

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)

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH
DECEMBER 28, 2025**

*Masses For
The Week*



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH**

- 7:30 a.m. Barb Duckworth (John Duckworth)
9:00 a.m. Carol Swam (Sister, Linda)
11:00 a.m. Sue Kurtz & Elizabeth Jackie Wargo
(Dan & Sue Wargo)

Delores Boesen – Month's Mind

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, ST. THOMAS BECKET

- 8:15 a.m. Maryanna Ogonek
(John & Helen Deibel)
Avelina Cid – Anniversary of Death
Mary Pavelko – Anniversary of Death
Larry Pittinger – Month's Mind

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

- 8:15 a.m. Deceased Benefactors of the SVdP
Society (SVdP Society)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, ST. SYLVESTER I

- 8:15 a.m. John Andrews (Andrews Family)
5:00 p.m. Intentions of Michael & Carol Suponcic
and Family (Suponcic Family)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

- 9:00 a.m. Francesco Bonfiglio (Anna Fana)
11:00 a.m. Dawn Niueplio (Mike Elchert)

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, SS. BASIL THE GREAT &
GREGORY NAZIANZEN**

- 8:15 a.m. Tim Smith (Charlotte Miller)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3,

THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

- 8:15 a.m. Special Intention for April Merzweiler
(Kathie Masters)
5:00 p.m. Deceased of the Nuss Family (Kris Nuss)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4,

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo
9:00 a.m. Eva Stimler (Kovesci Family)
11:00 a.m. Jacqueline Rambacher (Family)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:32; Lk 2:22-35
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
Thursday: Num 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34
Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12



**"TELL THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE
THAT YOU LOVE THEM!"**

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family as well as approach the New Year of 2026, I invite you to pray about your New Year's resolution with your family in mind. When I look back on my Advent, the quote above from Fr. Larry Richards comes to mind. As you probably heard in my homily a few weeks ago, on the first Sunday of Advent, I was at my parents' house and I heard a big clunk upstairs. When I entered my parents' room, I saw my dad dazed on the floor, lying there, not looking good. After I called my sisters to the scene (who are two nurses, praise God), they determined that he needed to go to the hospital. As I drove home that evening, the possibility of my dad dying that night was very real.

That night before bed, the story Fr. Larry Richards gave about his own dad came to mind. He often shared that it wasn't until his father was on his deathbed that he told him he loved him. It made me think; how often do I tell my dad that I love him? Not much. It is a guy thing. When I leave the house, I often say "peace," "good night," "have a great week," "enjoy your life!" Seldom do I say, "I love you." I know my family knows I love them, but it needs to be said. It needs to be heard. It is essential to our humanity. Just like we need to hear that we are forgiven in the confessional, we need to hear that we are loved and we need to tell the people we love that we love them.

In one of Fr. Larry Richard's blogs titled, "Be a Dad," he wrote this: "I have been to a lot of deathbeds throughout my priesthood, so I know what it is going to be like when you are dying. While you are lying there, the thing that is going to be most important to you is your relationships – the people that you loved and the people that in return loved you. Then why don't we live every day with that in mind? Make the decision to never let your wife or your kids go to bed or walk out the door without telling them first that you love them – life is just too short! It will change your family. It will change the world."

This new year, will you let the people you love know that you love them? With God's grace, I hope to live this well and pray you do the same. You never know, it may change the world!

**God bless your families and 2026!
Fr. Jeremy**

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

– Prayers for Healing, after 11:00 a.m. Mass, meet by St. Anthony statue

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

– No School
 – Red Cross Blood Drive, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Memorare Center)
 – No PSR or Ignite

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

– No School
 – Youth Group Christmas Party, 6:00-9:00 p.m. (Memorare Center)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

– No School
 – Parish Office closed
 – No Adoration, but the church will be open for prayer after Vigil Mass
 – AA/Al-Anon, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (Refectory)
 – Vigil Mass for the feast of Mary, Mother of God, 5:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

– Happy New Year!
 – Masses at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
 – No Adoration

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

– No School
 – Parish Office closed

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

– Men’s Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
 – First Saturday Devotions and Rosary, 8:45 a.m. (Church)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

– Donut Sunday

| 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 |
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| Katy Markovich | VIRTUS Coordinator kmarkovich@stfparish.com |
| St. Vincent de Paul Society | A helping hand in times of need 330-958-5270 |

COLLECTION INFORMATION

December 20 & 21

Due to an early bulletin deadline, the collection information from last weekend will be published in a forthcoming bulletin.

Thank you for your generosity!



III David Kim & Savannah Nichols

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE PARISH STAFF

The Parish Staff wishes you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year! The Parish Office will be closed December 31 through January 2.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

“Every call from the Lord is, above all, a call to His joy.”

