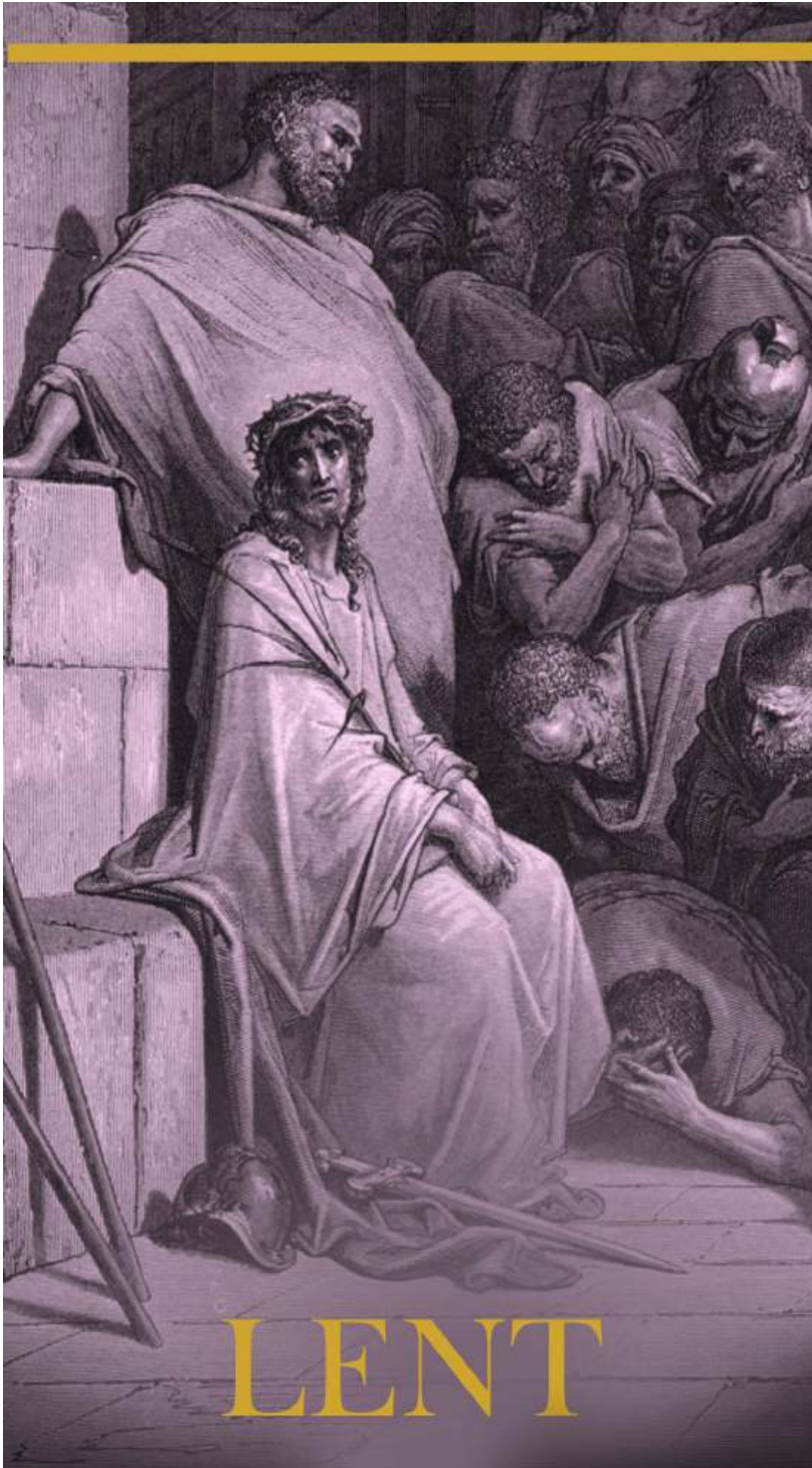


The measure of love is to love without measure.

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 30, 2025



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)

MONDAY, MARCH 31

- 8:15 a.m. Betty J. Phillips (Ann Marie Phillips)

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

- 8:15 a.m. Norma Edmunds & Sisters-in-Law
(Edmunds Family)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, ST. FRANCIS OF PAOLA

- 8:15 a.m. Ruth & Clair Over (John & Helen Deibel)
Jane Collins – Month's Mind

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

- 8:15 a.m. Tom Getzinger (Velda Paridon)
6:30 p.m. Anointing Mass – Richard Smith
(Patricia Smith)

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, ST. ISADORE

- 8:15 a.m. Jim Vaughan (Lou & Laurene Scala)
9:00 a.m. Kathy Sullivan (Doug & Ann Coutts)

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, ST. VINCENT FERRER

- 8:15 a.m. Costello Family (Son, Sean Costello)
5:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of the Hazy Family
(Anna Mantel)
James Misanko – Month's Mind

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

- 7:30 a.m. James Gangle (Wife)
9:00 a.m. Anita Colant (Gary & Patti Phillips)
11:00 a.m. Pro Populo

LAETARE SUNDAY! REJOICE!

