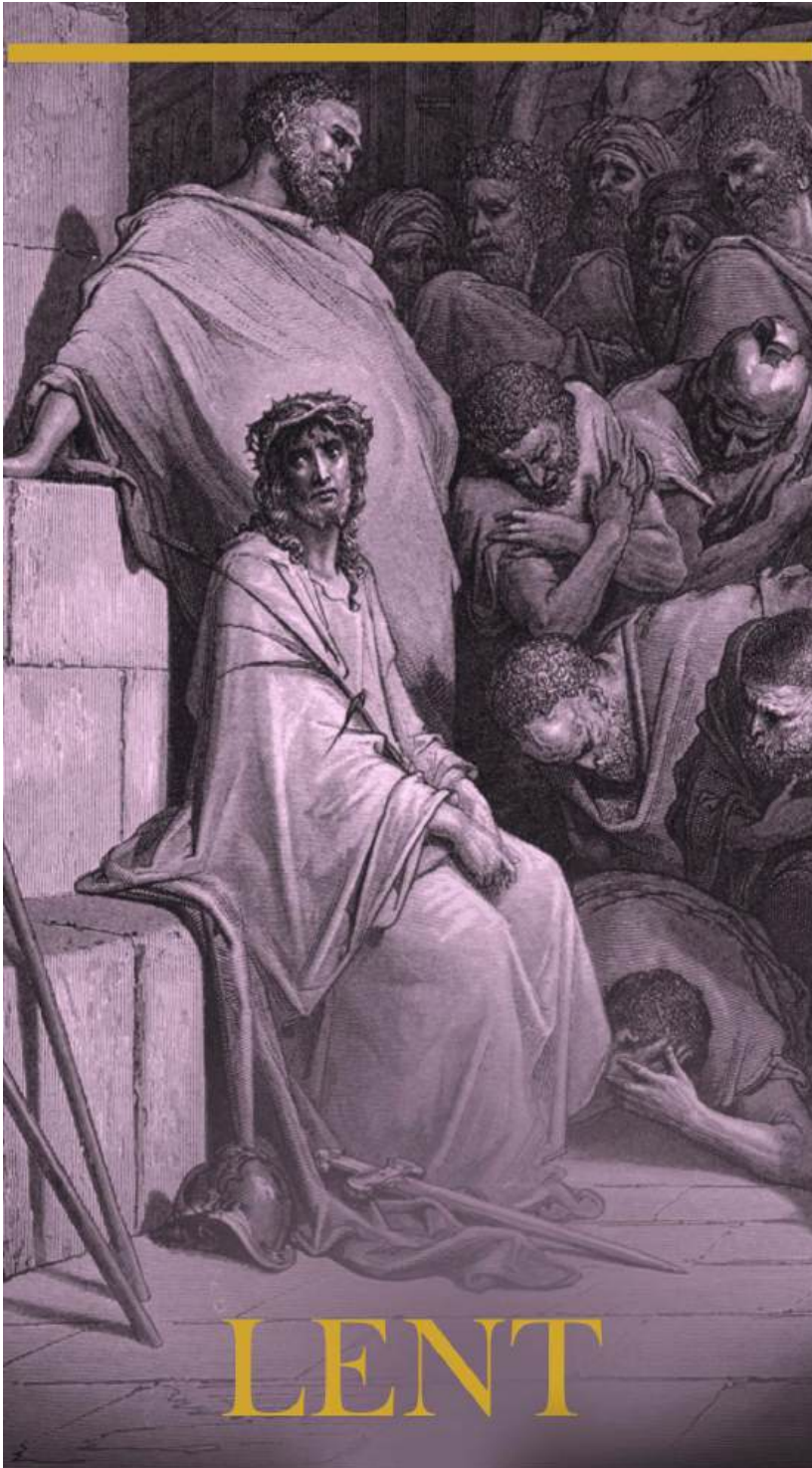


The measure of love is to love without measure.

