

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.

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
FEBRUARY 16, 2025**



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo  
9:00 a.m. John Matthews, Sr. (Matthews Family)  
11:00 a.m. Kathy Backer (Tony & Mary Heyden)

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS OF THE SERVITE ORDER**

- 8:15 a.m. Dorothy Mayfield (Burch Family)

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

- 8:15 a.m. Al Chruscial (John Duckworth)

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

- 8:15 a.m. Edgar Dale Melton (Terry & Kathy Perona)

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

- 8:15 a.m. Living & Deceased of the Senior Euchre Group (The Group)  
6:30 p.m. Todd Brown (Charlotte Miller)

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, ST. PETER DAMIAN**

- 8:15 a.m. Sandy Fair (Mimi McDonald)  
9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of the Skello & Ferguson Families (John Wagner)

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER**

- 8:15 a.m. Kenneth Logsdon (Diana Logsdon)  
5:00 p.m. George Caroff (Wife, Carol)

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo  
9:00 a.m. Intentions of Marie & Tom McNeill (Sarah & Luke McNeill)  
11:00 a.m. Gloria DiGiacomo (John & Marianna DiGiacomo)  
*Fr. Schleicher's Anniversary of Death*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday:** Gen 4:1-15, 25; Mk 8:11-13  
**Tuesday:** Gen 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Mk 8:14-21  
**Wednesday:** Gen 8:6-13, 20-22; Mk 8:22-26  
**Thursday:** Gen 9:1-13; Mk 8:27-33  
**Friday:** Gen 11:1-9; Mk 8:34-9:1  
**Saturday:** 1 Pet 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19  
**Sunday:** 1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38

**HEALING PRAYERS**

Just last week, on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, I invited everyone at the morning Mass and school Mass to pray for healing. Afterward, a number of you asked for those prayers. These come from the prayers Abbot Clement, OSB used to share in his healing ministry. Enjoy!

**Miracle Prayer**

Lord Jesus, I come before You just as I am, I am sorry for my sins, I repent of my sins, please forgive me. In Your Name, I forgive all others for what they have done against me. I renounce Satan, the evil spirits and all their works. I give You my entire self, Lord Jesus, now and forever. I invite You into my life, Jesus. I accept You as my Lord, God and Savior. Heal me, change me, strengthen me in body, soul, and spirit. Come Lord Jesus, cover me with Your Precious Blood, and fill me with Your Holy Spirit.

I love You, Lord Jesus. I praise You, Jesus. I thank You, Jesus. I shall follow You every day of my life. Amen.

Mary, my Mother, Queen of Peace, St. Peregrine, the cancer saint, all the Angels and Saints, please help me. Amen.

**Prayer for Inner Healing**

Lord Jesus, You come to heal our wounded and troubled hearts, I beg You to heal the torments that cause anxiety in my heart; I beg You, in a particular way, to heal all who are the cause of sin. I beg You to come into my life and heal me of the psychological harms that struck me in my early years and from the injuries that they caused throughout my life.



Lord Jesus, You know my burdens. I lay them all on Your Good Shepherd's Heart I beseech You – by the merits of the great, open wound in Your heart – to heal the small wounds that are in mine. Heal the pain of my memories, so that nothing that has happened to me will cause me to remain in pain and anguish, filled with anxiety.

Heal, O Lord, all those wounds that have been the cause of all the evil that is rooted in my life. I want to forgive all those who have offended me. Look to those inner sores that make me unable to forgive. You came to forgive the afflicted of heart: please, heal my own heart.

Heal, my Lord Jesus, those intimate wounds that cause me physical illness. I offer You my heart. Accept it, Lord, purify it and give me the sentiments of Your Divine Heart. Help me to be meek and humble. Heal me, O Lord, from the pain caused by the death of my loved ones, which is oppressing me. Grant me to regain peace and joy.

In the knowledge that You are the Resurrection and the Life. Make me authentic witness to Your Resurrection, Your victory over sin and death, Your living presence among us. Amen.

