

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:

Today's gospel speaks of light and darkness. Often a parent is deliberately "left in the dark." Darkness can be comforting for it makes no demands on us. Light can be disturbing for it forces us to act. Parents walk a delicate balance of when to "sit in the dark" and when to "turn on the lights."

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK:

Monday, March 12

8:30 a.m. James B. Christen +

Tuesday, March 13

8:30 a.m. Frances Niese +

Wednesday, March 14

8:30 a.m.

6:30 p.m. Jack Frueh +

Thursday, March 15

8:30 a.m.

Friday, March 16

8:30 a.m.

Saturday, March 17

8:30 a.m. Bill Bourk +
Don Hullinger +
5:00 p.m. Bob Mack +
Gene & Emilie
Hullinger +
Eusebio Reyes +

Sunday, March 18

8:30 a.m. Deceased of the
Nungester, Sliemers
& Wukusick Families+
11:00 a.m. Ron Pitson +
Lauri Zerante Snider +
Henry Niese +
1:30 p.m. Spanish Mass

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Sunday, March 11

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
12:30 p.m. - Book Reading/Bible Study in the Parish Hall
1:30 p.m. - Spanish Mass

Monday, March 12

Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 13

Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 14

Mass at 8:30 a.m.
1:00 p.m. - OLPH Novena
6:00 p.m. - Rosary/Benediction/Mass at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 15

Mass at 8:30 a.m.
12:00-5:00 p.m. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00 p.m. - Charismatic Prayer Group Mtg. in the Rectory

Friday, March 16

Mass at 8:30 a.m.
6:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross in Church

Saturday, March 17

Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 18

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
12:30 p.m. - Book Reading/Bible Study in the Parish Hall
1:30 p.m. - Spanish Mass
3:00 p.m. - Healing Mass
6:00-7:30 p.m. - Youth Group Meeting in the Parish Hall

FINANCIAL REPORT:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
March, 1st week On-line: \$ 1,898.00	\$ 12,837.52	\$ 12,411.86
# of Envelopes	289	250
YTD Totals:	\$ 390,957.97	\$ 398,616.71



LENT 2018

**6:00 p.m. every
Friday during
Lent**

- We will begin with the Special Stations of the Cross
- We will then listen to the Lenten talk
- Finally, we will close with a Lenten Blessing

“WALKING WITH CHRIST AND WITH EACH OTHER”

St. Gerard Church ~ Fridays of Lent ~ 6:00-7:00 p.m.

We walk with Christ along the way of the Cross and listen to speakers who lead us into a deeper understanding of the deep love of Christ who calls us to love and serve and walk with each other.

MARCH 16

**Fr. Mike Houston
St. Gerard Church**

A FAMILY WAY OF THE CROSS:

We meditate on family life and carrying our crosses. In meditating on Jesus' cross, we find inspiration to strengthen our families and increase our love and affirmation.

MARCH 23

**Fr. Mike Sergi
St. Gerard Church**

LIVING STATIONS ~ YOUTH GROUP:

High School students of our parish will act out the Stations of the Cross. Christ speaks. Our young people respond.

HEALING MASS:

We will be offering a Healing Mass on Sunday, March 18th at 3:00 p.m. invoking the intercession of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, a Redemptorist priest who lived and worked in America. He is known for his powerful intercession for the sick. There will be the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and a blessing with the relic of Blesses Seelos. All who need healing of mind, body and spirit are invited and are encouraged to attend. Please note that this Mass will fulfill your Sunday obligation.



PRAYER CLOTHS:

In the rectory office, as well as the entrances of church, we have “Prayer Cloths” available to anyone wishing to have one. Each cloth is about 4-6 inches square and have been blessed with the relic of St. Blessed Francis Seelos and also comes with a prayer card. Whether you need healing in mind or body, this prayer cloth is a reminder of God's love for each one of us. It is also a reminder that St. Gerard Parish is praying for you too.

ST. GERARD SCHOOL NEWS:

St. Gerard Catholic School in Lima, Ohio, is seeking a potential first grade teacher and third grade teacher for the 2018-2019 school year. The applicant must be faith-filled. It is recommended that the candidate be a practicing Catholic, but not a requirement. Interested applicants should email cover letter, resume, references, and three letters of recommendation to the principal, Natalie Schoonover at nschoonover@sgslima.org.

