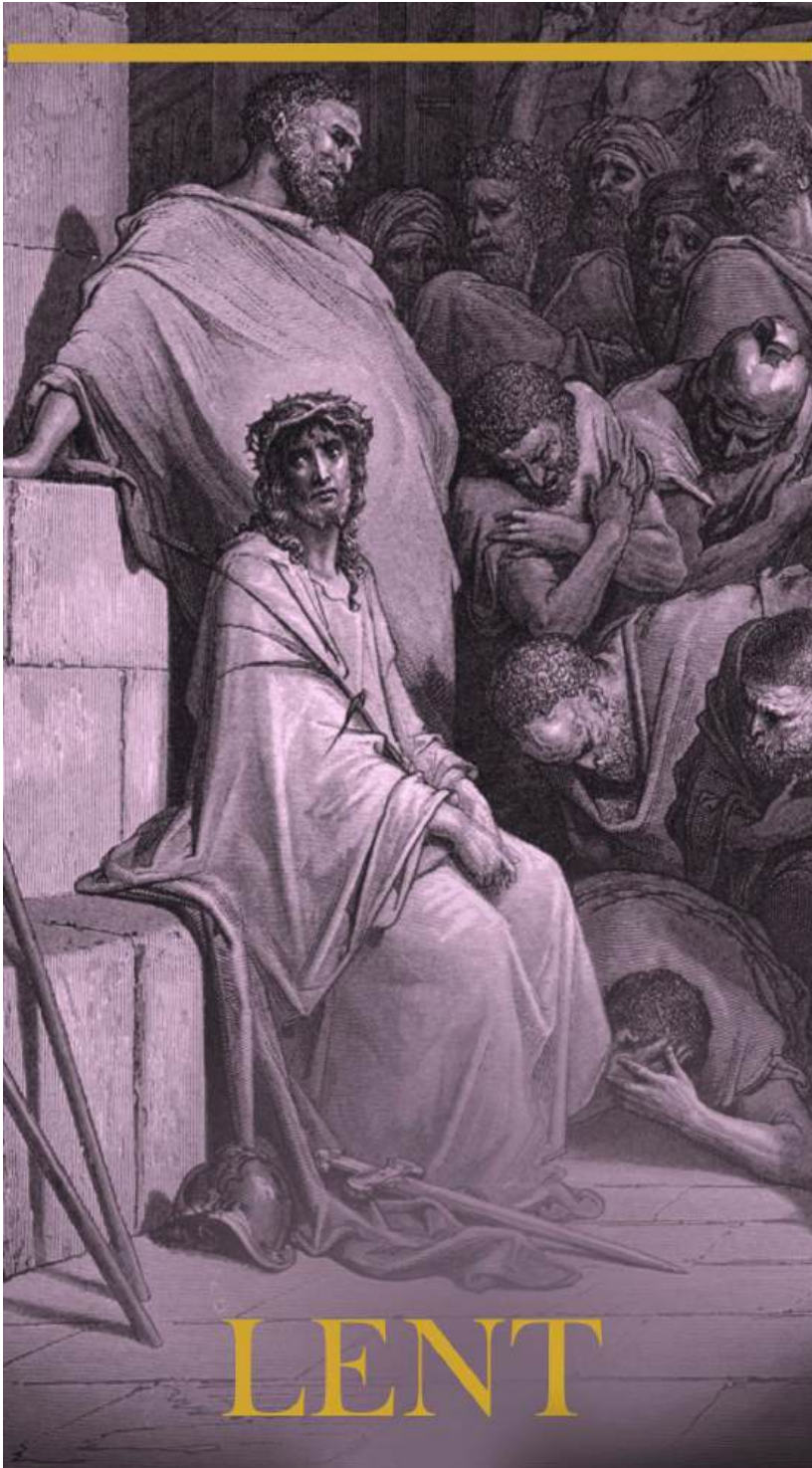


The measure of love is to love without measure.

