

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:

That first Easter morning was confusing. Jesus was missing and Mary Magdalene, Peter and John "did not know" what to do. In family life, there are confusing moments when "we don't know" what to do. Like the apostles, we are Easter people when we believe and trust in each other even when all seems lost.

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK:

Monday, April 2

8:30 a.m. Ron Pitson +

Tuesday, April 3

8:30 a.m. Christopher Blosser +

Wednesday, April 4

8:30 a.m. Bill McFall +

6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 5

8:30 a.m. Ida Bonofiglio +

Friday, April 6

8:30 a.m. Louis Acerro +

Saturday, April 7

8:30 a.m.

5:00 p.m. Virgil Thines +

John Smith +

Robert Wagner +

Sunday, April 8

8:30 a.m. Steve & Rosena Verhoff +

11:00 a.m. Laurie Zerante Snider+

1:30 p.m. Spanish Mass

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Sunday, April 1 - EASTER SUNDAY

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, April 2

Easter Monday - Parish Office Closed

Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 3 - Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 4 - Mass at 8:30 a.m.

1:00 p.m. - OLPH Novena

6:00 p.m. - Rosary/Benediction/Mass at 6:30 p.m.

6-7 p.m. - Confessions in church

Thursday, April 5

Mass at 8:30 a.m.

12:00 Noon - 5:00 p.m. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:00 p.m. - Charismatic Prayer Group Mtg. in the Rectory

7:30 p.m. - Holy Name Meeting in the Parish Hall

Friday, April 6 - First Friday

Mass at 8:30 a.m.

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

Saturday, April 7

Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 8

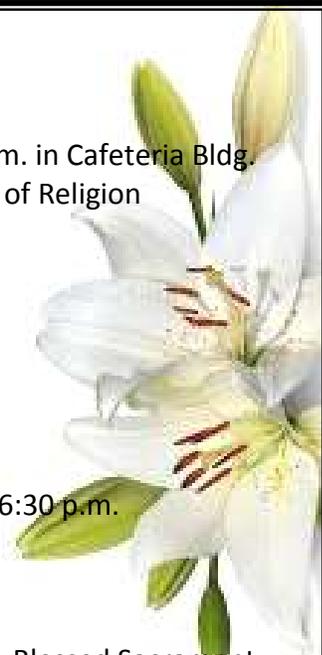
Masses at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

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. Divine Mercy Chaplet with Mass and Confession to follow (This Mass fulfills your Sunday obligation).



FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>DATE</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
March, 4th week	\$ 10,010.49	\$ 10,371.60
On-line: \$ 1,265.00		
# of Envelopes	280	280
YTD Totals:	\$ 421,366.84	\$428,106.82

Give online at: www.stgerardchurch.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR:

NEW LIFE

It's so good to see new life springing up! To see a newborn added to a family, with all the excitement and new energy!

Yes, it's a lot more work, but well worth it.

Some of our teachers at St. Gerard School are adding to these new births and it is enjoyable to watch their families grow.

And that's not the only growth in our school . . . our enrollment continues to increase. Yes, it's a lot more work, but well worth it.

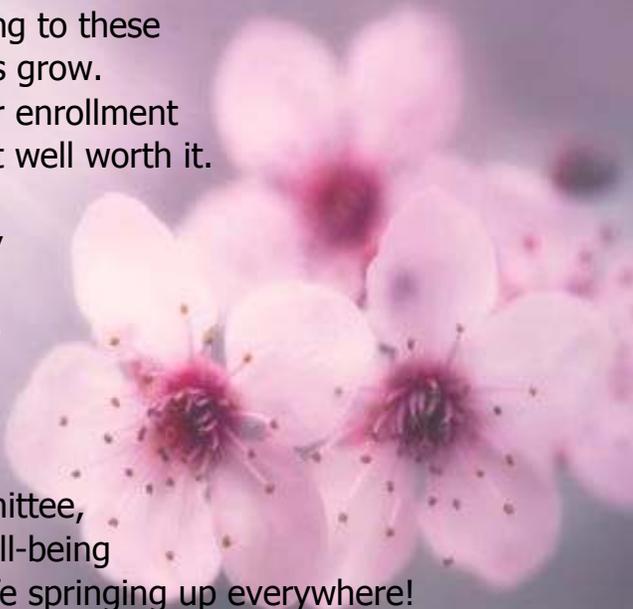
It's also exciting to see new faces at our weekend Masses, new people bring new energy! This energy is being experienced in our parish committees and ministries as more people continue to get involved - thank God! It's so nice to see new faces at our festival meetings (can you believe the festival is right around the corner)? Or to see all the energy around our newly created Spiritual Formation Committee, a group concerned with the spiritual growth and well-being of our whole parish. Yes, it's so good to see new life springing up everywhere!