**Lord, heal us,  
Fr. Jeremy**

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

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

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

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

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

- Holy Angels Formation, 3:30 p.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Talk on Angels, 6:00 p.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Flow in Faith, 6:00 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)
- Guardian Angels, 7:15 p.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (Upper Room)

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

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

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

- Men’s Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Rosary, 8:45 a.m. (Church)

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

- Children’s Liturgy of the Word, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- Prayers for Healing, after 11:00 a.m. Mass, meet by the St. Anthony statue
- Boy Scouts, 4:30 p.m. (Gym)
- Youth Group, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)

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

**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**February 8 & 9**

	Offertory	Faith Direct
Sunday	\$ 12,286.50	\$ 12,824.04
Assessment	\$ 192.00	\$ 145.00
Capital	\$ 445.00	\$ 220.00
School	\$ 265.00	\$ 345.00
Missions	\$ 259.00	
Seminarian Scholarship		\$ 20.00
Special Gifts		\$ 400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 13,447.50</b>	<b>\$ 13,954.04</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 27,401.54</b>	

Our parish is blessed by your generosity!

**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

**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.



**REST IN PEACE**

Please pray for the souls of **Regina DeShon** and **Julia Senn** as well as former parishioner **Ed Walchalk** and **Charlene Morris**, mother of parishioner Chuck Lloyd. May God welcome them into eternal rest and console their loved ones.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL THIS WEEKEND**

*Make me a channel of your peace.*

Your support of the 2025 Catholic Charities Appeal helps further the mission that Jesus entrusted to us: "I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Please consider a generous gift that will change the lives of the nearly 400,000 people who are served each year in Northeast Ohio. Please pray for the success of the Appeal, which provides for essential programs and services for those in need throughout all eight counties of the Diocese of Cleveland.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FURNITURE DONATIONS**

The inventory of the SVdP furniture bank is running low. If you have the following items and are able to donate them, please call Don McCabe at 330-685-4638: chest of drawers, love seats, small kitchen tables with chairs, and twin bed frames.

**HELP FEED THE HUNGRY!**

Want to help our neighbors in need? Our parish is teaming up with Mother of Sorrows Parish on Saturday, March 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.



**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.**

**PARISH  
MISSION**

Save the Date!

“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.” 1 Pt. 3:15

This March, we are welcoming back three priestly sons of our parish for our Lenten mission. They will each celebrate a Thursday 6:30 p.m. Mass and immediately afterward share reflections on hope. Mark your calendar to hear from these sons of St. Francis de Sales!

**Thursday, March 13 – Fr. Matt Jordan**  
**Thursday, March 27 – Fr. David Stavarz**  
**Thursday, April 3 – Fr. Alex Clark\***

\*Please note change of date.



**THE VOCATION CRUCIFIX IS BACK!**

Every week, families or individuals bring the vocation crucifix into their home to pray for vocations. Last week, the Jason and Erin VanDevere family received it. **Karen Grable** received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend. If you are open to praying for vocations, please contact the parish office at 330-644-2225 or cwilson@stfparish.com.

# Parish Lenten Small Group Study

## *A Flourishing Apostolic Church*

Help strengthen our parish!

Join us in exploring Bishop Malesic's recent pastoral letter and be drawn more deeply into prayer and intimate friendship with Jesus.

This is an opportunity to...

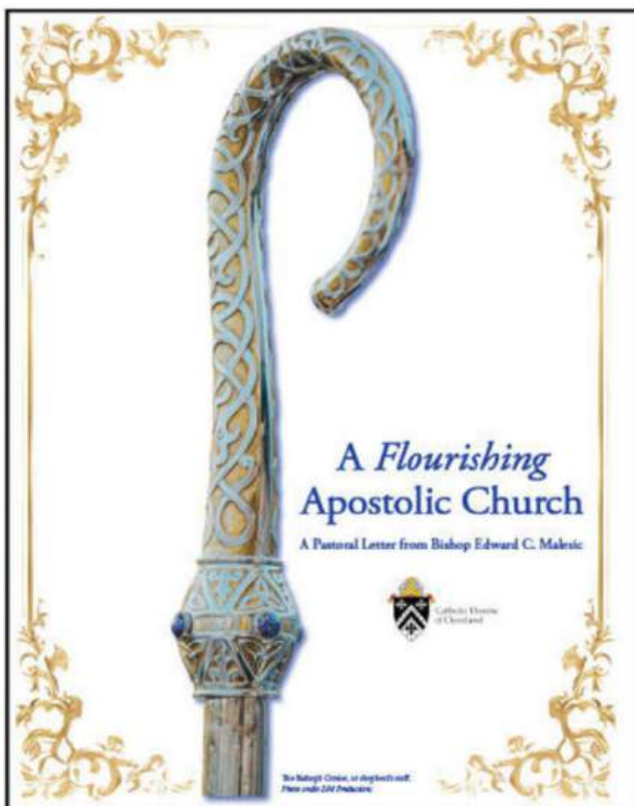
- Read the letter
- Discuss it with fellow parishioners
- Develop ideas to improve our church
- Grow in your spiritual life and friendship with God

Group sign ups start soon!

