ST. GERARD
CATHOLIC + SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

September 3, 2026

From the Principal's Desk:

Dear Golden Eagle Families,

We are off to a wonderful start to the school year! It has been a joy getting to know your children, establish classroom routines, and begin building a community where every child feels welcomed, valued, and encouraged to grow.

This month, we are excited to begin Year Two of the Virtues in Practice program: The Year of Hope. Throughout the year, our students will learn about different virtues and discover practical ways to live them each day through prayer, discussion, literature, and everyday classroom experiences. The virtue of the month for September is hope.

What is hope?
Hope is the virtue that helps us trust that God is always with us and that He has a loving plan for us. Hope encourages us to look forward with confidence, even when things are difficult or uncertain. It reminds us that with faith, perseverance, and God's guidance, good things are possible.

How Can We Practice Hope?
Students can live the virtue of hope by:

- Believing they can improve through effort and practice.
- Praying when they are worried or discouraged.
- Encouraging classmates who may be struggling.
- Remembering that mistakes are opportunities to learn and grow.
- Looking for the good in each day, even when challenges arise.

As we discuss hope in the classroom, we'll encourage students to ask themselves, "How can I trust God and keep trying today?"

Family Focus
Families play an important role in helping children develop hope. Here are a few ways you can practice this virtue together at home:

- Share one thing each family member is hoping for this week.
- Talk about a challenge your family has overcome and how hope helped you keep going.
- End each day by naming one blessing or something positive that happened.
- Pray together, asking God to help your family trust Him and remain hopeful in all circumstances.

Blessings,
Natalie Schoonover
Principal

This Week at St. Gerard

ST. GERARD
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

SOCIAL WORKER'S CORNER

DEAR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS,

WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO MAKE POSITIVE CHOICES DURING PLAY AND WHEN SELECTING GAMES, SHOWS, AND OTHER MEDIA.

CHILDREN ARE GREATLY INFLUENCED BY THE EXPERIENCES AND MEDIA THEY ENCOUNTER. AT SCHOOL, WE ENCOURAGE PLAY THAT PROMOTES COOPERATION, CREATIVITY, PROBLEM-SOLVING, KINDNESS, AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS. WE ASK FAMILIES TO REINFORCE THESE SAME VALUES AT HOME.

PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF THE VIDEO GAMES, MOVIES, TELEVISION SHOWS, YOUTUBE CONTENT, AND OTHER MEDIA YOUR CHILD IS VIEWING. IN PARTICULAR, WE ENCOURAGE PARENTS TO LIMIT EXPOSURE TO GAMES AND MEDIA THAT CONTAIN EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE, FIGHTING, WEAPONS, OR AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR. CHILDREN MAY SOMETIMES IMITATE BEHAVIORS THEY SEE IN ENTERTAINMENT, ESPECIALLY WHEN THOSE BEHAVIORS ARE PRESENTED AS HUMOROUS, REWARDING, OR WITHOUT MEANINGFUL CONSEQUENCES.

WE ALSO ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO ESTABLISH CLEAR EXPECTATIONS FOR APPROPRIATE PLAY. GAMES AND ACTIVITIES SHOULD ALLOW CHILDREN TO HAVE FUN WHILE RESPECTING PERSONAL BOUNDARIES, USING SAFE LANGUAGE AND ACTIONS, AND TREATING OTHERS WITH KINDNESS. WHEN DISAGREEMENTS OCCUR, CHILDREN CAN BE ENCOURAGED TO USE COMMUNICATION AND PROBLEM-SOLVING RATHER THAN PHYSICAL OR AGGRESSIVE RESPONSES.

SOME HELPFUL STEPS FAMILIES CAN TAKE INCLUDE:

- REVIEW GAME AND MEDIA RATINGS BEFORE ALLOWING YOUR CHILD TO WATCH OR PLAY.
- SET REASONABLE LIMITS ON SCREEN TIME AND VIDEO GAME USE.
- CHOOSE AGE-APPROPRIATE GAMES AND PROGRAMS THAT ENCOURAGE CREATIVITY, COOPERATION, AND PROBLEM-SOLVING.
- TALK WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ENTERTAINMENT AND APPROPRIATE REAL-LIFE BEHAVIOR.
- MONITOR ONLINE GAMES AND INTERACTIONS WHEN APPROPRIATE.
- ENCOURAGE ACTIVE, IMAGINATIVE, AND COOPERATIVE PLAY AWAY FROM SCREENS.
- MODEL RESPECTFUL WAYS OF HANDLING FRUSTRATION AND DISAGREEMENTS.

