

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:**

*Like John the Baptist, every parent "prepares the way of the Lord" in the hearts of their children. Advent is a good time to ask; "Do I help or hinder my children to know Jesus?"*

**MASSES FOR THIS WEEK:**

**Monday, December 11**

8:30 a.m. Kevin Nartker +

**Tuesday, December 12**

8:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, December 13**

8:30 a.m. Joe Silone +

6:30 p.m. Jack Frueh +

**Thursday, December 14**

8:30 a.m.

**Friday, December 15**

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

**Saturday, December 16**

8:30 a.m. Ida Bonofiglio +

5:00 p.m. Mary Gasperetti +  
Louis Acerro +

**Sunday, December 17**

8:30 a.m. Ralph & Rosemary  
Sroufe +  
Mary Lyle +  
Charles Tenney +

11:00 a.m. Virgil Thines +

1:30 p.m. Spanish Mass

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:**

**Sunday, December 10 - 2nd Sunday of Advent**

**Rosary/Altar Bake Sale 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. - Advent Healing Mass

**Monday, December 11 - Mass at 8:30 a.m.**

5:00 p.m. - Widows/Widower's Support Group Mtg. in the  
Parish Hall

**Tuesday, December 12 - Mass at 8:30 a.m.**

7:00 p.m. - Liturgy Committee Mtg. in the Rectory

7:00 p.m. - St. Gerard School Christmas Program

**Wednesday, December 13**

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 14 - 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 15 - Mass at 8:30 a.m.**

**Saturday, December 16 - Mass at 8:30 a.m.**

Mass at 5:00 p.m.

**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

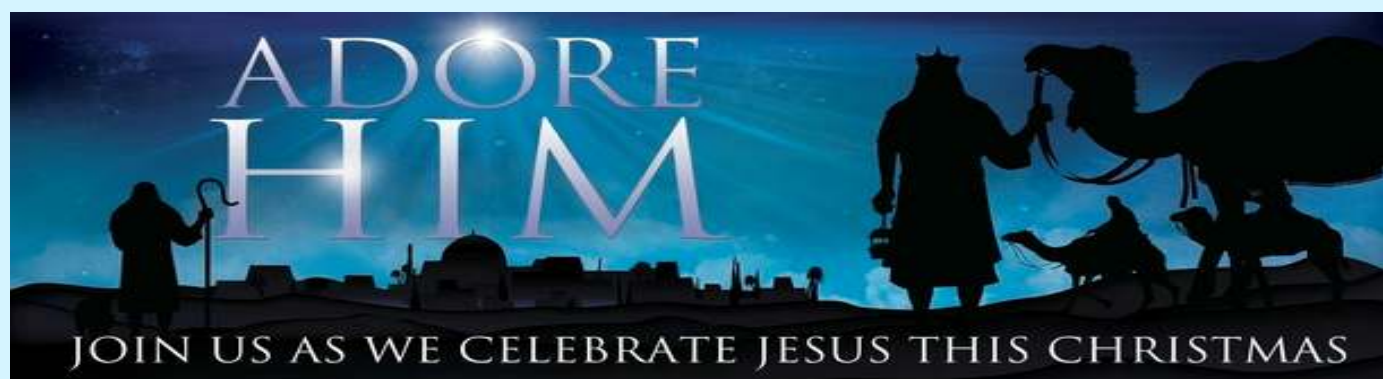
**CITY-WIDE PENANCE**

**SERVICE:**

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Nov. 4th week	\$ 10,768.92	\$ 10,144.86
On-line: \$ 1,115.00		
# of Envelopes	268	266
<b>YTD Totals:</b>	<b>\$ 236,174.52</b>	<b>\$ 248,502.62</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.

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED:**

As many of you have noticed, we offer free rosaries, pamphlets and holy water bottles at the Blessed Virgin Mary's alcove. We are happy to offer these items for free, however, it is an added expense for the parish. Sometimes we have parishioners that would like to donate for "extras" that we need. If this is something you feel called to help with, please feel free to do so.

**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.



**ROSARY/ALTAR BAKE SALE:**

The ladies of the Rosary/Altar Society will be hosting their annual Bake Sale and Raffle **TODAY**, December 10th following the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Masses. This will be held in the Parish Hall. Please stop over and take a chance on their raffle, as well as pick up some delicious baked goods.

**ROSARY/ALTAR NEWS:**

The ladies of the Rosary/Altar Society will gather at noon on December 19th in church 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.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ROSARY/ALTAR SOCIETY:**

Recently, the ladies of the Rosary/Altar Society purchased some needed items for the parish. We feel very blessed to have received new altar cloths for ordinary time, a new Lectionary and also some new plexi-glass that we use every day on the altar. We sincerely appreciate all of these donations, as well as everything you do for St. Gerard Parish throughout the year.

