

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

PSR, Youth Ministry & Faith Formation

Call the parish office at 330-644-2225 to enroll or
find out more.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 23, 2025

*Masses For
The Week*



**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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- 8:15 a.m. Vincent Baker (Janet Karson)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- 8:15 a.m. Helen Gentner (Dorothy Malinak)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 8:15 a.m. Margarita Katigbak (Mariza Meredith)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, ST. GREGORY OF NAREK

- 8:15 a.m. David Eggert (The Choir)
 6:30 p.m. Edna Eckenrode (Pauline Knee)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 8:15 a.m. Patricia Jamison (Women's Study Group)
 9:00 a.m. Anna Pinkston Feltrup
 (Luke & Nellie Feltrup)
Eileen Sanders – Anniversary of Death

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

- 8:15 a.m. Sara Cicero (Bernie Myers)
 5:00 p.m. Margaret Swenberg (Family)

**SUNDAY, MARCH 2, EIGHTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

- 7:30 a.m. Paul Neugebauer (Bill & Anne Richards)
 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
 11:00 a.m. Charles Strigle (Kovesci Family)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Sir 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday: Sir 4:11-19; Mk 9:38-40
Thursday: Sir 5:1-8; Mk 9:41-50
Friday: Sir 6:5-17; Mk 10:1-12
Saturday: Sir 17:1-15; Mk 10:13-16
Sunday: Sir 27:4-7; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45

NEWS UPDATE!

Ohio Bishop News. As I write this bulletin article on February 12 (due to early bulletin deadlines) nationwide Church news hit our Ohio area. Pope Francis has appointed Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Robert Casey to take the place of Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis Schnurr. Pope Francis has also named Fr. John Keehner, a parish priest of the Diocese of Youngstown, to become Bishop of Sioux City, Iowa. Fr. Keehner was a pastor nearby at St. Paul's, North Canton before becoming pastor of four parishes in Ashtabula. Please pray for these men as they enter into new avenues of ministry for the Church.



Local Parish News. If you haven't heard already, Fr. David Verbsky has been named Chaplain for the University of Akron Campus. This became effective January 15, 2025. This assignment is in addition to his assignment here. He will still be serving here as your Parochial Vicar until June 2026. Fr. David is excited about this opportunity to serve and has a heart for ministering to young adults. I truly believe it will be life-giving for him as well as the college students and faculty at Akron University (my alma mater 😊). What does this mean for us? Well, Fr. David will be committed to serving at Akron University on Tuesday, Wednesday and most Sunday evenings. Because of this, his day off has changed to Thursday. I will be changing my day off to Monday in an effort to maintain coverage here at the parish while he is away. I will, however, be available for PSR at 7:00 p.m. on Mondays. At this point, I will maintain our Mass schedule as it is. In light of this assignment, I was advised to only offer one daily Mass per day. Be assured that I will take time to prayerfully discern before I make any decision about our Mass schedule.

Thank you for your flexibility with things. Just when I became comfortable with the last change we made because Fr. Sal was no longer able to help us, another invitation to change came. I am always excited about these invitations to change because it invites me to ask the Holy Spirit where our next steps should be – that's exciting! Thank you for your prayers! You really need to know that I love you and I really love this parish of St. Francis de Sales. It is a great place! I'm so very blessed to be here with you following Jesus, serving others, and being open to His will in our lives.

**Peace and blessings,
Fr. Jeremy**

WEEKLY CALENDAR**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, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- Young Women's Discernment Group, 7:00 p.m. (Archangels Room)
- PSR and Ignite, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- Parent First Communion Meeting, 7:15-8:00 p.m. (Memorare Center)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- Women's Study Group, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Choir, 7:00 p.m. (Church)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 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, FEBRUARY 27

- 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.
- Camino de Santiago Presentation, 7:15 p.m. (Memorare Center)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- Youth Choir, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Church)

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- First Saturday Devotions & Rosary, 8:45 a.m. (Church)

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

- Donut Sunday
- 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, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)

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

REST IN Peace



Please pray for the souls of **Margaret Hamilton** and **Oni Yovanovich** as well as for **Tina Costanzo**, daughter-in-law of Marilyn Costanzo and sister-in-law of George and Rosanna Frankovich. May the Lord grant them the joy of heaven and comfort their family and friends.

COLLECTION INFORMATION**February 15 & 16**

Due to an early deadline, the collection totals from last weekend will be published in the forthcoming bulletin.
Our parish is blessed by your generosity!

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.



MASS

- ~ Monday through Saturday, 8:15 a.m.
- ~ 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, April 7, 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.
April 1 – St. Paul
April 8 – St. Francis de Sales
- ~ Diocese-wide Evening of Confession,
March 19, 5:00-8:00 p.m., at all parishes in the Diocese of Cleveland

NIGHT PRAYER & BENEDICTION

Sundays, 8:00 p.m.