We need volunteers to lead small groups and help drive this mission.

If you feel called to lead a group, contact Linda (lhetson@stfparish.com, 330-819-6490), LuAnn (lthomas@stfparish.com, 330-807-7524), or Colleen (cwilson@stfparish.com).

If you are already involved in a Scripture study or small group that meets regularly and would like to use the letter for your group, contact the coordinators for discussion questions and resources.





**ASK, SEEK, KNOCK!**

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! 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). Please also consider your friends, neighbors, and other loved ones who may benefit from healing prayer. This is open to anyone.

**BUEN CAMINO!**

Have you seen the movie "The Way"? Do you want to learn more about the Camino de Santiago? If so, come to the Memorare Center, Thursday, February 27 at 7:15 p.m. Margo Erme will give a presentation about her over 400-mile pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago. It was challenging, inspiring, and amazing.



**CYO SPRING SPORTS**

Registration is open now for our parish's spring sports! Students in Grades 1 through 8 who attend our parish school, public school, or homeschool are welcome. We will be offering track and field, volleyball, baseball, softball, tennis, and lacrosse. For more information on any of our sports or coaching, please visit [stfparish.com/cyo-spring-sports-2025/](http://stfparish.com/cyo-spring-sports-2025/) or reach out to our Athletic Director, Katie Kinsinger at [athleticdirector@stfparish.com](mailto:athleticdirector@stfparish.com).

**FLOW IN FAITH**

Flow in Faith is a time to stretch and reflect every third Wednesday of the month in the Memorare Center, Beatitudes Room from 6:00-6:45 p.m. led by Caity Gerber. Each class will provide a safe place for those to relax, work on clearing their minds and opening their hearts to God all while stretching with a light flow exercise. Class is donation based and all money donated will be given back to the church and school. An exercise mat or beach towel is encouraged. Email [caityegerber@gmail.com](mailto:caityegerber@gmail.com) with any questions and sign up for reminders on Flocknote! Bring your friends and family and let's flow in our faith together!



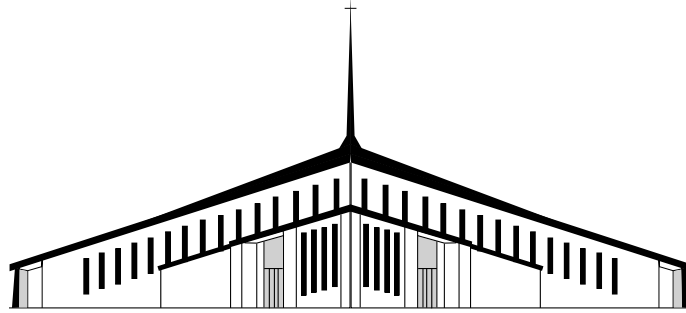
This February, I challenge you to allow our Lord to draw you a little deeper into His Sacred Heart by listening to a talk on the Holy Angels and seeing how they lead you to adoration, contemplation, expiation, and mission. When you enter into formation for consecration to your Guardian Angel, you will discover lots of ways to grow spiritually. The talk will be in the Holy Family Room at 6:00 p.m. on February 19th. Stay for the discussion that follows, at 7:15 p.m., and see how Adoration can become a way of life, giving yourself over to God. Please RSVP to the Parish Office at 330-644-2225.

