

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:**

*The question put to Jesus in today's gospel is also put to us today: "Are you the one?" Are you the one who will give guidance to the children in your life or must they look to TV sitcoms, films, videos and music lyrics for direction? Are you the one? Will you be the one?*

**MASSES FOR THIS WEEK:**

**Monday, December 18**

8:30 a.m. Living & Deceased of the Decanio Family

**Tuesday, December 19**

8:30 a.m. Bob Mack +

**Wednesday, December 20**

8:30 a.m. Jack & Mildred Pohlbel+  
6:30 p.m. Joseph J. Job +

**Thursday, December 21**

8:30 a.m. Joe Silone +

**Friday, December 22**

8:30 a.m. Jenny Meyer & Family

**Saturday, December 23**

8:30 a.m. Kathryn M. Job +  
5:00 p.m. Irene, Ralph, Emma & Edward Peebles +  
Paul Sr., Paul Jr., & Paul III Lamb +

**Sunday, December 24**

8:30 a.m. Rick Jenkins +  
11:00 a.m.  
1:30 p.m. Spanish Mass

**Christmas Eve:**

5:00 p.m. - Children's Mass  
10:00 p.m. Priest's Intentions

**Christmas Day:**

8:30 a.m. Priest's Intentions  
11:00 a.m. Priest's Intentions  
1:30 p.m. Spanish Mass

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:**

**Sunday, December 17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Holy Name Breakfast in the Parish Hall**

Masses at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. - RCIA classes in the RCIA Rm. in Cafeteria Bldg.

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Parish School of Religion

1:30 p.m. - Spanish Mass

3:00 p.m. - City-Wide Penance Service at St. Charles

6:00-7:30 p.m. - Youth Group Meeting in the Parish Hall

**Monday, December 18 - Mass at 8:30 a.m.**

**Tuesday, December 19 - Mass at 8:30 a.m.**

12:00 Noon - Rosary/Altar will pray the Rosary in Church, followed by lunch at the Casa Lu Al

**Wednesday, December 20**

Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. - OLPH Novena

6:00 p.m. - Rosary/Benediction/Mass at 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 21 - Mass at 8:30 a.m.**

2:00-5:00 p.m. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:00 p.m. - Charismatic Prayer Group Mtg. in the Rectory

**Friday, December 22 - Mass at 8:30 a.m.**

**Saturday, December 23- Mass at 8:30 a.m.**

Mass at 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent**

Masses at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. - NO RCIA classes in the RCIA Rm. in Cafeteria Bldg.

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - NO Parish School of Religion

1:30 p.m. - Spanish Mass

**CHRISTMAS EVE:**

Masses at 5:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS DAY:**

Masses at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

1:30 p.m. - Spanish Mass

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Dec. 1st week	\$ 10,407.33	\$ 10,370.10
On-line: \$ 1,535.00		
# of Envelopes	271	281
<b>YTD Totals:</b>	<b>\$ 246,581.85</b>	<b>\$ 258,872.72</b>



### **CHRISTMAS MASS GUIDE 2017:**

If you haven't realized it yet, the fourth Sunday of Advent is the same day as Christmas Eve. Here's a chart that outlines for you to fulfill your Sunday obligation, as well as attend Mass for Christmas. Happy Advent everyone!

## **Christmas Mass Guide 2017**

**Option #1:** *Saturday evening + Sunday evening*

**Option #2:** *Saturday evening + Monday morning*

**Option #3:** *Sunday morning + Sunday evening*

**Option #4:** *Sunday morning + Monday morning*

*No, you cannot fulfill both your Sunday & Christmas obligation in one Mass. No two-fers this year! See you at church.*

### **NEEDED!!! ANGELS AND SHEPHERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE:**

At the family Mass (5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve), the Christmas Story will be acted out. All children of the parish (up to and including grade 4 of ANY school) are invited to participate by being an angel or shepherd. If you can, wear an angel or shepherd costume to church and sit with your parents. Fr. Jim will tell you when to come up into the sanctuary. If you do not have a costume, there will be tinsel halos for the angels and head coverings for the shepherds at each entrance of church. Please stop and get one and wear it during Mass. At the close of the Christmas Story, all the angels and shepherds will sing the refrain of "Go Tell it on the Mountain". Parents, we ask you to teach your children the words and practice the song with them. Any questions, call Shandra Parker at 419-230-2926 or John Christoff at 419-203-7881.

**PARISH DIRECTORIES/  
HISTORY ALBUMS:**

We have a limited supply of Parish Directories/History Albums available. If you are interested in purchasing one, please call or text Michael Ayers at, 419-236-8418. He is offering a great deal and they would make a nice Christmas gift. Please note that these are **NOT** available at the rectory office. You must contact Michael Ayers to purchase one. Thank you.

