

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.

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
JANUARY 19, 2025**



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, SECOND SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**

- 7:30 a.m. Barrett Rogers (Bill & Anne Richards)  
9:00 a.m. Deceased of the Caruso &  
Carcione Families (Family)  
11:00 a.m. Bill Wilson (Jean DeLane)

**MONDAY, JANUARY 20, ST. FABIAN & ST. SEBASTIAN**

- 8:15 a.m. Hager Family (Margaret Zeis)  
*Irene Wilkinson – Month's Mind*

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, ST. AGNES**

- 8:15 a.m. Magdalena Felder (Marty & Liz Misbrenner)

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, DAY OF PRAYER FOR  
THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN**

- 8:15 a.m. Betty J. Phillips (Ann Marie Phillips)  
*Theresa Drexler – Anniversary of Death*

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, ST. VINCENT**

- 8:15 a.m. Vicky Bhe (Family)  
6:30 p.m. Freddy Miller (Parents)

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, ST. FRANCIS DE SALES**

- 8:15 a.m. Barb & Katie Duckworth (John Duckworth)  
9:00 a.m. St. Francis de Sales School Students

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL**

- 8:15 a.m. Thomas Michel (Dan & Karen Crookston)  
5:00 p.m. Margaret Swenberg (Family)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, THIRD SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo  
9:00 a.m. Paul Neugebauer (Vince & Linda Greczanik)  
11:00 a.m. Christine Naso (Ann & Ed Clark)

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday:** Heb 5:1-10; Mk 2:18-22  
**Tuesday:** Heb 6:10-20; Mk 2:23-28  
**Wednesday:** Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Mk 3:1-6  
**Thursday:** Heb 7:25-8:6; Mk 3:7-12  
**Friday:** Heb 8:6-13; Mk 3:13-19  
**Saturday:** Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Mk 16:15-18  
**Sunday:** Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-30 or  
1 Cor 12:12-14, 27; Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

**THE YEAR OF JUBILEE 2025:  
PILGRIMS OF HOPE**

Recently, I found this explanation of the Jubilee Year of Hope in the St. John the Evangelist Cathedral Bulletin. Enjoy... The Holy Father has announced that 2025 is a Jubilee Year, something which happens every 25 years. The theme for Jubilee 2025 is "Pilgrims of Hope," and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the COVID pandemic, and the climate crisis. In the Diocese of Cleveland, the Jubilee Year 2025 was opened on Sunday, December 29, with a solemn procession to the Cathedral with Mass at 5:30 p.m.

The Jubilee Year is a special year of grace, in which the Church offers the faithful the possibility of obtaining a plenary indulgence. Bishop Malesic has designated ten locations as Sacred Sites and places of pilgrimage in the Diocese of Cleveland at which the plenary indulgence may be obtained:

- St. Edward Parish, Ashland
- Cathedral of John the Evangelist, Cleveland
- St. Mary Parish, Chardon
- Immaculate Conception Parish, Madison
- Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Lorain
- St. Colette Parish, Brunswick
- Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Euclid
- Queen of the Holy Rosary Shrine, Parma Heights
- Shrine of Saint Ann, Highland Heights

For more information, please visit: <http://dioceseofcleveland.org/pilgrims-of-hope>.

What do I do on a pilgrimage? The journey to and from the pilgrimage site is an occasion for communal prayer or devotional practices. A pilgrimage can also be an opportunity for peaceful, quiet contemplation. Communal activities may include singing sacred songs, participation at Mass or the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or praying the Rosary. Personal prayers may include the Apostles' Creed, the Rosary, and novenas. Prayers and devotions to the saints associated with the sacred site are also options for pilgrimages.

**LENTEN MISSION**

In roughly two months, St. Francis de Sales will be offering a **Parish Mission** that focuses on this Jubilee Year of Hope. We will welcome back our three most recent priestly sons of the parish for a **three-week series on Thursday evenings. They will celebrate the 6:30 p.m. Mass and then give a talk offering the reason for their hope** in the times in which we find ourselves.

- On **March 13**, we welcome home **Fr. Matt Jordan**, Pastor of St. Michael's, Independence.
- On **March 20**, we welcome home **Fr. Alex Clark**, Parochial Vicar of St. John Vianney, Mentor.
- On **March 27**, we welcome home **Fr. David Stavarz**, Administrator of Holy Family, Parma.

