

# THURSDAY FLYER

## From the Principal's Pen:

**Dear St. Gerard Families:**

Christmas is coming! **There are loved ones to see, gifts to give, baking to share. We prepare our homes for the celebration. Yet even more important than this outward preparation is the preparation of our heart. The Advent season is a beautiful reminder to prepare our hearts, as we prepare our homes, to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus!**

On Monday morning we introduced the season of Advent to the students at Morning Meeting in preparation of the first week of Advent. The 8th graders lead us in prayer, followed by the lighting the candle of Hope with students singing the Advent song.

Is your heart filled with hope? Do you have a confident expectation of your tomorrow? What happens when the road ahead is filled with loss and stress weighs your shoulders down? When confident expectation in life's tomorrow dwindles, what can you do? How can you walk in hope when you feel hopeless inside? In one word the answer to these questions is **"JESUS"...the Jesus of Christmas.** I would like to share this prayer of Hope with you during this first week of Advent:

*Dear God,*

*I have gone my own way and have put my hope in so many things that have disappointed me. Thank you that you sent Jesus, that first Christmas long ago, to be my Savior. I believe He came for me. Forgive me and come into my life today. Show me how to live in the confident expectation of how You can impact my life, my character and my circumstances. I place my hope in You right now and ask You to make Yourself known to me in my life right where I walk. I thank you.*

*I pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen*

Many Blessings,

Mrs. Natalie Schoonover, Principal

## St. Gerard School Christmas Program:

The Christmas program is on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. All students should be dropped off in their classrooms. Students need to be dressed in their "Sunday Best" (nice clothes or their school uniforms. We ask that all families stay for the entirety of the program. Please pick up your student after the program in their classrooms.

We will be live streaming the program for those that cannot attend. The link is <https://webca.st/220363> and will begin at 6:45 p.m. There is no charge to view the live stream.

## Altar Servers:

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5 p.m.:** Hayley Chambers, Jon Chambers

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.:** Emma Hahn, Jacob Hahn, Jayden Bakies

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.:** Khloe Kunkleman, Alli Cook, Ava Armstead

## Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass:

St. Gerard students will join all of the other Lima area Catholic Schools to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at Lima Central Catholic.

Students will be bused from St. Gerard to LCC on Elida buses. Permission slips went home earlier this week. Please make sure to sign your student's form and return to school as soon as possible.



The last day of Lego Club is December 12<sup>th</sup> for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades and December 13<sup>th</sup> for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. We will have our Lego Party and movie for our last Lego Club.



Congratulations to all 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students who participated in this year's school-wide Hoop Shoot Competition! The first place winners in each division now qualifies to compete in the Allen County Hoop Shoot on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Good luck to all of our students competing!!

**Holiday Break:**

With the Christmas and New Year's Holiday quickly approaching, we want to remind families we will dismiss at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> and will resume school on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.



**St. Gerard Rosary Altar Christmas Raffle:**

The Rosary Altar Society will hold their annual Christmas Raffle on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Prizes are \$50, \$100, or \$150. Tickets are enclosed and can be returned to the school office prior to the 18<sup>th</sup>. Chances are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.



This holiday season, do all your gift card shopping in a convenient place in the St. Gerard School Office plus take advantage of opportunities to raise funds for St. Gerard School. We are pleased to have the following retailer's gift cards available for immediate purchase:


Amazon	Applebee's	Arby's	Bath & Body	Beer Barrel
Bigby Coffee	Bob Evans	BW3	Chief Supermarkets	Chipotle
Circle K	Cold Stone	Cracker Barrel	Dunkin Donuts	Finish Line
Gordon Foods	iTunes	JCPenney	Jo Ann Fabrics	Kohls
Little Caesar's	Lowe's	Meijer	Menard's	Old Navy
Olive Garden	Panera Bread	Papa John's	Red Lobster	Rite Aid
Speedway	Subway	Taco Bell	Texas Roadhouse	Tim Horton's
Walgreen's	Walmart			




# Extended Day Changes for December



**December 8th**-No Extended Day  
due to staff Christmas Party



**December 13**-Extended Day will  
end at 5:00 p.m. due to our  
school Christmas program



**December 20**-Early Release at  
1:00 p.m. for Christmas break.  
No Extended Day





**St. Gerard and St. Rose  
School Out of Uniform  
Day**



# **CHEERING FOR CHANDLER**

**DECEMBER 9, 2022**

**STUDENTS MAY BE OUT OF UNIFORM FOR \$1.00 IN  
SUPPORT OF 3 YEAR OLD CHANDLER. HE HAS  
RECENTLY BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH A RARE  
CHILDHOOD CANCER. HE IS THE SON OF OUR  
SPEECH THERAPIST, MRS. KARA HARTMAN.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A LARGER DONATION THAT WOULD  
ALSO BE ACCEPTED TO ASSIST THE FAMILY IN TRAVEL AND  
MEDICAL EXPENSES.**



# Faithful Advent

St. Gerard Parish

2022

## ADVENT

It is a marvellous period in which the expectation of Christ's return and the memory of his first Coming — when he emptied himself of his divine glory to take on our mortal flesh — reawakens in hearts. — Pope Benedict XVI

### Advent Wreath Prayers

There are many advent wreath prayers to choose from. Pray these at daybreak or before meals; you could even text them to your family or friends daily. These were taken from Dynamic Catholic:

### Advent Wreath Blessing

Dear Jesus, as we light the candle(s) on this Advent wreath, may the light of your presence bring joy to our hearts. Bless our family and our friends, and be with all those who are in need this holiday season. Amen.