**NEW VESTMENTS:**

You may have noticed that our priests have been wearing some new vestments recently. These vestments were purchased with the monies we had left from our collection over a year ago. To all who supported the "Vestment Collection", we thank you and hope you like the new vestments.

**"GIVE A CHRISTMAS - TO A FAMILY IN NEED":**

Joining the other Catholic parishes of Lima, you are invited to take one of the bags near the Angel tree, fill it with groceries and return it on December 10th or 17th. All of the groceries will be taken to a centralized location, and prepared for distribution to families through Samaritan House, St. Vincent de Paul, and the Cheryl Allen Community Center. This joint effort by the entire Catholic Community of Lima will be a great witness of our faith.



**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. 9/10 - Peace**

5:00 p.m. ~ The Tom & Kelly Huffman Family  
8:30 a.m. ~ The Steve & Louise Martin Family  
11:00 a.m. ~ The Mike & Sue Dew 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

**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



**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.***



**EUCHARISTIC MINISTER'S SCHEDULE:**

**Saturday, December 16:**

5:00 p.m. M. DeVita, L. Makley, S. Parker,  
J. Stewart, B. Muskus, D. Griffio,  
C. Hinds, M. Hinds, K. Canavan,  
S. Tschuor

**Sunday, December 17:**

8:30 a.m. L. Hahn, G. Merkel, S. Nocera,  
M. Mays, E. Orwick, R. Orwick,  
B. Pinney, C. Wright. C. Altenbach,  
M. Hickey

11:00 a.m. V. Carter, T. Meyer, F. Thompson,  
R. Vagedes, K. Ladden, J. Landwehr,  
C. Coleman, K. Wreede, S. Young,  
R. Karbowiak

**LECTOR'S SCHEDULE:**

**Dec. 16:** 5:00 p.m. - M. Hinegardner

**Dec. 17:** 8:30 a.m. - S. Doepker  
11:00 a.m. - M. Spears

**ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE:**

**Dec. 16:** 5:00 p.m. - A. Parker, Addie Parker,  
M. Lewis

**Dec. 17:** 8:30 a.m. - M. Chambers, K. Rigg,  
E. Gamble  
11:00 a.m. - G. Sutton, M. Sutton,  
K. Helmig

**SACRISTY WORKERS FOR DECEMBER:**

Brenda Santaguida, Melinda Taflinger,  
Barb Markham

**PANCAKE**

**BREAKFAST:**

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



**ANGEL TREE**

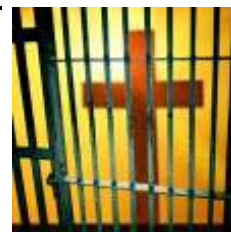
Our gift-giving drive for children through the Salvation Army is coming to an end. Please return your gifts to the tree with the tag attached securely to the gift. Please, **DO NOT WRAP** the gifts.



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.

**PARISH MISSIONARY PROJECT:**

At the entrances of church, you will find blank Christmas cards. Please take one (or several) and write a short note to inmates at Allen Correctional. Sign your first name (or any name) and return them to the baskets provided before December 14th. The cards will be taken to the inmates on December 15th, and will be distributed at their Christmas retreat. They very much appreciated the kind words last year. For some men, the card they get from you is the only card they receive. Thanks in advance for giving them some encouraging words and helping them to experience just a little bit of Christmas spirit.



**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, Walmart, Red Lobster, Ruby Tuesday, Cracker Barrel & more!

**2018 MASS BOOK:**

The 2018 Mass book is now open. Due to the limited number of Sunday Masses available, we ask that you limit your number of weekend Masses to two. There are plenty of Masses available during the week so feel free to have as many Mass intentions as you would like scheduled through the weekdays. Mass intentions are \$10.00 each. 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).

**ATTENTION ALUMNI OF ST. ROSE HIGH SCHOOL & GRADE SCHOOL:**

On Saturday, Dec. 16th, at 4:00 p.m., you are invited to join us as we celebrate the Restoration of the Church and the Dedication of the new School Gym and Parish Center. A reception will follow. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by December 5th by calling Liz Parker at 419-227-0845.



**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.

**BLESSING OF THE "BAMBINOS":**

At the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 17th, 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 them into the sanctuary and gather around the empty manger for the blessing.

Pope John Paul, II instituted the celebration of Babinelli 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.

**MARCH FOR LIFE ~ BUS TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC:**

- Bus Trip to Washington, D.C. January 18-20th
- Departs from Port Clinton
- Early Bird Rate (by Dec. 12th) \$220 per person
- Regular Rate (after Dec. 12th) \$240 per person
- Includes: Bus, hotel, breakfast, Vigil Mass at Basilica, March for Life Rally, Museum of the Bible
- Sponsored by: ICSJ Respect Life Ministry Port Clinton/Marblehead
- Contact: Judy Geiger to register: 419-3410-1899; [jgeiger747@gmail.com](mailto:jgeiger747@gmail.com)

