

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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD  
JANUARY 11, 2026**



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo  
9:00 a.m. Mary Franz (Susan Muzljakovich)  
11:00 a.m. Dominic Reo (Charlotte Miller)

**MONDAY, JANUARY 12**

- 8:15 a.m. Religious Vocations  
(Enright & Gaebel Families)

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13**

- 8:15 a.m. The Holy Souls in Purgatory (Anonymous)

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14**

- 8:15 a.m. Tom McArdle (Cathy McArdle)

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 15**

- 8:15 a.m. Jim Tompkins (John Duckworth)  
6:30 p.m. Kayia Noe (Beverly Drexler)  
*John "Jack" Rambacher –  
Anniversary of Death*

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 16**

- 8:15 a.m. Jack Rambacher (Family)  
9:00 a.m. School Mass – Richard Smith (Pat Smith)

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, ST. ANTHONY**

- 8:15 a.m. Tom Goetz (John Duckworth)  
5:00 p.m. Anna Scheks (Cathy Scherer)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18,**

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo  
9:00 a.m. Viola Rizzo (Rizzo Family)  
11:00 a.m. Rita Reymann Czarnecki  
(The Kovesci Family)

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday:** 1 Sam 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20  
**Tuesday:** 1 Sam 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28  
**Wednesday:** 1 Sam 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39  
**Thursday:** 1 Sam 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45  
**Friday:** 1 Sam 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12  
**Saturday:** 1 Sam 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Mk 2:13-17  
**Sunday:** Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

**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



**WELCOMING  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, KENMORE**

Last weekend, I preached on the news that Immaculate Conception in Kenmore will be closing and merging with our parish in the months ahead. Below is what I shared. A special thanks to Robert Koonce, head of Deanery Operations in the Diocese, for helping me craft the message.

This Sunday, on January 11, our neighboring parish Immaculate Conception will be celebrating its last regularly scheduled Sunday Mass. The parish has become overwhelmed by maintenance costs, declining offertory, insufficient savings, and a decreasing parish family. For over a century, the parish has been a vital presence in the Kenmore neighborhood, and in recent years, its former school and convent have hosted several necessary services to those most in need in the community. Fortunately, those services will be able to continue as Catholic Charities will now be assuming control of those buildings while making plans to expand its services.

What does this all mean for us here at St. Francis? The bishop has asked us to assume the territory of the parish, should it be formally closed. On a practical level, that means we would assume the assets and liabilities of the parish. But more importantly, we would be the place where the spiritual legacy of the parish finds a new home. We would store its records and quite possibly incorporate some of its liturgical art into our own worship spaces. It also means that we have an opportunity to become a partner to Catholic Charities and continue the legacy of service in the Kenmore neighborhood.

Many details have yet to be determined, and my hope is to engage with you and with our potential new parishioners from Immaculate Conception to help discern how best to turn this sad event of closure into the opening of a new chapter of discipleship for us and many others. In the meantime, please keep Immaculate Conception parishioners in your prayers and be on the lookout at Mass for new faces. Our community is always striving to be a welcoming place, and I anticipate it being supportive of our neighbors from Kenmore as they transition to a new spiritual home.

This decision is a testimony for how loving and welcoming our community of faith is to others. Thank you for your joy, kindness, warmth and love for others as the Body of Christ! I look forward to the days ahead.

**God's blessing on you always,  
Fr. Jeremy**

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11**

- Confirmation Preparation Session for teens only, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Memorare Center)
- Children's Liturgy of the Word at 11:00 a.m. Mass

**MONDAY, JANUARY 12**

- Avila Holy Hour for Vocations, 9:00 a.m. (Church)
- PSR & Ignite, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13**

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

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14**

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

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 15**

- Thursday Scripture Group, 12:30 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- SVdP Food Pantry open 6:00-6:30 p.m.
- New Stephen Minister Training, 6:00 p.m. (Queen of Heaven Parish Life Center)
- First Reconciliation Meeting for Parents and Students, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (Refectory)

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 17**

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Rosary, 8:45 a.m. (Church)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18**

- Rite of Acceptance & Welcome for Becoming Catholic at 9:00 a.m. Mass
- Children's Liturgy of the Word at 11:00 a.m. Mass

**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.

**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**

**The Steubenville Youth Conference: July 17-19, 2026.**

**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 Phillips Family** received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

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	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
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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



**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.

**ST. FRANCIS DE SALES**

# KINDERGARTEN SNEAK PEEK

Please join us to learn about the Kindergarten registration process and meet with the Kindergarten teachers.

**JANUARY 22, 2026  
6PM-7PM  
MEMORARE CENTER**

Child care will be provided!

Please RSVP using the Sign Up Genius by Friday, January 16.