#### Week 1, Peace

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become our best selves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

#### Week 2, 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.

#### Week 3, Joy

Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manager on Christmas. Amen.

#### Week 4, Love

Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen

### Advent Prayer for Families

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of Your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your Son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.

## **Celebrate St. Nicholas Day- Dec. 6th**

Read about Saint Nicholas and maybe start or continue a family tradition of giving. In most Germanic countries, St. Nicholas comes on December 5. Children leave their shoes on the windowsill or outside their bedroom door, and St. Nicholas rewards the children who have been good all year by filling up their shoes with goodies, such as nuts, fruits and sweets. Sometimes he comes on December 6, his actual feast day.

## **Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Dec. 8th**

This is a Holy Day of Obligation- attend mass!

## **Celebrate St. Juan Diego - Dec. 9th & Our Lady of Guadalupe- Dec. 12th**

Read about Mary appearing to Juan Diego

## **Celebrate St. Lucia Day- Dec. 13th**

St. Lucia is known for her good works in life and a violent death. According to legend, she would carry food and water to Christians who had been forced to hide out in the catacombs of Rome. The catacombs were dark, and Lucy needed her hands free to carry supplies. So, she engineered an ancient version of a headlamp, wearing a wreath of candles on top of her head to light the way. Make a wreath crown with fake candles on and wear it around the house

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## **Jesse Tree**

If you haven't had a Jesse Tree this might be a great Advent to start a new tradition. The Jesse tree ornaments tell the story of God in the Old testament. Loyola Press website is a great resource for learning about a Jesse Tree and the prayers and bible references for all of Advent.

## **Christmas Novena**

Take nine days to spend some time in prayer -"Do" a Novena. You can find them online or in our Church Library. There are several to choose from. Find one that you like and pray it.

## **Nativity**

Add a piece a day, instead of setting up the whole nativity, add a piece a day and talk about the person's/ animal role in the first Christmas.

## **Contest**

Names of Jesus - Who in your family can come up with most names of Jesus or as a family see how many you can come with. This can be a great Bible activity. To help you get started - Redeemer, Bread of Life...

## **Formed**

Watch - Brother Francis The Days of Advent  
Watch - Behold with Sr. Miriam James  
Watch - How To Choose An Advent Tradition For Your Family  
Watch - The Twelve Books of Christmas

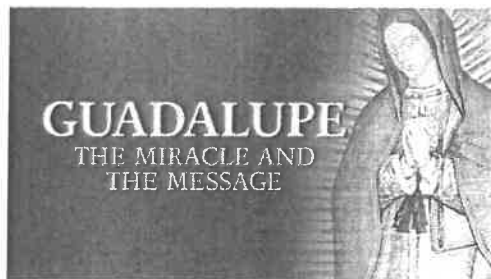


**Watching - Waiting - Preparing**



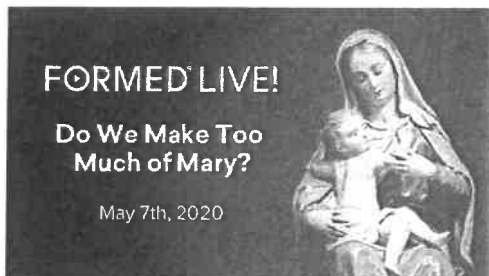
# THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of December 04, 2022



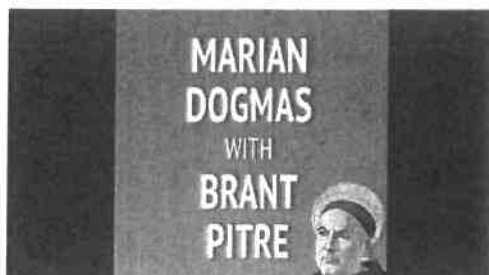
## **Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message**

Enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego, an encounter that has influenced the conversion of millions of people.



## **FORMED Live: Do We Make Too Much of Mary?**

Why do Catholics think so highly of Mary? Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn as they discuss our Lady's esteemed place among the saints.