OUR GOAL IS NOT TO TELL FAMILIES WHAT THEY CAN OR CANNOT ENJOY AT HOME, BUT TO WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE CHILDREN LEARN THAT KINDNESS, SELF-CONTROL, COOPERATION, AND RESPECT ARE IMPORTANT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIP. BY WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP CHILDREN DEVELOP HEALTHY WAYS TO PLAY, COMMUNICATE, MANAGE CONFLICT, AND INTERACT WITH OTHERS.

SINCERELY,
KELLY HUFFMAN, MSW, LSW
SOCIAL WORKER, ST. GERARD SCHOOL

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ST. GERARD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

9/07 — **No School - Labor Day**

9/09 — **Weekly Mass**

Please join us for Mass beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Church

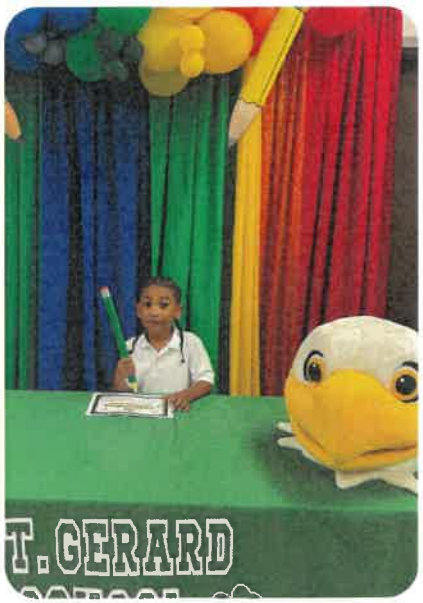
9/09 — **St. Gerard Fall Flower Sale Closes**

The St. Gerard Fall Flower sale closes today (09/09/26). If you haven't ordered yet, please visit http://stgerard.sowzer.com/shop to place an order.

9/18 — **Fall Picture Day**

Lifetouch will be at school to photograph all students for school pictures.

THE WEEKS HIGHLIGHTS



Reminders & Announcements

THANK YOU FOR STAYING CONNECTED.

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH AT 5 PM: KENDRA HATCHER, MADI YAHL, ESME BALDWIN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH AT 8:30 AM: SKYLAR MAYS, ABIGAIL MAYS, ANGELICA COLLAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH AT 11 AM: CARTER HELMIG, KIERSTEN CONTRIS, LOUISE THINES

LIMA CITY BUS CHANGES

ALL STUDENTS WHO RIDE THE LIMA CITY BUS WILL BE BRINGING HOME NEW BUS TIMES TODAY. THESE TIMES WILL START ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH.

HOUSE SPIRIT WEAR

ARE YOU LOOKING TO PURCHASE MORE HOUSE SPIRIT WEAR? CHECK OUT THE LINK BELOW AND EXPLORE THE ONLINE STORE! THERE ARE MANY REALLY AWESOME OPTIONS. REMEMBER, STUDENTS CAN WEAR THEIR HOUSE SHIRTS WITH THEIR UNIFORM BOTTOMS ON WEDNESDAYS THROUGH THE SCHOOL YEAR.

HTTPS://STORE.RONCLARKACADEMY.COM/PAGES/HOUSES

HOUSE GEAR ALWAYS MAKES A GREAT GIFT!

EDCHOICE ACCEPTANCE FORMS

STUDENTS WHO WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ACCEPTANCE FORMS FROM YET, BROGHT HOME A COPY OF THE FORM EARLIER THIS WEEK. PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO SIGN THE FORM AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE. FAILURE TO SIGN AND SEND THE FORMS BACK WILL RESULE IN YOUR STUDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP BEING TERMINATED. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPT ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER.