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 23, 2025

*Masses For
The Week*



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)

MONDAY, MARCH 24

8:15 a.m. Mitch Ware (Sue Garritano White)

**TUESDAY, MARCH 25, THE ANNUNCIATION
OF THE LORD**

8:15 a.m. Patrick Blubaugh (Dean & Annette Dressler)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

8:15 a.m. Tindora Constantino (Anna Fana)

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

8:15 a.m. John, Geraldine, & Tom Gutbrod
 (Jim Gutbrod)
 6:30 p.m. Jacqueline Schnitzler (Jeff & Gail Angeletti)
 Robert Burch – *Month's Mind*
 Margaret Swenberg – *Anniversary of Death*

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

8:15 a.m. Intentions of Janet Karson (Janet)
 Susan Russo – *Month's Mind*

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

8:15 a.m. Rita Vaughan (Tony & Mary Heyden)
 5:00 p.m. Cynthia Anderson (Kathy & Don McCabe)
 Rita Vaughan – *Anniversary of Death*

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

7:30 a.m. Pro Populo
 9:00 a.m. Drew Karson (Janet Karson)
 11:00 a.m. Shannon Swaino (Megan & Donny)

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

Just a few weeks ago, one evening, our neighbor's dog started talking (barking), and, at that point, Blaise had to talk back. Over the last couple years, it has become a nightly routine. Blaise will run outside through his doggy door and bark and bark and bark. I don't seem to mind it. However, on that evening a few weeks ago, Fr. David mentioned that something needed to be done...training...buying some device...something! So, I promised I would check it out, and the following week I brought home this miracle device. It is called the "PetSafe Outdoor Ultrasonic Bark Control Deterrent." I bought it with low expectations, but wow! As soon as Blaise barks outside, it sends out an ultrasonic sound that he dislikes. And now the barking is gone! Praise God!



Watching this device in action made me think a lot about fraternal correction. As soon as Blaise barks, it responds to correct his behavior. How many of us live among people and put up with their bad behavior without saying anything? All the while, it may be bugging us or making us depressed to see this friend or family member living the way they are living. We are in a difficult time when everyone is right, when relativism is at an all-time high, but this shouldn't change our behavior. As Christians, we need to embrace the way of fraternal correction. St. Josemaria Escriva once said, "Don't neglect the practice of fraternal correction, which is a clear sign of the supernatural virtue of charity. You may find it hard, for it's easier to be inhibited. It's easier to behave that way, but it's not supernatural. And you will have to render an account to God for such omissions....When you have to make a fraternal correction, do it with great kindness – great charity! – in what you say and in the way you say it, for at that moment you are God's instrument." Most of the time correcting someone is not easy or fun. It must come from a place of love. Receiving correction can be very difficult as well, but humility makes it easier.

In the Gospel today, Jesus warns the people, "If you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" But with that call to repent, He shared the parable of the fruitless fig tree. When tempted to cut it down, the gardener said to give it a year and let him cultivate it, care for it, and give it time to bear fruit. When the Lord calls us to repent, to change our lives, He does so with great patience, kindness and mercy. As we correct one another with love, may we do the same.

**With kindness and mercy,
Fr. Jeremy**

P.S. I'll see you Thursday, March 27 at 6:30 p.m. while we welcome Fr. David Stavarz home for our Lenten series on hope.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Ki 5:1-15ab; Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Heb 10:4-10;
 Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Deut 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14
Sunday: Jsh 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21;
 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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)

MONDAY, MARCH 24

- No School
- No PSR and Ignite
- Young Women’s Discernment Group, 7:00 p.m. (Archangels Room)

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

- Senior Euchre Group, 1:00-4:00 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (Upper Room)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)

THURSDAY, MARCH 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.
- Parish Mission, 7:15 p.m. (Church)

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

- Men’s Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Rosary, 8:45 a.m. (Church)
- An Introduction to Praying the Divine Office, Part 1, 6:15 p.m. (Memorare Center)

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

- Children’s Liturgy of the Word, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- 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)

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 15 & 16

	Offertory
Sunday	\$ 13,774.25
Assessment	\$ 20.00
Capital	\$ 60.00
School	\$ 360.00
Church in Eastern Europe	\$ 370.00
TOTAL	\$ 14,584.25

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.

