

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)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 7, 2025



Sunday, December 7, Second Sunday of Advent

- 7:30 a.m. Diana Brown (Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
11:00 a.m. Cyrill "Shorty" Wargo
(Dan & Sue Wargo)

Monday, December 8, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 7:30 a.m. Norma Jean Melton
(Terry & Kathy Perona)
9:00 a.m. Jerry Engler (Galati Family)
7:00 p.m. Maryanna Ogonek
(John & Helen Deibel)

Dominic Reo – Month's Mind

Tuesday, December 9, St. Juan Diego

- 8:15 a.m. Philip Katigbak (Mariza Meredith)

Wednesday, December 10, Our Lady of Loreto

- 8:15 a.m. Dr. Al Feltrup (Cathy Feltrup)

Thursday, December 11, St. Damasus I

- 8:15 a.m. David Eggert (The Sisters)
6:30 p.m. Kathy Sullivan (Chris & Dick Robbins)

Friday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe

- 8:15 a.m. Pauline Blackert (Dan & Sue Wargo)
School Mass moved to Monday, December 8
Kathleen Sullivan – Anniversary of Death

Saturday, December 13, St. Lucy

- 8:15 a.m. Bob & Sally Kasanic (Amy Adam)
5:00 p.m. Regina Kusnir (Family)

Sunday, December 14, Third Sunday of Advent

- 7:30 a.m. Marie G. Shafer (Diana Logsdon)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
11:00 a.m. Ronald Patrick Evans (Evans Family)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Gen 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
Lk 1:26-38
- Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday:** Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
- Friday:** Zech 2:14-17 or Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a,
10ab; Lk 1:26-38
- Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

SAY YES TO WHAT GOD ASKS OF YOU

We now enter into the second week of Advent. In this second week, we cannot ignore the fact that we begin and end the week with Marian celebrations. On Monday, we celebrate the Immaculate Conception. On Friday, we celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe. On both days, the Gospel that is proclaimed for those celebrations is Luke 1:26-28 – the Annunciation – the encounter Mary has with St. Gabriel.

Now forgive me for mentioning St. Vincent in Latrobe a third bulletin in a row, but while I was on retreat, I was blown away by a beautiful mosaic found in the library on campus. It is called "Say Yes to What God Asks of You." It was created by Brother Mark Floreanini, OSB from 2010-2025. It is adapted from Fra Angelico's painting of the Annunciation from 1440.



I was amazed by its beauty and size as it has to be over 15 feet tall. But more than that, I was struck by the angel Gabriel's placement in the scene. In most scenes, the angel Gabriel towers above Mary, as Mary humbly bows her head in submission to God's will. But in this depiction, the archangel Gabriel kneels down to her as Mary stands above him. God, in His humility, invites, nudges, asks, not in an overpowering way but in a way that waits and doesn't coerce us. The title of the artwork again is "Say Yes to What God Asks of You." As we receive this Gospel twice this week, it may be a good time to take a moment and consider, "What is God asking of me?" Oftentimes, the ask is not loud or overpowering, but comes quietly, persistently and in a non-threatening way. During this season of Advent, put yourself in a place of quietude, a place where your heart may know and experience the ask of God. It is one of the most important questions being asked of us. Are we being too loud to listen?

**Say Yes to What God Asks of You,
Fr. Jeremy**

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

- Donut Sunday
- Children's Liturgy of the Word, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- Youth Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Memorare Center)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

- Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Day of Obligation – Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., & 7:00 p.m.
- PSR & Ignite Mass at 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

- Women's Study Group, 9:00 a.m. (Beatitudes Room)
- Becoming Catholic, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

- Senior Euchre Group, 1:00-4:00 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)
- Emmanuel's Song – School Advent Evening of Reflection, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Church)
- Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m. (Church)
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (Refectory)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

- Thursday Scripture Group, 12:30 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- SVdP Food Pantry, 6:00-6:30 p.m.
- New Stephen Minister Training, 6:00 p.m. (Queen of Heaven Parish Life Center)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

- Children's Christmas Choir and Youth Choir Practice, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Church)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

- Confirmation Preparation Session, 9:00 a.m. Mass and then to the Memorare Center until 12:00 p.m.
- Children's Liturgy of the Word, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- Youth Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Memorare Center)

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	Dir. of Music Ministry cmcvicker@stfparish.com
Shirley Clark	Liturgical Life Coordinator sclark@stfparish.com
Abby Gresser	Dir. 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
St. Vincent de Paul Society	A helping hand in times of need 330-958-5270

COLLECTION INFORMATION

November 22 & 23 November 29 & 30

	November 22 & 23	November 29 & 30
Offertory	12,206.00	14,682.00
Capital	20.00	5,195.00
School	200.00	565.00
Assessment		55.00
Special Collections	500.00	125.00
TOTAL	\$12,926.00	\$20,622.00

Thank you for your generosity!



I Justin Bryant & Colleen Wilson

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 Jordan Family received th 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.

REST IN PEACE

Please remember in prayer the souls of **Edward Hellwig, Dolores Boesen, Lawrence Pittinger,** and **David Naragon,** brother of parishioner Mike Naragon. *May they rest in the peace of Christ, and may He comfort their family and friends.*



Our guardian angels strengthen the light of our intelligence. They impress truth so deeply in our minds that it inflames our hearts and draws our wills to live the virtues of faith, hope and charity more perfectly, and they give clarity to what God wants us to do and how He wants us to do it. These are just a few of the reasons why it is important to entrust our whole selves to the protection and guidance of our guardian angels. You are invited to listen to a talk on the Holy Angels on Tuesday, December 16th at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Gerard Room in the Memorare Center. You are welcome to stay for the discussion that follows at 7:15 p.m. as we learn more about entrusting ourselves to our guardian angels, (letter 3 for those in formation for consecration to their guardian angel). Please RSVP for both to the Parish Office at 330-644-2225.