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.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 16, 2025**

*Masses For
The Week*



SUNDAY, MARCH 16, SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo
9:00 a.m. Ronald Patrick Evans (Evans Family)
11:00 a.m. Josephine Cefalu (Kelliher Family)

MONDAY, MARCH 17, ST. PATRICK

- 8:15 a.m. Erin Beitko (Chris & Dick Robbins)

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

- 8:15 a.m. Dan Kelly (Michele Kelly)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

- 8:15 a.m. Bonnie Cszasz (Senior Euchre Group)
9:00 a.m. Jeannene Alt (Daughter)

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

- 8:15 a.m. William Wagner (Daughter, Jan)
6:30 p.m. Walter Dubetz (Family)
Helen Flickinger – Month's Mind

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

- 8:15 a.m. Bill Eggert (The Sisters)

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

- 8:15 a.m. Margaret Swenberg
(Joe & Carolina Fatica)
5:00 p.m. Pro Populo

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

- 7:30 a.m. Paul Neugebauer
(Mike & Sue Ciccolini)
9:00 a.m. Vicky Bhe (John & Helen Deibel)
11:00 a.m. Ronda Egert (Chris Kovesci)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Dan 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: 2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13,
16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a;
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mic 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12;
Lk 13:1-9

PRAY FOR POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis has been in the news a lot recently due to his health concerns as he battled double pneumonia. He has been in Rome's Gemelli Hospital since February 14. Recently, he was given good news that he was not in imminent danger due to his illness. Nevertheless, keep him in your prayers as he continues to heal. This past Sunday at the 11:00 a.m. Mass, we knelt down and prayed this Prayer for Pope Francis from the USCCB website...



Prayer for Pope Francis

*O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful,
look favorably on Your servant Francis,
whom You have set at the head of Your Church as her
shepherd;
grant, we pray, that by word and example
he may be of service to those over whom he presides
so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care,
he may come to everlasting life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy
Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

This past week, we celebrated his 12th anniversary of being elected pope on March 13, 2013. I am grateful for his last 12 years of ministry as he has helped me so much by reminding us of the mercy, joy and hope that Jesus brings us! I am also very grateful for the many messages he has brought to the world through encyclicals, apostolic exhortations, apostolic letters, homilies, etc... If you need something to read during Lent, I have been most impacted by these two apostolic exhortations. I'll share a quote from each...

"*Evangelii Gaudium*": The Joy of the Gospel.
(November 24, 2013)

"The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept His offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew."

"*Gaudete et Exsultate*": Rejoice and Be Glad.
(March 19, 2018)

"Do not be afraid of holiness. It will take away none of your energy, vitality or joy. On the contrary, you will become what the Father had in mind when He created you, and you will be faithful to your deepest self."

**Live in His love,
Fr. Jeremy**

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

- Children's Liturgy of the Word, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- Cub Scouts, 4:30 p.m. (Upper Room)
- Boy Scouts, 4:30 p.m. (Memorare Center)
- Youth Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)
- Night Prayer, 8:00 p.m. (Church)

MONDAY, MARCH 17

- School Stations of the Cross, 2:15 p.m. (Church)
- PSR and Ignite, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

- Holy Angels Formation, 3:30 p.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Diocese Evening of Confession, 5:00-8:00 p.m. at churches across the Diocese of Cleveland
- 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)
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (Upper Room)

THURSDAY, MARCH 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.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

- Stations of the Cross, 7:00 p.m. (Church)
- Play Performance, *Annie Jr.*, 7:00 p.m. (Gym)

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Rosary, 8:45 a.m. (Church)
- Play Performance, *Annie Jr.*, 7:00 p.m. (Gym)

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

- Children's Liturgy of the Word, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- Prayers for Healing, following the 11:00 a.m. Mass, meet by the St. Anthony statue
- Play Performance, *Annie Jr.*, 1:00 p.m. (Gym)
- Boy Scouts, 4:30 p.m. (Memorare Center)
- Youth Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)
- Night Prayer, 8:00 p.m. (Church)

THE VOCATION CRUCIFIX IS BACK!

