

The measure of love is to love without measure.

St. Francis de Sales Parish

BE FAITH-FILLED. BE OF SERVICE. BE DEVOUT.



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.

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)

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
AUGUST 10, 2025**



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 10,
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

- 7:30 a.m. Jim Dolson (Wife)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
11:00 a.m. Ronald Patrick Evans (Evans Family)

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, ST. CLARE

- 8:15 a.m. Jean & Frank Hanzel (Family)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL

- 8:15 a.m. Christine Gilson (Beverley Drexler Guglielmo)
Sheila Burtscher – Month's Mind

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, SS PONTIAN & HIPPOLYTUS

- 8:15 a.m. Dan Wargo (Ellers Family)
William Wilson – Anniversary of Death

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, ST. MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE

- 8:15 a.m. Frederick Vannan (Ken & Judy Adam)
6:30 p.m. *Vigil Mass for the Assumption*
Intentions of LuAnn and Don Thomas
(Linda Simko)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15,

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

- 7:30 a.m. Health & Blessings of Sr. Regina Kusnir
(Family)
9:00 a.m. Jackie & George Schnitzler
(Amy & Jim Hilton)
6:30 p.m. Maryanna Ogonek (Linda Simko)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, ST. STEPHEN OF HUNGARY

- 8:15 a.m. Helen Flickinger (Ann & William Flickinger)
5:00 p.m. Mary Ann Yaschecko
(Bill & Kathleen Albrecht)
John Geig – Anniversary of Death

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17,

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo
9:00 a.m. Avelina Cid (Pozo Family)
11:00 a.m. Jacqueline Rambacher (Family)



**LIVING FOR
THE KINGDOM**

A while ago, a parishioner gave me a book called "Dream Bigger" by Dan Dematte. Dan Dematte is the co-founder and executive director of Damascus, one of the fastest-growing youth and young adult ministry movements in the country. I started reading it a couple weeks ago and I can't put it down. Page 15 resonates well with the Gospel for this weekend...for Jesus said, "do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the Kingdom." This is great news! Now allow me to share what Dan wrote on this...

"Whoever wishes to save his life will throw it away; and whoever throws his life away for my sake, he will save it." I love this translation! To be a Christian means you throw away your life – your plans, your agenda, your wants, your dreams – into the trash. Then, and only then, can you discover the Father's dream for your life.

But the question remains: If I deny myself and throw my life away, what on earth do I live this life for? The very simple answer to this question is that the Christian lives for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus tells us to "seek first the kingdom of God" (Matt 6:33). All of our life, for the rest of our life, is meant to be for the advancement of the Kingdom. Fundamentally, whatever I am called to do, it is for the advancement of the Kingdom. If I'm a priest or religious, I'm a priest or religious for the Kingdom. If I'm a teacher, I'm a teacher for the Kingdom. If I'm a doctor, I'm a doctor for the Kingdom. If I'm in business, I'm in business for the Kingdom. If I'm in the entertainment and arts industry, I'm in entertainment and arts for the Kingdom. Do what you do, and do it for the advancement of the Kingdom.

When you fall in love with Jesus, who is the Kingdom, every decision you make should become a Kingdom decision. How will you spend your time and money? Your time is Kingdom time. Your dollars are Kingdom dollars. What college degree will you pursue, what job will you take, whom will you marry, where will you buy a house or rent an apartment, what kind of car will you drive, and how will you invest in others? In daily life, we need to seek first the Kingdom of God, to live our lives for the Kingdom. The key is this: as a disciple, you are no longer making decisions in your own best interests; you are making decisions for the Kingdom's best interests. Whoa! Meditate on that!

The Father wants to give you His Kingdom. He wants you to live for His Kingdom. Whatever we do is for the advancement and building up of His Kingdom. Do we have the courage to let go of our will, our plan so that we are free to receive His will, His plan in our life? Do we trust that it is better...that He knows what we need better than we do?

**Live for His Kingdom,
Fr. Jeremy**

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Deut 10:12-22; Mt 17:22-27
Tuesday: Deut 31:1-80; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
Wednesday: Deut 34:1-12; Mt 18:15-20
Thursday: Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Mt 18:21-19:1
Friday: Rev 11:19A; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:39-56
Saturday: Jos 24:14-29; Mt 19:13-15
Sunday: Jer 38:4-6, 8-10; Lk 12:49-53

