

The measure of love is to love without measure.

# St. Francis de Sales Parish



## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday,  
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

## 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)

**SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY  
APRIL 12, 2026**



**SUNDAY, APRIL 12, SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY**

- 7:30 a.m. Costello Family (Sean Costello)  
9:00 a.m. Genevieve Hynick (Family)  
11:00 a.m. Les Rietz (Mimi McDonald)

**MONDAY, APRIL 13, ST. MARTIN I**

- 8:15 a.m. Virginia Collard (Cheryl McGregor)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 14**

- 8:15 a.m. Ross Falasca (Bill & Jo Dickey)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15**

- 8:15 a.m. Thomas & Jessica Weber  
(Amy & Jim Hilton)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16**

- 8:15 a.m. Living & Deceased of the Skello &  
Ferguson Families (The Wagners)  
6:30 p.m. Edna Eckenrode (Pauline Knee)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17**

- 8:15 a.m. Rosemary & Gary Traub (Gary Skinner)  
9:00 a.m. School Mass – Al Feltrup  
(Wife, Cathy Feltrup)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18**

- 8:15 a.m. James Jones (Sue & Mike Ciccolini)  
5:00 p.m. Daniel Busson  
(Carolyn & Michele Busson)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19, THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo  
9:00 a.m. Anna & CR Reiter & Patricia Meredith  
(John & Helen Deibel)  
11:00 a.m. Fr. Richard Burchell (Bill & Pat Shea)



**TRUSTFUL SURRENDER**

This week, I share my bulletin article with my buddy, Blaise!

*Blaise: Hey Boss, over a month ago you cut my hair...in winter time!!! What were you thinking?!!*

*Fr. Jeremy: I know, I know. It was a warm day, and I decided to get a high and tight hair cut myself and thought I would do the same for you.*

*B: How about you wait till spring next time, or maybe even summer?*

*Fr. J: Good point. But every time I vacuumed in the rectory, the vacuum container filled up many times with your hair! Hair was everywhere! On the ground...on the counter...on my clothes...in my car...on the table...and even in my cereal... yuck!*

*B: Okay, okay, I get the point. It needed to go.*

*Fr. J: Plus, you were always panting and were so hot all the time. You would go outside and just lay in the snow. Now you seem to be comfortable.*

*B: True. And you have been able to see the ticks crawling on me from being in the woods, so I guess that is good too, right?*

*Fr. J: Indeed! I do have to thank you too for how cooperative you were during your haircut. You just laid back and let me do the work.*

*B: Anytime, Boss!*

All this haircutting reminds me of my time as the seminary barber. Most times, seminarians would be very particular and tell me precisely what they wanted in a haircut. But occasionally, someone would just say "Have at it!" and let me just cut away. I share this memory because today we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, a day we are invited to enter into trustful surrender to the one who loves us so much! Sometimes we try to tell God exactly what to do instead of rather surrendering to what He wants. "Happy the soul that has trusted in Your goodness. And has abandoned herself completely to Your mercy." (*Diary, 1652*)

**Have at it, Lord!  
Fr. Jeremy**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday:** Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8  
**Tuesday:** Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7b-15  
**Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21  
**Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36  
**Friday:** Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15  
**Saturday:** Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21  
**Sunday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pet 1:17-21;  
Lk 24:13-35

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12**

- Donut Sunday
- Peter Maurin Center Service Day, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Divine Mercy Holy Hour, 3:00 p.m. (Church)
- Scouts, 4:30-6:00 p.m. (Gym)

**MONDAY, APRIL 13**

- School Resumes
- Avila Holy Hour for Vocations, 9:00 a.m. (Church)
- PSR & Ignite, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- Small Group Study, 7:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 14**

- Women's Study Group, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Small Group Study, 9:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Small Group Study, 7:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15**

- Moms of Littles, 10:00a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)
- Small Group Study, 7:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Flow in Faith, 7:00 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (Refectory)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16**

- Thursday Scripture Group, 12:30 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- First Communion Mini-Retreat, 6:00-8:00 p.m. (Memorare Center & Church)
- Small Group Study, 7:00 p.m. (Archangels Room)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17**

- Youth Choir Practice, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Church)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18**

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Rosary, 8:45 a.m. (Church)
- Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 a.m. (Parish Grounds)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19**