LADIES NIGHT OUT BAGS, BINGO & BLING

ST. GERARD SCHOOL'S 2ND BIGGEST FUNDRAISER IS OUR LADIES NIGHT OUT BAGS, BINGO & BLING. THIS EVENT IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH AT 7 P.M. IN ORDER FOR THIS EVENT TO GO ON WE ARE IN NEED OF HELP FOR ALL OF OUR FAMILIES. BELOW ARE WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

KITCHEN WORKERS - HELP SERVE & CLEAN UP THE MEAL AT THE EVENT

EVENT WORKERS - WE NEED WORKERS TO HELP SELL 50/50 TICKETS, SILENT AUCTION TICKETS, TIP BOARDS, AND BEVERAGES.

SET-UP/TEAR-DOWN - WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SET-UP FOR THE EVENT ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH IN THE AFTERNOON AND HELP TEARING THE EVENT DOWN ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH. THE MORE VOLUNTEERS WE HAVE THE EASIER THE EVENT GOES UP AND DOWN.

DONATIONS: WE ARE ASKING FOR ALLS TUDENT FAMILIES TO DONATE $10 TO BE USED TO CREATE AUCTION BASKETS. PLEASE TURN IN MONEY TO YOUR STUDENT'S HOMEROOM TEACHER.

IF YOU WORK FOR A BUSINESS THAT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DONATING A MONETARY DONATION, GIFT CARDS, OR PRODUCTS, PLEASE CONTACT MRS. TRUEX IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

TO SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CONTACT MRS. TRUEX IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

Reminders & Announcements

THANK YOU FOR STAYING CONNECTED.

LEGO CLUB

IS YOUR CHILD INTERESTED IN LEGOS AND BUILDING THINGS?

THERE WILL BE AN AFTER SCHOOL LEGO PROGRAM TO ASSIST CHILDREN IN BUILDING THEIR SOCIAL SKILLS THROUGH THE LEGO MEDIUM. THE SKILLS FOCUSED ON ARE; WORKING IN A GROUP, COMMUNICATION WITH OTHERS, CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS.

THERE WILL BE THREE AFTER SCHOOL GROUPS OFFERED FOR CHILDREN 2ND-8TH GRADES. THE SECOND AND THIRD GRADE PROGRAM WILL BE ON MONDAY FROM 3-4 AND THE FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE GROUP WILL BE ON TUESDAY FROM 3-4. THE 6-8TH GRADE GROUP WILL START IN JANUARY.

THE START DATE OF LEGO CLUB WILL BE SEPTEMBER 21ST . IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE FILL OUT THE ATTACHED LEGO REGISTRATION FORM.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT MRS. HUFFMAN AT (419)222-0431 EXT.306 OR EMAIL AT KHUFFMAN@SGSLIMA.ORG.

SCRIP FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

FUNDRAISING FOR ST. GERARD & YOU

What is scrip?

A fundraising method for St. Gerard in which the school purchases gift cards from retailers at a discount and then these gift cards can be purchased by St. Gerard parents/parishioners/families/friends at face value. The difference between the discounted price and the face value is a rebate which is invested directly back to the school and school families to reduce your out of pocket costs.

What can scrip credits be used for?

- Registration Fees
- School Supply Fees
- Tech Fees
- Lunch Accounts
- Tuition

Credits earned prior to April 30th will be applied to the 2027-2028 school year fees

How can I get Started?

- Stop by the School Office to purchase gift cards from our on-hand selection.
- Online: Go to www.raiseright.com, click on SIGN UP, enter enrollment code 2B5AAFAD3563 in the Join a Program box, create account by entering your personal information and begin shopping.
- Through the RaiseRight App: Download the RaiseRight App in your App Store and follow the prompts. These are instantly downloadable! You can also order deliverable gift cards and they will be delivered to the school office for pickup.

How can I see a Full List of Participating Businesses?

Go to www.raiseright.com to see a full list of shops.

