

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)

**PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 29, 2026**

*Masses For
The Week*



**SUNDAY, MARCH 29, PALM SUNDAY OF THE
PASSION OF THE LORD**

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo
9:00 a.m. Rita Vaughan (Lou & Laurene Scala)
11:00 a.m. Joe VanDevere (Tony & Mary Heyden)

MONDAY, MARCH 30, MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

- 8:15 a.m. Richard Smith (Phil & Mike Ciccolini)

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

- 8:15 a.m. Roman Patrick Gill (Family)

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, HOLY THURSDAY

- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer
7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
Elizabeth Marino – Month's Mind
Harry Welch – Month's Mind

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, GOOD FRIDAY

- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer
12:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
3:00 p.m. Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
& Adoration of the Holy Cross
Geraldine Kansa – Month's Mind

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, HOLY SATURDAY

- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer
12:00 p.m. Blessing of Easter Food & Baskets
8:45 p.m. The Great Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5, EASTER SUNDAY OF THE
RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

- 7:30 a.m. Mary Jo Fox Peck (Mom, Dad, & Zoe)
9:00 a.m. Dominic Reo (Terry & Sue Smith)
11:00 a.m. Joe VanDevere
(Marian & Dale Bonocore)
Thomas Keenan – Anniversary of Death



...WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY...

A couple Fridays ago, for The Stations of the Cross, I used a different set of Stations called "Everyone's Way of the Cross" by Clarence Enzler. This set of Stations was used by Immaculate Conception Parish. In praying with this version, I was blown away by the Tenth Station – *Jesus is Stripped*. Here are our words to Jesus as "we reply..."

"My Lord, I offer You my all – whatever I possess, and more, my self. Detach me from the craving for prestige, position, wealth. Root out of me all trace of envy of my neighbor who has more than I. Release me from the vice of pride, my longing to exalt myself, and lead me to the lowest place. May I be poor in spirit, Lord, so that I can be rich in You."

May I be poor in spirit so to be rich in Jesus. All of these goods that we grasp onto – possessions, power, honor – can impede our joy. In this year of St. Francis of Assisi, it is good to remember how he let go of everything to live a new life with Jesus. I want to share a prayer written by Mirabai Starr that speaks to the joy of letting go. In a particular way, in the midst of sadness, we can find joy in letting go...

Praise to you, Saint Francis of Assisi, brother to the sun and the moon, to birds and worms, fire and wind. Your unconditional love of creation excludes no one. When you embraced the leper, anything left between you and your God melted away. In our habitual grasping, we have lost the joy of letting go. Whisper in our ear, Francis. Let us live your simple wisdom, and seek not so much to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. Thank you. Amen.

What are you grasping at? As we enter Holy Week, we will see how The Disciples denied and rejected Jesus so as to preserve their lives. They were grasping at the basic need of self-preservation and didn't want to lose their lives for the sake of knowing Jesus. We will see what a difference a week can make when Easter morning comes and the power of the Holy Spirit changes their lives forever...from a life of grasping...to a life of martyrdom...for it is in giving that we receive, in dying that we are born to eternal life!

**Find the joy of letting go,
Fr. Jeremy**

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25
Thursday: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Rev 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21
Friday: Is 52:13-53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9;
Jn 18:1-19:42
Saturday: Gen 1:1-2:2 or Gen 1:1, 26-31a;
Gen 22:1-18 or Gen 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13,
15-18; Ex 14:15-15:1; Is 54:5-14;
Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4;
Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Rom 6:3-11; Mt 28:1-10
Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4 or
1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

- Children's Liturgy of the Word at 11:00 a.m. Mass
- Cub Scouts, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Refectory)
- Boy Scouts, 4:30-6:00 p.m. (Gym)
- Living Stations of the Cross, 6:00 p.m. (Church)
- Youth Group, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
(meet in the church for Living Stations)
- Night Prayer, 8:00 p.m. (Church)

MONDAY, MARCH 30

- No PSR & Ignite

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

- Women's Study Group, 9:00 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Chrism Mass, 5:00 p.m. at St. Sebastian Parish,
476 Mull Avenue, Akron Ohio 44320
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

- Moms of Littles, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
(Beatitudes Room)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (Refectory)

