

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK:

Monday, December 25

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

Tuesday, December 26

8:30 a.m. Judy Brennan +

Wednesday, December 27

8:30 a.m. Pete Leugers +
6:30 p.m. Louis Acerro +

Thursday, December 28

8:30 a.m. Ida Bonofiglio +

Friday, December 29

8:30 a.m. Living & Deceased of the
Mark Thompson & Moyer families

Saturday, December 30

8:30 a.m. Roosevelt Adrianza +
Frances Adrianza
5:00 p.m. Magno Singian +
Living & Deceased of
the Singian & Reyes families

Sunday, December 31

8:30 a.m. Rick Jenkins +
11:00 a.m. Deceased members of
the Holy Name Society +
1:30 p.m. Spanish Mass

Monday, January 1

8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 2

8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 3

8:30 a.m.
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 4

8:30 a.m.

Friday, January 5

8:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 6

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

Sunday, January 7

8:30 a.m. Jack & Mildred Pohlbel+
Julius Korzan +
11:00 a.m. Deceased members of
the Holy Name Society +
1:30 p.m. Spanish Mass

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

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.

Monday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY:

Masses at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
1:30 p.m. - Spanish Mass

Tuesday, December 26 - Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 27 - Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. - NO OLPH Novena
6:00 p.m. - Rosary/Benediction/Mass at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 28 - Mass at 8:30 a.m.

2:00-5:00 p.m. - NO Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00 p.m. - Charismatic Prayer Group Mtg. in the Rectory

Friday, December 29 - Mass at 8:30 a.m.

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

Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 31

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

Monday, January 1 - Mary, Mother of God (Not a Holy Day this yr.)

Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 2 - Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 3 - 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, January 4 - 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, January 5 - Mass at 8:30 a.m.

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - First Friday Devotions

Saturday, January 6 - Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 7

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



A MESSAGE FROM FR. JIM:

Growing up, what added to the beauty and power of Christmas was the great anticipation leading up to it: wanting a gift so badly and wishing with all my heart that I would receive it on Christmas day. The deeper I desired a "special" gift and the longer I waited for it, the more beautiful and powerful Christmas was if I received it. Now older, my poor family has taken on the impossible task of finding that "special" gift that can still touch my heart. What do you get a religious priest, who has taken a vow of poverty, and who sincerely doesn't want anything? Good luck with that! But is that really true? Do I not want anything? The more illnesses I see in hospitals and nursing homes, the more pain and sorrow I witness at funerals and their aftermaths, the more suffering I come across in broken and dysfunctional families, and the more devastation observed by addictions and other destructive behaviors, makes me realize that I still do have deep wants!

The thought of God becoming man to save us still greatly excites me. A God-made man, who has power over sickness and death, and who brings forgiveness and healing . . . I still deeply long and desire. For a God who brings supernatural hope, peace, joy and love . . . I still patiently wait for. Yes, I still do have a deep want that I am willing to wait for. And the wanting and waiting are only getting stronger as I get older. That is why Christmas continues to be more beautiful and powerful for me with the passing of time. For I continue to deeply desire and wait for a Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord, who is the only One who can fill our deepest needs and yearnings of the hearts. Christmas continues to be beautiful and powerful for me ~ thanks to Jesus Christ!

On behalf of Fr. Mike Houston, Fr. Mike Sergi and myself, along with the entire St. Gerard staff ~
MERRY CHRISTMAS and **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** *May the gift of Jesus Christ, God-made man, continue to fill your deepest needs and longings!*

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:

Today's gospel says Joseph "made his home in Nazareth." A "home" is built on the foundation of love, commitment and a shared history and is decorated with forgiveness, acceptance, rituals, discipline and mutual support. The Holy Family challenges us today: Don't live "anyplace", live at **HOME!**

**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 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.



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.

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.

ATTENTION SENIORS:

If you are over the age of 70 1/2 and have an IRA or retirement account that requires you to take a minimum distribution, might you consider a gift to St. Gerard Parish? We are a qualified charity and it would help your tax burden. Contact your financial advisor today!

FINANCIAL REPORT:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Dec. 2nd week On-line: \$ 1,025.00	\$ 10,474.56	\$ 13,218.67
# of Envelopes	238	259
YTD Totals:	\$ 257,056.41	\$ 272,091.39

ONLINE GIVING:

If you would like to give online, just go to our website at: www.stgerardchurch.org and click on the "On-line Giving" tab at the top. It's a safe and convenient way to donate to St. Gerard.

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.

