

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.

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 9, 2025**

*Masses For
The Week*



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, FIFTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

- 7:30 a.m. Chick Watkins (Bill & Anne Richards)
- 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
- 11:00 a.m. Jim Evans (Family)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, ST. SCHOLASTICA

- 8:15 a.m. Barbara Burch (Burch Family)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, OUR LADY OF LOURDES

- 8:15 a.m. Holy Souls in Purgatory (Bill & Jo Dickey)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- 8:15 a.m. Carol Pillitiere (VanDevere Family)
- 9:00 a.m. Thalia McVicker (Family)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- 8:15 a.m. Living & Deceased of the Andrew & Pauline Mehok Family (Phil & Mary Ott)
- 6:30 p.m. Joseph & Katherine Schwartz (Family)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS

- 8:15 a.m. Regis McArdle (Cathy McArdle)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- 8:15 a.m. John Geig (John & Emily Yeager)
- 5:00 p.m. Robert Mileski (Mileski Family)
Jack Rambacher – Month's Mind

**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 Bacher (Tony & Mary Heyden)

**"DEPART FROM ME, LORD, FOR
I AM A SINFUL MAN."**

In this Year of Hope, this gospel passage may be the greatest way to enter into the hope of our lives. As Jesus approaches us, many of us will say, "Lord, not me...I am a mess... choose someone else!" But He says, no...come follow Me. I know there



are things to work on. I know you're a sinner. But if you respond to Me and let Me do the work within you, I can make a masterpiece. I can build My church on you!" Each and every one of us can give Jesus many excuses about how we aren't able to do this or that for the life of the Church. And perhaps we are right, if we are only thinking about doing things on our own. But with Him, all things are possible! Do you believe this? "Come follow Me." Surrender the excuses and start living life with Him. He has great hope in you.

Lenten Small Group Study. It is exactly one month from March 9, which will be the first week of our Lenten Small Group Study. We are inviting all parishioners to enter into a parish-wide time of study, reflection and prayer on the pastoral letter given to us by Bishop Malesic. For 5 weeks, I am inviting you to center your Lent on this so that you can enter into what Bishop Malesic is desiring for you: entering more deeply into prayer and a more intimate relationship with Jesus. There are four sections. The first three remind us of who we are and whose we are, and the final section gives great strategies on how to boldly follow the call of the Holy Spirit in our lives. I believe this is best done in the midst of faith-sharing in a small group. To be able to pray with it and then share the fruits of your prayer is what it is all about. I am excited to see what the Holy Spirit will do with this in your life and the life of our parish community. We will be sharing guides in the next few bulletins to help prepare you for this adventure. Thank you for saying yes to this!

TVs in the Church and School Entryways. If you have entered the school or church entryway recently, you may have noticed new TVs. These TVs will help to share news within the school and parish, especially upcoming events. This will better connect both communities. Other information like Baptisms and funerals will be provided in the church so that we can pray for those families. In the end, we will use every means possible to get the message out! Amen!

**God bless you all and give you peace,
Fr. Jeremy**

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Gen 1:1-19; Mk 6:53-56
- Tuesday:** Gen 1:20-2:4a; Mk 7:1-13
- Wednesday:** Gen 2:4b-9, 15-17; Mk 7:14-23
- Thursday:** Gen 2:18-25; Mk 7:24-30
- Friday:** Gen 3:1-8; Mk 7:31-37
- Saturday:** Gen 3:9-24; Mk 8:1-10
- Sunday:** Jer 17:5-8; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20;
Lk 6:17, 20-26

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- Confirmation Preparation Session, 9:00 a.m. Mass, then go to the Memorare Center until 12:00 p.m.
- Children’s Liturgy of the Word, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- Youth Group, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

- Avila Holy Hour for Vocations, 9:00 a.m. (Church)
- PSR & Ignite, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- Young Women’s Discernment Group, 7:00 p.m. (Archangels Room)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- 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 13

- 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.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- No School

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- Men’s Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Rosary, 8:45 a.m. (Church)
- Senior Valentine’s Day Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (Memorare Center)

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)

COLLECTION INFORMATION

February 1 & 2

Sunday	\$	17,739.00
Assessment	\$	60.00
Capital	\$	70.00
School	\$	400.00
Catholic University	\$	10.00
Missions	\$	621.00
TOTAL	\$	\$18,900.00

Our parish is blessed by your generosity!

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

**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 keep in your prayers the soul of **Jim Johnston**, brother of parishioner Barbara Bertsch and **Kathleen Galloway**, sister of parishioners Kris Vannan and Karen Mosyjowski. May God grant them a heavenly reward and console their loved ones.