**We're QUAAAAAACCK.....**  
**Mass at the Ballpark**  
**August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 11am**

*Save the Date*

**10:45am: Praise & Worship**  
**11:00am: Mass in the ballpark**  
**12:15pm: Catch on the field**  
**1:00pm: RubberDucks vs. Chesapeake Baysox**

Hosted by:  
 St. Francis de Sales Parish-Akron  
 Praise & Worship by:  
 Mercy Divine



**WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST PARISHIONERS... WE'RE SO HAPPY YOU'RE HERE!**

**Antonelli**, John  
**Baker Stevens**, Georgiene  
**Burkhart**, Trevor, Sara, & June  
**Carrocce**, Dan & Chrystina  
**Dobbins**, Arthur & Kylie  
**Friedl**, Regina  
**Kennedy**, Robert, Heather,  
Xavi, Mateas, & Atlas  
**LaNave**, Marc & Angelina Gingo  
**Mottice**, Matthew, Kristina,  
Nicolette, & Shepherd  
**Powers**, Jesse  
**Reynolds**, Richard & Renee  
**Riffle**, Taylor  
**Seminaroti**, Kathy  
**Shackelford**, Michael, Gretta,  
Ava, & Henry  
**Thompson**, Blair, Jessica,  
Remi, & Rosalie  
**Wagner**, Jamie

**AND THE NEWLY BAPTIZED... WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY!**

Weston Mathieu Badalich  
June Taylor Burkhart  
Abigail Marie Dunn  
Avery Claire Fox  
Madeline Harriet Fried  
Isabella Sophie Fried  
Roselyn Elizabeth Ganser  
Noah Thomas Moloney  
Mikah James Misanko  
Calliope Ann Nuss  
Wrenley Paige Patterson  
Brynn Alexandria Ross  
Nicholas Gregory Ross  
Iris Sue Scherer  
Clare Cecilia VanDevere  
Lydia Giuliana VanDevere  
Raylinn Marie VanDevere

If you are interested in joining the parish or having your child baptized, please call the Parish Office at 330-644-2225.  
Our staff will be happy to help you!

The above are families who registered and individuals who were baptized between  
October 21, 2024 and February 9, 2025.



## 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.



**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

Stephen Ministers are the "after people." We are ones to call after you receive the phone call you hoped you'd never get, after your friends and family have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk, or after you have experienced a life-changing event. Know that you are not alone and that your church family is here for you. To find out more, contact one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders Ann Clark ([aclark2@stfparish.com](mailto:aclark2@stfparish.com)) or Bill Dickey ([wdickey@stfparish.com](mailto:wdickey@stfparish.com)).

### **MASS FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF PRIESTS**

All are welcome for a Mass for the Sanctification of Priests at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 20th at St. Paul Parish, 1580 Brown Street, Akron. Holy Mass will be followed by a Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction.

### **IGNITE YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE**

The Cleveland Diocese Ignite Young Adult Conference will be on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at St. Ignatius High School. The event is open to anyone ages 18-39 and will be a day focused on stepping deeper into identity, community, and mission to help hearts come truly alive! Come with hundreds of other young adults to partake in a powerful day that features keynote speakers, breakout sessions, a Eucharistic Procession, Mass, and Praise and Worship Adoration with Damascus Worship to help you become more and more who YOU were created to be! Reserve your tickets at [dioceseofcleveland.org/ignite](http://dioceseofcleveland.org/ignite).

*You are invited to waste time with the Lord...*

## **POUSTINIA** *Retreat 2025*

**FRIDAY, MARCH 7TH - SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH**



**LOYOLA RETREAT HOUSE IN GREEN, OHIO**

\$185/person includes speaker and priest stipends, lodging, & meals.

Dive into a unique experience of fasting, journaling, and praying with Scripture and icons.

More information and online registration at:  
[www.tobcle.org/register](http://www.tobcle.org/register)



### **LENT & HOLY WEEK DATES**

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5th this year! In addition to our parish mission, we will be offering night prayer each Sunday of Lent, an evening of family Adoration with Praise and Worship on March 31, our annual Women's Retreat on April 12, and the Agape Meal on Holy Thursday, April 17. Please note that we will not have a 7:00 p.m. Good Friday service this year. A full calendar will be available in next week's bulletin!



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**Mary Queen of Heaven Mausoleum**  
Schedule a tour TODAY by calling Holy Cross Cemetery in Akron at (216)-641-7575 ext. 7



**"IF MY PEOPLE, WHICH ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY, AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS; THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN, AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND!" 2: CHRONICLES 7:14**

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