"...there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance" (Luke 15:7). This passage comes right before Jesus shares the story of the Prodigal Son. From heaven's perspective, the greatest joy is living a life of repentance, conversion. On this Laetare Sunday, spend a moment with these words from John Paul II who speaks on this type of joy...



"Let the period of Lent stimulate us, therefore, to carry out our Christian duties. Let us find again the joy that participation in the Eucharist gives us. Let Sunday Mass become for us the climax of every week. Let us find again the joy that comes from repentance, from conversion, from this splendid sacrament of reconciliation with God, which Christ set up to re-establish peace in man's conscience. Let us undertake the spiritual effort that Lent demands of us in order to be capable of accepting with all the depth of the spirit this call of the Church today: "Laetare, Jerusalem." (Angelus, Fourth Sunday of Lent, 1979).

As you repent and change your heart with the help of God's grace, your heart can be open to joy more and more. One book I have been desiring to read is Matthew Kelly's *Slowing down to the Speed of Joy*. In it he writes: *"In a world obsessed with doing more and doing it faster than ever, slowing down and doing less is the only sane response. If I could go back and live my life all over again, there is one thing I would change. I'd change the speed at which I have lived my life. I can't go back, but I do intend to live my life at the speed of joy from here on out. It is time to move beyond the joyless urgency of our times....Joy erupts within us when we allow an experience to touch the very depths of our souls. That cannot be rushed. It's time to slow down to the speed of joy."*

This makes me think of Pope Francis and his doctors' recent suspension of his General Audience on Wednesday and the Angelus on Sunday at least until May. The doctors are requiring him to live within the boundaries that his life has for him at the moment. Are we doing the same? What limits do we have in life when it comes to doing too much or too little? Are we listening to our heavenly doctor and slowing down to the speed of joy?

God bless you!
Fr. Jeremy

P.S. Lastly, we rejoice that Deacon Ryan Arto has been called by Bishop Malesic to Priesthood Ordination. He will be ordained on May 17 at St. John's Cathedral in Cleveland. He will celebrate his first Mass here on May 18 at 11:00 a.m. (his birthday 😊). There is no greater gift! Praise God! Continue to pray for him and his classmates.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday: Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

- No Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Sensory-Friendly Mass, 4:00 p.m. (Church)
- Boy Scouts, 4:30 p.m. (Gym)
- Youth Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)
- Night Prayer, 8:00 p.m. (Church)

MONDAY, MARCH 31

- School Stations of the Cross, 2:15 p.m. (Church)
- PSR and Ignite Family Night, 6:30-7:15 p.m. (Gym)
- Family Adoration, 7:15-8:15 p.m. (Church)

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

- Women's Study Group, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Cluster Communal Penance, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (St. Paul Parish, Akron)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (Upper Room)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

- 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.
- Stephen Ministry Continuing Education & Supervision, 6:30 p.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Parish Mission, 7:15 p.m. (Church)

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

- Youth Choir Practice, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Church)
- Stations of the Cross, 7:00 p.m. (Church)

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

- 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)
- 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.

Dan & Karen Crookston 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 mrsllloyd@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 22 & 23

	Offertory	Faith Direct
Sunday	\$ 13,503.00	\$ 9,066.88
Assessment	\$ 30.00	\$ 64.00
Capital	\$ 175.00	\$ 154.00
School	\$ 310.00	\$ 129.00
Special Collections	\$ 145.00	\$ 637.00
Special Gift		\$ 200.00
TOTAL	\$ 14,163.00	\$ 10,250.88
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 24,413.88	

Our parish is blessed by your generosity!

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Andrew Nuss** and **Dolores Janini** as well as **Patricia DiDonato**, mother of parishioner John DiDonato. May they rest in peace and may God comfort their family and friends.



