

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:

In today's gospel, Jesus advises: "Stay awake, watch out, and pray for the strength to hold your ground" when "fearful and bewildering signs" appear threatening your family. Resist being "fearful;" fear cripples! Instead, "pray for the strength" to be courageous.

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK:

Monday, December 2

8:30 a.m. William McFall +

Tuesday, December 3

8:30 a.m. Margarita Pina +

Wednesday, December 4

8:30 a.m. People of St. Gerard

6:30 p.m. Daniel Michel +

Thursday, December 5

8:30 a.m. Staff & Students of
St. Gerard School

Friday, December 6

8:30 a.m. Tom Gremling +
Dan Sunderhaus +

Saturday, December 7

8:30 a.m. Dan Walsh +
5:00 p.m. Gene & Katy
Simmons +
Nancy DeGrands &
Dan Hoersten +
Jeff Geise +

Sunday, December 8

8:30 a.m. Ed Nixon +
Dolores Whitacre +
11:00 a.m. Rick & Ryan Young +
James Wiechart +
1:30 p.m. Spanish Mass

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Sunday, Dec. 1 - First Sunday of Advent

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

9:00-10:30 a.m. - RCIA classes in the Cafeteria

9:30-10:45 a.m. - NO Parish School of Religion

1:30 p.m. - Spanish Mass

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

Monday, Dec. 2 - Mass at 8:30 a.m.

6:00 p.m. - Spirituality Meeting in the Parish Hall

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

7:00-8:30 p.m. - Bible Study in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 4

Mass at 8:30 a.m.

1:00 p.m. - OLPH Novena Devotions

6:00-6:30 p.m. - Confessions & Rosary followed by Mass at 6:30

Thursday, Dec. 5

Mass at 8:30 a.m.

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

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

Friday, Dec. 6

Mass at 8:30 a.m. - **Right to Life Rosary recited following Mass**

4:00-6:00 p.m. - **First Friday Devotions, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions**

Saturday, Dec. 7

Mass at 8:30 a.m. **followed by our First Saturday Rosary**

4:00-4:30 p.m. - Confessions

Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 8

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

9:00-10:30 a.m. - RCIA classes in the Cafeteria

9:30-10:45 a.m. - Parish School of Religion

1:30 p.m. - Spanish Mass

WEDDING BANNS:

Kristen Werff & Jack Hale, III



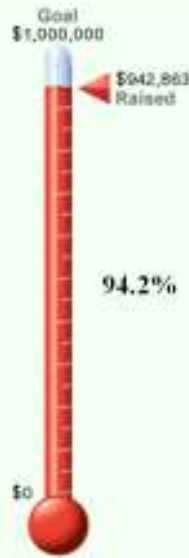
FINANCIAL REPORT:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
November, 3rd week On-line: \$1,681.00	\$ 13,823.00	\$ 13,605.70
# of Envelopes	260	294
YTD Totals:	\$ 226,036.58	\$ 224,650.98

ST. GERARD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:

As many of you know, we have now completed Phase I and Phase II of our Building Project. Now we are focused completing the addition of classrooms to our school. Together, we can make this a reality!

As you can see, we are ever so slowly inching up to meet our goal. Every gift, no matter how large or small, is truly appreciated.



\$942,863.06

Pledge cards are available in the church or at the parish & 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.

Goal: \$1,000,000.00

Thank you to all who are supporting this building campaign.

PLEDGES TO DATE

Amount Pledged: \$942,863.06
Amount Paid: \$769,273.31

Outstanding Balance: \$173,589.75

RETIREMENT FUND FOR

RELIGIOUS:

Give in thanksgiving. “The nuns left lasting impressions on me,” writes a donor. “I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education.” Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next week’s second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously.

BREAKFAST:

St. Johns, Lima is offering their breakfast TODAY, Dec. 1st from 8-1 p.m. Eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage and beverages will be served. Adults \$4 and children \$2.