WEEKLY CALENDAR	
SUNDAY, AUGUST 10	
- Mass at the Ballpark, Akron Rubber Ducks Stadium, 11:00 a.m.	
MONDAY, AUGUST 11	
- Avila Holy Hour for Vocations, 9:00 a.m. (Church)	
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12	
- Summer Women's Book Study, 9:00-10:00 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)	
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13	
- Senior Euchre Group, 1:00-3:30 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)	
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (Refectory)	
THURSDAY, AUGUST 14	
- SVdP Food Pantry, 6:00-6:30 p.m.	
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16	
- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)	
- Rosary, 8:45 a.m. (Church)	
SUNDAY, AUGUST 17	
- Blessing of Backpacks at 9:00 a.m. Mass	
- School Supply Drop-off and Open House, 10:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	

COLLECTION INFORMATION	
August 2 & 3	
	Offertory
Sunday	\$ 19,614.00
Assessment	\$ 20.00
Capital	\$ 386.00
School	\$ 270.00
Assumption	\$ 80.00
TOTAL	\$ 20,370.00

Thank you for your generosity!

The Assumption

of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 15

Masses at 6:30pm (vigil),
7:30am, 9:00am, 6:30pm



Come celebrate Our Lady's entrance into heaven this Friday! From the earliest days of Christianity, Christians believed that Mary was assumed into heaven at the time of her death. The Catholic Church formally defined this teaching in 1950. The Feast of the Assumption is a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics, so please join us for Mass at one of the times listed above.

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	Office Assistant crobbins@stfparish.com
Colleen Wilson	Communications Coordinator cwilson@stfparish.com
Susan Undercoffer	Administrative Assistant sundercoffer@stfparish.com
Katy Markovich	VIRTUS Coordinator kmarkovich@stfparish.com

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

"A vocation is never a treasure stored away in the heart. Rather, it grows and is strengthened within a community that believes, loves and hopes." Pope Francis

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

Denise & Jeff Enright 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.

ADORERS NEEDED

Adorers are needed for the following times:
Thursdays, 3:00-4:00 p.m. and Fridays, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Call Joanne at 330-338-4810, if you are able to help with either time.

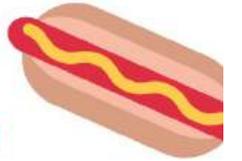
REST IN
Peace



Please remember in your prayers the soul of **Jim Waung**. May his soul enter into heaven with Jesus and Mary and may the Holy Spirit comfort his family and friends.



PARISH FESTIVAL



CLOSE OUT THE SUMMER WITH
WITH OUR PARISH FAMILY!

 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

 OPENING MASS AT 4:00 P.M.
FESTIVAL UNTIL 10:00 P.M.

 ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH



**Rain or
Shine!**

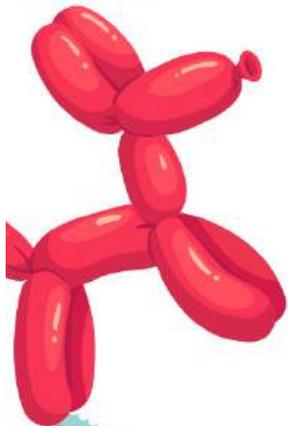
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- Bounce House
- Balloon Animals
- Food Trucks
- DJ & Dancing





CALLING ALL ST. FRANCIS DE SALES MARRIED COUPLES!

POST-CANA ADORATION + BONFIRE DATE NIGHT



- Meet in the church at 6:30 for 30 minutes of prayer, then come socialize afterwards around the fire!
- BYOB and an appetizer or dessert to share. You may drop off in Memorare Center beforehand. S'more bar provided.
- For more info text Maggie at 330-703-7393

KINDLY RSVP BY 8/27 HERE:



**FRIDAY
AUGUST
29, 2025
6:30-9:30**

WORK OF THE HOLY ANGELS

We draw our strength from the Eucharist. The Holy Angels are already 100% committed to Jesus and to carrying out His Holy Will. He has given them great power to do this. We are still going through our trial, and there is a battle going on for our very souls. Let us turn to Jesus in the Eucharist for strength, carrying Him from one Holy Communion to the next, from one hour to the next. If we do this, then we will experience that we "can do all things in Him who strengthens me!" (Phil 4:13), and the Holy Angels will accompany us, guiding and directing us, as we turn to Jesus in the Eucharist for our strength. You are invited to come and learn more about the Holy Angels and the Eucharist at a talk on Tuesday, August 19th at 6:00 p.m. in the Memorare Center, St. Gerard Room. You are welcome to stay for the discussion that follows on how we draw our strength from the Holy Eucharist (letter 11 in the formation for consecration to the Guardian Angel). Please RSVP for either or both to the parish office at 330-644.2225.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

August 12, 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.

Claim a Spot for Damascus Summer Camp in 2026!