Please mark your calendars. I look forward to their presence here in their home parish and their willingness to help us enter into the Hope of our lives, Jesus Christ!

**God give you HOPE,  
Fr. Jeremy**



**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19**

- Children’s Liturgy of the Word, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- Sensory-Friendly Mass, 4:00 p.m. (Church)
- Boy Scouts, 4:30 p.m. (Gym)
- Cub Scouts, 4:30 p.m. (Refectory)
- Youth Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)

**MONDAY, JANUARY 20**

- No School
- Parish Office Closed
- No PSR & Ignite

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 21**

- Women’s Study Group, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22**

- Senior Euchre Group, 1:00-4:00 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (Upper Room)

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 23**

- Thursday Scripture Group, 12:30-3:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Open, 6:00-6:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 24**

- Happy Feast of St. Francis de Sales!
- Youth Choir, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Church)
- ITE Project Games Night, 7:00 p.m. (Memorare Center)

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25**

- Men’s Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26**

- School Open House after 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Masses
- Children’s Liturgy of the Word, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- Prayers for Healing, after the 11:00 a.m. Mass, meet by the St. Anthony Statue
- Boy Scouts, 4:30 p.m. (Gym)
- Youth Group attending the Priests vs. Seminarians Basketball Game, meet at the Memorare Center at 4:45 p.m.

**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

January 11 & 12

	Offertory
Sunday	\$ 13,916.00
Assessment	\$ 260.00
Capital	\$ 60.00
School	\$ 20.00
Christmas	\$ 100.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$ 10.00
Diocesan Mission	\$ 5.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 14,371.00</b>

*Our parish is blessed by your generosity!*

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
Katy Markovich	<b>VIRTUS Coordinator</b> kmarkovich@stfparish.com



**ADORER NEEDED**

An adorer is needed for the following time:  
Tuesdays, 2:00-3:00 p.m.  
Call Joanne at 330-338-4810, if you are able to help with this time.

**HELP FEED THE HUNGRY**

Want to help our neighbors in need? Our parish is teaming up with Mother of Sorrows Parish on Saturday, February 1 to distribute food at the Ozanam Center at Visitation of Mary Catholic Church, 93 Kent Street Akron, OH 44305. Volunteers will meet at the center at 9:00 a.m.






**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

**OUCH!**

Does sitting on the hard wooden pews make you achy or uncomfortable? Did you know our parish has seat cushions that are always available for use? In the narthex of the church against the wall to the left of the statue of St. Francis de Sales, there is a wooden box filled with brown seat cushions that are free for anyone to use during Mass or prayer time. Simply take a cushion and return it when you are done!

**REQUEST FOR 2024  
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope #: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

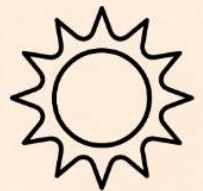
**Please place this completed form in the collection basket and your statement will be mailed to you.**

**ASK, SEEK, KNOCK!**

Our Lord Jesus urges us to ask, seek and knock, and He promises the door will be opened to us! He is our Savior and our Healer and is still healing bodies and souls in 2025! The St. Francis de Sales Healing Ministry is available to pray with you in seeking healing every fourth Sunday, following the 11:00 a.m. Mass (around 12:00 Noon). Do you have an upcoming surgery or diagnostic test that may be of concern? Do you have an illness, whether acute or chronic and ongoing? Jesus is waiting for you to ask, seek, and knock, and He will pour grace upon you! Please also consider your friends, neighbors, and other loved ones who may benefit from healing prayer. This is open to anyone.

**St. Francis de Sales Parish**

Save the Date



**Vacation Bible  
School**



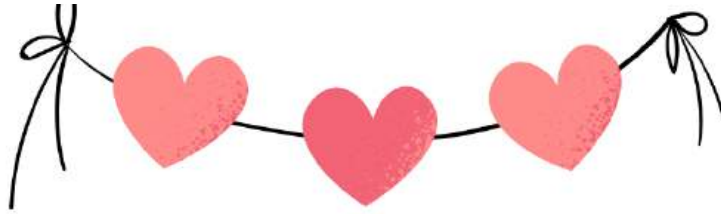
**June 16-20, 2025**

**CYO TEAM MASS SUNDAY**

Today we celebrate Team Mass Sunday. We would like to thank all our coaches, parents, families and friends for their continued support of our players through this winter season. Please help us take a moment and pray this short prayer over all those who are involved in our CYO program here at St. Francis de Sales Parish. Go Falcons!