**FINANCE COUNCIL:**

St. Gerard Parish is looking for additional members for our finance council. Normal meeting times are on the 3rd Thursday of each month beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the rectory. Anyone interested in becoming a member of this council should contact Marta Truex at 419-222-0431. You may also email her with your letter of interest at: [mtruex@sgslima.org](mailto:mtruex@sgslima.org).

**LCC ACT PREP COURSE:**

LCC is offering its 10th ACT Prep Course beginning Feb. 3, 2018 for the April 14, 2018 ACT Test. This course will especially benefit all current high school Juniors who will be required to take the ACT Test next year. For more specific information, please go to the LCC school website at [www.lcchs.edu](http://www.lcchs.edu) or contact Stephanie Evans at 419-230-5040. Pre-registration is required and forms are due January 19, 2018. The course is open to LCC, as well as non-LCC students.

**CITY-WIDE PENANCE SERVICE:**

The City-wide Penance Service will be held **TODAY**, December 17th at 3:00 p.m. at St. Charles Parish, Lima. Please make the Sacrament of Reconciliation a part of your Christmas preparations.

**ROSARY/ALTAR NEWS:**

The ladies of the Rosary/Altar Society would like to thank all those who came and purchased items at their annual Bake Sale and Raffle. The lucky winners of the raffle were:

***\$100.00 ~ Margaret Schroeder***

***\$50.00 ~ Rose Jackson***

***\$25.00 ~ Denise Honigford***

The Rosary/Altar Society will gather at noon in church on **Tuesday, December 19th** to pray the rosary. They will then go to lunch at the Casa Lu Al. All ladies of the parish are encouraged to attend.

**HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK OF ST. RITA'S:**

Visiting the sick is one of the corporal works of mercy, and bringing Holy Communion to people in the hospital is a great way to practice this. St. Rita's Medical Center is looking for volunteer Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to share the sacrament with patients, and are especially in need on week-ends. The Medical Center would provide orientation and training. If you are interested in serving the sick, please contact Deb Miller, Spiritual Care Office Coordinator at 419-226-9481.



**CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS:**

*The Parish Office will be closed December 22nd through January 1st. The office will re-open on Tuesday, January 2nd. We will, however, be checking email and voice mail throughout the week. If you have an emergency, please call 419-224-3080 and follow the voice prompts. Thank you.*

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST:**

Our men from the Holy Name Society will sponsor their monthly Pancake Breakfast **TODAY**, December 17th in the parish hall following the Sunday Masses. Please plan on attending it and enjoy some delicious eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon and beverages. See you there!



**ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY:**

Advent starts on December 3rd. Again this year, we will have the lighting of the Advent Wreath, with four candles signifying four gifts that Christ brings to us: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

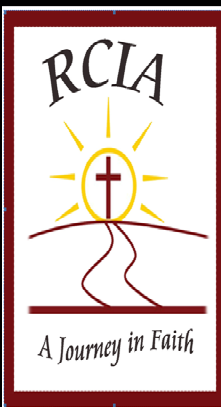
The following families of the parish will process in with the Celebrant at each weekend Mass and will light the candles. May they remind us that, as Christ gives us those four gifts, we are called to pass them on to each other.

**Dec. 16/17 - Joy**

- 5:00 p.m. ~ Barb & Mike Flynn
- 8:30 a.m. ~ The Kevin & Lisa Rigg Family
- 11:00 a.m. ~ The Chris & Paige Fay Family

**Dec. 23/24 - Love**

- 5:00 p.m. ~ The Brent & Heather Dawson Family
- 8:30 a.m. ~ Jennifer Inskeep & Family
- 11:00 a.m. ~ The Matt & Rachel Spencer Family



**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA):**

RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults into the Catholic faith. RCIA is for anyone who:

- Is a non-baptized adult.
- Baptized in another Christian Church and is interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church, with or without the intention of becoming a member.
- A baptized Catholic who never received Reconciliation, Eucharist, or Confirmation.

***Call the rectory office if you are interested in joining.***

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER'S SCHEDULE:**

**Saturday, December 23:**

5:00 p.m. C. Diaz, B. Peebles, S. Tschuor,  
B. VonLehmden, M. Hinegardner,  
Mike Hinegardner, S. Parker,  
J. Wolf, J. Stewart, M. DeVita

**Sunday, December 24:**

8:30 a.m. C. Altenbach, J. Inskeep, S. Martin,  
C. Wright, M. Mays, G. Merkel,  
M. King, S. Ellinger, J. Sroufe,  
R. Sroufe

11:00 a.m. J. Kahle, S. Morrissey, J. Neville,  
D. Vondrell, S. Dew, R. Carder,  
M. Ayers, M. Spears, K. Spears,  
G. Vondrell