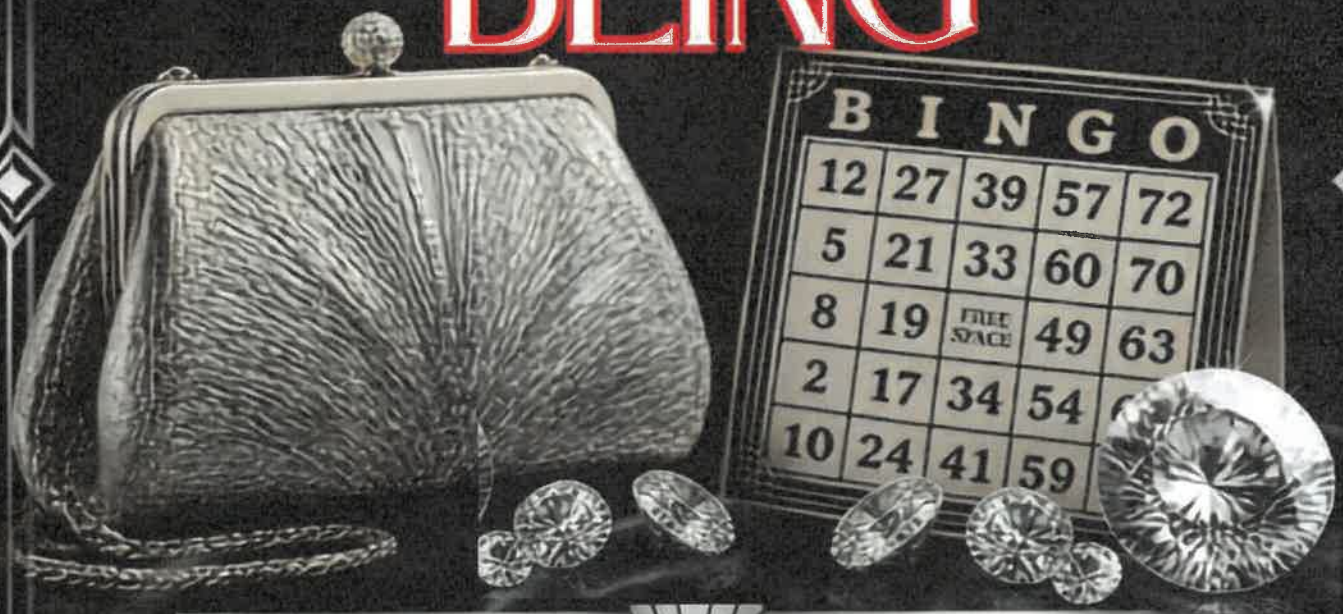
Gift Cards On-Hand for Immediate Purchase:

The following cards are kept on hand in the School Office for you to purchase.

- Amazon
- Applebee's
- Arby's
- Bath & Body
- Beer Barrel
- Biggby
- Chief
- Bob Evans
- Burger King
- Chief
- Chipotle
- Circle K
- Dunkin
- Happy Daz
- IHOP
- Kohls
- Lowes
- McDonalds
- Meijer
- Menard's
- Olive Garden
- Panera
- Panda
- Regal
- Speedway
- Spring&Main
- Starbucks
- Subway
- Taco Bell
- Texas
- Walmart

ST. GERARD SCHOOL'S LADIES NIGHT OUT

BAGS. BINGO & BLING



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

7 P.M. (DOORS OPEN AT 6 P.M.)

$40 PER TICKET

Tickets on Sale at St. Gerard School,
1311 N. Main Street

LIMA CENTRAL CATHOLIC CLASS OF 2031

CURRENT 8TH GRADE PARENT/STUDENT INFORMATION NIGHTS

SEPT. 23RD
OCT. 7TH
OCT. 21ST

WE WILL START AT 6:30PM IN THE GREAT HALL AT LCC.

#DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE
AT LIMA CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Contact Colin Stolly with Questions
cstolly@apps.lcchs.edu
(419) 604-0354

LEGO CLUB REGISTRATION 2026/2027

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

_____ I would like to donate snacks and drinks for Lego club

_____ I would like to help supervise at Lego club

Father's Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City Zip

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City Zip

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Child lives with: _____

In case of an emergency, contact:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Persons Authorized to pick up child(ren): (Persons must have identification when picking up child)

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Lifetouch

Picture Day is Coming!

¡Ya llega el Día de la Foto!

Friday, September 18, 2026

St. Gerard Catholic School

Scan to order now!
¡Echa un vistazo para encargar ahora!

