

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.

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
MARCH 2, 2025

*Masses For
The Week*



LENT IS COMING. ARE YOU READY?

Last Sunday, we celebrated Mass on the anniversary of Fr. Schleicher's death – February 23, 2010. I jokingly remarked that one thing he faithfully did was get away on vacation. He would go to Florida and even golf while down there. In an effort to continue tradition, I did just that the week before last 😊. While traveling can be stressful, there is usually a guaranteed moment of peace while on the golf course. However, it didn't take long to realize I wasn't in good shape to play the game. After the first day, I realized if I was going to get ready for golf season in a couple months, I needed to go to the gym and strengthen my core. By actually golfing, I was able to see what needed worked on.

The same is true as we approach the season of Lent. As we grow in our spiritual lives, we need to pray for that awareness of what needs to be worked on and improved upon in our lives. Often, we are blind to these realities. Take a moment each day and ask the Lord to illuminate your mind and heart to be aware of the areas you need to focus on during Lent.

In the Gospel for this Sunday, Jesus speaks about blindness... "How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,' when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye." Sometimes, we can be distracted by the sins or struggles of others without taking a moment to focus on our own struggles. In this time of Lent, this time of renewal, enter into your life anew and treat yourself with care and compassion, with gentleness and love. And little by little, you can grow in faith and virtue.

Pope Francis once wrote, "Sin is a blindness of the spirit, which prevents us from seeing what is most important, from fixing our gaze on the love that gives us life. This blindness leads us little by little to dwell on what is superficial, until we are indifferent to others and to what is good." Help us to see what is most important in life, Lord...open our eyes to You, to what really matters in life.

**God bless your Lent,
Fr. Jeremy**

P.S. Please take an honest look at our Lenten opportunities. Make an effort to come to our Parish Mission Series and welcome back our sons of the parish with great love.

**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)

MONDAY, MARCH 3, ST. KATHERINE DREXEL

- 8:15 a.m. Deceased of the Caroff and Wirfel Families
(John & Becca Wirfel)

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, ST. CASIMIR

- 8:15 a.m. Living and Deceased of the Ray & Agnes
Drexler Family (Phil & Mary Ott)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, ASH WEDNESDAY

- 7:30 a.m. Kristy Boggs & Family (Mother, Kathy Boggs)
- 9:00 a.m. Maria Bonfiglio (Sister, Anna)
- 6:30 p.m. George Schnitzler (Jeff & Gail Angeletti)
Regina DeShon – Month's Mind

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

- 8:15 a.m. John Geig (Kathie Masters)
- 6:30 p.m. *Anointing Mass*
Kathy Backer (Tony & Mary Heyden)

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, SS. PERPETUA & FELICITY

- 8:15 a.m. Carol Pillitiere (VanDevere Family)

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, ST. JOHN OF GOD

- 8:15 a.m. Irene Wilkinson (The Eggert Family)
- 5:00 p.m. Magdalena Felder (Family)

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo
- 9:00 a.m. Stella Fraszczyk Zales
(Daughter, Maria Murawski)
- 11:00 a.m. Christine Naso (Women's Study Group)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Sir 17:20-24; Mk 10:17-27
- Tuesday:** Sir 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31
- Wednesday:** Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2;
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
- Thursday:** Deut 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25
- Friday:** Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15
- Saturday:** Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32
- Sunday:** Deut 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

- 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)

MONDAY, MARCH 3

- PSR and Ignite, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

- Ash Wednesday, Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 6:30 p.m.
- Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m. (Church)
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (Upper Room)

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

- 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.
- First Communion Preparation, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (Church)
- Stephen Ministry Continuing Education and Supervision, 6:30 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

- Stations of the Cross, 7:00 p.m. (Church)

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

- Confirmation Spirit Day, 8th grade candidates attend 9:00 a.m. Mass then go to the gym until 2:30 p.m.
- Children's Liturgy of the Word, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- Boy Scouts, 4:30 p.m. (Memorare Center)
- Night Prayer, 8:00 p.m. (Church)

| 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 |

COLLECTION INFORMATION

February 16 & 17

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| | Offertory |
| Sunday | \$ 14,182.25 |
| Assessment | \$ 30.00 |
| Capital | \$ 100.00 |
| School | \$ 145.00 |
| Christmas | \$ 20.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 14,477.25 |