SCRIP AVAILABLE:

With the busy holiday season fast approaching, don’t forget to purchase SCRIP for all of your baking and shopping needs. Gift cards are available for purchase after the Sunday Masses, as well in the school office. Please support our school and utilize SCRIP.



spiritual formation
CONNECTING WITH GOD

Can We Pray For You?



St Gerard Prayer Chain

We will be reactivating the St Gerard Prayer Chain with the beginning of Advent. Requests for prayer may be emailed to Stgprayerchain@gmail.com or called into the parish office at **419-224-3080** after Dec. 1st. Because of privacy laws, requests for prayer must be made by the person needing them or an immediate family member. All requests will be kept confidential within the prayer chain. Requests will be kept on the prayer list for 30 days. If additional prayer is wanted, please resubmit.

Prayer Warriors Needed ...

to offer a daily prayer for the names on the list. If you are willing to serve the Lord and our parish as a prayer warrior, please send your name and email address to the above email address or call the parish office. Prayer requests will be emailed to you. All requests for prayer are to be kept confidential. God bless you for your consideration.

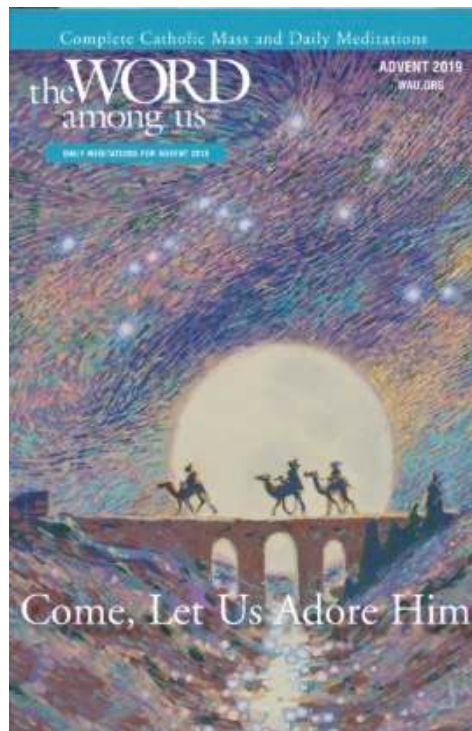
HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER:

The Future of the Very Young:

That every country determine to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.



**Month dedicated to the season of Advent
and the coming of Christ.**



Please look for these Advent Reflections - a great way to grow deeper with Christ during this spiritual time of the year. Copies are available on the tables at the exits of church.

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 15th 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.



ANGEL TREE:

Our gift-giving drive for children through the Salvation Army is going on now. You will find two trees decorated with "Angel Tags" in the gathering space. 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. Please be sure to check the tag to see when the gift needs to be returned to church. Thank you for helping so many of our area children.

LIMA CHAPTER OF MAGNIFICAT BREAKFAST:

The Lima Chapter of Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women, will be held on December 7th at the Old Barn Out Back. Our speaker will be **Joan Nunnery** from Port Clinton, Ohio.

Registration is at 9:30 a.m. Please call Kay Smith at 419-339-8971 by December 4th to register.

Cost is \$10.00 which includes breakfast, speaker and handouts. All women from the Lima area are invited. Please join us.

**FEAST OF
OUR LADY OF
GUADALUPE:**

We will be celebrating the feast of Our Lady of



Guadalupe on Sun., Dec. 8th at our regular 1:30 p.m. Spanish Mass at St. John Church in Delphos. We will be starting with a Spanish rosary at 12:45 p.m. After Mass there will be a procession with our Lady from church to the cafeteria with the Guadalupanos Dancers from Norwalk

performing shortly before. There will be a reception after Mass in the cafeteria. We will be serving Spanish Pozole soup and tamales with champurrado and horchata which are authentic Mexican drinks. Please join us in this unique celebration in honor of our Lady.

At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart?
Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern.