- Children's Liturgy of the Word, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- Cub Scouts, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Refectory)
- Scouts, 4:30-6:00 p.m. (Gym)
- Youth Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)

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 mrsloyd@stfparishschool.org
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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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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

**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**March 28 & 29**

Sunday	15,517.32
Assessment	20.00
Capital	390.00
School	315.00
Easter	365.00
Special Collections	338.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,945.32</b>

**April 4 & 5**

Easter Sunday	31,352.00
Assessment	286.00
Capital	235.00
School	70.00
Special Collections	2,879.60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$34,822.60</b>

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**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. **Therese Holderbaum** received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

**REST IN PEACE**

Please pray for the soul of **Dorothy Presnar**. May she who has shared in the Death of Christ share in His Resurrection, and may He console her family and friends.

**MARRIAGE BANNES**

II Nicholas Mackle & Olivia Dobbins

# Congratulations to our newest Catholics!

Amanda Conti  
 Darin Conti  
 Stella Conti  
 Ann Marie Esque  
 EmmaLynn Finch  
 Sam Harrison  
 Ella Harrison  
 Derek Kreibel  
 Gary Lawrence



Clara Markus  
 Nicola Masters  
 Evelyn Motz  
 Linda Norton  
 Ryan Pinghero  
 Kelly Shaw  
 Van Wallbrown  
 Delaney Nichols

At the Easter Vigil, our parish rejoiced to receive ten adults and seven children into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. Thank you for welcoming them into our parish community by your prayers and kindness!

### ADORERS NEEDED

Adorers are needed for the times listed below.  
 Half-hour slots are available.

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.  
 Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00 p.m.  
 Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

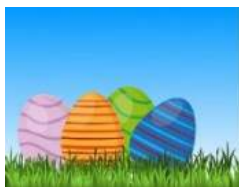
Friday, 4:00-5:00 p.m. & 5:00-6:00 p.m.

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

### 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



### EASTER EGG HUNT

This year, our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 18 at 10:00 a.m. on the parish campus. This free event is open to all children 0-10 years old.



### REQUEST FOR 2025 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

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ADDRESS

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CITY/ZIP CODE

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ENVELOPE #

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HOME PHONE #

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CELL PHONE #

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



**DIVINE MERCY**

**HOLY HOUR**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12**

**3:00 P.M.**

**IN THE CHURCH**

**ADORATION, CONFESSIONS  
CHAPLET, AND BENEDICTION**

**JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU.**

# 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.

**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.**



**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

### A MESSAGE FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY

Does the peace and joy of the Easter Season seem far away? For those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time, Easter can be a time of painful loneliness and emptiness. If you are smiling on the outside but full of pain on the inside, and the peace and joy of Easter seems far away, help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, and pray with and for you. Stephen Ministers have been specially trained to meet your emotional and spiritual needs; male Stephen Ministers are always matched with men, and female Stephen Ministers are matched with women. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders, Ann Clark (aclark2@stfparish.com).

*Our Stephen Ministers are here to care.*



No one really loves to suffer. It can be painful, uncomfortable, inconvenient, and difficult among other things. But Jesus asks His Disciples to take up their cross daily and to follow Him. From the very beginning, He let The Disciples participate in His life and suffering! Through His Passion and Death on the Cross, He atoned for our sins and redeemed mankind, and He invites us to join our suffering to His. We too can carry our suffering on behalf of others, offering it up for love of God and for others. St. Faustina tells us that if the angels could envy us for anything, it would be that we can receive the Eucharist and we can suffer. Angels don't have physical bodies because they are pure spirits. They are like light that reflects the glory of God, but because they don't have a body, they can't suffer. They cannot imitate Christ in His suffering. We can. Come hear more about redemptive suffering and the holy angels on Tuesday, April 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Gerard Room at the Memorare Center. You are invited to stay for the deeper discussion on expiation, (letter 7 for those in formation for consecration to their guardian angel). The discussion is from 7:15-8:30 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 on the same day.



## Calling all Gardeners!

Our parish's flower beds and planters are beautiful! We could use some help to keep them looking lovely this spring and summer. Volunteers assist with planting, watering, and keeping the plants tidy. The tasks are not needed daily, so volunteer times are flexible. If you are interested, contact Pam Crandall at pamcrandall@neo.rr.com or 330-730-4783.