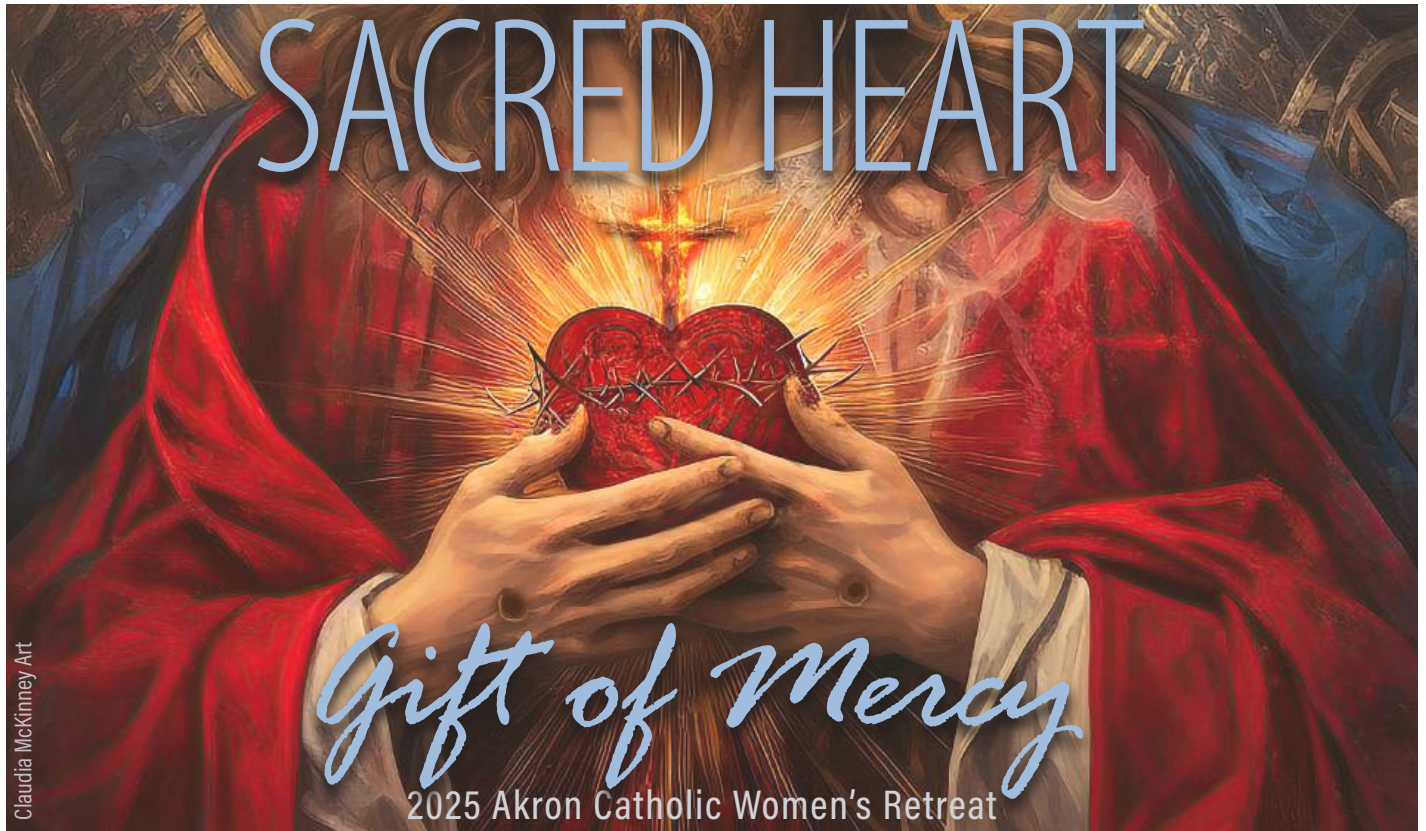
February 22 & 23

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| | Offertory |
| Sunday | \$ 11,164.00 |
| Capital | \$ 225.00 |
| School | \$ 255.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 11,644.00 |

Our parish is blessed by your generosity!



Please pray for the souls of **Helen Flickinger, Dan Wargo, Marcia Cummins, and Todd VanNostran**, son-in-law of Tony & Mary Heyden. May the Lord grant them the joy of heaven and comfort their family and friends.