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

The Wilson Family 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. There are dozens of weeks to be filled on the schedule.

| 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

March 8 & 9

| | Offertory | Faith Direct |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Sunday | \$ 14,521.00 | \$ 15,400.82 |
| Assessment | \$ 318.00 | \$ 145.00 |
| Capital | \$ 180.00 | \$ 220.00 |
| School | \$ 285.00 | \$ 345.00 |
| Easter | \$ 100.00 | |
| Holy Land | \$ 50.00 | |
| The Missions | | \$ 20.00 |
| Catholic Relief Services | | \$ 115.00 |
| Church in Eastern Europe | | \$ 70.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 15,454.00 | \$ 16,315.82 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$ 31,769.82 | |

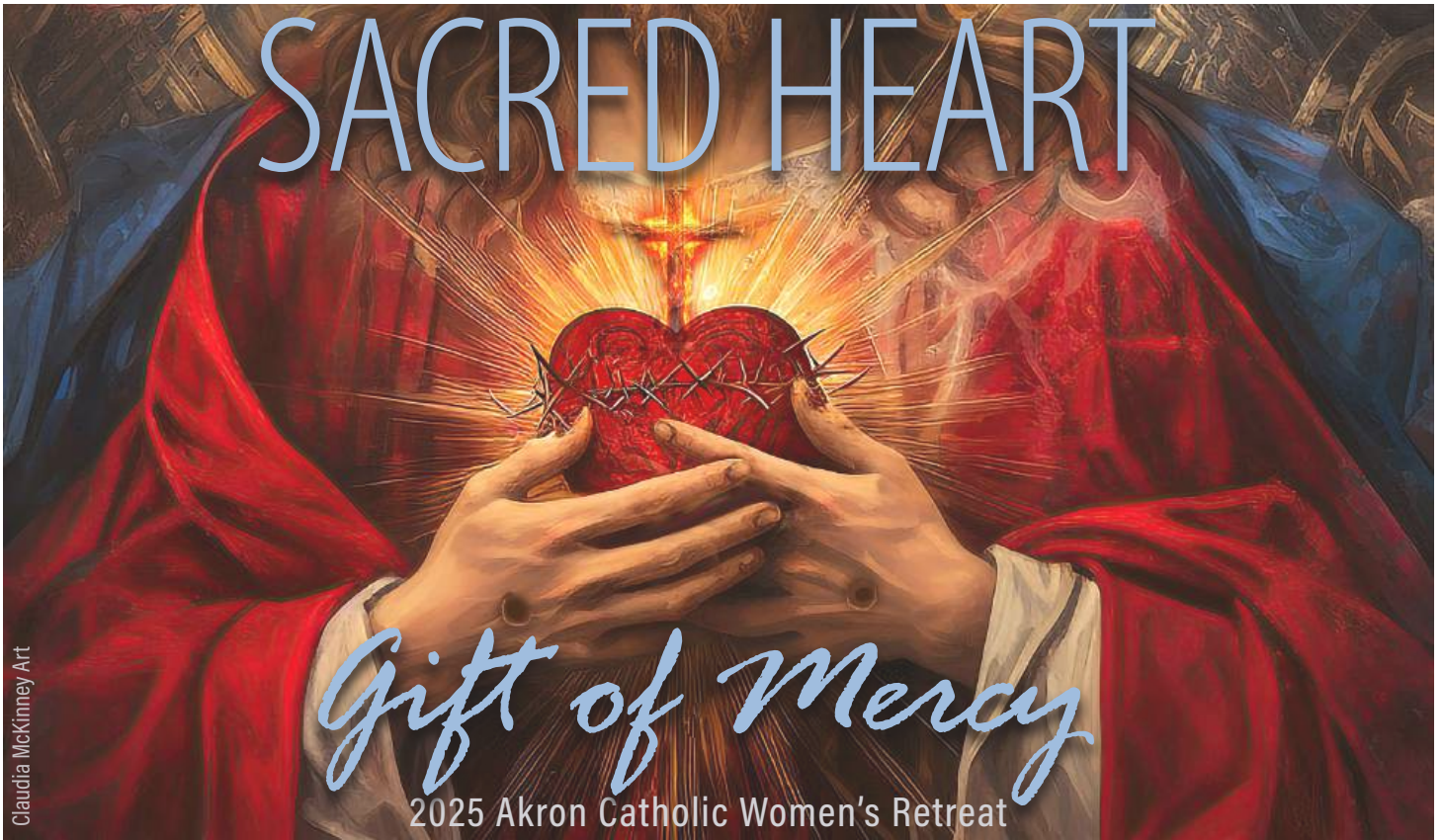
Our parish is blessed by your generosity!

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.