COMMUNITY CASHBACK

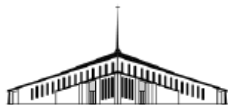
Do you shop at Acme? You can help our school just by saving your receipts! Please turn in any receipts dated August 1, 2024-February 15, 2025 to the parish or school office in an envelope labeled "Community Cash Back, Attn: Maggie Klatt." Thank you for your help in this easy fundraiser for our school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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL

The 2025 Catholic Charities Appeal will take place next weekend in our parish. This year's appeal theme is "Make me a channel of your peace." Your generous support will bring peace to the lives of others, to offer dignity, possibilities, and companionship to those who are most vulnerable. View stories of inspiration and more at CatholicCommunity.org/2025Appeal.

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.



**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!

Thanks to parishioner John Steurer, our vocation crucifix has a beautiful new box and is ready to start rotating among our parish families again! There is also a new set of prayers to help families pray for the whole array of vocations. If you would consider bringing the crucifix into your home for a week to pray 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...

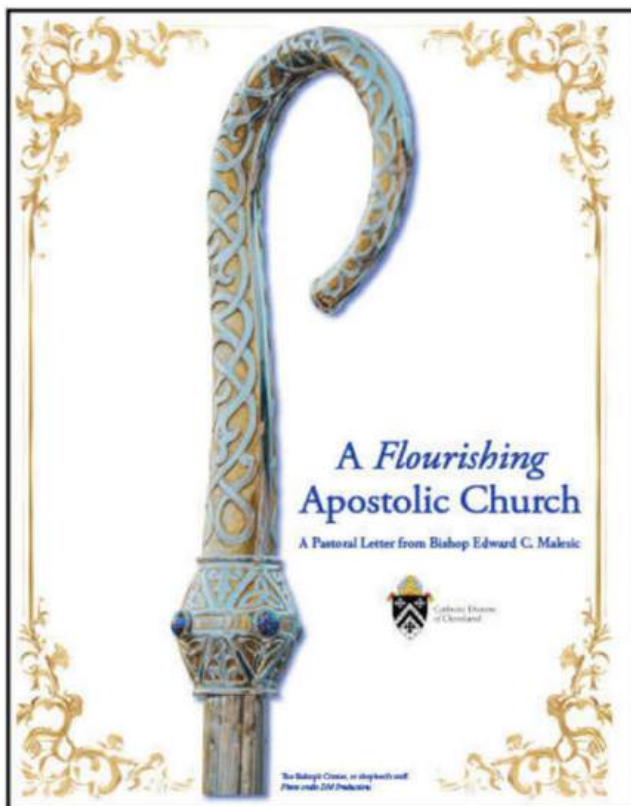
- Read the letter
- Discuss it with fellow parishioners
- Develop ideas to improve our church
- Grow in your spiritual life and friendship with God

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.



A message from Stephen Ministry: This week, we celebrate St. Valentine's Day. This is a time to reflect on those we love, as well as to reflect on how we can better love the One who IS love. If during your reflections you come across any intention that you would like the Stephen Ministry Team to keep in their prayers, add your intention to the prayer box in the back of the church. We continue to lift up all of the intentions we have received in prayer each time we gather. If you find you need additional one-on-one support, add your contact information to the prayer box and one of our Stephen Leaders will contact you.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Cluster Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, February 11, 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.

THE ITE PROJECT



Join The ITE Project to lift the spirits of strangers this winter! The ITE Project returns to Summit Mall on February 15th from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. to share roses and uplifting messages with strangers. Do Good and Share is one of our most beloved service projects. Please join us to write encouraging notes, wrap them up in roses, and pass them out for free! Many hearts have been moved by a beautiful rose on a bleary morning. More details: <https://www.theiteproject.com/events/roses2025>.

WORK OF THE HOLY ANGELS

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 330-644-2225.

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.



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

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH CYO SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION OPENED JANUARY 27TH

Our sports for the Spring of 2025 are open to a variety of grades. For more information on any of our sports, please reach out to your Athletic Director at athleticdirector@stfparish.com. Most practices are to be determined until we find coaches. **Please note that some sports will likely have combined grade level teams.** The teams would be 3rd & 4th Grade; 5th & 6th Grade; and 7th & 8th Grade.

TRACK & FIELD, 1ST-8TH GRADE

We are looking for new head coaches for both teams (1st-4th & 5th-8th). Practices are two times a week and there is one track meet each weekend. **Practices can start March 24th.**

CO-ED VOLLEYBALL, 2ND GRADE ONLY

This is the only Co-Ed volleyball team. **Practices can start February 17th.**

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL, 3RD-8TH GRADE

Teams will be combined by grade level. **Practices can start February 17th.**

BOYS VOLLEYBALL, 3RD-8TH GRADE

Teams will be combined by grade level. Last year, our 6th grade boys were the first boys' volleyball team for our parish. They placed first in the championship in their division. We hope to form more boys' teams this year. **Practices can start February 17th.**

COACH PITCH BASEBALL – CO-ED, 1ST & 2ND GRADE

New to us – if you are interested, please reach out. Coaches are needed.