FAMILY ADORATION – HOPE IN CHRIST

Renew your hope in Christ through Adoration
with Praise and Worship. Families and children welcome!
Monday, March 31, 7:15 p.m.

PARISH MISSION: THE REASON FOR OUR HOPE

Three priestly sons of our parish will share reflections on hope.
Thursday, March 13 – Fr. Matt Jordan
Thursday, March 27 – Fr. David Stavarz
Thursday, April 3 – Fr. Alex Clark
In the Church

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Sacred Heart, Gift of Mercy
Saturday, April 12, 8:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

On this monthly calendar, each day is designated for one of the 54 seminarians as well as our Pope, Bishops, Clergy, and other related intentions. Please use this insert and keep it in a place where you can see it each day and thoughtfully say a prayer of support for the name listed on that day.



March 2025



Seminarian Calendar prepared by Parents of Priests – Diocese of Cleveland
 Calendar at: seminarians.parentsofpriests.com
 Priests and Seminarians calendar online at: priests.StPatrick.cc

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<p><i>“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me.”</i> <i>Psalm 51:10</i></p>			<p>1 Charles Cairnie St. Mary Theology IV</p>
<p>2 Pray for All Deacons</p>	<p>3 Mitch Carson St. Mary Theology IV</p>	<p>4 Cameron Ferrell St. Mary Theology IV</p>	<p>5 Nathan Frankhart St. Mary Theology IV</p>	<p>6 Joseph Truong Viet Ho St. Mary Theology IV</p>	<p>7 Sean Neville St. Mary Theology IV</p>	<p>8 Dc. Ryan Arto St. Mary Theology V</p>
<p>14 Pray for all Parish Priests</p>	<p>10 Dc. Christopher Cotone St. Mary Theology V</p>	<p>11 Dc. Anthony Donatelli St. Mary Theology V</p>	<p>12 Dc. Jon Hawkins St. Mary Theology V</p>	<p>13 Dc. Jeffrey Lindholm St. Mary Theology V</p>	<p>14 Dc. James Parisi St. Mary Theology V</p>	<p>15 Dc. Brian Peters St. Mary Theology V</p>
<p>16 Pray for the Parents of Priests</p>	<p>17 Dc. Kyle Rosser St. Mary Theology V</p>	<p>18 Dc. Travis Seagraves St. Mary Theology V</p>	<p>19 Gregory Hovan St. Mary Theology V</p>	<p>20 Dc. Jeffrey Lindholm St. Mary Theology V</p>	<p>21 Dc. James Parisi St. Mary Theology V</p>	<p>22 Dc. Brian Peters St. Mary Theology V</p>
<p>23 Pray for the Vowed Religious</p>	<p>24 Dc. Kyle Rosser St. Mary Theology V</p>	<p>25 Dc. Travis Seagraves St. Mary Theology V</p>	<p>26 Gregory Hovan St. Mary Pre-Theo II</p>	<p>27 William Martzaklis St. Mary Pre-Theo II</p>	<p>28 John Scantling St. Mary Pre-Theo II</p>	<p>29 Connor Trout St. Mary Pre-Theo II</p>
<p>30 Pray for Lay Ministers and Parish Leaders</p>	<p>31 Christopher Villarreal St. Mary Pre-Theo II</p>	<p><i>“But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.”</i> Micah</p>				

THE VOCATION CRUCIFIX IS BACK!

Every week, families or individuals bring the vocation crucifix into their home to pray for vocations.

Susan Undercoffer received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

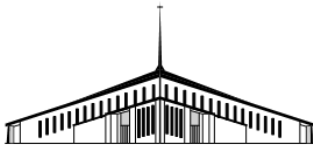
If you are open to praying for vocations, please contact the parish office at 330-644-2225 or cwilson@stfparish.com.

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.

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.



**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.

A MESSAGE FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY

The cloudy, cold days of winter can be symbolic of what may sometimes happen in life. A crisis hits, and we feel like we're buried beneath a drift of snow. Relationships can become icy, or we can feel frozen by life circumstances. Little difficulties build up like slush, making us slip and slide, causing every decision to seem treacherous. Life seems dreary, and we begin to doubt that spring will ever come. We can wonder, "Is God even there?" Stephen Ministers are trained to provide confidential Christian care, giving you the emotional and spiritual support you need to make it through a winter in your life. To learn more about how a Stephen Minister can help you or someone you know, contact one of the Stephen Ministry Leaders: Ann Clark (aclark2@stfparish.com) or Bill Dickey (wdickey@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...

