

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:**

*Today's gospel shows John the Baptist and parents have similar vocations. Like the Baptist, parents are asked to make "rough ways smooth" and to "prepare the way of the Lord" for their families. This Advent ask: "Does my life hinder or help my family to know Jesus?"*

**MASSES FOR THIS WEEK:**

**Monday, December 10**

8:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, December 11**

8:30 a.m. Kevin Nartker +

**Wednesday, December 12**

8:30 a.m.

6:30 p.m. Jack Frueh +

**Thursday, December 13**

8:30 a.m. James McPherson +

**Friday, December 14**

8:30 a.m. Larry Cox, Kamryn  
Cunningham, Richard,  
Rosemary, Francis &  
David Gerdeman +

**Saturday, December 15**

8:30 a.m. Jason Patterson +

5:00 p.m. Bob Mack +

Gene & Emily Hullinger+  
Mary Gasperetti +

**Sunday, December 16**

8:30 a.m. Ralph & Rosemary  
Sroufe +  
Mary Lyle +  
11:00 a.m. Virgil Thines +  
Stan Sites +  
1:30 p.m. Spanish Mass

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:**

**Sunday, December 9**

Masses at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
9:00 - 10:30 a.m. - RCIA Classes in the Cafeteria  
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Parish School of Religion  
1:30 p.m. - Spanish Mass

**Monday, December 10**

Mass at 8:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, December 11**

Mass at 8:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, December 12**

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, December 13**

Mass at 8:30 a.m.  
12:00 Noon - 5:00 p.m. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Friday, December 14**

Mass at 8:30 a.m.

**Saturday, December 15**

Mass at 8:30 a.m.  
9:30 a.m. - **NO** Book Reading in the Parish Hall  
Mass at 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 16 - Holy Name Breakfast in the Parish Hall  
Rosary/Altar Christmas Bake Sale & Raffle in the Parish Hall**

Masses at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
9:00 - 10:30 a.m. - RCIA Classes in the Cafeteria  
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. Rose Parish  
6:00-7:30 p.m. - Youth Group Meeting in the Parish Hall

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
November, 4th week On-line: \$ 1,550.00	\$ 10,144.86	\$ 11,588.04
# of Envelopes	266	245
<b>YTD Totals:</b>	<b>\$ 248,502.62</b>	<b>\$ 237,624.62</b>

**ONLINE GIVING:** If you would like to give online, visit our website at [www.stgerardchurch.org](http://www.stgerardchurch.org) & click on the "On-line Giving" tab at top. It's safe and convenient.



*December:  
Month  
dedicated  
to Advent  
and the  
Coming of  
Christ.*



**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER  
INTENTIONS FOR  
DECEMBER:**



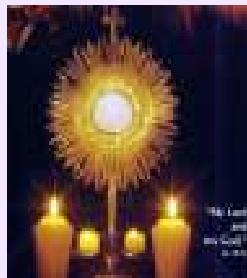
UNIVERSAL:

EVANGELIZATION ...

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

**EUCHARISTIC  
ADORATION:**

Adoration hours at St. Gerard are 12-5pm every Thursday. Come and spend some quiet time with the Lord!



**Week 2, Peace**

*Dear Jesus,  
You entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most.  
Amen.*



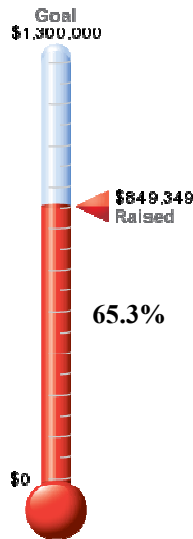
*Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
is celebrated Wednesday, December 12th.*



**ST. GERARD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:**

**The Scope of the Project:**

Our parish is proposing a 3-part building proposal to better serve the needs of our parish and local community and to strengthen our long-term financial viability. This proposal is estimated at \$2.4 million. We are asking our parishioners and friends of St. Gerard to donate a total of \$1.3 million.