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



Office Use | Payment: Cash Check

First & Last Name

Email (Required for Confirmation)

Phone Number

Parish Name

City of Parish



Scan QR Code to Register!

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

"Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory... the king of glory will say to those on his right...For I was hungry and you gave me food..."



Our Parish Lenten Food Drive is going extremely well. You have been so generous so far! Please continue to journey with the St. Vincent de Paul Society and share hope to our neighbors in need. The two-fold purpose of this food drive is to emphasize and reflect on the importance of almsgiving during Lent and to restock the food pantry as the needs of our neighbors have increased. We ask that you simply add one or two items to your grocery cart each week and share with the parish food pantry.

To stock the parish pantry well, we will focus on items we know are needed. We are breaking up our food drive into the weekends of Lent with each week focusing on a couple items we all may use in our own homes at our family dinner table. Please bring these items to the Church narthex when you come to Mass. Say a prayer for the family you might be nourishing in body as well as soul.

"...Then the righteous will answer him and say "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you..."

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

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

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

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

Did you maybe forget to bring in your pasta sauce or tuna the last couple of weeks? No worries, we are happy to receive your gifts at any time.

If it is easier for you to make a cash donation, we will gladly shop for you! You can find SVdP donor envelopes in the narthex pamphlet rack. Simply drop it in the collection basket and we will put your gift to good use.

Lent is a time of hope for Catholics – as well as a time for faith and charity. Thank you for bringing hope to the people we are honored to serve.

Here is a real case scenario to think about:

J. who broke her foot and does not drive was happy to have groceries delivered to her.

"And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me..."

Matthew 25:31-46



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

Priestly sons of our parish
will share reflections on hope.
Thursday, March 27 – Fr. David Stavarz
Thursday, April 3 – Fr. Alex Clark
Following 6:30 p.m. Mass in the Church

WOMEN'S RETREAT

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

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 with any questions and sign up for reminders on Flocknote! Bring your friends and family and let's flow in our faith together!



**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.



Is God calling you to a deeper prayer life this Lent? Meditative prayer is how we get to know God better, His greatness, His holiness, His love, etc. The Holy Angels are witnesses of the words and deeds of God in the history of our salvation. They were there! They were present at the birth of Christ, His crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension. They pass on to us, in proportion to our readiness and willingness to receive it, the light of these mysteries. Come hear more about this and other ways the Holy Angels help us, even in our day-to-day activities, at a talk on the Holy Angels at 6:00 p.m. in the Holy Family Room on March 19th. Stay for the discussion that follows at 7:15 p.m. and see how we open ourselves up for the help of the Holy Angels in meditative prayer. Please RSVP to the Parish Office at 330-644-2225.

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 2 – pages 7-9

Part III

- What do you think of the bishop's idea to add a daily Mass to your schedule once a week?
- Have you ever thought of yourself as a missionary disciple? What could that look like?
- What are some ways that we can begin to emulate Jesus?
- How does your celebration of the Sacraments help you to recognize God's grace all around you?

Week 3 – pages 10-13

Part III

- What are the best ways for you to form or join a small faith sharing group (formal or informal)?
- Knowing and telling one's own story can be very effective. Be ready to share your story.
- What are some ways you have seen Jesus in your life or the life of another? When have you fallen and then been comforted?
- What has God done in your life? How has your life changed by being a Catholic?
- What do you think silence could bring to your life? How might silence in your prayer change your conversation with God?



HOLY THURSDAY AGAPE MEAL

APRIL 17, 5:00 PM

**Before the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 pm,
join us for an Agape Meal, a gathering of Christian fellowship, in the gym.**

RSVP to the Parish Office or on our website by Monday, April 14.

Please bring a side dish to share. Chicken will be provided as the entree.