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Maryanna Ogonek**. May she rest in peace and may God comfort her family and friends.

THE VOCATION CRUCIFIX IS BACK!

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

John & Karen Niles 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.



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY,

APRIL 13

Mass at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.
Night Prayer, 8:00 p.m.

HOLY MONDAY,

APRIL 14

Mass at 8:15 a.m.
Adoration, 7:00-8:00 a.m. and 6:00-10:00 p.m.

HOLY TUESDAY,

APRIL 15

Mass at 8:15 a.m.
Chrism Mass at Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist,
downtown Cleveland, 7:00 p.m.
Adoration, 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

HOLY WEDNESDAY,

APRIL 16

Mass at 8:15 a.m.
Adoration, 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

HOLY THURSDAY,

APRIL 17

Morning Prayer, 8:15 a.m.
Agape Meal, 5:00 p.m. in the Gym
Evening Mass of The Lord's Supper, 7:00 p.m.
Adoration – Altar of Repose in Memorare Center,
8:30-11:00 p.m.
Night Prayer and Reposition, 11:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY,

APRIL 18

Morning Prayer, 8:15 a.m.
Stations of the Cross, 12:00 noon
Celebration of the Passion of the Lord & Adoration of the
Holy Cross, 3:00 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY,

APRIL 19

Morning Prayer, 8:15 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt, 10:30 a.m.
Blessing of the Easter Food and Baskets, 12:00 p.m.
The Great Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, 9:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY,

APRIL 20

Mass at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.