SignUpGenius Link:



## 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](mailto:cwilson@stfparish.com) or call 330-644-2225.

### COLLECTION INFORMATION

#### December 20 & 21

Sunday	16,270.00
Assessment	20.00
Capital	100.00
School	240.00
Special Collections	<u>1,340.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,970.00</b>

#### December 27 & 28

Sunday	6,245.20
Assessment	20.00
Capital	70.00
School	100.00
Christmas	25,294.85
Special Collections	<u>445.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$32,175.05</b>

#### January 3 & 4

Sunday	14,333.20
Capital	335.00
School	910.00
Special Collections	<u>10,625.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$26,203.20</b>

*Thank you for your generosity!*

### WORK OF THE HOLY ANGELS

There are three stages in the spiritual life, the Purgative Way, the Illuminative Way and the Unitive Way. Our Guardian angels help us in all three stages. In the Purgative Way, our angels protect us against our own weaknesses and against the attacks of the wicked spirits, leading us away from sin. In the Illuminative Way, the light of truth is directly related to the intellect and our angels help us gain a more profound understanding of the truth of God's love, often through contemplation. In the Unitive Way, through mediating the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, our angels help our souls to grow in faith, hope and charity and reach more perfect union with God. Holy Angels are light and bear the light of God. Come hear more about what they do and how they help us at a talk on the Holy Angels in the St. Gerard Room at the Memorare Center at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20. You can stay for the discussion on the three stages in the spiritual life (letter four for those in formation for consecration to their guardian angel). The discussion starts at 7:15 p.m. and ends at 8:30 p.m. Please RSVP to the Parish Office at 330-644-2225. Discussions for those in formation for consecration to all the Holy Angels will meet at 3:30 p.m. in the St. Gerard Room and at 7:15 p.m. in the Beatitudes Room.

### Moms of Littles



The Moms of Littles group will hold our first meeting of 2026 on Wednesday, January 21 at 10:00 a.m. in the Memorare Center. Come join us for fellowship with other young families! Contact [edunn@stfparish.com](mailto:edunn@stfparish.com) for more information and to join our email list.



## 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>



**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The Cluster Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, January 13, 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.



**BECOMING CATHOLIC**

Next Sunday, January 18 at the 9:00 a.m. Mass, our parish will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome for our inquirers in the OCIA process who are preparing to join the Catholic Church. This ancient Rite is a simple ceremony that takes place near the door of the church, signifying the formal entrance of these new inquirers into our Christian community. After the rite, they are called catechumens, which is the ancient Greek term for "those being instructed." Please pray for our brothers and sisters as they begin this next stage of their journey toward the sacraments!

**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.rtlfofneo.com](http://www.rtlfofneo.com) under the "events" tab. Or call us at 234-334-0088.



**the ITE PROJECT**

**HALF-DAY RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS**

Come spend an evening with The ITE Project, growing in faith, encountering Jesus, and connecting with fellow young adults on January 16, 2026, from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at Holy Family Church in Stow. In the Bleak Midwinter: A Half-Day Retreat for the Post-Christmas Blues is completely free! The evening will focus on joy in Christ through the darkest months and includes fellowship, dinner, a talk, Confessions, Adoration, and Mass. Registration ends on January 14! Register today at <https://www.theiteproject.com/events/halfday26>

**FREE THROW COMPETITION**

Since 1972, councils have sponsored the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for boys and girls from the ages of 9 to 14 to provide an athletic outlet and encourage the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Kids compete within their own gender and age and progress from local level to district, regional and state competitions. On January 25th, 2026, South Akron Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition will be held at Queen of Heaven from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.



Monday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m., Theology on the Rocks will welcome guest speaker Fr. Armando Elkhoury, Pastor, Our Lady of the Cedars in Fairlawn for a presentation at Our Lady of the Cedars, 507 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road in Fairlawn. He will be speaking on the topic: "From Antioch to Today: A Concise History and Importance of the Maronite Church." Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m. \$15.00 admission fee. Light appetizers included. Cash bar available. Sponsored by St. Sebastian Parish, Akron.

### ACME COMMUNITY CASHBACK

Do you shop at Acme? You can help our school just by saving your receipts! Please turn in any receipts dated August 1, 2025 through February 15, 2026 to the Parish or School Office in an envelope labeled "Community Cash Back." Thank you for your help in this easy fundraiser for our schoolchildren!

Registration coming soon for **CYO** Spring Sports

This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.



### HELP FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

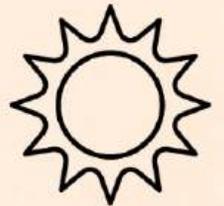
A unique program to renew, strengthen and heal your marriage beginning February 13-15, 2026. The Retrouvaille program is designed to help married couples develop improved ways of communicating and relating to each other in order to overcome challenges which have left them feeling disconnected, hurt, 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.

### DIVORCED, SEPARATED, & WIDOWED CATHOLICS

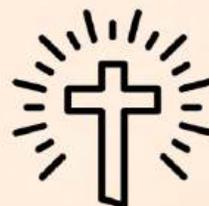
A "Caring and Sharing" session for those struggling with divorce, separation or widowhood will be held on Monday, January 12 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary's Convent Building, 1945 Portage Trail in Cuyahoga Falls. Marlene Maruna, a retired Social Worker, will facilitate this session. This event is open at no charge to people of all faiths. For information, call Marlene 330-607-6284.

St. Francis de Sales Parish

Save the Date



# Vacation Bible School



June 15-19, 2026

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