But nothing compares to the new life offered to us in Christ Jesus, for there is nothing greater than **ETERNAL LIFE!** What excitement and new energy the Resurrection of Jesus - Jesus rising from the dead - created in our world, and still should be creating in it. Encountering Jesus and growing in the faith always generates new life and energy in individuals and families, as well as communities. Thank you, Jesus, for this new life, not only promised to us in the life to come, but experienced in this life. Yes, this new life in Christ does entail a lot more work - in prayer, faith formation, virtuous living and loving service to others - but it is well worth it!

So, on behalf of Fr. Mike Sergi, Fr. Mike Houston and myself, and the whole St. Gerard staff - **HAPPY EASTER!** May the new life in Christ take deeper root in you and your family and grow more abundantly in our St. Gerard Parish Community.

Fr. Jim

HE IS NOT HERE
HE IS RISEN
MATTHEW 28:6



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

April 8 at 3PM

Divine Mercy Chaplet begins at 3PM

Mass & Confession to follow.

(This mass fulfills your Sunday obligation)



Jesus said to St. Faustina, ***“At three o’clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy. In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion”***
(Diary, 1320).

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Began Good Friday

Day 1 – 3/30 – Good Friday: *Today bring to Me* all mankind, especially all sinners, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy.

Day 2 – 3/31 – Holy Saturday: *Today bring to Me* the souls of priests and religious, and immerse them in My unfathomable mercy.

Day 3 – 4/1 – Easter Sunday: *Today bring to Me* all devout and faithful souls, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy.

Day 4 – 4/2: *Today bring to Me* those who do not believe in God and those who do not yet know Me.

Day 5 – 4/3: *Today bring to Me* the souls of those who have separated themselves from the Church.

Day 6 – 4/4: *Today bring to Me* the meek and humble souls and the souls of little children, and immerse them in My mercy.

Day 7 – 4/5: *Today bring to Me* the souls who especially venerate and glorify My Mercy and immerse them in My mercy.

Day 8 – 4/6: *Today bring to Me* the souls who are detained in purgatory and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy.

Day 9 – 4/7: *Today bring to Me* souls who have become lukewarm, and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy.

Novena pamphlets are available at church entrances.



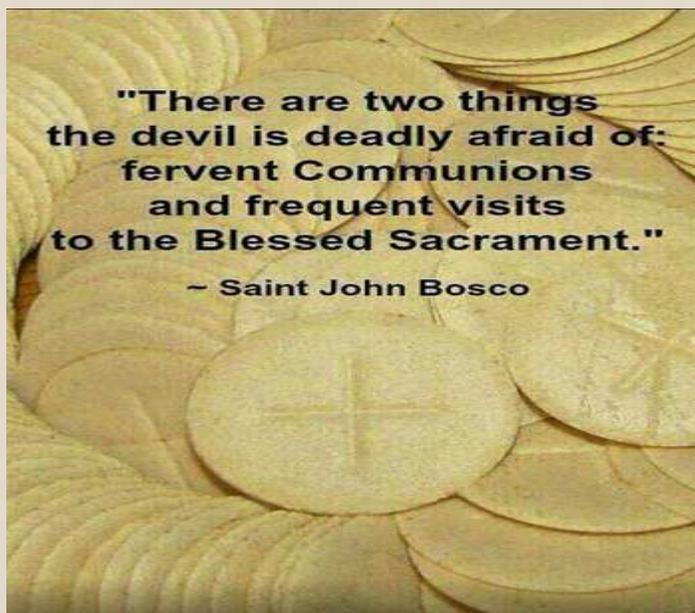
SPIRITUAL FORMATION:

The Spiritual Formation Committee will be holding a book reading/bible study mid April. The book we have chosen is **Divine Mercy by Stephen J. Binz** of the Threshold Bible Study series. The book can be found via the internet at Amazon and many other stores. We will hold the book reading after the 11 am Mass on Sundays and we will discuss the book for approximately 1.5 to 2 hours. Anyone interested and has questions, please call Melinda Blanchard at 567-252-8748. We all hope you can join us for some sharing and discussion.

APRIL: Month dedicated to devotion to the ***Eucharist*** and devotion to the ***Holy Spirit***.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for April:
For those who have responsibility in economic matters:

That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.



"Spend as much time as possible in front of the Blessed Sacrament and He will fill you with His strength and His power." -Mother Teresa

adorationrocka.com

1ST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS:

This coming Friday, April 6th, St. Gerard will have 1st Friday Devotions with Eucharistic Adoration with confessions from 4-6 p.m. Please come, spend some quiet time with the Lord for this special devotion - confessions offered during this time.

NEW TIMES FOR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Since our Lenten Adoration times were well visited, we are extending our Adoration hours to 12-5 pm every Thursday, starting April 5th. Take time out of your busy, hurried lives to come, spend some personal reflection with the Blessed Sacrament. It will refresh you and change your day and life!!!

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER'S SCHEDULE:

Saturday, April 7:

8:00 p.m. C. Diaz, C. Hinds, M. Hinds, B. Peebles,
S. Tschuor, K. Canavan, Mike Hinegardner,
M. Hinegardner, B. Flynn, M. DeVita

Sunday, April 8:

8:30 a.m. S. Nocera, L. Hahn, M. King, S. Martin,
G. Merkel, M. Meyer, C. Wright, M. Mays,
T. Martin, B. Pinney

11:00 a.m. K. Wreede, S. Dew, F. Gallegos, J. Kahle,
S. Young, K. Spears, M. Spears, T. Meyer,
V. Carter, M. Ayers

LECTOR'S SCHEDULE:

April 7: 5:00 p.m. - C. Schmenk

April 8: 8:30 a.m. - S. Doepker
11:00 a.m. - K. Gerken

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE:

April 7: 5:00 p.m. - G. Langhals, G. Gandy, J. Yahl

April 8: 8:30 a.m. - K. Rigg, E. Gamble, M. Chambers
11:00 a.m. - D. Dawson, L. Wreede, A. Carter

SACRISTY WORKERS FOR APRIL:

Jean Sroufe, Annette Moorman

SCREENWRITER TOM FLYNN:

LCC Education Foundation introduces Screenwriter **Tom Flynn** best known for the movie **"Gifted"** to LCC on April 5, 2018. Tom is a Lima native, who attended St. Gerard & graduated from LCC. He continued his education at the University of Dayton earning a B.S. in English. Tom has written several scripts that have been produced, notable **Watch It** and **Gifted**. Call Cami Jacobs at LCC for ticket info.

LCC PURSE BINGO:

Saturday, April 21st at LCC. Tickets are \$30 per person. Doors open at 6pm. Bingo starts at 7pm. Must be 21 to enter. Includes dinner & 20 games of bingo. Contact Stephanie Watkins at LCC for tickets (419-230-2659 or swatkins@apps.lcchs.edu).

ST. GERARD SCHOOL NEWS:

St. Gerard Catholic School is now accepting registrations for Preschool through 8th grade for the 2018-2019 school year.