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

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

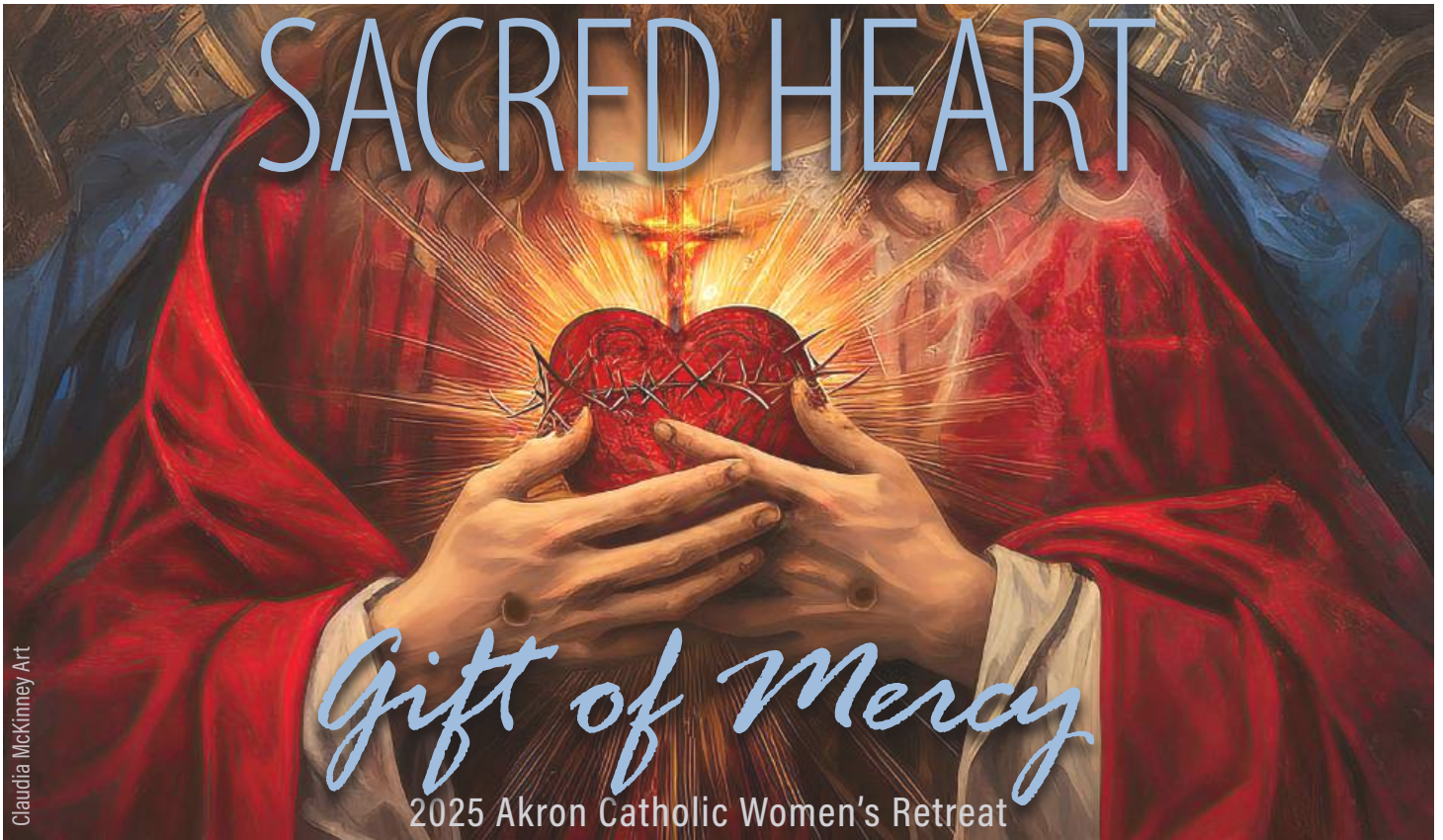
INTRODUCTION TO PRAYING

THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Saturdays, March 29th and April 5th at 6:15 p.m.
Memorare Center

WOMEN'S RETREAT

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



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

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

Truly, love is delightful and pleasant food, supplying, as it does, rest to the weary, strength to the weak, and joy to the sorrowful. It in fact renders the yoke of truth easy and its burden light.
– Saint Bernard



So many of you are filling the shelves in the parish food pantry with healthy food options. Thank you for bringing hope to our neighbors! We are entering the fourth week of collecting nonperishable items. As we keep in mind the three pillars of Lent – prayer, fasting and almsgiving – continue to journey with us by adding to the Lenten food drive from the suggestions below.

All we ask is for you to add one or two items to your grocery cart each week. Please bring these items to the Church narthex when you come to Mass. Say a prayer for the family you might be providing with nourishment for their body as well as their soul.

Within the next couple of weeks, members of the SVdP society will start assembling bags for our Easter food distribution to our neighbors in need.

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

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

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

We are happy to receive your items at any time so if there is a can of chicken rattling around in your trunk, it's NOT too late. Also, 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 one in the collection basket and we will put your gift to good use.

In Bishop Malesic's Pastoral Letter, *A Flourishing Apostolic Church*, he states the importance of serving others. He says, "For the sake of our salvation, it is imperative that we serve others out of love. Jesus told us that He came to serve, not to be served, and after washing the feet of His disciples, told them to do the same, saying, 'As I have loved you, so you also should love one another'" (John 13:34).

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 all honored to serve.

Here is a real case scenario to think about: K. who has breast cancer and cannot work is grateful not only for the food she receives but also for the toiletries or cleaning supplies that help her stay healthier.

"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."
John Bunyan

SENSORY-FRIENDLY MASSES

MASS AT 4:00 PM

St. Francis de Sales Parish will host a series of sensory-friendly Masses in 2024 & 2025. These Masses are open to everyone. You may benefit from worshipping at a sensory-friendly Mass if you struggle with sensory overstimulation, have a disability or special need, or if you are more at ease in a less-crowded space. Lights are lower than normal and there will be no music. Those with sensory sensitivities are invited to bring comfort items that will help make the environment more accommodating. The homily will be short, practical, and literal, and Mass will be approximately 30 minutes long.

OCT
27

JAN
19

MAR
30

JUL
20

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH
4019 MANCHESTER ROAD
AKRON, OH 44319

Discussion Questions

Bishop Malesic's Letter *A Flourishing Apostolic Church*

These discussion questions can be used by the groups studying Bishop Malesic's letter or for your own reflection. Whether or not you joined a group, these questions can help you examine your own life of faith.