WEBCASTING DONATIONS:

It is time for our annual fee to host the "live" broadcast of our Masses at St. Gerard. The cost for a year is over \$1,100.00. If you are one of the many people who benefit from this and would like to make a donation towards this expense, it would be greatly appreciated. Please make the check payable to St. Gerard Church and in the memo line, put "webcasting". These donations will, of course, be added to your yearly statements. Every little bit helps!



MOVIE: THE SULTAN AND THE SAINT:

PBS: December 26, 2017 – 8:00 p.m.

A 58-minute film documentary about Muslim-Christian peacemaking. This documentary is narrated by Jeremy Irons. Watch your TV guide for the listing. The 13th century Saint is St. Francis of Assisi who has visited the Muslim Sultan. What can we learn today about the two religions living peacefully together? (Note: Some scenes contain violence and may not be appropriate for children under 12 years of age). Perhaps groups of people could meet in someone's home and watch the film together, followed by a discussion.

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 30:

5:00 p.m. *D. Griffo, J. Wolff, L. Makley,
K. Canavan, B. Flynn, B. Peebles,
D. Hollingsworth, J. Hollingsworth,
M. Hinegardner, Mike Hinegardner*

Sunday, December 31:

8:30 a.m. *P. Huffman, T. Martin, M. Meyer,
B. Pinney, J. Korzan, J. Sroufe,
T. Sroufe, M. Hickey, E. Orwick,
R. Orwick*

11:00 a.m. *C. Coleman, F. Gallegos, K. Wreede
D. Vondrell, R. Karbowiak,
R. Vagedes, R. Carder, M. Ayers,
K. Ladden, J. Landwehr*

LECTOR'S SCHEDULE:

Dec. 30: 5:00 p.m. - *D. Mack*

Dec. 31: 8:30 a.m. - *F. Morman*
11:00 a.m. - *K. Gerken*

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE:

Dec. 30: 5:00 p.m. - *J. Yahl, I. Langhals,
G. Langhals*

Dec. 31: 8:30 a.m. - *C. Wagoner, M. Miller,
A. Dackin*
11:00 a.m. - *K. Meyer, K. Helmig,
C. Raines*

SACRISTY WORKERS FOR JANUARY:

Pat Iven, Marsha Mason, Mary Hickey

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER'S SCHEDULE:

Saturday, January 6:

5:00 p.m. *M. DeVita, C. Hinds, S. Parker, J. Stewart,
B. Flynn, D. Hollingsworth, L. Makley,
J. Hollingsworth, W. Peebles,
B. VonLehmden*

Sunday, January 7:

8:30 a.m. *J. Korzan, C. Altenbach, S. Ellinger,
L. Hahn, B. Pinney, J. Place, T. Place,
C. Wright, J. Inskeep, S. Martin*

11:00 a.m. *M. Spears, K. Spears, V. Carter, T. Meyer,
C. Wreede, J. Kahle, J. Neville,
F. Thompson, D. Vondrell, G. Vondrell*

LECTOR'S SCHEDULE:

Jan. 7: 5:00 p.m. - *J. Wolff*

Jan. 8: 8:30 a.m. - *M. Hickey*
11:00 a.m. - *S. Cira*

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE:

Jan. 7: 5:00 p.m. - *See new schedule*

Jan. 8: 8:30 a.m. - *See new schedule*
11:00 a.m. - *See new schedule*

SACRISTY WORKERS FOR JANUARY:

Pat Iven, Marsha Mason, Mary Hickey



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.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Even though it seems we just put up the Christmas decorations, it won't be long until we have to take them down. We will be removing them on Sunday, January 7th, after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. We ask that if you can, to please plan on coming to church around noon and help us with this task. Even if you can spare only 30 minutes or so, we could certainly use your help. Many hands make the task light! We thank all of all volunteers who are so willing to give of their time to St. Gerard Church!

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 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.



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.

2018 MARCH FOR LIFE TRIP:

Interested in attending the 2018 March for Life in Washington D.C. on January 20, 2018? Join the College and Young Adult bus trip sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Toledo! The trip is only \$159, but for college students there is a special discounted price of \$119!

Our trip includes two nights in the Marriott Hotel in downtown Washington, D.C., as well as free time to tour the city. We depart Thursday, January 18, at 3pm and will return Saturday evening, January 20. Payments by check can be made out and mailed to Catholic Charities, 1933 Spielbusch Ave., Toledo with "March for Life" in the memo line. Be sure to include name, email, cell phone and rooming preferences.

Call Peter Range at 419-214-4933, or email at: prange@toledodiocese.org if you have any questions. Deadline to register is January 1.