– Pope Leo XIV

Every week, families or individuals bring the vocation crucifix into their home to pray for vocations. **The Stavarz Family** received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.



ADORATION

There will not be Adoration on December 31 or January 1, but the church will be open for prayer the evening of December 31.

Adorers are needed for the following times:

Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 4:00-5:00 p.m. and Fridays, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Please call Joanne at 330-338-4810, if you are able to help with these times.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

WELCOME TO ST. FRANCIS DE SALES.



Would you like to join our parish family?
To register, contact the Parish Office at
330-644-2225, see a priest after Mass,
or use the QR code below.



Get parish updates by email or text by signing
up for Flocknote. Text STFDS to 84576, use
the QR code, or sign up online at
stfrancisdesalesparish1.flocknote.com



ANOINTING MASS

Every month, typically on the first Thursday of the month after 6:30 p.m. Mass in the church, our priests offer the Anointing of the Sick to anyone in need of the Sacrament because of a serious illness, upcoming surgery, new diagnosis, or the infirmities of old age. This month because the first Thursday is New Year's Day, the Anointing Mass will be Thursday, January 8.

ANGELS' INTEGRAL ROLE IN OUR LIVES

We can tend to think of the angels as primarily existing among the heavenly host. It may surprise you to learn how active they are in our world and that there are concrete ways we can grow in our spiritual lives through the assistance of the angels. Come and join the St. Francis Women's Study Group as we read and study *His Angels at Our Side, Understanding Their Power in Our Souls and the World*, by Fr. John Horgan. We meet on Tuesdays, 9:00-11:00 a.m., beginning January 6, 2026, in the Memorare Center. For more information, contact Lori at gutbrods@att.net. For help ordering a book, contact Michelle at mypower36@yahoo.com.

BLOOD DRIVE

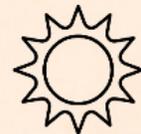
Give a gift that can save lives. December 29, the Red Cross will host a Blood Drive in the Memorare Center. Those who come to donate blood will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last. See RedCrossBlood.org/Gifts for details. Preregister online to donate at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>.

GIFTS FOR EMBRACE CLINIC & CARE CENTER

The collection of baby items for the Embrace Clinic and Care Center in Barberton concludes this weekend, December 27 and 28. There will be a crib in the Narthex to place items. This is a beautiful way to honor and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ while helping those in crisis pregnancies like the family of the unborn baby you may have been praying for all year with the Spiritual Adoption program that we encourage each year. The Center expressed the need for children's clothing up to size 4 (i.e., underwear, socks, winter clothes, coats and boots); Baby formula Enfamil Neuropro Care Gentlease, purple can or Enfamil Gentlease Infant Formula, yellow can. If you wish to donate money, about \$50.00 will buy a car seat, \$100.00 will buy a crib, and \$150.00 will buy a crib and mattress. You can mail monetary donations to: Embrace Clinic and Care Center, 180 1st Street, NW, Barberton, OH 44203. Thank you very much from the Respect Life Ministry.

St. Francis de Sales Parish

Save the Date



Vacation Bible School



June 15-19, 2026

YOUTH GROUP

All 9th-12th graders are welcome to join us on Sunday evenings in the Memorare Center from 7:00-8:30 p.m.! Email Abby (agresser@stfparish.com) with questions about any of these events. Regular updates and registration for field trips/retreats are sent out via email. Contact Abby in order to join the email list.

December 28 – No Youth Group (Christmas Break)

December 30 – Youth Group Christmas Party,
6:00-9:00 p.m.

January 4 – No Youth Group (Christmas Break)

January 10 – CLE 21:6 Conference,
All day at John Carroll University

January 11 – No Youth Group (CLE 21:6 Weekend)

January 18 – Semester Kickoff, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

January 25 – Priests vs. Seminarians Basketball Game
at Holy Name High School

SAVE THE DATE
for the Steubenville Youth Conference:
July 17-19, 2026.



RETREAT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Thank you for your overwhelming support of our retreat scholarship fundraiser! To date, you have helped us raise \$8,650.67, which is above and beyond our goal of \$5,050.00. God bless your generosity! This money will be used to send our middle school and high school students to retreats, camps, and conferences that awaken and deepen their faith. We will be able to offer need-based scholarships to families, cover the cost of attendance for chaperones who give so generously of their time, and cover the cost of things such as group transportation, so that we do not have to pass those costs along to families. Some of the experiences we are offering to our students include both a Confirmation Retreat and Summer Camp at Damascus, the Steubenville Youth Conference at Franciscan University, CLE 21:6 & CLE Middle Conferences hosted by the Diocese of Cleveland, and more. To our teens and their families: please let us know if you are in need of financial assistance in order to attend any of these events. God is waiting for you to say "yes" so that He can do something beautiful in your life!



ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Turning taxes into tuition



HOW TO DONATE:

1. Visit the Catholic Community- Angel Scholarship Fund website.
2. Donate up to \$750 (filing single) or \$1500 (filing joint) for a state tax credit.
3. **IMPORTANT:** Indicate **St. Francis de Sales** as the recipient of your donation to ensure we receive your funds!

NEW FOR 2026-2027

Donate \$500-750 (single) or \$1000-1500 (joint) and receive an entry token for a cash drawing reward! The more donations equal the higher reward!

Single donation = 1 entry token
Joint donation = 2 entry tokens

Drawing will likely be early summer 2026.

COMING SOON!

Coming for Tax Year 2027, a new **federal tax credit** allowing taxpayers to get a credit for donations made to Scholarship Granting Organizations (Angel Scholarship). The credit will take effect on January 1, 2027. Individuals can claim a maximum credit of \$1,700 (\$3,400 for married couples)!

Help our children grow in faith!
Donate to the Angel Scholarship Fund!

To donate, scan the QR Code or visit

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





NATIVITY MUSEUM TOURS

Nativity of the Lord Jesus Parish, 2425 Myersville Road, Akron, will be open for guided tours of the Bethlehem Cave and Nativity Museum at 2:00 p.m. daily December 26-30. Visit a replica of the cave where Jesus was born and view over 400 Nativity sets from around the world. No charge, donations accepted. For information, email tours@nativityofthelord.org or call 330-699-5086 weekdays, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

YOUNG AT HEART

The next Queen of Heaven Young at Heart meeting will be Monday, January 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. in the Queen of Heaven Parish Life Center. Come and hear a parish member tell of his pilgrimage to Fatima followed by his walk to Santiago Compostela in Spain. Guests are invited to attend. You do not have to be a member or even 55-plus.

PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI AND ROME

For the first time in 800 years, the relics of St. Francis of Assisi will be on display at the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi. Deacon John Amedeo and Fr. Thomas Buffer of St. Cecilia Church in Columbus are planning a pilgrimage from March 8th-17th to visit both Rome and Assisi. This is perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Journey with us as we trace the footprints of the Popes, the Martyrs and the Saints. Your trip is all-inclusive, excluding airfare. The cost of the tour is \$2,950.00. Your hotel, meals, tickets, ground transportation and gratuities are included. This pilgrimage is limited to 14 people and is expected to fill up very quickly. For pictures of previous pilgrimages, please visit tivolitours.us. For more information or questions you may have, please call Deacon John Amedeo at 330-310-1628.

MOVED RECENTLY?

If you have moved recently, the Parish Office would appreciate it if you contacted them at 330-644-2225 to update your address. This helps us keep our records up to date. Thank you!



PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that You found in Your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

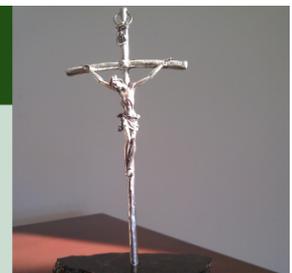
MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

From the Missionaries of the Holy Family

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



Would you and your family consider praying with our parish's Vocation Crucifix for a week in 2026? It is as simple as taking home the crucifix and saying a short prayer for vocations each day for a week. If you are interested, please email cwilson@stfparish.com or call 330-644-2225.



How does being a Pilgrim of Hope lead to Joy?

As we come to the close of the Jubilee Year of Hope, we remember that we have been invited to renew our faith with hearts full of trust in God's promises. One of the most powerful ways we can witness that in this holy year is by living the fruit of the Holy Spirit – joy. Unlike fleeting happiness, joy is rooted in our confidence in God's love and the hope of eternal life. It remains steady, even in times of trial, because it springs from Christ's victory over sin and death. We live this joy by embracing gratitude in daily life, celebrating the gift of the Sacraments, and sharing God's goodness with others. A joyful heart is contagious; it encourages, uplifts, and reminds the world that hope is alive. By showing joy in our families, parishes, and communities, we become living witnesses of the Gospel, shining the light of Christ and continuing to draw others closer to Him even beyond the Jubilee of Hope.

Taken from the Diocese of Cleveland's December Newsletter for the Jubilee Year of 2025

HEALING PRAYER

This Sunday, December 28, after the 11:00 a.m. Mass, the St. Francis Healing Ministry will be available to pray with you for healing following Mass. Do you have an upcoming surgery or test? Do you suffer from some chronic illness, or something new? Jesus, Our Healer, is here for you. Come to the back left of the church, by the St. Anthony statue following 11:00 a.m. Mass for prayers.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN FORMATION

Please pray for those in our parish who are in formation:

Joshua Stecz – Seminarian

Joe Hercules – Candidate for Permanent Diaconate

Keith Obermeier – Candidate for Permanent Diaconate

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

The Diocese of Cleveland will be offering a nine-week Thursday educational divorce recovery support group to be held at St. Hilary Parish, 2750 W. Market Street, Fairlawn, OH 44333, from January 16 through March 13, 2026 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. These sessions will be facilitated by Marlene Maruna, retired Social Worker. The group will be limited to 10-12 participants with the focus on dealing with the complex feelings that accompany a divorce to help group members feel less isolated and to find coping strategies throughout and after the divorce process. For initial inquiries, contact St. Hilary secretary, Joan Heegan at 330-867-1055, ext. 200.

