

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](http://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)

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
APRIL 19, 2026**

*Masses For  
The Week*



**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)

**MONDAY, APRIL 20**

- 8:15 a.m. William Cinadr (Gerry Sharp)  
*Carol Bradshaw – Month's Mind*  
*Joseph Anslovar – Anniversary of Death*

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21, ST. ANSELM**

- 8:15 a.m. Kathleen Boden (Stavarz Family)  
*Florence Wester – Anniversary of Death*

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22**

- 8:15 a.m. Jim & Cherie Vaughan  
(Therese Holderbaum)  
*Margaret Blackert – Month's Mind*  
*Eleanor Allen – Month's Mind*

**THURSDAY, APRIL 23, ST. GEORGE, ST. ADALBERT**

- 8:15 a.m. Holy Souls in Purgatory (Mike Elchert)  
6:30 p.m. Domenico Fabrizio (Berardi Sisters)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 24, ST. FIDELIS OF SIGMARINGEN**

- 8:15 a.m. Deceased of the Ange & Clark Families  
(Tony & Shirley Clark Family)  
9:00 a.m. School Mass – Nancy Vatalaro  
(Bill & Pat Shea)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25**

- 8:15 a.m. Dominic Reo (John & Mary Menches)  
5:00 p.m. Marcia Elder (Hercules Family)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26, FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo  
9:00 a.m. Lucy Duffner (Kelliher Family)  
11:00 a.m. Dominic Reo (Adriana & Carl Smith)

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday:** Acts 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29  
**Tuesday:** Acts 7:51–8:1a; Jn 6:30-35  
**Wednesday:** Acts 8:1b-8; Jn 6:35-40  
**Thursday:** Acts 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51  
**Friday:** Acts 9:1-20; Jn 6:52-59  
**Saturday:** 1 Pet 5:5b-14; Mk 16:15-20  
**Sunday:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Pet 2:20b-25;  
Jn 10:1-10

**EXCITING NEWS!**



**Congratulations, Deacon Cam Ferrell!** This week is always an exciting time in the Diocese of Cleveland. This past Wednesday, I met with Bishop Malesic, Seminary Rector Fr. Andy Turner, Fr. Joe Mamich, our Priest Personnel Director, and the six almost-newly-ordained members of the Class of 2026 from St. Mary Seminary in Wickliffe. The Bishop has assigned soon-to-be Father Cam Ferrell to be Parochial Vicar here at St. Francis de Sales. He was raised at SS. Peter and Paul in Doylestown and attended Hoban High School. His parents are Brandon and Carrie Ferrell, and he is the oldest of five, with two brothers and two sisters. It was a joy to get to know him and see how excited he is to come to St. Francis de Sales. I too am excited for him to learn how to fall in love with the priesthood here and to see how he loves you all. He shared how he enjoys the outdoors as well as Cleveland sports. Please pray for him as he approaches ordination on May 16, 2026. He starts here June 9th.

**Fr. David Verbsky's Assignment Change.** With the exciting news of Cam Ferrell comes both exciting and bittersweet news for Fr. Verbsky. Bishop Malesic has called Fr. David to be the next Parochial Vicar of both St. Francis Xavier in Medina and Our Lady Help of Christians in Litchfield. He will help both parishes, especially Our Lady Help of Christians on the weekends. I cannot believe it has been four years since Fr. David started here. It feels like yesterday. Please continue to pray for him and all of those changing assignments this year. It can be very challenging for your heart when you leave an assignment, but very exciting as you begin a new page in life. Thanks for your prayers. We will celebrate him on the weekend of June 6 and 7. He moves June 9th.

**Fr. Alex Clark Assignment Change.** Lastly, I wanted to share that Fr. Alex Clark, son of the parish, has been asked by Bishop Malesic to be the Administrator of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Wickliffe and Immaculate Conception in Willoughby. He will be moving from St. Gabriel Parish in Concord Township. Thank you for praying for him as well as he begins to lead both parishes with the help of God.

So much to pray for and be thankful for...

**Thank you for the prayers,  
Fr. Jeremy**

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**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)

**MONDAY, APRIL 20**

- PSR & Ignite, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- Small Group Study, 7:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Eighth Grade Confirmation Practice & Prayers, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (Gym & Church)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21**

- Women's Study Group, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Small Group Study, 9:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Holy Angels Formation, 3:30 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Talk on Angels, 6:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Confirmation Mass with Bishop Woost, 7:00 p.m. in the Church, Followed by Reception in the Gym
- Small Group Study, 7:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Guardian Angels Formation, 7:15 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Holy Angels Formation, 7:15 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22**

- Senior Euchre Group, 1:00-4:00 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)
- Small Group Study, 7:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (Refectory)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 23**

- Thursday Scripture Group, 12:30 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Small Group Study, 7:00 p.m. (Archangels Room)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25**

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Rosary, 8:45 a.m. (Church)
- First Communion Practice & Pictures, 9:30-11:00 a.m. (Church & Gym)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26**

- Children's Liturgy of the Word, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- Prayers for Healing, after 11:00 a.m. Mass (Meet by the St. Anthony statue)
- Scouts, 4:30-6:00 p.m. (Gym)
- Youth Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)

**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

April 11 & 12

	Offertory	Online Giving
Sunday	14,396.15	22,456.81
Assessment	250.00	130.00
Capital	644.00	115.00
School	1,775.00	355.00
Special Collections	<u>2,394.85</u>	<u>585.00</u>
TOTAL	\$19,460.00	\$23,641.81

Thank you for your generosity!

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
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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

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

**ADORERS NEEDED**

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

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



III Nicholas Mackle & Olivia Dobbins



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](mailto:pamcrandall@neo.rr.com) or 330-730-4783.

