

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:

Our families can become wrapped up chasing things we perceive will make us happy. Jesus' words to Lazarus, He says to us: "Come out" from what entombs you. In this fifth week of Lent "untie" yourself and be free from unnecessary possessions.

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK:

(Masses can be viewed online at www.stgerardchurch.org. Please click on the Live Webcast icon).

Monday, March 30

8:30 a.m. - Eusepio Reyes +
Living & Deceased of the
Singian & Reyes Families

Tuesday, March 31

8:30 a.m. - Thomas J. Houseworth+

Wednesday, April 1

8:30 a.m. - For our Priests, Brother
& Novices of St. Gerard
Rick & Ryan Young +

Thursday, April 2

8:30 a.m. - Ron Pitson +

Friday, April 3

8:30 a.m. - Christopher Blosser +

Saturday, April 4

8:30 a.m. - People of St. Gerard
Parish

5:00 p.m. - Jeff Geise +

Sunday, April 5

8:30 a.m. - Deceased of the Ervin &
Edith Williams Family +
Deceased of the Harry
& Leona Backus Family +

11:00 a.m. - People of St. Gerard

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Sunday, March 29

Masses at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. (Online only)
9:00-10:30 a.m. - NO RCIA classes in the Cafeteria
9:30 - 10:45 a.m. - Parish School of Religion classes CANCELLED

Monday, March 30

Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Online only)

Tuesday, March 31 - Mass at 8:30 a.m. - (Online only)

6:00-7:30 p.m. - **NO DVD SESSIONS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Wednesday, April 1

Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Online only)

Thursday, April 2

Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Online only)

12:00 - 6:30 p.m. - NO Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday, April 3

Mass at 8:30 a.m. - (Online only)

6:00-7:30 - Lenten Stations of the Cross CANCELLED

Saturday, April 4

Mass at 8:30 a.m. - (Online only)

4:00-4:30 p.m. - Confessions CANCELLED

Mass at 5:00 p.m. - (Online only)

Sunday, April 5 - Palm Sunday

Masses at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. (Online only)

9:00-10:30 a.m. - NO RCIA classes in the Cafeteria

9:30 - 10:45 a.m. - Parish School of Religion classes CANCELLED

FINANCIAL REPORT:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
March, 3rd week On-line: \$1,604.00	\$ 10,909.82	\$ 7,795.06
# of Envelopes	257	140
YTD Totals:	\$ 409,266.20	\$ 399,141.50

During this time of uncertainty, we ask that you please continue to support St. Gerard Church by sending in your weekly offertory donations, signing up to give online or consider giving a monthly donation. Thank you.

ST. GERARD PRAYER REQUESTS:

Requests for prayers may be emailed to: stgprayerchain@gmail.com or called into the Parish Office at 419-224-3080. A team of prayer warriors will pray daily for all the requests for 30 days. Requests for prayers are kept confidential and last name need not be given.



HOLY FATHERS PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL:

Freedom from Addiction:

We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.



How to make an Act of Spiritual Communion

- 1 Make the Sign of the Cross
- 2 If possible, read the Mass Readings
- 3 Recite the Prayer of Spiritual Communion



My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

Given the many challenges facing today's families, now is the perfect time and home is the perfect place to experience Lent. Pray and sacrifice together as a family.

NOVENA PRAYER
TO OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

ADAPTED TO BE PRAYED IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 SITUATION



Mother of Perpetual Help,
with the greatest confidence we come before your holy picture
to beseech your intercession.

We think of you, Mother, at the foot of the Cross.
Your heart must have bled to see your Son in agony.
But your joy was great when He rose from the dead,
victorious over the powers of evil.

Mother of Sorrows,
pray for us in this time of trial.

Help us not to lose heart.

Intercede for your people who are afflicted with Coronavirus. Comfort your
people who are vulnerable and anxious.

Protect healthcare workers who put their lives at risk.

Inspire our leaders to make good decisions.

Change our hearts so that we may act responsibly.

Teach us to trust in God's love and mercy
and to share with you the joy
of having courageously faced up to all the challenges of Life.
Amen.

YEARLY ENVELOPES:

Our yearly envelopes are here and can be picked up in the back of church near the gathering space. Please pick them up as soon as possible. These envelopes are more than just a way to receive your generous gifts. Here are a few reasons for everyone to use their envelopes:

- Participation in our parish. By using your envelope when you come to Mass, signifies to us your active participation in the Parish. This is also a way for us to be able to track your attendance.
- By using your envelopes, we can give you credit and post the contributions to your account. This is vital for reporting your contributions for tax purposes.
- Status updates: So many times people move or their information changes. By making these changes to your envelopes, we can keep our system up-to-date.

Thank you for picking up your envelopes and using them!

