a.m. Rick Vannan (Pat Sine)  
6:30 p.m. Anointing Mass  
Donald Knee (Pauline Knee)

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS**

- 8:15 a.m. Francesco Bonfiglio (Sister, Anna)

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON**

- 8:15 a.m. Pat Wise (John Duckworth)  
5:00 p.m. John Andrews (Marguerite Andrews)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo  
9:00 a.m. Jim Eckman (Family)  
11:00 a.m. Pam Brown & Her Family  
(Jim & Lori Gutbrod)  
Thomas Weber – Anniversary of Death  
Madeline Griffith – Anniversary of Death

**A BLESSED FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY AND  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

A few weeks ago, I had the joy of going to watch *Home Alone* at the Akron Civic Theatre with my family. Afterward, Macaulay Culkin was there to answer questions and share about his experience filming the movie. It was splendid. Even though I have seen *Home Alone* many, many times – especially as my nieces and nephews have fallen in love with the movie now – I was surprisingly touched by the scene when Kevin meets old man Marley in the church. Kevin confesses to not being that good of a kid and saying things he shouldn't have. Even though he said bad things to his family, he really loved them, especially his brother.

Marley then said, *"Deep down, you'll always love him. But you can forget that you love him. You can hurt them, and they can hurt you."* Then Marley proceeded to talk about how he is not welcome with his son because he had an argument with him, they lost their tempers, and he said he didn't care to see him anymore. His son said the same and they haven't spoke to each other since. Then Kevin asked something so simple and profound: *"If you miss him, why don't you call him?"* Marley said because he was afraid he won't talk to him. Kevin then challenged him to call his son. *"What if he won't talk to me?"* Marley asked. Kevin reminds him, *"At least you'll know. Then you could stop worrying about it. Then you won't have to be afraid anymore. I don't care how mad I was, I'd talk to my dad, especially around the holidays...just give it a shot, for your granddaughter anyway. I'm sure she misses you, and the presents."*

Perhaps you find yourself in a situation similar to Marley's with your own family. Like those teachers in the temple who sat with the little child Jesus in today's gospel – who were astounded at His understanding and answers – Marley indeed was surprised at Kevin's wisdom and guidance as they sat in church together.



Don't be afraid. Reach out in love. We know love conquers all fear. Life is too short to worry about how someone may react if you reach out to them in love. Make this year of 2025 a time to humbly approach your family members in love and begin living the words St. Paul gave us in the second reading: *"Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do."* What if they don't respond back in love? Like Kevin says, *"At least you'll know... Then you can stop worrying about it."*

**Have a Blessed New Year,  
Fr. Jeremy**

P.S. Come to the Ministry Fair in the Gym next Sunday, January 5 after the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses. Grab a donut and learn about the different ministries we offer at St. Francis. Peace!

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40  
**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18  
**Wednesday:** Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21  
**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28  
**Friday:** 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42  
**Sunday:** Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

**WEEKLY CALENDAR****SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

- College Student Retreat Day, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 30**

- No school  
- Parish Office Open  
- Red Cross Blood Drive, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
(Memorare Center)

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31**

- No School  
- Parish Office Closed  
- Holy Day Vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1**

- Happy New Year and Feast of Mary, Mother of God!  
- Masses celebrated at 9:00 a.m., & 11:00 a.m.  
- No Adoration  
- AA/Al-Anon 7:30-9:00 p.m. (Upper Room)

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 2**

- No School  
- Parish Office Closed

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 3**

- No School  
- Parish Office Open

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 4**

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)  
- First Saturday Devotions, following 8:15 a.m. Mass

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5**

- Ministry Fair & Donut Sunday  
- Cub Scouts, 4:30 p.m. (Refectory)  
- Boy Scouts, 4:30 p.m. (Gym)

**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

Due to an early bulletin deadline for Christmas, the collection information from December 21 & 22 will be published in a forthcoming bulletin.

*Our parish is blessed by your generosity!*

While we celebrate the Christmas season, the Parish Office will be closed most days between December 24 and January 2. We will be open on the following dates: Monday, December 30 and Friday, January 3. The parish staff wishes you the joy, peace, hope, and love of Christ this Christmas season!