Kindergarten screening is scheduled for **Friday, April 6th**. Please contact the school office for a scheduled time.

Tuition Scholarships are available through the State of Ohio Edchoice Scholarship Program. Deadline to apply for Edchoice Scholarships is April 30th. There are several other opportunities for tuition assistance and scholarships, please contact the school office for details.

If you have any questions or would like registration information, please contact the St. Gerard School Office at (419) 222-0431.

NORTHWEST OHIO SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

Need-based Scholarships are available for private schools for students who reside in *Allen and surrounding counties* for grades K-8 for the 2018-2019 school year. 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.**

ELDER ABUSE:

Concerned about elder abuse? One in ten elders has likely been victimized in the past year. The best method for avoiding elder abuse is to keep watch over and regularly check in with our vulnerable neighbors. **Are You OK?** Program volunteers make weekly calls to check on elders in the Lima/Allen County area. Phone in referrals to **Are You OK?** Coordinator Evelyn Davis Smith at 419-222-8666.

ROSARY/ALTAR NEWS:

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Rosary/Altar Bake Sale and Raffle. The lucky winners of the raffle were: ***Pat Iven, Carolyn McNamara and Lynda Makley***. The winner of the flower arrangement was ***Beth Webb*** and the winner of the picture was ***Marsha Mason***.

SUNDAY ENVELOPES:

Our "yearly" Sunday envelopes have been moved over to the rectory. If you have not picked yours up, please do so as soon as possible. If you are giving online and no longer wish to receive the box of envelopes, please call the rectory office at 419-224-3080. ***As an active member of St. Gerard Church, we encourage all parishioners to use their envelopes regularly. Thank you.***

SERRA CLUB:

Serra Club of Lima welcomes you to join us for Mass, dinner and a talk on April 12th. Fr. Phil Smith, Vocation Director of Toledo Diocese will speak on "State of Vocations in the Diocese of Toledo". We will begin with Mass at 5:45 p.m. at LCC High School Chapel. The dinner and talk will follow. If you would like to come, please call Marilyn Schmerge at 567-204-4745.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

St. Vincent DePaul Clothing Store is in need of volunteers to help sort and display clothing and household items in the store. An hour or two once a week or once a month would be a great help. Store hours are noon to 3:40 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**THANK YOU FROM
CAROL DOTSON:**



A special "thank you" to everyone for their love and support during the sudden death of my husband, ***Steve Dotson*** from the flu. Thank you for all the prayers and support from our parish. Thanks to Fr. Jim and Fr. Mike Houston for Steve's beautiful Mass, and our "Earth Angel" behind the scenes, Mary Hickey. A special thanks to our altar servers, our beautiful soloist Deanne Cira, and John Christoff whom we could never had planned the liturgy without him! God bless all of you!

LCC CLASS OF 1973:

In celebration of their 45th Class Reunion, the LCC Class of 1973 is planning "The Gathering 2018", on Saturday, August 4th. The event will be held at LCC and details are being finalized. Please send contact info. For classmates to Patti Frueh Briggs: LCC1973@yahoo.com

HEARTBEAT SILENT AUCTION AND DINNER:

Heartbeat of Lima's 6th Annual Fundraising Silent Auction and Chicken Dinner is coming up on April 22nd at the K of C building located behind Happy Daz on S. Cable Road, Lima. This year it will be bigger and better than ever! We have over 50 wonderful baskets for you to bid on! Contact our office now for your chicken dinner tickets and plan to stop in with your family and friends and spend the afternoon at our Silent Auction and take home a great item... or two or three. Dinner tickets are \$8 and include 1/2 BBQ chicken, southwestern corn, fresh fruit cup, dinner roll and cookie. Dine-in or carry-out. **ALL DINNER TICKETS ARE PRESALE ONLY!** Orders for dinner tickets must be placed by ***April 16th***. Questions, call Heartbeat at 419-222-7945.