ONLINE GIVING:

On-line giving is a great alternative to using your envelopes. It's easy to sign-up and you can do so by going to our website at: www.stgerardchurch.org and click on the on-line giving tab.

- **Safety.** In times when there are concerns about exposure to disease or spreading of a virus, Online Giving is a convenient option to continue to support your church and its mission.
- **Forget your envelope?** Use Online Giving to keep up on offertory. Go to our church website and click on the Online Giving link, it's quick and easy.
- **Make giving easier.** Visit your church website on your mobile device, click the Online Giving link, and begin giving.
- **Manage gifts.** Another easy way to manage your church giving is with Online Giving. You can manage your giving or give a one-time gift right from your phone.

Your support during the year helps sustain our church.

ST. GERARD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:

PLEDGES TO DATE

Amount Pledged: \$983,778.52
Amount Paid: \$847,771.90

Outstanding Balance:
\$136,006.62

Goal: \$1,000,000.00

Only \$16,221.48 to go before we reach our goal!

THANK YOU:

The family of Russell Mason would like to thank the ladies of the Rosary/Altar Society for preparing and serving the wonderful luncheon on the day of his funeral. It was most appreciated.

Thank you to those who have sent in their envelope or dropped them off to the Parish Office. We have also had a nice increase of parishioners sign-up for online giving! We greatly appreciate it!

If you would like to mail in your offertory contributions, please send them to:

St. Gerard Church
1307 N. Main St.
Lima, OH 45801

The Challenge of Corona

We were flying to the Moon
We were finding life on Mars
We were dropping bombs with drones
We were getting bigger cars.

We were building finer homes
Flying out to warmer lands
We were busy buying clothes
We were brushing up our tans.

We were throwing out good food
While we watched the starving poor
We kept burning fossil fuels
And our air became less pure.

We were warned by our Pope
Need to mind our Common Home
Need to watch our Carbon Footprint
Try to save our world from doom.

But we didn't want to listen
And we didn't want to hear
We just watched TV and Tablets
Drank our wine and quaffed our beer

Then Corona chose to visit
We were all caught unprepared
This wee microscopic VIRUS
Has our whole world running scared.

So our hands we keep on washing
And we're careful when we cough
We stand six feet from our neighbour
Cause this virus might jump off.

Now we live in isolation
While our hearts are full of fear
And we fill our fridge and cupboards
Just in case it lasts a year.

Pubs and cafés are forbidden
And we dare not go to Mass
Nursing homes we must not visit
Hospitals we have to pass.

But this enforced isolation
Gives us lots of time to think
Time to clean the kitchen cupboards
Time to make our wardrobes shrink.

Could it be that this Corona
Is a blessing in disguise
Makes us think about our lifestyle
Makes us open wide our eyes.

We thought we were all important
Greatest beings on this earth
So we used it and abused it
As if it were ours from birth.

But Corona is a challenge
Makes us take a different view
Helps us see what really matters
What it is we need to do.

We must watch out for our neighbour
Doing everything we can
We are all in this together
Let us love our fellow man.

God is with us every moment
Minding us with loving care
Now we know how much we need Him,
Let us talk to Him in prayer.

So Corona, thanks for coming
Truth to tell, we needed you
But don't overstay your welcome
That, alas, would never do!

*- Sr Maud Murphy SSL,
Knock, Ireland*

A PRAYER AS WE FACE THE CORONAVIRUS:

Living God,

In our hour of need we turn again to you, for we have nowhere else to turn. We put our faith in you, because you have proved your faithfulness time and time again. We reaffirm our love for you because you have never let us go. We thank you that you are not distant from us, but have drawn near, in your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has shared our life, tasted our death and defeated it; He understands our worries and our fears. Help us to respond as your children now. We pray for this pandemic spreading across our world, remembering all who have lost loved ones and praying for those seriously ill at this time. We pray for doctors and nurses and all in the caring professions, who work to help support people as best they can.

Help us to live by faith and not by fear; to build bridges not barriers. Strengthen us, by your Spirit so that we may carry on our lives as best as we are able, looking out for others, showing love in action, being faithful in prayer and bringing encouragement, hope and peace, always trusting in you.

Amen.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR
REDEMPTORIST VOCATIONS:**

Send forth Your Spirit, Lord, into the hearts of Your faithful people, that we may be conscious of our vocation to holiness and service to others. Grant that many of us may dedicate ourselves to You through the priesthood, religious life, and lay ministries.



We pray for the needs of our parish and diocese. Grant that we may always have sufficient good and holy priests and deacons, dedicated sisters and brothers, and committed lay ministers to serve our communities.

We pray too for the Redemptorists, that generous men may join them to become zealous missionaries, preaching the Gospel in word and action to the most abandoned, especially the poor.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.