BOYS BASEBALL, 3RD-8TH GRADE

Teams will be combined by grade level. Interested? For more information on how long the season goes, contact your Athletic Director.

GIRLS SOFTBALL, 3RD-8TH GRADE

Teams will be combined by grade level. Interested? For more information on how long the season goes, contact your Athletic Director.

BOYS & GIRLS TENNIS, 1ST-8TH GRADE

This is an individual registration sport and is held at a tennis club near Akron. More to come soon. Dates are TBD.

BOYS & GIRLS LACROSSE, 3RD-8TH GRADE

We do not have a team here at St. Francis for this sport, but local sister schools do offer it, and we partner with them to make a team. If you are interested in learning more, reach out. This is an up-and-coming sport.

Contact Athletic Director, Katie Kinsinger at athleticdirector@stfparish.com with questions.

Sports Registration Link



Preparticipation Form



INTERESTED IN COACHING?

We are looking for new coaches to help build up, guide, teach and lead our youth. If you or someone you know is interested and would like more information, contact your Athletic Director for help with registration.

Here are the upcoming classes. You must attend this class to coach.

Tuesday, February 18, 6:00-9:00 p.m. St. Paschal Baylon, 5384 Wilson Mills Road, Highland Heights

Saturday, March 1, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. St. Ambrose, 929 Pearl Road, Brunswick

Wednesday, March 19, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Seton Catholic School, 6923 Stow Road, Hudson



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Embrace Clinic & Care Center is currently looking for Client Advocate volunteers. Our Advocates volunteer for shifts that range from 2.5 hours to 5 hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. Volunteer time can be weekly, biweekly or monthly. After thorough training and shadowing sessions, the Advocates will meet 1:1 with our clients to mentor, help with goal setting, and provide additional assistance as needed. Our next informational tours will be held on February 24 (11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.) If you are interested in scheduling a time to tour or have questions, please contact Denise Fresh at 330-825-1900 or Denise@embraceccc.org.

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.

CHESTERTON ACADEMY GALA

Join Chesterton Academy Akron for an evening of merriment and good cheer to benefit the students of Chesterton on Saturday, February 15 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 3180 West Market Street, Akron, OH 44333. The gala begins at 5:45 p.m. To register, visit <https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrysync/event/home.php?e=28754> or use the QR Code.



Join us on Monday, February 17th at 7:00 p.m., as we 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. Sponsored by St. Sebastian Parish, Akron.

TRANSFORMATION NIGHT

Encounter School of Ministry announces a Transformation Night on Thursday, March 13th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's in Hudson. The theme is Evangelization and Apologetics: Complementary tools for the great commission. Fr. Damian Ference is our 2025 guest speaker. Come join us for Praise and Worship by the St. Mary's Hudson LifeTeen Band, a great talk, and opportunities for personal prayer from prayer teams. Hope to see you there!

MAGNIFICAT WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Magnificat of Stark County invites all women to a breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 15, at Holiday Inn Canton, 4520 Everhard Road NW, Canton. The guest speaker will be Carolyn Cannizzaro, a wife, mother, and teacher who has served in ministry and pro-life advocacy and is a founding member of "Hem of His Garment" healing ministry in Greensburg, PA. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. and tickets cost \$25.00 mail-in or \$26.00 online. For more information, visit [Magnificatstark.weebly.com](https://magnificatstark.weebly.com) or call Sally Kohring at 330-484-1623. Reservation deadline is March 9th.

VOCATION OFFICE OPPORTUNITIES

The Cleveland Diocese Vocation Office is offering many events for young people interested in exploring vocations to the priesthood or religious life!

- **R&R (Receive & Remain):** R&R Includes a time of Adoration with praise and worship at 6:45 p.m. followed by Mass at 7:30 p.m. with the seminary community and pizza after Mass. The event takes place in Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd Chapel at the Seminary on February 20, March 27, and April 24.
- **Duc in Altum:** This is a come and see at Borromeo and Saint Mary Seminaries where men can experience life at the seminary. Upcoming dates are March 29-30. Call 440-943-7631 or visit CLEpriesthood.org to register!

MOTHER-DAUGHTER RETREAT

The Behold Retreat is a mother-daughter retreat (any mother-daughter-like relationship) designed specifically for adult and teen women in the spirit of Mary's fiat. The retreat will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine on Saturday, March 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The theme is "Behold Our Mission," keynote speaker is Crystalina Evert, and the reflections will shed light on the life and example of St. Therese of Lisieux. The retreat will close with the Sunday vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. celebrated by Fr. Joe Menkhaus. Registration is now open. Only 100 tickets will be sold. More information can be found at dioceseofcleveland.org/behold.

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"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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