NORTHWEST OHIO SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

Need-based Scholarships worth up to \$1,500 per child are available for private schools or \$500 for homeschooling expenses for students who reside in *Allen, and surrounding counties* for grades K-8th for the 2018-2019 school year. For example, a family of five with a household income of \$77,706 is eligible. To apply online or for more information about the program, visit www.nosf.org or contact the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund office at 419-720-7048. **The deadline to apply is Friday, April 27, 2018.**

ROSARY/ALTAR NEWS:

The ladies of the Rosary/Altar Society will gather at noon on **Tuesday, March 20th** to pray the rosary. They will then go to lunch at Western Sizzilin. All ladies of the parish are invited.



BAKE SALE

BAKE SALE AND RAFFLE:

Our Altar/Rosary Society will have their annual Bake Sale and Raffle on **Sunday, March 25th** in the Parish Hall. Feel free to drop off your baked goods on Saturday, March 24th from 4-5:00 p.m. or on Sunday morning. Look for raffle tickets in today's bulletin. Fill out your tickets and return them in the collection basket or to the rectory office. Hope to see you there.

PENANCE SERVICE:

The city-wide Parish Penance Service will be held on Sunday, March 25th at St. Gerard Church. The service will begin at 3:00 p.m. ***How long has it been since your last confession?***

LENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Date: Monday, March 12, 2018

Time: 7-8:30 p.m.

Place: St. Gerard Parish Hall

Speaker: Fr. Mike Sergi

All women are invited!



St. Clement Mary Hofbauer C.Ss.R.:

Redemptorist Saint ~ Feast Day March 15th

Birth: December 26, 1751 - Taswitz, Moravia
(today part of the Czech)

Death: March 15, 1820 - Vienna, Austria

St. Clement was the 9th child of a butcher and his wife and was baptized as John. His father died when he was 6 years old, upon which his mother stood him before a crucifix and said "Henceforth; He is your father. Take care that you never grieve Him by sin." As a boy, he was filled with zeal for God and had an ardent devotion to the Blessed Mother. He sought the priesthood, but was unable to afford schooling so he settled as a baker and later became a hermit. St. Clement entered the seminary at the University of Vienna at the age of 30, made possible by the generosity of a parishioner. He was ordained a Redemptorist in 1785 and was sent to Warsaw, Poland. There he preached, built orphanages and schools, and worked to reform and revitalize the faith of the people in spite of the secular and corrupted society of the time. As Freethinkers and the persecution of the church gained a stronger hold, he and other Redemptorists were imprisoned and exiled to their native lands. He returned to Vienna where he spent his remaining years serving his community, battling anti-Catholicism, and establishing the Redemptorist order in Austria. He was well known for his time spent in the confessional. He is the patron saint of Vienna, Austria and is known as the second founder of the Redemptorists. A complete story of St. Clement's life can be found at Catholicism.org.



A statue and relic of St. Clement is located in the Divine Mercy Alcove in the East wing of the church.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Sunday, April 8, 2018

A day overflowing with Mercy

Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3pm

Mass - 3:15 pm

Confession available - 3pm and throughout Mass

To say the Chaplet of Divine Mercy: All you need is a rosary, a Divine Mercy Novena pamphlet (available Palm Sunday at entrances), & 10 minutes of your time.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

**Good Friday -
March 30, 2018
Novena begins
at 2pm**

**Say daily for 9
days until the eve
of the Feast of
Divine Mercy**



Jesus said to St. Faustina, "*By this Novena I will grant every possible grace to souls*" (796).

EXTENDED ADORATION HOURS FOR LENT:

St. Gerard will be offering extended Adoration hours every **Thursday**. The extended hours will be from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. We hope you will come and spend some quiet time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. A sign-up sheet will be placed near the baptismal font for those who wish to sign-up for allotted times. We would like to have 2 people per hour. We appreciate those that can give their time for this devotion.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER'S SCHEDULE:

Saturday, March 17:

5:00 p.m. *D. Griffo, C. Hinds, M. Hinds, B. Muskus,
J. Wolff, M. DeVita, B. VonLehmden,
L. Makley, M. & M. Hinegardner*

Sunday, March 18:

8:30 a.m. *M. Hickey, P. Huffman, N. Jenkins,
G. Merkel, C. Altenbach, L. Hahn,
B. Pinney, J. Place, T. Place, S. Nocera*

11:00 a.m. *J. Landwehr, K. Ladden, S. Morrissey,
F. Thompson, M. Ayers, R. Carder,
R. Vagedes, S. Young, F. Gallegos*

LECTOR'S SCHEDULE:

Mar. 17: 5:00 p.m. - *D. Mack*

Mar. 18: 8:30 a.m. - *A. Mefferd*
11:00 a.m. - *E. Truex*

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE:

Mar. 17: 5:00 p.m. - *H. Lamb, B. Smith, G. Langhals*

Mar. 18: 8:30 a.m. - *E. Hahn, J. Hahn, A. Fay*
11:00 a.m. - *S. Santaguida, L. Wreede,
K. Meyer*

SACRISTY WORKERS FOR MARCH:

Volunteers Needed!!!