— Mother Teresa —

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

	SATURDAY, 12/7 5:00 P.M.	SUNDAY, 12/8 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY, 12/8 11:00 A.M.	SUNDAY, 12/8 SPANISH MASS 1:30 P.M.
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:	K. Canavan D. Griffo C. Hinds L. Makley S. Parker J. Wollf D. Santini G. Gandy D. Hollingsworth J. Hollingsworth	C. Altenbach L. Hahn M. Hickey J. Inskeep D. Ho J. Nguyen N. Jenkins S. Martin T. Martin M. Mays	V. Carter C. Coleman F. Mansfield D. Vondrell G. Vondrell F. Gallegos T. Meyer S. Urban A. Montoya R. Carder	
LECTOR:	B. Flynn	M. Kleffner	S. Silone	
ALTAR SERVERS:	M. Lewis B. Smith J. Yahl	E. Hahn J. Hahn K. Rigg	D. Noble C. Raines K. Meyer	
USHERS:	G. Kiel D. Watkins	J. Ruen F. Morman	R. Stolly B. Walsh S. Dackin	
SACRISTY WORKERS: (DECEMBER)	J. Blackburn, J. Wollf, L. Dodge, M. Hickey, B. Markham, M. Taflinger, B. Santaguida			

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. 7/8 - Hope

5:00 p.m. - Mike & Barb Flynn

8:30 a.m. - The Kevin & Lisa Rigg Family

11:00 a.m. - The Dwayne & Wendy Snow Family

Dec. 14/15 - Joy

5:00 p.m. - The Chris & Traci Chambers Family

8:30 a.m. - The Scott & Kelly Gronas Family

11:00 a.m. - The Josh & Jennifer Szimpl Family

2020 MASS BOOK:

The 2020 Mass Book is now open. As in the past, 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.

LIMA CENTRAL CATHOLIC

ACT PREP COURSE:

LCC will be offering its 12th ACT Prep Class beginning Jan. 4, 2020 for the April 4, 2020 ACT test. Students who have previously taken this class have stated this class "helped to decrease my text anxiety prior to taking the actual ACT test" and "I was a

little skeptical at first that the course would help but my ACT score raised from a 29 to a 33." On average, most students ACT scores do raise 2-4 points.

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, 2020. The class is open to LCC, as well as non-LCC students.

TREE OF REMEMBRANCE:

If you are experiencing grief, your neighbors at Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services will host their 29th Annual Tree of Remembrance Service on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019. This community event is held at our Shawnee Chapel, located at 1170 Shawnee Rd. in Lima.

Guests may start to arrive at 2pm and a Service will begin at 3pm led by area clergy. There is no charge to attend, however, reservations are requested. To make a reservation, order your free personalized ornament or for additional information, please do not hesitate to call 419-228-5474.

What is Advent?
A season of **hope, preparation, EXPECTATION & celebration**

Advent is made up of **four weeks**, divided into **two periods**:
1 First Sunday of Advent until December 16
 focus: Christ's second coming at the end of time
2 December 17 to 24
 focus: Preparation for celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ

The **ADVENT WREATH** is a popular symbol used as the focus of prayer throughout the season

The **first Sunday of Advent** marks the beginning of the liturgical year

Through prayer, spiritual reading, acts of charity, and participation in Eucharist, Advent helps us to expand the meaning of our lives, **so that we are not ends in ourselves, but a people who seek Christ as our hopeful end and joyful fulfilment**

Our prayer at Advent is one of hope and love:
Come, Lord Jesus!

CANDLES mark the steps in our Advent journey

"Advent" (Latin) MEANS "a coming or arrival"

Advent is more than the preparation for Christ's birth. It also celebrates the **three-fold coming of the Lord**:
 • **Remembering** the events that surrounded the Lord's coming long ago
 • **Celebrating** his coming among us today
 • **Looking forward** to his final coming in glory

Advent 2019