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

- Morning Prayer, 8:15 a.m. (Church)
- Thursday Scripture Group, 12:30 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Agape Meal, 5:00 p.m. (Refectory)
- Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:00 p.m.
- Adoration in the Memorare Center, 8:30-11:00 p.m.
- Youth Group Seven Church Pilgrimage – begins at
Memorare Center after Mass and returns for
Night Prayer
- Night Prayer, 11:00 p.m. (Memorare Center)

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

- No School
- Parish Office Closed
- Morning Prayer, 8:15 a.m. (Church)
- Stations of the Cross, 12:00 p.m. (Church)
- Celebration of The Passion of the Lord & Adoration of
the Holy Cross, 3:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Morning Prayer, 8:15 a.m. (Church)
- Choir Practice, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (Church)
- Blessing of Easter Food & Baskets, 12:00 p.m. (Church)
- The Great Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, 8:45 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

- Happy Easter!
- Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
- No Youth Group

PARISH STAFF	ROLE AND EMAIL
Fr. Jeremy Merzweiler	Pastor frmerzweiler@stfparish.com
Fr. David Verbsky	Parochial Vicar frverbsky@stfparish.com
Dc. Raymond Herrick	Deacon deaonherrick@stfparish.com
Dc. Richard Butz	Retired Deacon deaonbutz@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
Dennis Ott	Project Manager dott@stfparish.com
Joe Turk	Business Manager jturk@stfparish.com
Chris Robbins	Office Assistant crobbins@stfparish.com
Colleen Bryant	Communications Coordinator cbryant@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

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.
Joan Spalding-Heade received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

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

COLLECTION INFORMATION

March 21 & 22

Due to an early bulletin deadline, the Collection Information will be published in the forthcoming bulletin.
Thank you for your generosity!

REST IN Peace

Please remember in prayer **Margaret Ann Blackert, Carol Bradshaw, Eleanor Allen, Don Thomas, and Tony Keblesh**, brother of parishioner Ruth Zuchowski. May they pass from death into life with Our Savior, and may He comfort their loved ones.

ANOINTING MASS

Due to the first Thursday of April being Holy Thursday, the monthly Anointing Mass will be moved to Thursday, April 9 after the 6:30 p.m. Mass.

RECYCLING BINS

You may have noticed that the Recycling Bins behind the Memorare Center have been removed. Our parish has discontinued this program due to insufficient service from our recycling provider and an excess of litter being left around the bins. We are sorry for any inconvenience this causes.

A MESSAGE FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY

As we enter this Holy Week, we remember that Jesus, fully human and fully God, experienced the wide range of emotions we all encounter in life. Jesus experienced times of loneliness, sadness, hurt, anger, disappointment, grief, and abandonment. That is part of being human. Another part of being human is needing help from each other. God never intended us to be completely self-sufficient. Part of God's plan is for each of us to turn to others for help when we need it. So when you are experiencing difficult times, don't struggle alone. Our Stephen Ministers will walk with you, listen to you, encourage you, pray with you, and provide confidential one-to-one care to help you through tough times. Stephen Ministers can bring the love of Jesus back into your life. To learn more about Stephen Ministry, contact Ann Clark at aclark2@stfparish.com or put your contact information in the Stephen Ministry prayer box located in the back of the church.



ANNUAL EGG HUNT RESCHEDULED

The Easter Egg Hunt traditionally held on Holy Saturday morning has been rescheduled to the Third Weekend of Easter this year. It will take place on Saturday, April 18 at 10:00 a.m. on the parish campus.



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Mass at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.
Living Stations of the Cross, 6:00 p.m.
Night Prayer, 8:00 p.m.

HOLY MONDAY, MARCH 30

Mass at 8:15 a.m.
Adoration, 7:00-8:00 a.m. and 6:00-10:00 p.m.