## 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](mailto: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 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.**

## PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Have you grown weary with an illness or burden and just resigned yourself to it? Perhaps the Lord wants to lift that burden, increase your strength, or even heal you completely! Come on the 4th Sunday following the 11:00 a.m. Mass and the St. Francis de Sales Healing Ministry will pray with you.



Parishioner Registration



ParishSOFT Online Giving



## EASTER SAINT MURALS

During the Easter season, our parish gets to enjoy a beautiful depiction of the saints in glory in the two paintings hanging alongside the Crucifix. Our Easter artwork, created by parishioner Louise Udovich, is a wonderful reminder that at every Mass we are truly united with all the saints by our Communion in the Body of Christ and they are always interceding for us in anything we ask of them. Here is a list of the saints shown:

### Left Panel

St. Francis de Sales  
 St. Jane de Chantal  
 St. Pier Giorgio Frassati  
 St. Francis of Assisi  
 St. Clare of Assisi  
 St. Rita of Cascia  
 St. George  
 St. Joan of Arc  
 St. Kevin of Glendalough

### Right Panel

St. John Paul II  
 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
 St. Teresa of Calcutta  
 St. Cyril  
 St. Methodius  
 St. Peter  
 St. Paul  
 St. Padre Pio

*All you holy saints, pray for us!*

## A MESSAGE FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY

On the road to Emmaus, Cleopas and his companion needed to talk about the recent events that had happened to their friend Jesus. They could have felt distraught and discouraged. They might have felt confused and didn't know what to believe or where to turn. When Jesus approached them, although they did not recognize Him at first, they were eager to talk. We too sometimes have times in our lives when we just need to talk things out. Often it is that impartial person, who is just willing to listen and pray with you that makes the unbearable just a bit more bearable. Stephen Ministers can be that listening ear in your life. The Stephen Ministry program at St. Francis de Sales Parish is made up of parishioners who have undergone more than 50 hours of Christian Care training to walk with you during those confusing, discouraging times in your life. For more information, contact Ann Clark ([aclark2@stfparish.com](mailto:aclark2@stfparish.com)).

## BAGS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

South Akron Knights of Columbus is collecting gently used wheeled suitcases and wheeled duffle bags for the men and women at Haven of Rest until the end of May. As vacation season is starting, if you see you have one you can part with, please consider donating it to Council #3410. We do request that the wheels work. They can be dropped off at the hall on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6-8 pm or you can call Steve Dort, our Grand Knight, to arrange for them to be picked up: 330-212-735.

## NATIVITY PARISH JOB OPENING

Nativity of the Lord Parish in Akron is seeking a new Parish Office Administrator to start summer 2026. Hours will be Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The Parish Office Administrator is the central point of hospitality, communication, and administrative coordination for the parish. As a one-person office, this role independently oversees all daily office operations, ensuring that parish administrative, communication, and record-keeping functions run smoothly, efficiently, and in alignment with the mission of the Catholic Church. To see full job description and apply, visit the Diocese of Cleveland website link here: <https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/offices/human-resources/employment-opportunities/parish-office-administrator-nativity-of-the-lord-jesus>.



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 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.

## THE FEST 2026

Summer is right around the corner and with it comes – The FEST. Join us on Saturday, August 15, 2026 at ForeFront Field (home of the Crushers) in Avon for an inspiring day of faith, family and fun. It's a new location and a new date with all the wonderful things thousands from across our region have come to appreciate and enjoy on FEST day. Come for the best Contemporary Christian artists, faith-based activities, an area for the kids, meaningful displays and vendors, family-friendly food, along with opportunities for prayer, Confession, Adoration and more. The day will conclude with an inspiring outdoor Mass with Bishop Malesic at 8:00 p.m., followed by a fireworks display. Check out all the details, along with band announcements, and ticket information (\$10 per person and children 2 and under are free) at [www.theFEST.us](http://www.theFEST.us).

**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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**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**

## 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.

## MAY CROWNING & PROCESSION

Our Mother's Hands ministry invites everyone to honor Mary in this month of May by participating in a communal May Crowning and Marian Procession at St. Sebastian Parish, Akron, on Sunday, May 3, immediately following 9:00 a.m. Mass. Mary will be crowned Queen in the church, and then participants will join St. Sebastian's parishioners for donuts in Zwisler Hall. A Rosary and Marian procession to bring Mary to the community will step off from Zwisler Hall at 10:25 a.m. Come join us in singing our love to Our Mother! For more information, visit our website at [ourmothershands.org](http://ourmothershands.org).

# Come take a Journey with Jesus!

Walk in the footsteps of Jesus and Our Blessed Mother!



## Pilgrimage to the Holy Land Trip#2703 March 7 - 18, 2027



In Lent of 2027, come see the places where Our Lord lived, ministered, and achieved our salvation. Trip highlights include visits to Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Mount Carmel, the Mount of Beatitudes, Caesarea Philippi, Jerusalem, and the Holy Sepulchre. Mass and the Rosary will be offered each day of the pilgrimage. A group is assembling from St. Francis de Sales. To join the group, when registering please state that you are part of the “Turk Group.”

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Base Price: \$3,995 (based on double occupancy)

Included: Airfare out of Chicago (ORD), Newark (EWR), or JFK International Airports; Transportation; Lodging; and 2 meals a day. For flights out of Akron or Cleveland, add \$445.

Land Only: \$3,095

Tips: \$145

For Single Room: additional \$1,170

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Scan the QR code  
to see the  
itinerary and  
register!



For more information, call the tour office at 630-279-8424, visit [totallyyourspilgrimages.com/2703-holy-land-4](http://totallyyourspilgrimages.com/2703-holy-land-4), or contact Mary (Huggins) Turk at 330-807-1730.

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