

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](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)

**EASTER SUNDAY  
APRIL 5, 2026**



**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

**MONDAY, APRIL 6,**

**WEEKDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

- 8:15 a.m. Living & Deceased of the Shepherd &  
Buzzelli Families (Rosanne Shepherd)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 7,**

**WEEKDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

- 8:15 a.m. Margaret Swenberg (Lou & Laurene Scala)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8,**

**WEEKDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

- 8:15 a.m. Robert Burch (KoC Council 4664)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9,**

**WEEKDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

- 8:15 a.m. Mary Ellen Truxell (Darrow Family)  
6:30 p.m. James & Julia Houck & Family  
(Richard Houck)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10,**

**WEEKDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

- 8:15 a.m. Tom Getzinger (Douglas & Mary Pamer)  
*No School Mass this week*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11,**

**SATURDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

- 8:15 a.m. Bob Millican Sr. (Rob & Mary Armbruster)  
5:00 p.m. Gene Frank (Barbara Frank)

**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)



**ALLELUIA! OUR FAMILY IS GROWING!**

This Easter, we celebrate the fact that our Church family is growing! At St. Francis de Sales, we welcome 19 new members into the Catholic Church. Our newly baptized are Amanda Conti, Ann Marie Esque, EmmaLynn Finch, Sam Harrison, Ella Harrison, Nicola Masters, Evelyn Motz, Ryan Pinghero, Kelly Shaw, Van Wallbrown and Delaney Nichols. Those who were fully initiated into the Catholic Church through Confirmation and the Eucharist are Darin Conti, Stella Conti, Derek Kreibel, Gary Lawrence, Clara Markus, Linda Norton, Pave Stauffenger and Madeline Treen. Pray for them. Rejoice in the Lord that they responded to God's invitation to begin a new relationship with Him. Thank you to our Becoming Catholic team who has led them on this beautiful journey.

It is inspiring to see how even within the life of our diocese we are seeing a rise in the number of those becoming Catholic. In 2023, we had 465 converts. In 2024, we had 545 converts. In 2025, we had 812 converts. This year, in the Diocese of Cleveland, we have 1,029 converts, with 538 being catechumens and 491 candidates. It is awesome to see such growth in numbers. Praise God!

Whenever family grows, whether by birth or adoption or marriage, it is always exciting to see how the new members change things for the better. It is wonderful to see how their gifts bring new life to the family. As our new members are literally adopted by God and brought forth into our community, I am most excited about how they will bring their gifts into our family. How they love, who they are and the stories they will share will help transform our community into the Body of Christ we are called to be. Just before I wrote this bulletin, I learned about the death of Chuck Norris. His conversion story is inspiring and reminds us of the power of what relationships can do to bring others into a living relationship with Jesus.

This Easter, as your family gathers together to celebrate the Resurrection, be open and welcoming to the new people that come into your home. Be inspired by the stories they share. Our families are growing. What a reason to celebrate! What a cause for our joy!

**Alleluia!**

**Fr. Jeremy**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33; Mt 28:8-15  
**Tuesday:** Acts 2:36-41; Jn 20:11-18  
**Wednesday:** Acts 3:1-10; Lk 24:13-35  
**Thursday:** Acts 3:11-26; Lk 24:35-48  
**Friday:** Acts 4:1-12; Jn 21:1-14  
**Saturday:** Acts 4:13-21; Mk 16:9-15  
**Sunday:** Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5**

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

**MONDAY, APRIL 6**

- No School
- Parish Office Closed
- No PSR & Ignite
- Small Group Study, 7:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 7**

- No School
- Parish Office Closed
- Small Group Study, 9:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Small Group Study, 7:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8**

- No School
- Senior Euchre Group, 1:00-4:00 p.m. (Beatitudes Room)
- Small Group Study, 7:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (Refectory)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9**

- No School
- Thursday Scripture Group, 12:30 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Stephen Ministry Continuing Education, 6:30 p.m. (Holy Family Room)
- Small Group Study, 7:00 p.m. (St. Gerard Room)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10**

- No School

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11**

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

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12**

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

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
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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 21 & 22**

Sunday	\$15,067.00
Assessment	55.00
Capital	27.00
School	310.00
Easter	60.00
Special Collections	45.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,564.00</b>

**March 28 & 29**

Due to an early bulletin deadline, the collection information will be published in the forthcoming bulletin.

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

*"Every call from the Lord is, above all, a call to His joy."*

*- Pope Leo XIV*

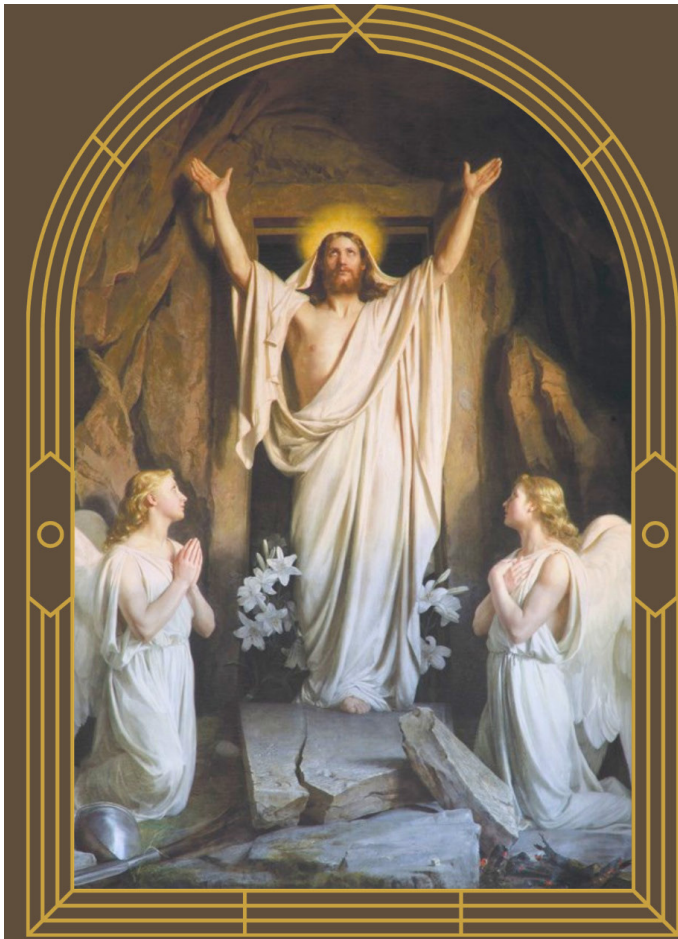
Every week, families or individuals bring the vocation crucifix into their home to pray for vocations. **The Wilson Family** received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