Saturday, April 12th

8:15 AM Mass - 3:00 PM

St. Francis de Sales Parish

4019 Manchester Road, Akron, Ohio 44319

Cost: \$30 Register by April 5th, 2025
Complete form below or register at stfparish.com

"Through these sacred wounds, we can see the secret of His Heart." St. Bernard of Clairvaux

FEATURED Presenter

Fr. Joe Robinson

Parochial Vicar, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish



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First & Last Name

Email (Required for Confirmation)

Phone Number



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Parish Name

City of Parish

Morning Snack and Lunch Included

- Make checks payable to "St. Francis de Sales Parish" with "Women's Retreat" on the memo line.
- Mail completed form & check to: **Attn. Therese Holderbaum, St. Francis de Sales Parish** (see full parish address above).
- St. Francis parishioners may place envelope labeled "Women's Retreat" in collection basket or drop off at parish office.

Questions? Contact us at 330-644-2225 or AkronCatholicWomensRetreat@gmail.com | **Follow us** on social media  

"Hope is the key that unlocks the door of possibilities."

– St. Francis of Assisi

Pope Francis, in his message for World Mission Day 2025, calls all Catholics to be "missionaries of hope among all people." Referring to his papal bull for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, the pope said, "Christians can be 'signs of hope' through works of mercy." You don't have to travel to faraway lands to be a missionary. There are many opportunities in our own community to serve the poor. And food, a basic necessity of life, brings hope to people who are in need.



The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Francis de Sales Parish is holding their second annual Lenten food drive to help our neighbors in need. Who are these neighbors? People who are disabled, have been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, have had their work hours cut, are homeless, are suddenly caring for grandchildren or other family members. The food you supply provides hope and care in our neighbor's world that sometimes seems to lack either. To stock the parish pantry well, we will focus on items we know are needed. We are breaking up our food drive into five weeks with each week focusing on a couple food or home goods items. Please bring these items to the back of the Narthex when you come to Mass. You may not think one can or one box of food makes a difference, but for the person who receives that can or box in their bag, it may help them during a difficult time. As you drop it in the SVdP bin, say a prayer for the neighbor you are giving hope to.

We are suggesting the following schedule so you can plan your shopping accordingly:

March 8-9: pasta, pasta sauce, ramen noodles

March 15-16: canned tuna, canned chicken, canned meals

March 22-23: canned corn, canned green beans, canned beans

March 29-31: canned soups, peanut butter, canned fruit

April 5-6: paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues)

The need for food has increased significantly. Our volunteers distribute or deliver up to 10-12 bags of groceries per week to our local community. Here is a real case scenario to think about: O. cares for 5 people in her household on a minimum wage job. The bag of food helps spread out her food budget.

"You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. This is how prayer works."

– Pope Francis



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 Stavaz
 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.

THE VOCATION CRUCIFIX IS BACK!

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

Chris & Cindy Ross 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.

ADORER NEEDED

An adorer is needed for the following time:

Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 p.m.

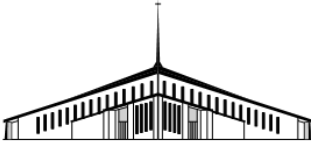
Call Joanne at (330) 338-4810, if you are able to help with this time.

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



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: As we enter this season of Lent, we are called to examine what may be holding us back from allowing Jesus to love us completely and to love Him in return. Sometimes it is our own hurts and crosses that keep us from experiencing the love God has for us. If this is the case in your own life, consider allowing a Stephen Minister to walk with you and help you carry the burden of your cross. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. To find out more, talk with our Stephen Leaders: Ann Clark (aclark2@stfparish.com) or Bill Dickey (wdickey@stfparish.com).



Discussion Questions

Bishop Malesic's Letter A Flourishing Apostolic Church

It is not too late to join one of our parish's small group studies on Bishop Malesic's pastoral letter this Lent! Sign-ups are in the church Narthex. Every week, discussion questions to be used by the groups or for your own reflection will be printed in the bulletin. Whether or not you join a group, these questions can help you examine your own life of faith.

Week 1 – pages 2-6

Part I

- When in your life have you placed your trust in Jesus and found comfort and peace?
- How can we encourage loved ones facing suffering to draw near to Jesus?
- How have you come to understand the Paschal Mystery? How has it filled your life?