HOLY TUESDAY, MARCH 31

Mass at 8:15 a.m.
Chrism Mass at St. Sebastian Parish, Akron, 5:00 p.m.
Adoration, 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

Mass at 8:15 a.m.
Adoration, 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Morning Prayer, 8:15 a.m.
Agape Meal, 5:00 p.m. in the Refectory
Evening Mass of The Lord's Supper, 7:00 p.m.
Adoration – Altar of Repose in Memorare Center,
8:30-11:00 p.m.
Youth Group Seven Church Pilgrimage, 8:30-11:00 p.m.
Night Prayer and Reposition, 11:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3

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 4

Morning Prayer, 8:15 a.m.
Blessing of the Easter Food and Baskets, 12:00 p.m.
The Great Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, 8:45 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Mass at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.

THE PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Pope Leo has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in The Holy Land. Through this Collection, we stand in solidarity with the Church in The Holy Land as a witness of peace, supporting Catholics there in parishes and schools, and maintaining the Christian shrines, the places where Jesus accomplished our redemption. To contribute, place your donation in the "Good Friday" envelope you received with your collection envelopes or put a cash or check donation in the collection basket at the Good Friday liturgy on April 3 at 3:00 p.m.



Parishioner Registration



ParishSOFT Online Giving



COME PRAY WITH THE EIGHTH GRADE CLASS

**ST. FRANCIS DE SALES
PARISH SCHOOL**

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS
MARCH 29 AT 6:00PM

SCRIPTURE- REFLECTION- MUSIC

**IN THE
CHURCH**



**HOLY THURSDAY
AGAPE MEAL**
APRIL 2, 5:00 PM

Before the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 pm,
join us for an Agape Meal, a gathering of Christian fellowship, in the refectory.

RSVP to the Parish Office or on our website by Monday, March 30.

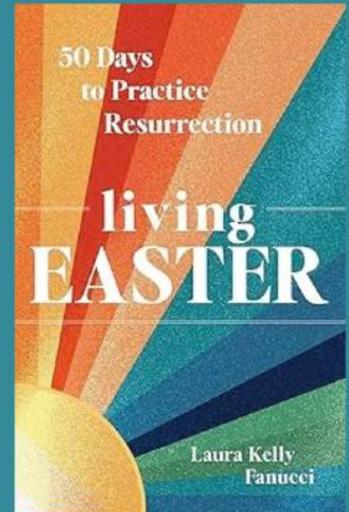
Please bring a side dish to share. Chicken will be provided as the entree.

Want to volunteer? Call the Parish Office at 330-644-2225.



Live the Resurrection!

Lent may be 40 days long, but the Easter season is 50. Celebrate Easter this year with a small group book study of *Living Easter: 50 Days to Practice Resurrection* by Laura Kelly Fanucci. This new book features daily reflections rooted in scripture, prayer, and action. Groups will meet for an hour discussion once a week, April 6-May 22. For days and times, see the sign-up sheets in the narthex. Questions? Contact Linda Hetson at 330-819-6490 or lhets@stfparish.com. More small group facilitators are needed. If interested, please reach out to Linda.



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.

- March 29** – Youth Group, 6:00-7:30 p.m. (Earlier start time! We'll attend the Living Stations of the Cross presented by the 8th graders in the church.)
- April 2** – Seven Church Pilgrimage after Mass of the Lord's Supper
- April 5** – No Youth Group (Easter)
- April 12** – Day of Service at Peter Maurin Center, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- April 19** – Youth Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Youth Minister Swap)
- April 26** – Youth Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (8th Graders welcome)
- May 3** – Youth Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (8th Graders welcome & Senior sendoff)

SAVE THE DATE

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



REQUEST FOR 2025 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

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ENVELOPE # _____

HOME PHONE # _____

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Please place this completed form in the collection basket and your statement will be mailed to you.



SAVE THE DATE FOR MASS AT THE BALLPARK!

This summer, our parish’s Annual Mass at the Akron Rubber Ducks stadium will be on Sunday, August 9 at 11:00 a.m. Keep an eye on the bulletin for ticket details!

QUEEN OF HEAVEN YOUNG AT HEART

The next Young at Heart Meeting will be Monday, April 6th at 1:00 p.m. in the Queen of Heaven PLC. Young at Heart is open to all seniors 55-plus and is not limited to Queen of Heaven parishioners. The topic for the presentation will be Senior Safety.

ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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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!

To donate, scan the QR Code or visit

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



THANK YOU

Dear St. Francis Family, your friendships with so many prayers during my husband Bob’s health struggles and eventually his loss meant so much to my family and me. Your kindnesses were an ongoing comfort to all of us. In return we ask for blessings on all of you.