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

The Red Cross will host a blood drive at St. Francis de Sales in the Memorare Center on Monday, December 30 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

PARISH STAFF	ROLE AND EMAIL
Fr. Jeremy Merzweiler	<b>Pastor</b> frmerzweiler@stfparish.com
Fr. David Verbsky	<b>Parochial Vicar</b> frverbsky@stfparish.com
Dc. Raymond Herrick	<b>Deacon</b> deaconherrick@stfparish.com
Dc. Richard Butz	<b>Retired Deacon</b> deaconbutz@gmail.com
Kathryn Dougherty	<b>Principal</b> mrskdougherty@stfparishschool.org
Kara Lloyd	<b>School Secretary</b> mrslloyd@stfparishschool.org
Therese Holderbaum	<b>Parish Secretary &amp; Bookkeeper</b> tholderbaum@stfparish.com
Colleen McVicker	<b>Director of Music Ministry</b> cmcvicker@stfparish.com
Shirley Clark	<b>Liturgical Life Coordinator</b> sclark@stfparish.com
Abby Gresser	<b>Director of Youth &amp; Family Faith Formation</b> agresser@stfparish.com
Dennis Ott	<b>Project Manager</b> dott@stfparish.com
Joe Turk	<b>Business Manager</b> jturk@stfparish.com
Chris Robbins	<b>Parish Life Coordinator</b> crobbins@stfparish.com
Colleen Wilson	<b>Communications Coordinator</b> cwilson@stfparish.com
Susan Undercoffer	<b>Administrative Assistant</b> sundercoffer@stfparish.com
Ann Coutts	<b>VIRTUS Coordinator</b> acoutts@stfparish.com

**ADORERS NEEDED**

Adorers are needed for the following times:

Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 p.m., Tuesdays 5:00-5:30 p.m., & Fridays 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Call Joanne at 330-338-4810, if you are able to help with these times.

**GET PARISH UPDATES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!**

Sign up for Flocknote to receive text or email updates on Mass times, weather cancellations, ministry information and more. To sign up, text *STFDS* to 84576 or sign up online at [stfrancisdesalesparish1.flocknote.com](http://stfrancisdesalesparish1.flocknote.com).

**A MESSAGE FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Happy New Year from all of the Stephen Ministers at St. Francis de Sales Parish! As we look forward to a new year, know that Stephen Ministry will be traveling 2025 with you to offer prayers and support during any difficulties you may find along your way. To find out more about how a Stephen Minister can support you during a difficult time, contact one of our Stephen Leaders Ann Clark ([aclark2@stfparish.com](mailto:aclark2@stfparish.com)) or Bill Dickey ([wdickey@stfparish.com](mailto:wdickey@stfparish.com)). You can also request more information or submit a prayer request in the prayer box located in the narthex at the back of the church. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you.





**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

### GIFTS FOR BABY JESUS

The collection of baby items for the Embrace Clinic and Care Center in Barberton concludes this weekend, December 28 and 29. There is 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 annually. The center expressed the need for children's clothing up to size 4 (i.e., underwear, socks, 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, NW, Barberton, OH 44203. Thank you very much from the Respect Life Ministry.

### HOW CAN YOU SERVE IN 2025?

Our parish has an amazing range of ministries, bringing the love of Christ to people in all kinds of situations. Come discover these ministries next Sunday, January 5 after the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses. Donuts and coffee will be available. Maybe you will find a new way to put your talents at the service of others this year.



## CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS TIMES



### **The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

*Holy Day of Obligation*

*Tuesday, December 31, Vigil – 5:00 p.m.*

*Wednesday, January 1 – 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.*

### **Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord**

*Saturday, January 4, Vigil – 5:00 p.m.*

*Sunday, January 5 – 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,*

*11:00 a.m.*


### **Feast of The Baptism of the Lord**

*Saturday, January 11, Vigil – 5:00 p.m.*

*Sunday, January 12 – 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,*

*11:00 a.m.*

*"A savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."*



**CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME**

Saturday, January 11  
9:00 a.m.

If you or someone you know has been away from the Catholic Church for a while, this Christmas season is a wonderful time to come back home, and our parish welcomes all! To help returning Catholics rediscover the faith, St. Francis is offering a one-morning session on Saturday, January 11 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending by noon that will include breakfast, stories from parishioners who returned to the Church after years and even decades away, talks on the Eucharist and Reconciliation, and a opportunity to ask questions about the faith and Church teaching. Contact Joanne Reich with any questions at 330-338-4810.

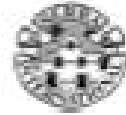
### LIVING IN CHRIST'S FREEDOM

Although we know that Jesus came to give us life and set us free, we often times live consumed with fear, self-concern, worry, and the like. Fr. Jacques Philippe will guide us in how to live this freedom as daughters of God, and to connect more deeply to Jesus, the source of our life and freedom, as we study his book, *Interior Freedom*. The Women's Study Group meets on Tuesdays, 9:00-11:00 a.m., in the Memorare Center, and we begin this journey on January 7th. For help getting a book, contact Michelle at [mypower36@yahoo.com](mailto:mypower36@yahoo.com). For questions, contact Lori at [gutbrods@att.net](mailto:gutbrods@att.net).

Support the seminarians at Borromeo and St. Mary Seminaries with your prayers by using this monthly prayer calendar. Each day is designated for one of the 54 seminarians as well as our Pope, Bishops, Clergy, and other related intentions. Keep this insert in a place where you can see it each day and thoughtfully say a prayer of support for the name listed on that day. Pray also for those who are discerning a vocation.