Part II

- Would you describe your relationship with God as a friendship? How so, or why not?
- Who have been the models of faith in your own life? How have they shared faith with you?
- What tangible or emotional space might you create to make time for 15 minutes of daily prayer?

PRAY FOR OUR SOON-TO-BE-CATHOLIC BROTHERS & SISTERS!

Next Sunday, March 9, the catechumens in our Becoming Catholic group who are preparing to receive Baptism and the other Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil will celebrate the Rite of Election with Bishop Malesic. In this Rite, their readiness for the Sacraments is considered and confirmed. From then until their initiation at Easter, they are called the "elect." For the elect, Lent is marked by prayerful preparation, purification, study, prayers for them from the parish community, and great excitement! Please pray for all in our Becoming Catholic group in these coming weeks!

AKRON SERRA CLUB MASS FOR VOCATIONS

Please join the Akron Serra Club for their monthly Mass for religious vocations. In March 2025, the Mass will be celebrated at St. Francis de Sales Church on Saturday, March 15 at 8:15 a.m. The mission of the Akron Serra Club is to promote new vocations to the ministerial priesthood and consecrated religious life, to affirm existing vocations, and to grow in holiness. After Mass, a representative of the Akron Serra Club will be available at the back of church to give you a prayer card to assist you in praying for priests and seminarians. The representative will also be able to answer questions about the Akron Serra Club. Your prayers for religious vocations during the Mass are appreciated.

St. Francis de Sales Parish

Save the Date



Vacation Bible School



June 16-20, 2025

SUPPORT FOR THE DIVORCED, SEPARATED, & WIDOWED

A "Caring and Sharing" session for those struggling with divorce, separation or widowhood will be held on Monday, March 10 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary's Convent Building, 1945 Portage Trail in Cuyahoga Falls. Marlene Maruna, a retired Social Worker, will facilitate this session. This event is open at no charge to people of all faiths. For information, call Marlene at 330-607-6284.

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.

SUPPORT OUR PARISH SCHOOL IN THREE EASY STEPS

You can direct the state tax dollars that you already pay to support our school through the Angel Scholarship Program! All it takes is three steps:



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 \$750.00 per taxpayer (\$1,500.00 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.

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...

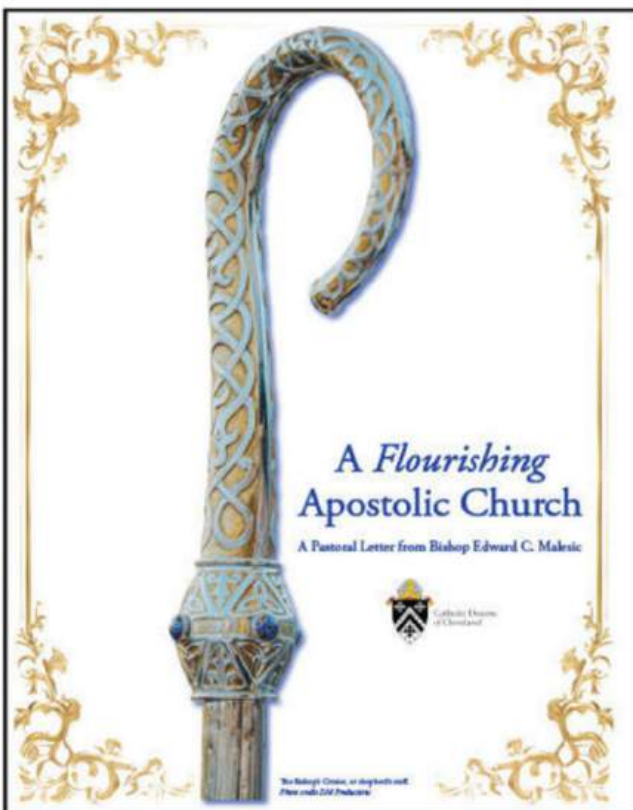
- Read the letter
- Discuss it with fellow parishioners
- Develop ideas to improve our church
- Grow in your spiritual life and friendship with God

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.



EXALT! ADORATION, PRAISE & WORSHIP AT QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Please join Queen of Heaven's parish community for Exalt! Adoration, Praise & Worship, 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 6 at Queen of Heaven Church (1800 Steese Road, Uniontown). Exalt is a night of worship that emphasizes prayer through music in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist

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