– Rosie Millican

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. Help the youth, help the Knights, and maybe even win a prize for yourself!

SQUEEK, SQUEEK, SQUEEK! CHURCH MICE ARE SQUEEKY CLEAN!



The Church Mice are looking for some women or men willing to help clean the church on Monday mornings. They go to 8:15 a.m. Mass and start cleaning right afterward. The cleaning is usually done by 10:00 a.m. They could really use more help. More questions? Call Jodi, 330-329-4474.

ZELIE’S HOME GOLF EVENT

Swing into action for a great cause! The 6th Annual Birdies for Babies is Thursday, April 30 at Topgolf. Enjoy 2.5 hours of golf, exciting raffle prizes, and fellowship – all while supporting Zelie’s Home, a pro-life home of hospitality for local pregnant and parenting moms and their children. Golfers \$100.00, Spectators \$50.00. Sponsorships available. Register at www.zelieshome.org/events.

JESUIT RETREAT CENTER

The Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma is offering a range of programs in April, including retreat days, presentations on aging and on Jesuit spirituality, and prayer gatherings. Learn more about these opportunities and register at www.jesuitretreatcenter.org.

ADORERS NEEDED

Adorers are needed for the following times:

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 p.m. & 3:00-4:00 p.m.

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

Westside Catholic Couples Speaker Series:

Taking Your Marriage from GOOD to GREAT

Saturday, April 11, 2026

TAKING YOUR MARRIAGE FROM GOOD TO GREAT

St. Sebastian Parish will host Bishop Edward Malesic and John and Teresa Peach, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday April 11th at the church, 476 Mull Avenue, Akron 44320. The theme for the talks is “Taking Your Marriage from GOOD to GREAT.” There is an optional 8:00 a.m. Mass. Cost is \$25.00 per person. See the link on the parish website homepage – stsebastian.org – for registration details.

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.



April 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
<p><i>“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.”</i> <i>Psalm 118</i></p>			<p><i>1</i> Luke Liptak Borromeo (Youngstown)</p>	<p><i>2</i> Adam Osbourne Borromeo (Capuchin)</p>	<p><i>3</i> Dylan Perman Borromeo</p>	<p><i>4</i> Mark Boehm Borromeo</p>
<p><i>5</i> Pray for the Faculty and Staff at the Seminary</p>	<p><i>6</i> Gabriel Kasper Borromeo</p>	<p><i>7</i> Yosief Kidane Borromeo (Capuchin)</p>	<p><i>8</i> Quinn McNeill Borromeo</p>	<p><i>9</i> Noah Polman Borromeo</p>	<p><i>10</i> Thomas Byrne Theology I</p>	<p><i>11</i> Gregory Hovan Theology I</p>
<p><i>12</i> Pray for those who are suffering throughout the world</p>	<p><i>13</i> Daniel Liberatore Theology I</p>	<p><i>14</i> William Martzaklis Theology I (Youngstown)</p>	<p><i>15</i> Nathan Menkhous Theology I</p>	<p><i>16</i> John Scantling Theology I</p>	<p><i>17</i> Connor Trout Theology I</p>	<p><i>18</i> Christopher Villarreal Theology I</p>
<p><i>19</i> Pray for an Increase in Vocations</p>	<p><i>20</i> Donald Bailey Theology II (Youngstown)</p>	<p><i>21</i> Benjamin Baratian Theology II</p>	<p><i>22</i> Johannes Benninghoff Theology II</p>	<p><i>23</i> Jake Cermak Theology II</p>	<p><i>24</i> Jonathan Green Theology II</p>	<p><i>25</i> Simon Park Theology II</p>
<p><i>26</i> Pray for Peace</p>	<p><i>27</i> Steve Zbiegien Theology II</p>	<p><i>28</i> Alexander Krukemeyer Theology III</p>	<p><i>29</i> Daniel LaPolla Theology III (Youngstown)</p>	<p><i>30</i> Billy Reed Theology III</p>		

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Schedule a tour TODAY by calling Holy Cross Cemetery in Akron at (216)-641-7575 ext. 7

"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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