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?

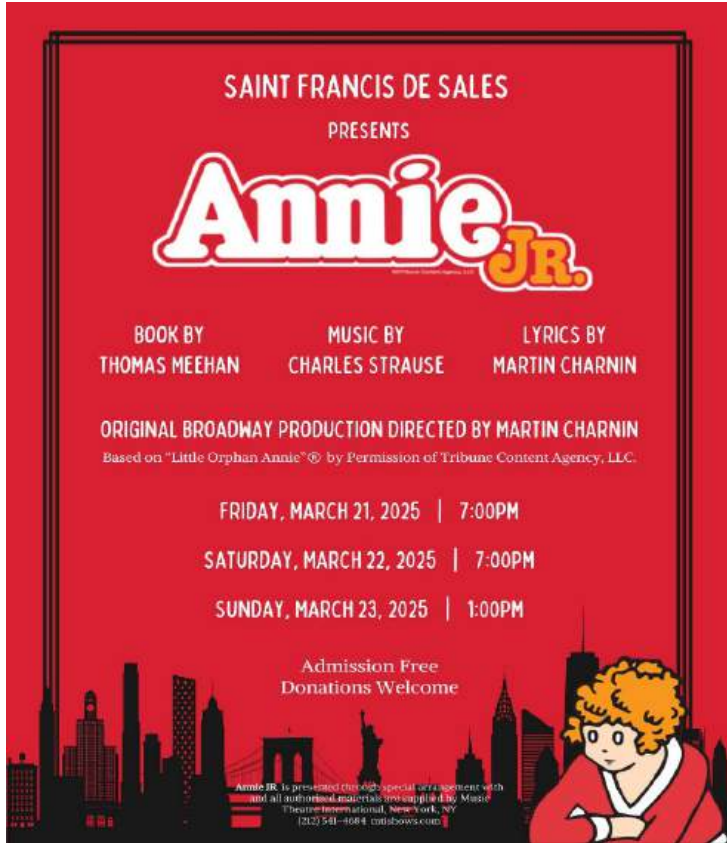
Week 4 – pages 13-17

Part IV

- What are some ways that you could enter more fully, with your whole heart, into worship?
- How can you grow in Worship, Evangelization, and Service?
- How can you get the message of Jesus and His Gospel out into our communities in a way that is authentic, orthodox, and inviting?
- How might we best show love to those presently not drawn to the Church?

SUPER CASH BONANZA RAFFLE TICKETS

Stop by the parish office to buy some \$5.00 Knights of Columbus Super Cash Bonanza raffle tickets. A portion of the proceeds will support our parish's youth group. 25 raffle prizes will be awarded, with the first prize being \$414.00 per month for TEN years. So, help the Knights, help the youth, and who knows, maybe help yourself!



SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES
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FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025 | 7:00PM
SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025 | 7:00PM
SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025 | 1:00PM
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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.

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? 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.



\$13 TICKETS NOW ON SALE

We're QUAAAAAACCK.....

Mass at the Ballpark

August 10, 2025 at 11:00 am

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

Use the QR Code below to purchase tickets.

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



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

Spring arrived this past week, but life can still seem cold and dreary for those who have suffered a loss or experienced a crisis. Our Stephen Ministers are trained to help people through the winters of life, providing emotional and spiritual support during tough times. If you or someone you know could benefit from the confidential, one-to-one Christian care of a Stephen Minister, contact one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Ann Clark (aclark2@stfparish.com) or Bill Dickey (wdickey@stfparish.com) or add your contact information to the prayer box located in the back of the church.

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

Chesterton Academy of Akron invites you to experience the life of St. Thomas More through drama in their performance of "A Man for All Seasons" April 5th at 7:00 p.m. in St. Paul's Parish Activity Center on Brown Street, in Akron. St. Thomas More is an inspiration of courage and fortitude for us today. Three students in the cast of ten are from St. Francis de Sales families. Light concessions available, free admission.

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

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 Faith, Hope, and Resurrection

"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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