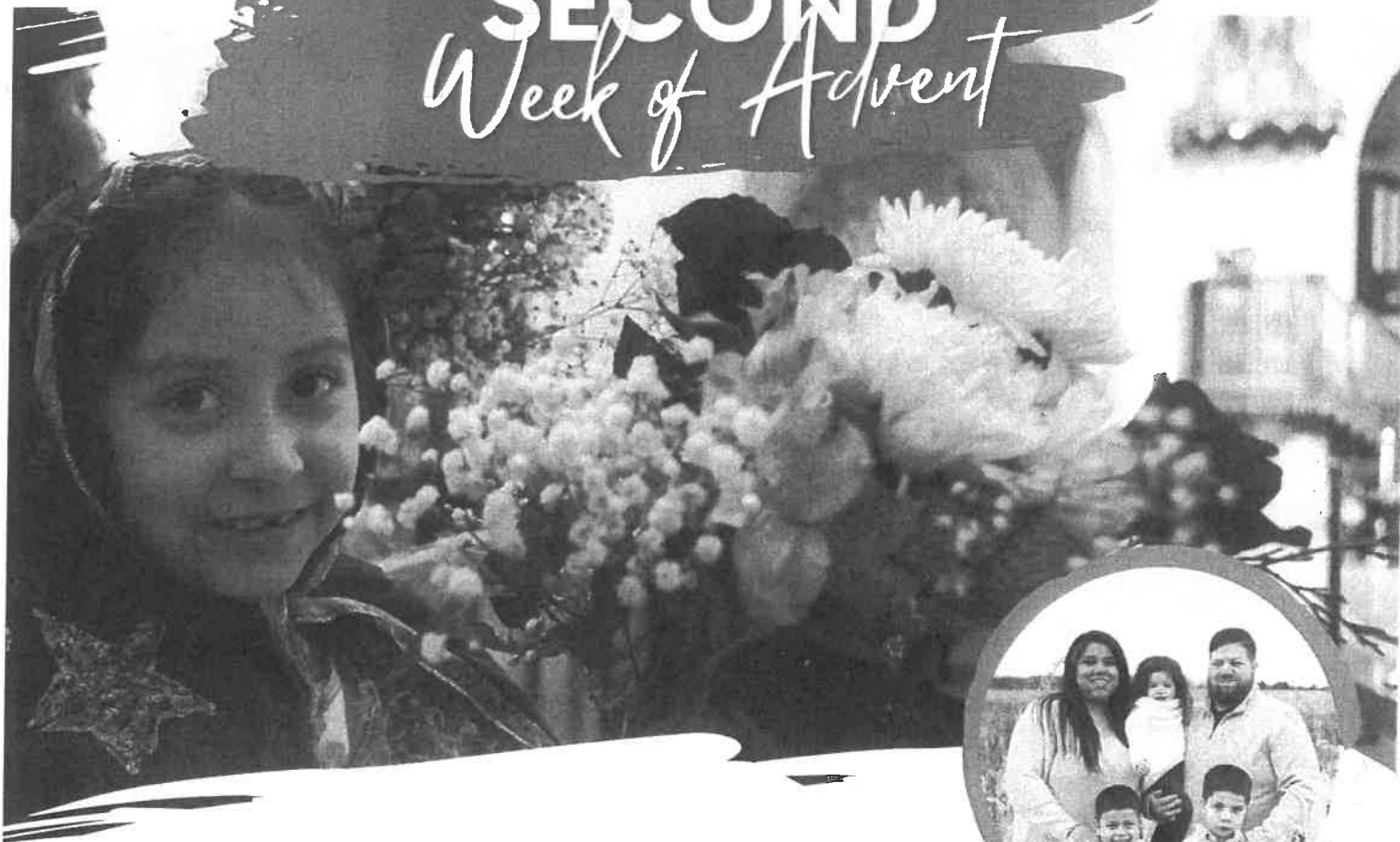
## **Marian Dogmas with Brant Pitre**

Listen in as Matt Fradd and Dr. Brant Pitre explore the Church's understanding of Mary's role in the Church.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.



# SECOND Week of Advent



The feast days where our faith and culture come together are important to us. We celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe on her feast day by singing *Las Mañanitas*, making a special place on our home altar for her and presenting roses. We also go to Mass and have Mexican hot chocolate and buñuelo.

The Baker Family from St. Joseph, Galion

## CELEBRATE ST. JUAN DIEGO

### December 9

Baptized around the age 50, Juan Diego was walking to Mass on December 9, 1531, when Mary appeared to him on Tepeyac Hill, near Mexico City. Speaking in his native language of Náhuatl, she asked him to petition the bishop for a shrine to be built there. The bishop asked for a sign. On December 12, Juan returned to Tepeyac; Mary told him to pick flowers blooming atop the hill and put them in his cloak to take to the bishop. When Juan opened the cloak, the flowers fell out and the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe adorned his garment. This miraculous image is preserved in the famous basilica in Mexico City. He was canonized in 2002.



### Eat together

Prepare a Mexican meal for dinner to celebrate this saint. Tamales are traditional food for this time of year.



### Watch together

FORMED.org has several great related movies, including *Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message* (adults) and *Juan Diego: Messenger of Guadalupe* (kids).



### Explore together

Consider attending the *Diocesan Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe*. This annual event is an vibrant, incredible celebration.