**\$849,348.96 pledged!**

*To help us reach our goal, we are asking every family to participate. Every gift, no matter how large or small, is appreciated.*

*Pledge cards are available in the church and at the rectory or school offices. You may also give online by visiting our website at: [www.stgerardchurch.org](http://www.stgerardchurch.org) and clicking on the On-line Giving tab. Please, prayerfully consider supporting this most important project.*

*Thank you to all who have turned in your pledge card.*

**ATTENTION USHERS:**

We are asking that our ushers sign-up to volunteer for the Christmas Masses. Sign-up sheets are located in the center section near the back of church. Thank you!

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST:**

Don't forget that the Holy Name Men will be serving breakfast next Sunday in the Parish Hall.

*Christmas Mass Schedule*

Christmas Eve: 5:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.  
Christmas Day: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



*New Year's Schedule*

New Year's Eve: 5:00 p.m.  
New Year's Day: 8:30 a.m.

**ROSARY/ALTAR BAKE SALE AND RAFFLE:**



The ladies of the Rosary/Altar Society will be hosting their annual Bake Sale and Raffle on Sunday, December 16th following the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Masses. This will be held in the Parish Hall, along with breakfast that will be served by the Holy Name Men. Baked goods may be dropped off before the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, or before any of the Masses on Sunday. Look for raffle tickets in the bulletin. Now would be a great time to start getting your baked goods ready for the sale.

**ROSARY/ALTAR NEWS:**

The ladies of the Rosary/Altar Society will meet in church to pray the rosary on Tuesday, December 18th at noon. They will then go to the Casa Lu Al for lunch following the rosary.



**ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY:**

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 Advent Wreath candles. May they remind us that, as Christ gives us those four gifts, we are called to pass them on to each other.

**Dec. 8/9 Advent II - Peace**

5:00 pm The Tschuor Family  
8:30 am The Fischer Family  
11:00 am The Pack Family

**Dec. 15/16 Advent III - Joy**

5:00 pm Mike & Abbie Mason  
8:30 am The Snow Family  
11:00 am

**Dec. 22/23 Advent IV - Love**

5:00 pm The Mays Family  
8:30 am The Rigg Family  
11:00 am The Bronstrom Family

**ANGEL TREE**

Our gift-giving drive for children through the Salvation Army is going on now through December 10th. Please purchase your gifts and return them to the tree with the tag attached securely to the gift. Please, DO NOT WRAP the gifts.

We have always had a tremendous support and participation in this project, and we hope that we can continue this tradition. Just think of the joy your gifts will bring to many of our area children. If you have any questions, please call the rectory office at 419-224-3080 and we will try to help you.



**GIVE A CHRISTMAS:**

Today you are able to receive a "Christmas Stocking" (which remotely looks like an onion bag). Please fill it with canned goods, box dinners or any non-perishable food items and return it next weekend. NO GLASS PLEASE. You may return your bags before and after all Masses next weekend. If you would prefer, you may also bring it to St. Charles Parish Office all week or pull through the driveway at St. Charles School on Saturday, Dec. 15th from 12:00-3:00. Drive beside the gym next to the playground and a volunteer will be there to accept and unload your bag. Thank you for supporting this Lima Catholic Community tradition.

**BLESSING OF THE "BAMBINOS":**

At all of the Masses on Saturday/Sunday, December 15 & 16th, you are invited to bring the statue of the infant Jesus (the Bambino) from your nativity set. The statue will receive a special Christmas blessing. All the children with statues will bring their statues into the sanctuary and gather around the empty manger for the blessing. Pope John Paul II instituted the celebration of Bambinelli Sunday ... The children from Rome bring to St. Peter's Square the figurine of the Christ Child from their families' nativity sets to be blessed by the Holy Father. The children then take them home to be placed under their Christmas trees.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER'S SCHEDULE:**

**Saturday, December 15:**

5:00 p.m. *K. Canavan, D. & J. Hollingsworth,  
B. Muskus, D. Griffo, C. Hinds, M. Hinds,  
J. Stewart, S. Parker, J. Wolf*

**Sunday, December 16:**

8:30 a.m. *P. Huffman, M. Mays, B. Pinney,  
C. Wright, L. Hahn, M. Hickey, J. Inskeep,  
G. Merkel, S. Ellinger, J. Korzan*