# January 2025



Seminarian Calendar prepared by Parents of Priests – Diocese of Cleveland  
 Calendar at: [seminarians.parents-of-priests.com](http://seminarians.parents-of-priests.com)  
 Priests and Seminarians calendar online at: [priests.StPatrick.cc](http://priests.StPatrick.cc)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><i>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.</i>  <small>2 Corinthians 5:17-</small></p>			1 Cameron Galla Borromeo	2 Luke Liptak Borromeo	3 Dominic Mellino Borromeo	4 Adam Osbourne Borromeo (Capuchins)
<p><i>Pray for Pope Francis</i></p>	6 Dylan Perman Borromeo	7 Dylan Rhoad Borromeo	8 John Paul Antalek Borromeo	9 Dylan Ennis Borromeo	10 Tate Johnson Borromeo	11 Dominic Kucera Borromeo
<p><i>Pray for Bishop Malesic</i></p>	12 Christopher Yankay Borromeo	14 Thomas Byrne Borromeo	15 Joseph Hoang Borromeo (Capuchins)	16 Daniel Liberatore Borromeo	17 Nathan Menkhaus Borromeo	18 William Myers Borromeo
<p><i>Pray for Government Officials</i></p>	19 Zachary Smith Borromeo (Capuchins)	21 Matthew Wasinski Borromeo	22 Andrew Bendahan Borromeo	23 Brent Feorene Borromeo	24 Andrew Herbst Borromeo	25 Jacob Huzyak Borromeo (Youngstown)
<p><i>Pray for Bishop Woost</i></p>	26 Daniel Jordan Borromeo	28 Vincent Labosky Borromeo	29 Andrew Turpin Borromeo	30 Steven Vasko Borromeo (Youngstown)	31 Steven Vavro Borromeo	

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for the 2024-2025 school year. Our goal for  
2025-2026 is \$250,000!



ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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### YOUNG WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT GROUP

Seeking God's will for one's vocation can be exciting yet intimidating. Sometimes we feel like we do not know where to start. The St. Francis de Sales Young Women's Discernment Group is a place for women seeking to hear and answer God's call to find fellowship and spiritual growth. Starting in January, the group will be reading *The Discernment of Spirits: An Ignatian Guide to Everyday Living* by Fr. Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V. Meetings are on the second and fourth Monday of each month 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Memorare Center beginning Monday, January 13. To join the group and find out more, please contact Colleen Wilson at [cwilson@stfparish.com](mailto:cwilson@stfparish.com) or 330-644-2225.

### YOUNG AT HEART

The Queen of Heaven Young at Heart will meet on January 6, 2025 in the Parish Life Center, rooms 7 & 8 at 1:00 p.m. The speaker is Amy Hirnikl, RN, BSN who will talk about: "How to Prevent Falls, and Prevent Injuries."

### THEOLOGY ON THE ROCKS

Join St. Sebastian Parish on Monday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m., as they welcome our guest speaker Fr. Michael Marcelli, Parochial Vicar, St. Sebastian Parish in Akron at Our Lady of the Cedars, 507 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road in Fairlawn. The topic is "Suicide and Euthanasia." Appetizers at 7:00 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m. \$15.00 admission fee. Light appetizers included. Cash bar available.

### NATIVITY TOURS

The Bethlehem Cave and Nativity Museum at Nativity of the Lord Jesus Catholic Church, 2425 Myersville Road, Akron, is open for guided tours at 2:00 p.m. daily December 26-30. Visit a replica of the cave where Jesus was born and view over 400 Nativity sets from around the world. There is no charge for the tours. Donations will be accepted. For information, email [tours@nativityofthelord.org](mailto:tours@nativityofthelord.org) or call 330-699-5086 weekdays 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

### HELP FOR STRUGGLING MARRIAGES

Retrouvaille is a unique program to renew, strengthen and heal your marriage, beginning January 17-19, 2025. The Retrouvaille program is designed to help married couples develop improved ways of communicating and relating to each other in order to overcome challenges which have left them feeling frustrated, hurt, distant, or even hopeless. Retrouvaille, which means rediscovery, is open to couples of all faiths and is supported by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. This program consists of a weekend experience and six follow-up sessions. For more information or to register, visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) or call Shelly or Rob at 216-509-0301 or 440-836-4810.

### DIOCESAN WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT GATHERING

The Diocese of Cleveland's Vocation Office is hosting evenings of prayer and fellowship for women 18 and over who are discerning their vocations. The next event will be January 11, 2025, at the Center for Pastor Leadership, 28700 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe, OH 44092. The evening will include a 6:00 p.m. Holy Hour in the Sacred Heart Chapel (bring your Bible, journal, spiritual reading, rosary, etc.), a Vigil Mass at 7:00 p.m., a social after Mass, and Night Prayer at 9:30 p.m.



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