ADVENT

CONFESSIONS

- Thursdays, 5:30-6:15 p.m.
- Saturdays, 9:00-9:45 a.m.
- Cluster Communal Penance
Tuesday, December 16, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Queen of Heaven, Green

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

- Mondays, 7:00-8:00 a.m., 6:00-10:00 p.m.
- Tuesday-Friday, 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
(breaking for Mass)

SUNDAY NIGHT PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Every Sunday during Advent – November 30, December 7, 14, and 21 – join us for night prayer from 8:00-8:30 p.m. in the church

MASS SCHEDULE

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Holy Day of Obligation, no vigil Mass
Monday, December 8
7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., & 7:00 p.m.

Feast of the Nativity of the Lord, Christmas
Wednesday, December 24
Vigil – 4:00 p.m. (Children's Choir) 6:00 p.m.
Midnight (Choir Prelude at 11:30 p.m.)
Thursday, December 25
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph
Saturday, December 27,
Vigil – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 28
7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., & 11:00 a.m.

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Wednesday, December 31,
Vigil – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 1,
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord
Saturday, January 3
Vigil – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 4
7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., & 11:00 a.m.

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



LOCAL JUBILEE PILGRIMAGES

This Advent, the Church is drawing to the close of the Jubilee Year of Hope. One of the ways to obtain the grace of a plenary indulgence during the Jubilee is by making a pilgrimage to a sacred site. In the Diocese of Cleveland, Bishop Malesic has designated the following sacred sites as places of pilgrimage.

St. Edward Parish, Ashland
Cathedral of St. John The Evangelist, Cleveland
St. Mary Parish, Chardon
Immaculate Conception Parish, Madison
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Lorain
St. Colette Parish, Brunswick
Queen of Heaven Parish, Uniontown
Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Doylestown
Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Euclid
Queen of the Holy Rosary Shrine, Parma Heights
Shrine of Saint Ann, Highland Heights

To learn more about the pilgrimage sites and how to obtain the jubilee plenary indulgence, visit, <https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/pilgrims-of-hope/sacred-sites>



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>



YOUTH GROUP

HIGH SCHOOL 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 7 – Youth Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
(Topic TBA)

December 14 – Youth Group, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
(Christmas Caroling at GreenView Assisted Living)

December 21 – Service Project at Peter Maurin Center, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

December 9, 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.

BLOOD DRIVE SAVE THE DATE

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](https://www.redcrossblood.org/Gifts) for details. Pre-register online to donate at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>

YOUNG ADULTS ADVENT WORSHIP NIGHT

Join the ITE Project for an Advent Contemplative Worship Night on December 12th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at St. Sebastian's Church in Akron. Come spend some time with Jesus, reflecting on the Advent season and all the hope and promise Christmas brings. More details: <https://www.theiteproject.com/events/advent25>.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEW YEAR'S EVE

Tickets are on sale for the South Akron Knights of Columbus Black and Gold New Year's Eve party on Wednesday, December 31, 2025 from 7:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m. The cost is \$35.00 per person or \$60.00 per couple. Ticket includes a catered dinner, drinks, and dancing. Contact Jeanne and Elmer for tickets at 330-322-4993 or 330-388-1980.

SS. ANNE AND JOACHIM GRANDPARENTING GROUP

The Saints Anne and Joachim Group is an ongoing parish cluster study, prayer, and fellowship group for grandparents. Meetings are typically held the last Friday of the month at St. Paul Parish, 1580 Brown Street, Akron, 44301 in Meeting Room 11. They begin with optional prayer in the church at 6:00 p.m. followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m. All who attend are also welcome for a night out at the Waterloo following the meetings. Save the dates for upcoming meetings! December 19 (Third Friday), January 30, and February 27.

Bambinelli Sunday

December 13-14, 2025



Bring the Christ Child figurine from your Nativity set to Mass on the Third Sunday of Advent so that it can be blessed in anticipation of Christmas.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The Catholic Cemeteries Association's next Sunday Grief Support Group will be on Sunday, December 21. An in-person session will meet at 3:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Cemetery, Akron, and a virtual session will be held at 5:00 p.m. In a welcoming and supportive setting, find fellowship among others who share their experiences and understand the pain of loss. Meetings are being held on the third Sunday of the month, at no charge to you. Please join us for an hour of listening, healing, and finding comfort with others who understand. For details, call Renee at 216-930-4866 or visit: www.clecem.org/Events. To register for the virtual session, visit <https://clecem.org/Information/Bereavement.aspx>.

ADORERS NEEDED

Adorers are needed for the following times: Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 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.

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, beginning January 15 through March 12, 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.



*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.

SHOP WITH SCRIP AND SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!

When you buy Scrip gift cards, you get your "gift" card at full face value. Our participating retailers donate 4-15% of your purchase to our school and the needs of our students! We have many restaurants and retailers in stock. Acme, Amazon, Best Buy, Bed Bath & Beyond, Bravo, Chipotle, CircleK, Dunkin Donuts, Giant Eagle, Home Depot, Honeymoon Grille, Kohl's, Longhorn, Lowes, Marathon, Olive Garden, Panera, Starbucks, Speedway, Subway, Taco Bell, Target, TJ Maxx/Marshall's/HomeGoods, Walmart/Sam's Club, and many more! Scrip cards can be purchased in the Parish Office.

RIGHT TO LIFE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Join Right to Life of Northeast Ohio for our Christmas Open House on Thursday, December 11 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at 300 N. Cleveland Massillon Road in Akron. Join us for food and fellowship! This event is free, but please register. To register, visit www.RTLofNEO.com or call our office at 234-334-0088.

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