11:00 a.m. *J. Landwehr, M. Spears, K. Spears,  
R. Carder, T. Meyer, V. Carter, S. Young,  
K. Wreede, J. Kahle*

**LECTOR'S SCHEDULE:**

**Dec. 15:** 5:00 p.m. - *M. Hinegardner*

**Dec. 16:** 8:30 a.m. - *A. Mefferd*  
11:00 a.m. - *S. Cira*

**ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE:**

**Dec. 15:** 5:00 p.m. - *K. LaRotonda, E. Gamble,  
J. Yahl*

**Dec. 16:** 8:30 a.m. - *S. Parker, A. Parker, E. Snow*  
11:00 a.m. - *E. Truex, B. Truex, C. Truex*

**USHER SCHEDULE:**

**Dec. 15:** 5:00 p.m. - *R. Bigelow, B. Langhals,  
S. Custer*

**Dec. 16:** 8:30 a.m. - *T. Fischer, M. King*  
11:00 a.m. - *T. DeRose, J. Reaman,  
S. Harkenrider*

**SACRISTY WORKERS - DECEMBER:**

*J. Blackburn, J. Wolff, L. Dodge, M. Hickey,  
B. Markham, B. Santaquida, M. Taflinger*

**City-Wide Penance**

**Service:**

*The City-Wide Penance Service is scheduled for Sunday, December 16th at 3:00 p.m. at St. Rose Church. Please make this a part of your Advent preparations.*



**LCC ACT PREP COURSE:**

LCC is offering its 11th ACT Prep Class. Classes start January 5, 2019 and will be held each Saturday until February 23, 2019. This class is designed to help students improve their performance when taking the ACT Test. The cost of the course is \$225.00 for LCC students and \$300.00 for non-LCC students. For more specific information, please go to the LCC 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 2, 2019. The class is open to LCC, as well as non-LCC students.

**ELITE TOURS TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE:**

Travel with **Fr. Charles Obinwa** of Ft. Jennings St. Joseph's & Lima St. Rita's to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Tlaxcala, Ocotlan, Puebla San Jan Teotihuacan, Acolman. May 11th-17th, 2019. Cost is \$2500.00 (Airfare included from anywhere in the U.S.) For more information and registration, contact: 612-730-2890. Or visit them online at [www.proccatholicotours.com](http://www.proccatholicotours.com). You may also email them with questions at: [Office@proccatholicotours.com](mailto:Office@proccatholicotours.com).

**MARCH FOR LIFE:**

Interested in attending the March for Life in Washington DC on January 18, 2019? Join the College and Young Adult bus trip sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Toledo! The trip is only \$192, but for college students there is a special discounted price of \$132! We depart Jan. 17th at 3pm and return Jan. 19th. If interested, contact Peter Range, Director of the Office for Life and Justice at 419-214-4933 or [prange@toledodiocese.org](mailto:prange@toledodiocese.org). Registration deadline is Dec. 14.

**NEEDED!!! ANGELS & SHEPHERDS 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 a shepherd. If you can, wear an angel or shepherd costume to church and sit with your family. The priest 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 the 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 "Go Tell it on the Mountain". Parents, we ask you to teach your children the words and practice the song. Any questions, call Shandra Parker at (419) 230-2926 or John Christoff (419) 203-7881.



The words are as follows:

*Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born. (Repeat 3 times)*

**POPCORN SALE:**

St. Gerard Middle School students will be selling Shirley's Gourmet popcorn at all three doors following each Mass on the weekend of December 15th & 16th. The profit will go towards the students trip to Camp Willson. The popcorn makes wonderful gifts for Christmas.

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:**

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend provides a chance for couples to spend time together, apart from the distractions and tensions of everyday life. The next weekend in the Toledo Diocese is January 18-20, 2019 in Perrysburg. For more information or to apply for a weekend, go to [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org) or contact Brian & Chris Schroeder at 419-538-7210 or [bcschroeder@bright.net](mailto:bcschroeder@bright.net).

**PRAYER CLOTH:**

In the rectory office, 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.



**REMINDER:**

Gifts purchased for the **Angel Tree Fund Drive** must be submitted no later than **Monday, Dec. 10th**. Please bring the gifts back to the trees in church. Thank you.