*Strong and faithful God, we ask you to bless these athletes. Keep them safe from injury and harm, instill in them respect for each other, and reward them for their perseverance. Lead us all to the rewards of your kingdom where you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.*

Be on the lookout in the next bulletin as Spring Sports Sign-ups will open January 27th. Track and Field (1st-8th), Girls and Boys Volleyball (3rd-8th), Baseball (TBD), Softball (TBD), Lacrosse (TBD). Coaches are needed for ALL sports this season. New and returning coaches please reach out now to Athletic Director Katie Kinsinger at [athleticdirector@stfparish.com](mailto:athleticdirector@stfparish.com) or 330-714-1777 to start the process as coaching classes are fast approaching.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

*Senior  
Valentine's Day  
Luncheon*



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH  
11:30AM - 2PM**

**FOOD  
GAMES  
PRIZES**



**ST. FRANCIS DE SALES  
MEMORARE CENTER**

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



Our St. Francis de Sales family has been a tremendous help to our local crisis pregnancy center, Embrace Clinic and Care Center in Barberton. Thank you for the participation in the collection of baby items every Christmas. Sometimes in the work of the Respect Life Ministry, people may wonder what is done to assist the women who keep their babies. There is a need to provide these women with hands-on help with crisis pregnancies and care needed once they have their little ones. The center is in need of volunteers to make this practical help a reality. Men and women are welcome. Women in particular are needed to chat one on one with the clients. If you would like to learn more, you can call or come in to tour the facility. The phone number is 330-825-1900. They are open 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. every weekday. Training is provided to fit your needs. Please prayerfully consider if you can make a difference. Thank you from the Respect Life Ministry.



### 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, talk with Ann Clark (aclark2@stfparish.com) or Bill Dickey (wdickey@stfparish.com). Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

### PRAY FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF LIFE

This Wednesday, January 22 is the National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. On that day, please take a moment to pray that our nation will embrace and protect life at its most vulnerable – in the womb. If you would like to join with others in praying for the protection of life at all stages on a regular basis, Right to Life of Northeast Ohio hosts weekly Zoom prayer meetings on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. To join the group, email Sarah McGervey at smcgervey@rtlofneo.com.

### YOUNG ADULTS GAME NIGHT

Join The ITE Project for a Board Game Night on Friday, January 24 at St. Francis de Sales in the Memorare Center. Join us from 7:00-9:00 p.m. for fellowship, fun, snacks, and a little competitive board game play. It is sure to be a fun night out! Mark your calendars and be sure to RSVP at the event page on our website! We cannot wait to see you! More details on our website at <https://www.theiteproject.com/calendar>.

### COMMUNITY CASHBACK

Do you shop at Acme? You can help our school just by saving your receipts! Please turn in any receipts dated August 1, 2024 through February 15, 2025 to the parish or school office in an envelope labeled "Community Cash Back, Attn: Maggie Klatt." Thank you for your help in this easy fundraiser for our school children!



### THEOLOGY ON THE ROCKS

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Theology on the Rocks scheduled for January 20 is POSTPONED until February 17. Fr. Marcelli will give his presentation on "Suicide and Euthanasia" at that time. We apologize for any inconvenience.

## Three EASY steps to support St. Francis de Sales Parish School!



1. **Review your tax liability from last year** (2023 1040 IT, line 8c) to help estimate the amount of your tax liability this year.
2. **Make an ASF donation by April 15 at:** [www.catholiccommunity.org/angel](http://www.catholiccommunity.org/angel). While your donation can be any amount, the scholarship tax credit is limited to \$750 per taxpayer (\$1,500 for married filing jointly) and cannot exceed your state tax liability for 2024.
3. **Claim the scholarship tax credit on your 2024 Ohio income tax return.** You will receive a receipt for your Angel Scholarship donation that can be sent with your 2024 state tax return to obtain the credit.





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