**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

**MARRIAGE BANNS**

I Nicholas Mackle & Olivia Dobbins



# Happy Easter!

Welcome to *St. Francis de Sales!*

Thank you for coming to celebrate with us. Would you like to join our parish family? To register, contact the Parish Office at 330-644-2225, see a priest after Mass, or register on our website, [www.stfparish.com](http://www.stfparish.com).

Keep in touch via text or email by signing up for Flocknote.

Text STFDS to 84576,  
use the QR code,  
or sign up online at  
[stfrancisdesalesparish1.flocknote.com](http://stfrancisdesalesparish1.flocknote.com)



## 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.



## ANNUAL EGG HUNT RESCHEDULED

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

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 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)

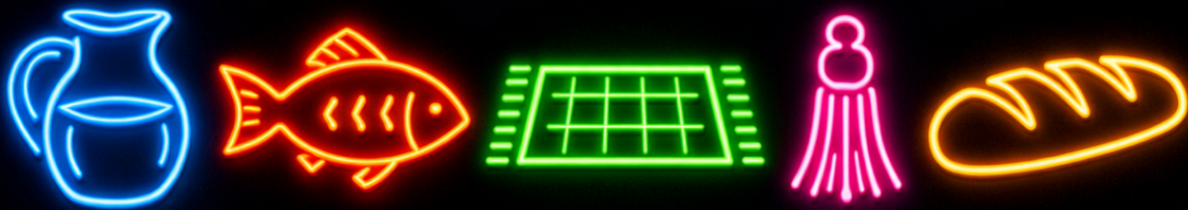
## SAVE THE DATE

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

**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**



**ADULT  
VOLUNTEER  
REGISTRATION**

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



**REQUEST FOR  
2025 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/ZIP CODE

ENVELOPE #

HOME PHONE #

CELL PHONE #

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

**THANK YOU!**

*"Hope is the seed that grows into a flourishing garden of faith and love."*

*– St. Jane Frances de Chantal*

It is with grateful hearts that the St. Vincent de Paul Society thanks our St. Francis de Sales parishioners who contributed so generously to the Lenten food drive.

On March 28, SVDP members distributed nearly 50 Easter baskets to neighbors in need. We could not serve to this extent without your help!

A generous parishioner donated 37 hams to help with the Easter dinner baskets! Another parishioner donated 23 dozen eggs which were gratefully accepted by our Thursday night neighbors. **Thank You!**

The SVDP food pantry is open Thursdays 6-6:30 p.m. for anyone in need of food. Please encourage those you think might need help to visit the pantry. A recent busy Thursday evening saw 19 bags go home with our neighbors in need, seven of those were first-timers.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society welcomes monetary donations anytime. Our ministry goes well beyond the food pantry helping families with utilities, keeping them in their homes, gift cards for immediate needs and much more. You can find SVdP envelopes in the pamphlet rack in the Narthex. During the Lenten food drive nearly \$3,000.00 was collected. **Thank you!**

We sincerely hope that all who participated in this almsgiving and food collection found it to be a special part of your Lenten journey.

*"Give to a hungry man, and what you give becomes yours, and indeed it returns to you with interest."*

*– St. Basil the Great*

Here are some photos of the SVDP food pantry's activities – **thanks to you!**



SVdP members and volunteers at the SFDS food pantry are able to give hope to local neighbors because of your generosity.



Herb, who picks up bags for his two brothers (not himself) jumped in to help on a busy night loading groceries for other neighbors.

**ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

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Help our children grow in faith!  
Donate to the Angel Scholarship Fund!

**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!

**To donate, scan the QR Code or visit**

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



**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!



**DIVINE MERCY**

**HOLY HOUR**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12**

**3:00 P.M.**

**IN THE CHURCH**

**ADORATION, CONFESSIONS  
CHAPLET, AND BENEDICTION**

**JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU.**



## STEPHEN MINISTRY

A message from Stephen Ministry: Alleluia! He is Risen! The Stephen Ministry Team wishes all of you the hope, peace and joy that our risen Lord can provide!

### 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*.



## 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!



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](http://stsebastian.org) – for registration details.

### 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.

### 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](http://www.zelieshome.org/events).

### 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>

### 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](http://www.jesuitretreatcenter.org).

### TO THE HEIGHTS – FATHER & SON RETREAT

Theology of the Body Cleveland presents a retreat day in the spirit of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati for fathers and sons in Grades 7-12 on Sunday, April 26 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The day will include dynamic speakers, games, discussions, Adoration, lunch, and more! Registration is \$35.00 per person (scholarships are available). Learn more or register at [tobcle.org](http://tobcle.org). Questions? [rlewis@tobcle.org](mailto:rlewis@tobcle.org)



Parishioner Registration



ParishSOFT Online Giving

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