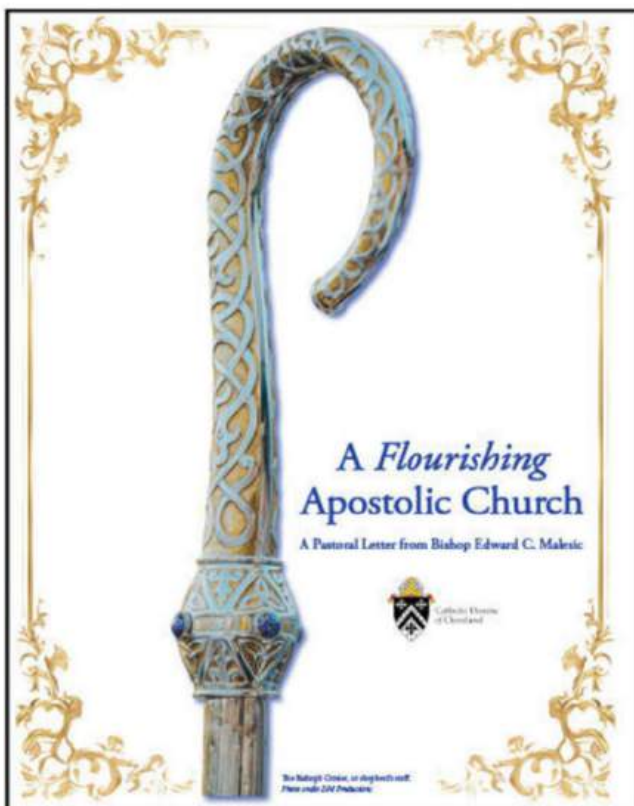
- Read the letter
- Discuss it with fellow parishioners
- Develop ideas to improve our church
- Grow in your spiritual life and friendship with God

Sign up today!

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.

EUROPEAN PILGRIMAGE

Join Fr. Joshua Trefney on this amazing 13-day journey October 5-17, 2025 to visit Lourdes, Fatima, homes of St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, newly renovated Cathedral of Notre Dame and so much more! Don't delay, space is limited and deposit due February 28! Register: www.incrediblejourneystours.com.

1260 THE ROCK GALA

Can you believe on May 11th, AM 1260 The Rock will be 10 Years Old?! We are celebrating in a BIG way, with a 10th Anniversary Gala on Friday, May 9th. More information is coming soon but sponsorships are available now! To learn about becoming a sponsor, call Trish or Amy at 216-227-1260 or go to am1260therock.com/gala.

ST. SEBASTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday, April 5, 2025, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Serve like Martha, love like Mary! Our Mother's Hands ministry is hosting "Martha's Day Out," a one-day retreat for women featuring keynote speaker Brooke Taylor. Join us at St. Sebastian's Parish Zwisler Hall, 476 Mull Avenue, Akron, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 5th. Join us as we discover ways to strike a balance between our secular and spiritual lives. \$35.00 includes continental breakfast, lunch, and materials. To register or for more information, call 330-800-0929, or visit OurMothersHands.org.

ONLINE GIVING

Did you know that you can make your offertory gift to our parish through online giving? Using our Faith Direct platform, you can set up an automatic recurring gift or make a one-time donation. To find out more, visit <https://membership.faithdirect.net/OH1076>. If you have questions, call the Parish Office at 330-644-2225. Our parish has always been abundantly blessed by the generosity of the faithful. Thank you!

BECOME A KNIGHT!

Father Michael J. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus to protect the families of the Catholic Church. He had a vision to establish our organization of local councils whose members sought to strengthen their faith, to serve the needs of others, and to protect their families through our insurance program for men 18 and over. Want to be a part of that? Go to kofcoho.org and click on Join Us. For more information, contact Grand Knight Steve Dort at 330-212-7315 or steve_dort@att.net.

MARDI GRAS NIGHT AT THE RACES

*Saturday, March 1, 2025, 5:30-9:30 p.m.
in St. Bernard's Parish Hall*

Tickets are now on sale for Mardi Gras Night at the Races, a fundraiser for the St. Bernard's hunger programs which provide over 30,000 meals to our neighbors in need each year. Tickets are \$75.00 per person and include dinner, dessert, and a drink, as well as entry for one of three cash prizes. The night will be filled with good food, basket raffles, cash prizes, horse racing, and fellowship. Use this link to buy tickets or find out more: <https://stbernardakron.org/natr25>.

YOUNG AT HEART

The Queen of Heaven Young at Heart March meeting will be March 3 in the Parish Life Center, Rooms 7 and 8 at 1:00 p.m. It will be a members Mardi Gras party with fun and games.

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. 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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