St. Francis de Sales Parish has reserved 20 spots for Week 5 (July 5th-10th) of Damascus Summer Camp: Main Campus in 2026. In order to claim one of these spots, you will need to use our group code to register between August 21st-October 31st. Our reserved spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The reserved spots expire on October 31st. Any spots that we do not fill by then will be returned to the spots available to the general public. Our reservation includes the following age/gender breakdown:

- Middle School (Grades 6-8): 5 Girls & 5 Boys
- High School (Grades 9-12): 5 Girls & 5 Boys

The grade that the camper will enter in the fall of 2026 is the grade used to determine camp placement. The cost of camp is \$645. Scholarships are available. Email Abby if you are interested or want to learn more about Catholic Youth Summer Camp: agresser@stfparish.com



Registration for CYO Fall Sports closes this weekend. Fall sports include volleyball, cross country, football, and more! Use the QR code to find out more and register. Questions? Contact our athletic director, Katie Kinsinger, athleticdirector@stfparish.com.



St. Francis de Sales Parish

Catechesis for Children and Youth

What is catechesis?

Catechesis is “the totality of the Church’s efforts to make disciples, to help people believe that Jesus is the Son of God so that believing they might have life in his name, and to educate and instruct them in this life, thus building up the body of Christ” (Catechism of the Catholic Church #4). The parish offers many opportunities to assist parents in catechizing their children. In addition to St. Francis de Sales School, the parish offers PSR, Ignite, and Youth Group for the catechesis of children and youth.

PSR-Parish School of Religion

PSR is for children in grades 1-5 and meets on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm in the school. As a blend of “classroom” and “family” catechesis, PSR offers many events throughout the year for parents and siblings to attend with their enrolled student(s). Children who attend public school or a non-Catholic Christian school, as well as children who are home-schooled, are all welcome to participate. Register by September 1st! PSR begins on September 8th with Mass and an open house.



Ignite-Middle School Youth Group

Ignite is for youth in grades 6-8 and meets on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm in the school. It is a blend of “youth ministry” and “family” catechesis, as there are many events throughout the year for parents and siblings to attend with their enrolled student(s). Any student in this age group, including those who attend Catholic school, is welcome to attend Ignite, which replaces PSR for 6th-8th grade. Register by September 1st! Ignite begins on September 8th with Mass and an open house.



Youth Group

Youth Group is for high school students and meets on Sunday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Memorare Center. Youth from any school and from any faith are welcome. Youth ministry uses catechesis, service, worship, and socials to bring teens into a relationship with Jesus and his Church. There are opportunities for retreats, conferences, and field trips throughout the year. Our fall kick off will be on September 21st. We ask that you register your teen, but there is no deadline to do so. Teens may join at any time!



St. Francis de Sales Parish

Catechesis for Children and Youth: Volunteer Opportunities

PSR/Ignite Greeter and Office Assistant

We are in need of two adults (or responsible high school students) to help in this role. Responsibilities include:

- Fostering a safe and welcoming environment for children.
- Arriving each Monday night by 6:45 pm.
- Standing at the front door of the school as children arrive for PSR/Ignite.
- Monitoring the front door during class to let in late arrivals.
- Collecting attendance folders.
- Making copies for catechists.
- Keeping track of classes that leave the school building to go to other locations on the property.
- Leading closing announcements and prayer.

Core Team Members: Ignite (Middle School) OR Youth Group (High School)

We are in need of multiple adults (parishioners, parents, local college students, etc.) to help in these roles. Training will be provided. Responsibilities for Core Team Members for Ignite & Youth Group are similar and include:

- Fostering a welcoming and joyful environment for teens.
- Assisting in the planning of the semester's content and activities.
- Giving a 10-15 minute teaching on various faith topics 1-2 times per semester. Outlines are provided!
- Leading small group discussions.
- Giving witness to your own faith in Jesus through your words and actions.
- Attending weekly meetings (Mondays from 7:00-8:00 for Ignite OR Sundays from 7:00-8:30 for Youth Group) and special events throughout the year.

Hospitality Helpers

We are in need of many adults who are willing to be on a "Hospitality Helpers" list. Throughout the year we host events for children and youth (and their families) that include hospitality. Some examples of these events are:

- Family Nights for PSR/Ignite
- Receptions after First Reconciliation and Confirmation
- Youth Group (weekly snack)
- Ignite (weekly snack)

Hospitality helpers would donate snacks/baked goods and/or help with set up, serving, and tear down, which might include covering tables, making drinks, setting out food, refilling items, wiping tables, boxing up leftovers etc.

Contact Abby to discuss any of these opportunities!
agresser@stfparish.com; 330-644-2225

NEWS ABOUT ONLINE GIVING

In the next few months, our parish's online giving platform Faith Direct will be upgrading to ParishSOFT Giving – a new, secure giving platform. This upgrade will happen automatically and securely. No action is required from you – your gift schedules and payment details will carry over seamlessly.