Want to volunteer? Call the Parish Office at 330-644-2225



Introduction to the Divine Office (Liturgy of the Hours)

Come join us this Lent to learn more about the prayer of the Church during two sessions:

**Saturday, March 29th after 5:00 pm Mass (approx 6:15)
*WHY pray the Divine Office?***

**Saturday, April 5th after 5:00 pm Mass (approx 6:15)
*HOW to pray the Divine Office***

We will explore "the very prayer which Christ himself together with his Body addresses to the Father." (Pope Pius VI)



A MESSAGE FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY

A message from Stephen Ministry: Instead of wearing your green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, do you find yourself just feeling blue? Sometimes life trials make it hard to find joy. In the back of the church is a Stephen Ministry prayer box. Drop your name and intention into the prayer box and your needs and intentions will be lifted up in prayer at our monthly meetings. If you would like to learn more about how a Stephen Minister could walk with you through those life trials, add your name and phone number and one of our Stephen Leaders will contact you.

I CAME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE IN ABUNDANCE!

Jesus gives us the hope of eternal life, but did you realize that He wants us to begin living that life while here on earth? Fr. Jacob Bearer taught us that seeking healing is a battle we are invited to enter into. When we have an illness, we don't hesitate to return again and again to the doctor as part of a treatment plan. Have you grown weary with an illness or burden and just resigned yourself to it? Perhaps the Lord wants to lift that burden, increase your strength, or even heal you completely! Come on the 4th Sunday following the 11:00 a.m. Mass and the St. Francis de Sales Healing Ministry will pray with you. This is open to anyone.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS

A Retreat for 7th-12th Grade Students

March 29th 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Attention youth! Enjoy relationships with Jesus and others and grow in your spiritual life this spring. Chesterton Academy of Akron is offering a retreat for youth in 7th-12th grade at St. Paul's in Akron. The focus is on prayer and the importance of relationships and community in the spirit of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Registration is limited! The cost is \$25.00 per youth. More information on the website: akronchestertonacademy.org/events.

Young Adult Volunteers Needed for Retreat!

The ITE Project is hosting the above one-day Teen Spring Retreat focused on prayer and community in the spirit of St. Ignatius of Loyola for The Chesterton Academy of Akron on March 29th at St. Paul's Parish in Akron! We need volunteers to help us with setting up, serving lunch, and breaking down this very special event! Please sign up via this link: <https://www.theiteproject.com/events/chesterton>.

MEDITATIONS ON THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

Our Mother's Hands is offering a meditative way to reflect on Christ, passed down through the relics bearing His image, such as the Shroud of Turin. These reflections will take place at several parishes throughout the diocese, and are free and open to all. An actual relic of the Holy Face of Jesus will be displayed for veneration.

- **Sunday, March 23**, 10:15-11:15 a.m.
at Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church, Akron
- **Wednesday, March 26**, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
at St. Ambrose Parish, Brunswick
- **Friday, March 28**, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
at SS. Edward and Lucy Church, Middlefield
- **Sunday, April 13**, 12:15-1:15 p.m.
at St. Sebastian Parish, Akron
- **Saturday, April 26**, 5:00-6:00 p.m.
at St. Jerome, Cleveland

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.

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!

WEAR BLUE AT THE AKRON ZOO FOR CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

On Wednesday, April 9, wear blue to help raise awareness of the importance of preventing child abuse and neglect. Anyone who wears blue to the Akron Zoo that day will be admitted for FREE! To get your blue on, request a free "We Wear Blue" kit at <https://www.summitkids.org/community-action/community-education/child-abuse-prevention-month/>.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY

The South Akron Knights of Columbus are hosting their annual Friday Lenten Fish Frys at the KoC Hall, 2055 Glenmount Avenue, Akron 44319 from 4:30-7:00 p.m. They offer a \$12.00 fried fish dinner, \$13.00 fried shrimp dinner, \$14.00 baked cod dinner, \$17.00 seafood platter, and a \$10.00 chicken tender dinner. All dinners include a choice of two sides. Meals are available for dine in or carry out. Orders can be placed in-person at the hall, by phone at 330-773-3410, or online at www.akronkofc.com. Cash and credit card are accepted.

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY, AKRON – PREPLANNING SEMINAR

The Catholic Cemeteries Association invites you to attend a 1-hour, educational preplanning seminar on Saturday, March 29th, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the cemetery office at Holy Cross Cemetery, Akron. Please join us to learn more about the necessary steps of burial preplanning, types of burials (including cremation), and the Rite of Christian Burial. We kindly ask that you RSVP for this event to Holy Cross Cemetery – 216-641-7575, ext. 7 or email bstrauchon@clecem.org. Visit clecem.org for more information.

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