**PRACTICAL TIPS TO
HELP YOU STAY FO-
CUSSED AT MASS:**

~ **Sit close to the front.**

Another good reason to get to Mass a few minutes early is to get a free seat in one of the front pews. If all that is in front of you is the altar, it is much easier to stay focused on what is happening there.

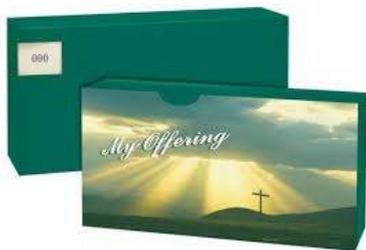
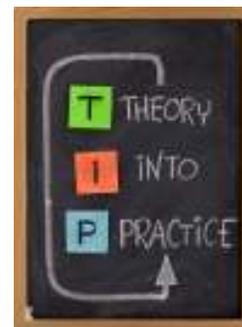
~ **Fold your hands in prayer.**

Posture is important to prayer. Let your body remind you of what your heart and mind should be doing by keeping your hands reverently folded. There is a reason why we teach this to kids! Try it, and you'll probably find that it helps lessen your distractions.

Look for another tip next week ...

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS:

If you would like to have a copy of your 2017 contributions to St. Gerard Church, please call the parish office at 419-224-3080 and we would be happy to mail you a copy.



SUNDAY ENVELOPES:

Our "yearly" Sunday envelopes are here and are located in the back of church (center aisle). The envelopes are in alphabetical order. Please pick you your envelopes as soon as possible. If you are giving online and would no longer wish to receive the box of envelopes, please call the rectory office at 419-224-3080.

We will keep these envelopes in the back of church for a short while. They will then be taken over to the rectory office.

As an active member of St. Gerard Church, we encourage all parishioners to use their envelopes regularly. Thank you.

PLASTIC BAGS:

Please be aware that we are **no longer** accepting plastic bags. Please **do not** bring them to church. Please recycle them at your home. Thank you.

LCC NEWS:

Lima Central Catholic High School has an immediate opening in the business office for a full-time accountant. A full job description can be found on the LCC website at <http://lcchs.edu/home/about-lcc/careers/>. Interested candidates should email a letter of interest and resume to John Schnieders at jschnieders@apps.lcchs.edu.

SERRA CLUB NEWS:

Come be our guest for Mass, dinner and a talk on March 22nd at 5:45. Brandi Schroeder, Director of Samaritan House will be speaking on "Serving homeless women and children". The evening is sponsored by The Serra Club of the Lima Area, which exist to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We will begin with Mass at LCC High School. To make a reservation, please call Marilyn at 567-204-4745.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Putnam County Hospice is seeking volunteers to offer compassion, support and friendship to our Lima-



area patients who are facing a life-limiting illness. Hospice volunteers are important members of the hospice team who provide companionship to the patient thru friendly visits, as well as relief for the caregiver. Training and orientation will be provided by Putnam County Hospice staff and will take place in our satellite office at Lima Memorial Hospital. To learn more about becoming a hospice volunteer, please contact Kathy Rellinger, Putnam County Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, at 419-523-4449 or krrellinger@pchh.net.



LENTEN PROJECT THEME ~

"SACRIFICE WITH A PURPOSE":

This year, St. Gerard Church is participating in "**Mary's Meals**" as our Lenten Project. You may notice the "lunch box" that is near the altar. This is where the children and adults will be placing their donations to help those in need.

Mary's Meals is a global movement that sets up school feeding projects in some of the world's poorest communities, where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education. The idea is a simple one that works. We provide one daily meal in a place of learning in order to attract chronically poor children into the classroom, where they receive an education that can, in the future, be their ladder out of poverty.

The average worldwide cost for us to feed a child for a whole year is just \$19.50. Where Mary's Meals is provided, there is a rise in school enrollment, attainment and attendance. Whenever possible, Mary's Meals uses locally grown food to support the local economy and help smallholder farmers. To find out more, please go to: www.marysmeals.org.