HELP FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

A unique program to renew, strengthen and heal your marriage beginning February 13-15, 2026. The Retrouvaille program is designed to help married couples develop improved ways of communicating and relating to each other in order to overcome challenges which have left them feeling disconnected, hurt, or even hopeless. Retrouvaille, which means rediscovery, is open to couples of all faiths and is supported by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. This program consists of a weekend experience and six follow-up sessions. For more information or to register, visit <https://helpourmarriage.org/CLE> or call Shelly or Rob at 216-509-0301 or 440-836-4810.

SUMMIT COUNTY MARCH FOR LIFE

Do you care about protecting human life at all ages and stages? Join Right to Life of Northeast Ohio for our annual Summit County March for Life on Saturday, January 17, 2026. The March begins at Community Vineyard Church, 2543 State Road, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223. After a short prayer service, we will bundle up and march down the street to the abortion facility and return to the church for fellowship (approximately 1 mile total). We will have signs available, or you can bring your own. Please dress warmly. To register, go to our website www.rtloneo.com under the "events" tab. Or call us at 234-334-0088.

JESUIT RETREAT CENTER PROGRAMS AND RETREATS – JANUARY 2026

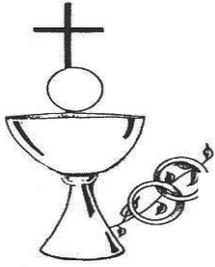
The Jesuit Retreat Center, 5629 State Road, Parma, OH 44134, offers a variety of opportunities for prayer and spiritual formation. Learn more about these opportunities and register online: <https://www.jesuitretreatcenter.org>.

Women's Retreat: Joy on Life's Journey. Monday, January 12, 2:00 p.m.-Wednesday, January 14, 11:30 a.m. This retreat offers 2 days (with an optional 3rd day) of prayer, meditation, Mass, discussion and relaxation along with powerful presentations. Our theme is *Joy on Life's Journey*. How can we generate joy in our lives and live it for and with others? Cost: \$325.00-\$475.00

Catholic Men's Retreat. Friday, January 16, 5:30 p.m.-Sunday, January 18, 11:00 a.m. If you are a Catholic man looking to deepen your faith in a community, seeking to develop your personal relationship with God, longing to have real conversations, hoping for greater insights into living Christian manhood, and desiring to develop a practical spirituality, then we hope you will join us. Cost: \$325.00-\$475.00

January Sabbath Days – a Personal Retreat Day. Tuesday, January 20, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Come and spend a day of renewal and prayer at the Jesuit Retreat Center. Pray in our chapels, to sit in quiet reading in the library, to walk and meditate on the beautiful grounds. Cost: \$50.00

On this monthly calendar, each day is designated for one of the seminarians of our diocese 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.



January 2026



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 |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|
|  | <i>And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Luke 2:19</i> | | | 1 John Paul Antalek Borromeo | 2 Matthew Bobby Borromeo | 3 Ike Dawson Borromeo |
| 4 <i>Pray for Pope Leo XIV</i> | 5 Dylan Ennis Borromeo | 6 Dominic Kucera Borromeo | 7 Derek Linden Borromeo (Youngstown) | 8 Dominic Mellino Borromeo | 9 Seamus O'Malley Borromeo | 10 Justin Rice Borromeo |
| 11 <i>Pray for Bishop Malesic</i> | 12 Christopher Yankay Borromeo | 13 Andrew Bendahan Borromeo | 14 Joseph Hoang Borromeo (Capuchin) | 15 Matthew Wasinski Borromeo | 16 Brent Feorene Borromeo | 17 Jacob Huzyak Borromeo (Youngstown) |
| 18 <i>Pray for Bishop Woost</i> | 19 Daniel Jordan Borromeo | 20 Vincent Labosky Borromeo | 21 Steven Vasko Borromeo (Youngstown) | 22 Stephen Vavro Borromeo | 23 Luke Liptak Borromeo (Youngstown) | 24 Adam Osbourne Borromeo (Capuchin) |
| 25 <i>Pray for Bishop Amos</i> | 26 Dylan Perman Borromeo | 27 Mark Boehm Borromeo | 28 Gabriel Kasper Borromeo | 29 Yosief Kidane Borromeo (Capuchin) | 30 Quinn McNeill Borromeo | 31 Noah Polman Borromeo |

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