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

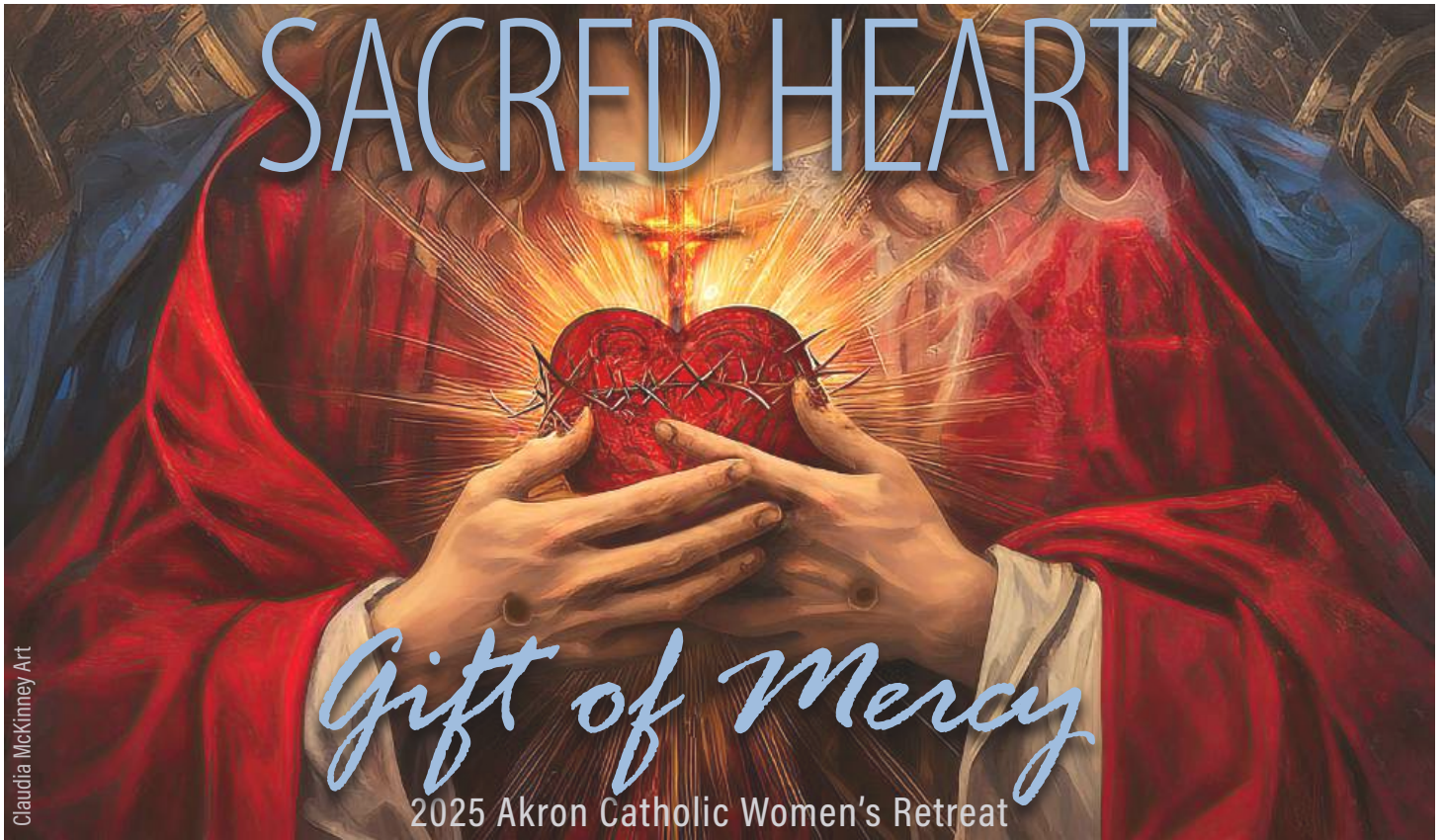
Priestly sons of our parish will
share reflections on hope.
Thursday, April 3 – Fr. Alex Clark
Following 6:30 p.m. Mass in the Church

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



Office Use | Payment: Cash Check



Scan QR Code to Register!

First & Last Name

Email (Required for Confirmation)

Phone Number

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

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.