**LECTOR'S SCHEDULE:**

**Dec. 23:** 5:00 p.m. - B. Flynn

**Dec. 24:** 8:30 a.m. - T. Parker  
11:00 a.m. - E. Truex

**ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE:**

**Dec. 23:** 5:00 p.m. - J. Yahl, K. LaRotonda,  
G. Gandy

**Dec. 24:** 8:30 a.m. - E. Hahn, J. Hahn, A. Fay  
11:00 a.m. - A. Schultz, A. Carter,  
S. Santaguida

**SACRISTY WORKERS FOR DECEMBER:**

Brenda Santaguida, Melinda Taflinger,  
Barb Markham

**SCRIP:**

With the holidays upon us, don't forget to purchase **SCRIP** for your shopping needs! It's available after the Masses. **Some retailers include:** Arby's, Biggby Coffee, BW3, CVS, Old Barn Out Back, Panera, Subway, Kohl's, Lowe's, Meijer, Taco Bell, Beer Barrel, Happy Daz, Menards, Chiefs Supermarkets, Rite Aid, Speedway, Texas Roadhouse, Bob Evans, Wal-Mart, Red Lobster, Ruby Tuesday, Cracker Barrel & more!

**GIVE-A-CHRISTMAS 2017:**

The Lima Catholic Community Give-A-Christmas Program was a huge success this year! We were able to provide food boxes for over 1,140 families, along with cases and cases of additional food for the Salvation Army food distribution. We also sent additional food to the Samaritan House, St. Vincent DePaul, Dominion Building residents, Mizpah Community Center, Crossroads Crisis Center and Teens for Christ. What a wonderful way for all four parishes and LCC to provide holiday meals for those in need in our Lima community. The committee is grateful for your very generous donations of food, money and time. The number of volunteers helping on Saturday and Sunday was amazing. Best wishes for a blessed holiday season.

**CHURCH SAFETY/SECURITY COMMITTEE:**

Most of us consider our churches safe places and don't think about security and safety on a daily basis. Often, safety and security is not addressed until an incident occurs. After recent tragedies, we realize that the time is now to develop a plan for violence on our church property.

St. Gerard Church is in the early stages of forming a Church Safety/Security Committee. We are hoping to have parishioners who may have a background in law enforcement, risk management or security to become a part of this committee. If you would be interested in becoming a part of this team, please call the rectory office at 419-224-3080. We will be planning our first meeting in early 2018.



**SPIRITUAL FORMATION  
COMMITTEE:**

St. Gerard Parish is seeking individuals who feel called by the Spirit to minister to this parish in deepening our faith and spiritual development. Those interested in joining the Spiritual Formation Committee are asked to please call the Rectory at 419-224-3080.

**NOVENA TO ST. STEPHEN:**

The novena to St. Stephen, the First Martyr, begins Dec. 17th and ends on the eve of his feast, Dec. 25th.

*Novena to St. Stephen, Protomartyr:*

The Apostles chose Stephen the deacon, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, whom the Jews stoned whilst he prayed, saying: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit, and lay not this sin to their charge."

- V. By the merits and prayers of blessed Stephen,  
R. Be merciful, O God, to Thy people.

**Let us pray:**

Almighty and everlasting God, who didst consecrate the first-fruits of Thy martyrs in the blood of blessed Stephen the deacon; grant, we beseech Thee, that he may pray for us (intentions), even as he also prayed for his persecutors, to our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, who liveth and reigneth world without end. Amen.

**THANK YOU:**

On behalf of St. John's Celebrate Recovery group, we would like to extend our thank you to the many of you that were in attendance for the Kathy Troccoli, Comfort By Candlelight Concert, held at St. John's on November 28th at 7:00 p.m.



We had over 800 persons in attendance. That evening, St. John's became the Comfort House for many in our community and the surrounding area.

Our sincere thanks to: Mr. & Mrs. Florian Smith, Ms. Cindy Kelly, Ms. Joyce Stombaugh, Ms. Mary Blanche-Hengstler, the various Celebrate Recovery Volunteers and all the area Catholic churches who promoted this concert and assisted in making each and every attendee feel welcomed.

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM:**

**Diocese of Toledo Safe Environment Program in Full Compliance with USCCB Norms.**

Each year, the Diocese of Toledo is required to undergo an audit to ensure that it is in compliance with the articles of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. Bishop Daniel Thomas is pleased to announce that, for the fiscal year 2016-2017, the Diocese was found to be in full compliance with the requirements in the *Charter*.

The Diocese of Toledo remains committed to ensuring the protection of children and providing a safe environment for all young people. If you have any knowledge of abuse that has been committed by a cleric, or any employee or volunteer of the Catholic Church, please report the abuse to your local police department, Child Protection Services, and Mr. Frank DiLallo, Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator. Mr. DiLallo can be reached at (419) 214-4880 or by mail at 1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43604.