What's new about ParishSOFT Giving?

- *Weekly Giving:* If you selected weekly giving, your gifts will now be deducted each week instead of in one monthly batch.
- *More Flexibility:* Adjust your giving schedule to any date that works for you – not just the 4th or 15th.
- *More Ways to Give:* Now you can donate using PayPal, Venmo, Apple Pay, or Google Pay.



All moms are invited to join in the first Moms of Littles meeting on Wednesday, September 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the Memorare Center. The group is intended to build community among parish moms and children. Littles of all ages are welcome! Contact edunn@stfparish.com for more information.

OHIO MARCH FOR LIFE

Save the date for the Ohio March for Life on Friday, October 3 in Columbus. Right to Life of Stark County is offering group transportation to the march. The bus will depart from Central Catholic High School in Canton at 8:00 a.m. (attendees should arrive by 7:45 a.m.). After the march, the bus will return to Central Catholic High School by 5:00 p.m. Attendees should bring a sack lunch and dinner – chips, fruit, cookies, and water are provided. The cost is \$15.00 per person. To reserve a spot, please send a check along with your name, phone number, and email to RTL of Stark Co., 2960 Carlton Street, NW, North Canton, OH 44720. For additional information, contact Linda at pliestark@gmail.com or call 330-705-8814.

SAVE THE DATE FOR FAITH & BLUE

Saturday, October 4, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Hardesty Park

1615 W. Market Street, Akron, 44313

Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree invites you to join us for a free day of fun and fellowship at our 5th Annual Summit Faith & Blue! The Faith & Blue initiative brings together law enforcement and faith-based organizations. The day includes live performances, games and contests, bounce house, obstacle course, food and drink giveaways, Touch-a-Truck, a chance to visit with mounted police units, and more!

HALF-DAY RETREAT FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Join The ITE Project for "Our Daily Fiat," a young women's half-day retreat on August 22nd from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Akron. The evening focuses on Jesus' desire for women to keep saying yes to His call even in the dry times of prayer and how we can be faithful to Him who is so faithful to us. The evening is for young women ages 18-39 and includes dinner, fellowship, a talk by Sr. Josephina, a Mercedarian Sister of the Blessed Sacrament, Spiritual Direction with the sisters, Adoration, Confession, Mass, and dessert. Registration ends on August 20th! Come, spend the evening with us celebrating our feminine callings.

MARY'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

St. Sebastian Parish, 476 Mull Avenue, Akron, will host the 6th Annual Celebration of Mary's Nativity sponsored by Our Mother's Hands ministry on Sunday, September 7th, in Zwisler Hall, beginning with donuts after the 11:00 a.m. Mass, followed by a Marian procession at 12:30 p.m., and a rosary balloon launch at 1:00 p.m. Baby items will be collected to donate to Embrace Clinic and Care Center in honor of Our Lady. For more information, see the website at OurMothersHands.org

CCA GRIEF SUPPORT AUGUST 17TH**"IN-OFFICE" AT 3:00PM AND "VIRTUAL" AT 5:00PM:**

The Catholic Cemeteries Association provides free monthly grief support groups in two formats: In-Office (3pm) at six Cemetery offices throughout the Diocese – the closest to St. Francis de Sales is Holy Cross Cemetery, 100 E Waterloo Road, Akron – and Virtually (5:00 p.m.) via Zoom. We meet the 3rd Sunday of every month; 4th Sunday if the third Sunday falls on a holiday. Meetings are open discussion, surrounding a monthly topic or whatever is in your heart. The August 17 topics are "Planning for Special Days and Memorials" and "Family Dynamics in Grief." We offer a comfortable, private, and safe environment where you are free to explore your grief. Come and be in the presence of those who understand. Sign-up for the virtual session at <http://bit.ly/ccavirtualgriefsupportgroup> to receive login information and to download the handout materials.

SS PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL 150TH ANNIVERSARY

The SS Philip and James church and school is excited to celebrate 150 years of faith, education, and community! All SPJ alumni are invited to register their information using the link provided below:

<https://forms.gle/e3TR9oABqfdiWUiy5>

Come to kick off this special year with a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, September 7. An alumni reception is also planned for March – details will be shared soon.

MEALS ON WHEELS – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Meals on Wheels of Northeast Ohio is in URGENT need of volunteers to deliver in the Canal Fulton and Barberton area. Meals are picked up in Canal Fulton and Barberton, route takes about 1 hour to complete. To find out more and volunteer, visit <https://vantageaging.org/programs-and-services/meals-on-wheels/mow-volunteer/>.

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