

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:

At this time of the year, we are very conscious of our family as we make preparations for Christmas. Today's gospel warns us not to be consumed by all the consumer activity. This Advent, appreciate the gift of people in your life. The best gift of the season might be your appreciation of others.

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK:

Monday, December 3

8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 4

8:30 a.m. Margarita Pina +

Wednesday, December 5

8:30 a.m.

6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 6

8:30 a.m. Tom Gremling +

Friday, December 7

8:30 a.m. Deceased of the
Sliemers, Nungester &
Wukusick Families +

7:00 p.m. - Vigil Mass for Holy Day

Saturday, December 8 - FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 a.m.

5:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of
the Paul & Alberta
Tschuor Family
Gene & Katy Simmons +

Sunday, December 9

8:30 a.m. James & Nancy Bogner+
Bob & Peg Good +

11:00 a.m. Katherine M. Job +
Laurie Zerante Snider +

1:30 p.m. Spanish Mass

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Sunday, December 2

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

Monday, December 3

Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 4

Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 5

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 6

Mass at 8:30 a.m.
12:00 Noon - 5:00 p.m. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7:30 p.m. - Holy Name Meeting in the Parish Hall

Friday, December 7

Mass at 8:30 a.m.
4:00-6:00 p.m. - First Friday Devotions with Confessions
7:00 p.m. - Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Saturday, December 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Holy Day Obligation)
9:30 a.m. - Mother Teresa Book Reading in the Parish Hall
Mass at 5:00 p.m.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>DATE</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
November, 3rd week On-line: \$ 1,395.00	\$ 11,698.51	\$ 13,823.00
# of Envelopes	284	260
YTD Totals:	\$ 238,357.76	\$ 226,036.58

ONLINE GIVING: If you would like to give online, visit our website at 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.



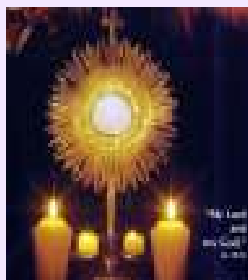
Week 1, Hope

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.



**EUCHARISTIC
ADORATION:**

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



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation. We will offer a Vigil Mass at 7:00 p.m. on Dec. 7th. Mass on Dec. 8th will be at 8:30 a.m.



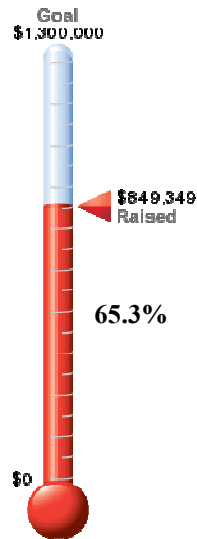
Feast of Our Lady of Guadeloupe is celebrated Wednesday, December 12th.

Please join us this Friday, 12/7 for 1st Friday devotions with confessions from 4-6 p.m.

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 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.

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.



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Saturday, December 8th. Mary, under the title of Immaculate Conception is the



Patroness of the United States of America. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 7th and at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 8th.

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, with your focus on each other and your relationship. It's a time for you and your spouse to get away, to rediscover each other, and to supercharge your relationship for an entire weekend. The two of you deserve it! 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 or contact Brian & Chris Schroeder at 419-538-7210 or bcschroeder@bright.net.



ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY:

On the four Sundays of Advent, starting December 1/2, we will have the Advent Wreath Lighting Ceremony at the beginning of Mass. Families, or groups of friends, or grandparents with their grandchildren are invited to take part in the ceremony - to light the Advent candles at the beginning of Mass. The ceremony will take place at all weekend Masses. If you will take part in this service, please contact John Christoff at 419-203-7881 and let him know which weekend and which Mass is best for you. He

will then give you details of the ceremony and what you will do. Thank you.

GIVE A CHRISTMAS:

The Lima Catholic Give-A-Christmas program is Sunday, December 16th. Those green onion bags will be given out at next week's Masses. We ask that you fill them with non-perishable items for the underserved families in Lima. Last year we were able to fill over 1,100 bags and were donated to the Salvation Army and distributed with Toys for Tots. Food was also given to Samaritan House, St. Vincent DePaul, Dominion Building residents, Mizpah Community Center, Crossroads Crisis Center and Teens for Christ. We look forward to working with all four Lima Parishes and LCC to serve the people in our community.