### CRS RICE BOWL COLLECTION

If you participated in the Rice Bowl Collection in support of Catholic Relief Services, thank you! Please count your contributions and write a check for the total amount with "Rice Bowl" in the memo line. You can also put your check in an envelope marked "Rice Bowl." Then, place your check in the offertory basket at Mass.

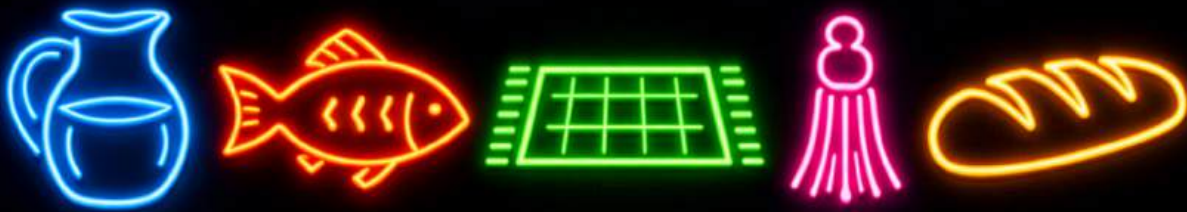
### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Cluster Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, April 14, 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.

**SFDS VBS: JUNE 15-19, 2026**

# SIGNS & WONDERS

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS



**“These signs are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.” John 20:31**



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**STUDENT  
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**REGISTRATION DEADLINES: MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> FOR VOLUNTEERS & JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> FOR CAMPERS.  
CALL 330-644-2225 OR EMAIL [VBS@STFPARISH.COM](mailto:VBS@STFPARISH.COM) WITH QUESTIONS**



## 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>



## THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES

Nativity of the Lord Parish, 2425 Myersville Road, Akron, OH 44312, is hosting an evening of marriage and family enrichment on Saturday, May 2. Terri Yohman, Director of Marriage and Family Ministry for the Diocese of Cleveland, will present content on Gary Chapman's book *The Five Love Languages* as it applies not only to spouses, but also to their children. The evening begins with Mass at 4:30 p.m., followed by a pizza and salad dinner at 5:30 p.m. and then the presentation. A freewill offering will be accepted. Childcare will be available. Register online at [www.nativityofthelord.org/love-languages](http://www.nativityofthelord.org/love-languages).

## THE ITE PROJECT GALA

The ITE Project is a Catholic young adult apostolate that has been changing lives in our local communities for more than ten years!! *Join the Story* is its Annual Fundraiser on April 24th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Elm Ridge Event Center in Canal Fulton. This year's black tie gala is absolutely FREE to attend, where we welcome the Bishop of Cleveland, The Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, as our honored guest and keynote speaker. This special evening of community includes an elevated dinner, gourmet dessert, an open bar, a live jazz band, and a chance to participate in a meaningful service project. Everyone is welcome! Space is very limited and filling quickly! RSVP required by April 17th! <https://www.theiteproject.com/jointhestory>

## THEOLOGY ON THE ROCKS

Join us on Monday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m., as we welcome our Guest speaker Matthew Carey Jordan, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Borromeo and St. Mary Seminaries, Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, at Our Lady of the Cedars Maronite Church, 507 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road in Fairlawn. He will be speaking on the topic "Who Was C.S. Lewis, and Why Should Catholics Care?" 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.

## DIVORCED, SEPARATED & WIDOWED CATHOLICS OF AKRON

A "Caring and Sharing" session for those struggling with divorce, separation, or widowhood will be held on Monday, April 13 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Immaculate Heart of Mary's Convent Building, 1945 Portage Trail in Cuyahoga Falls. Mary Murphy, a certified Lay Ecclesial Minister, will facilitate this session. This event is open at no charge to people of all faiths. For information, call Mary at 330-603-6565.



**Knights of  
Columbus®**

## 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!

## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The Catholic Cemeteries Association's next Sunday Grief Support Group will be Sunday, April 19. An in-person session will be held at 3:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Cemetery in Akron, 100 E. Waterloo Rd. 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](http://www.clecem.org/Events)



Parishioner Registration



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