April 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>HOLY WEEK</p>		<p><i>1</i> Donald Bailey St. Mary Theology I</p>	<p><i>2</i> Benjamin Baratian St. Mary Theology I</p>	<p><i>3</i> Johannes Benninghoff St. Mary Theology I</p>	<p><i>4</i> Jake Cermak St. Mary Theology I</p>	<p><i>5</i> Jonathan Green St. Mary Theology I</p>
<p><i>6</i> <i>Pray for All Parents of Priests</i></p>	<p><i>7</i> Benjamin Jackson St. Mary Theology I</p>	<p><i>8</i> Simon Park St. Mary Theology I</p>	<p><i>9</i> Steve Zbiegien St. Mary Theology I</p>	<p><i>10</i> Sean Homcy St. Mary Theology II</p>	<p><i>11</i> Alexander Krukemeyer St. Mary Theology II</p>	<p><i>12</i> Daniel LaPolla St. Mary Theology II</p>
<p><i>13</i> <i>Pray for those who are suffering throughout the world</i></p>	<p><i>14</i> Billy Reed St. Mary Theology II</p>	<p><i>15</i> Joseph Rohan St. Mary Theology II</p>	<p><i>16</i> Joshua Stecz St. Mary Theology II</p>	<p><i>17</i> Arthur Bordenschatz St. Mary Theology III</p>	<p><i>18</i> Noah Furin St. Mary Theology III</p>	<p><i>19</i> Jeremy Gaugler St. Mary Theology III</p>
<p><i>20</i> <i>Pray for the Newly Baptized in our Diocese</i></p>	<p><i>21</i> Jeremy Shafer St. Mary Theology III</p>	<p><i>22</i> Charles Cairnie St. Mary Theology IV</p>	<p><i>23</i> Mitch Carson St. Mary Theology IV</p>	<p><i>24</i> Cameron Ferrell St. Mary Theology IV</p>	<p><i>25</i> Nathan Frankart St. Mary Theology IV</p>	<p><i>26</i> Joseph Truong Viet Ho St. Mary Theology IV</p>
<p><i>27</i> <i>Pray for the Avilas and Serrans</i></p>	<p><i>28</i> Sean Neville St. Mary Theology IV</p>	<p><i>29</i> Dc. Ryan Arto St. Mary Theology V</p>	<p><i>30</i> Dc Christopher Cotone St. Mary Theology V</p>			

"The people who give you their food give you their hearts." – Cesar Chavez



Next weekend (April 5-6) will be our final St. Vincent de Paul Lenten food drive collection for the parish food pantry.

The response has been heartwarming. So many of you are filling the shelves in our pantry and feeding those in need. Thank you for bringing hope to our neighbors! As we enter the fifth week of collecting nonperishable items, we hope you can continue to journey with us by donating the suggested items below.

Some of the hardest items for our neighbors to purchase on their own can be paper products and cleaning supplies – basic necessities in life that we may take for granted. Sometimes, for our neighbors, it is a choice between buying milk or vegetables for a family of five or a package of bathroom tissue. Our SVdP members always try to include these items in each bag of groceries we give out.

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

We are happy to receive your nonperishable items at any time so if you just need this last reminder to get to the store for a couple of items, 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 donation envelopes in the narthex pamphlet rack. Simply drop it in the collection basket and we will put your gift to good use.

A Chance to Serve

Next Saturday, April 5, our SVdP Society is teaming up with Mother of Sorrows Parish 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. Anyone is welcome to help.

Prayer for Generosity

Lord, teach me to be generous.

Teach me to serve You as You deserve:

To give and not to count the cost;

To fight and not to heed the wounds;

To toil and not to seek for rest;

To labor and not to ask for reward;

Save that of knowing I am doing Your will.

~ St. Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556)

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:

P. brings her neighbor who does not drive to the pantry so he can get what he needs.

**"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into the giving."
~ Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta**

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

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.

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 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?

Week 5 – pages 18-22

Part V

- What are your own first steps to identify and live out your mission of service?
- How can you help encourage others to come closer to Jesus?
- How has Mary, our Mother, been a part of your life? In what ways could your mission be influenced by her intercession and guidance?
- What ideas do you have that can help our parish?



**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.

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!

RSVP FOR THE AGAPE MEAL

On Holy Thursday, April 17 at 5:00 p.m. before the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 p.m., 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 entrée. Want to volunteer? Call the Parish Office at 330-644-2225.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DIVINE OFFICE

All are welcome to learn more about the prayer of the Church, the Liturgy of the Hours, in two sessions Saturdays March 29th and April 5th after the 5:00 p.m. Mass (approximately 6:15). The first session will explore "Why to pray the Divine Office" and the second "How to pray the Divine Office." Both sessions will be in the Memorare Center.

**Help our children grow in faith!
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on your next tax return.



<https://www.catholiccommunity.org/give/catholic-education/angel-scholarship-fund>

Due to your generosity, we received \$190,000 for the 2024-2025 school year. Our goal for 2025-2026 is \$250,000!



ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Turning taxes into tuition



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Cluster Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, April 8th, 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.

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 CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION
 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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