ANGEL TREE

Our gift-giving drive for children through the Salvation Army is going on now through December 10th. You will find two trees decorated with "Angel Tags" in the sanctuary area. Please take the entire tag, 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.



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.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER'S SCHEDULE:

Saturday, December 8:

5:00 p.m. *M. DeVita, M. & M. Hinegardner,
S. Parker, K. Canavan, B. VonLehmden,
W. Peebles, L. Makley, V. Bigelow*

Sunday, December 9:

8:30 a.m. *M. Hickey, S. Martin, T. Martin, M. Meyer,
C. Altenbach, S. Ellinger, L. Taylor,
J. Sroufe, T. Sroufe, C. Wright*

11:00 a.m. *C. Coleman, R. Karbowski, S. Morrissey,
J. Neville, M. Ayers, S. Dew, D. Vondrell,
G. Vondrell, K. Spears, C. Wreede*

LECTOR'S SCHEDULE:

Dec. 8: 5:00 p.m. - *B. Flynn*

Dec. 9: 8:30 a.m. - *M. Kleffner*
11:00 a.m. - *M. Spears*

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE:

Dec. 8: 5:00 p.m. - *M. Lewis, G. Gandy,
M. Chambers*

Dec. 2: 8:30 a.m. - *S. Santaguida, E. & J. Hahn*
11:00 a.m. - *A. Schultz, C. Wagoner,
M. Miller*

USHER SCHEDULE:

Dec. 8: 5:00 p.m. - *G. Kiel*

Dec. 9: 8:30 a.m. - *S. Martin, S. Doepker,
J. Hartley*
11:00 a.m. - *S. Blanchard, M. Dew,
T. Lamb*

SACRISTY WORKERS - DECEMBER:

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

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 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.proccatholicatours.com. You may also email them with questions at: Office@proccatholicatours.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. Registration deadline is Dec. 14.



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:

Mission Statement

"A network of friends, inspired of Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need."

We are fortunate to have all four parishes in Lima to be part of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in various ways. Volunteers from all four parishes participate in all areas where needed. We are very grateful to have them.

Food Panty (All parishes help to staff) accessible by appointment for a three day supply of food.

Thrift store (St. Rose & St. John) in addition to the Thrift Store, they also may occasionally assist with a portion of rent after research.

St. Charles supports the Food Pantry, gives to annual Christmas, and Christian Corners Soup Kitchen.

St. Gerard assists food pantry if needed and assists with utilities (electricity, gas, water up to \$100 once a year). We are in need of a small group of people to oversee this activity. Here is what is involved:

1. *Get persons information from messages.*
2. *Call the person and get necessary information. Remind them we can only help once a year.*
3. *Mail check directly to the utility company with necessary information on check.*
4. *Maintain a log book.*

Our needy neighbors need your help. Please pray about this. For questions, more information, or to **VOLUNTEER**, please contact Deb Bartlett-Karbowiak at 419-516-4415 (may need to leave a message) or Alice Giesken at 419-979-9638.



TREE OF REMEMBRANCE:

The holiday season is normally a time of joy, but when someone you love has died, it can be a time of loneliness and pain. If you are experiencing grief, your neighbors at Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services will host their 28th Annual Tree of Remembrance Service on Saturday, December 8, 2018. This community event is held at our Shawnee Chapel in Lima.

Guests may start to arrive at 2:00 p.m. and the Remembrance Service will begin at 3:00 p.m., being led by area clergy. Light refreshments will be served following the service at 4:00 p.m.

The 28th Annual Tree of Remembrance Service is presented as a gift to our community from Chiles-Laman families. Anyone is welcome to attend, regardless of which funeral home provided the services for their loved one.

There is no charge to attend, however, reservations are requested. To make a reservation, please to not hesitate to call 419-228-5474.

If your loved one passed away this year, your family is welcome to receive one complimentary personalized crystal ornament. Additional ornaments for loved ones who have passed away in any previous year will be available for \$25 each. To place your order, please call 419-228-5474.