How it Works:

Pre-order today on mylifetouch.com. Create an account or login with your Picture Day ID:
EVTWF2NHV

Students are photographed on Picture Day.

Orders will be sent home with your student after Picture Day.

Cómo funciona: Encarga de manera anticipada en mylifetouch.com. Crea una cuenta o inicia sesión con tu identificación del Día de la Foto. Los estudiantes son fotografiados el Día de la Foto. Los pedidos serán enviados a tu casa con tu estudiante después del Día de la Foto.

Questions? Contact our Help Center at lifetouch.com/support-us. Select K-12 School Photography for assistance.
¿Preguntas? Comunícate con nuestro Centro de Ayuda en lifetouch.com/support-us. Selecciona Fotografia Escolar K-12 para recibir asistencia.

F26PPEFUS © 2026 Shutterfly Lifetouch, LLC

LIMA FAMILY YMCA

YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS

SEPT 6TH – OCT 24TH

S.T.E.A.M. CLUB

Kids ages 6-12 will jump into exciting hands-on projects and experiments that will spark imagination!

Classes held Mondays 4:30pm-5:15pm or Tuesdays 5:30pm-6:15pm

Member: $10;
Non-member: $20

YOUTH COOKING CLASSES – 2 LEVELS

Lil' Chefs: Ages 7-10 with no cooking experience learn how to stay safe in the kitchen and learn basic recipes. Mondays 5:30pm-6:15pm or Tuesdays 4:30pm-5:15pm. Member: $20; Non-member: $35

Kitchen Masters: Ages 9-13 that have been in the kitchen before and are looking for more in-depth training and more complex recipes.Thursdays 4:30pm-5:30pm. Member: $30; Non-member: $50

YOUTH PICKLEBALL

Join us for a fun and exciting introduction to pickleball! We will spend time learning about the rules and how to play along with playing the game each week.

Program held on Mondays 4:30pm-5:15pm or Wednesdays 5:30pm-6:15pm

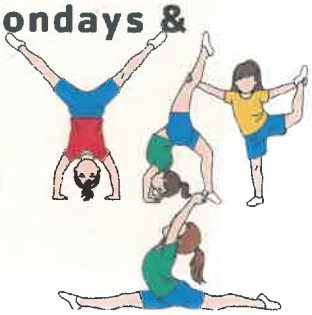
Member: $15;
Non-member: $35

GYMNASTICS CLASSES

We offer a wide range of classes based on age and skill level starting at 18 months old.

Classes offered Mondays & Wednesdays.

Member: $30;
Non-member: $60



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SKYLYNN AT 419-223-6045 OR REGISTER ONLINE AT LIMAYMCA.NET

GAGA BALL

We offer the popular game of gaga ball in a fun environmnet! There are solo and team knockout rounds each week.

Games held on Wednesdays from 4:30pm-5:15pm.

Member: $15;
Non-member: $25

KARATE

Teaches the basic skills of punches, blocks, kicks, self discipline and forms.

Classes held on Tuesdays/Thursdays 6pm-6:45pm (ages 7-10) and Tuesdays/Thursdays 6:45pm-8pm (ages 11-17)

Member: $30;
Non-member: $60

LEGO LEAGUE JR

Kids ages 6-10 can come and participate in weekly build challenges using legos and let their creative side shine.

Games held on Wednesdays from 6:30pm-7:15pm.

Member: $10;
Non-member: $20

LOGIC LOUNGE

Kids ages 7-12 can join in a program that helps them use logic and critical thinking skills during hands on games, such as uno, checkers and much more. This program is desgined to help children use their brains.

We will meet Mondays from 5:30pm-6:30pm

Members: $15
Non-members: $25

SWIM LESSONS

Lessons starting at 6 months & up. From beginner to advanced, we have a class for you!

Classes held on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays

Member: $30;
Non-member: $60

YOUTH HALLOWEEN PARTY

Youth will participate in a halloween costume contest, crafts, and swimming! Snacks and drinks will be provided and staff will supervise youth so parental supervision is not required.

October 9th 5:30pm-7:30pm

Members: $2;
Non-members: $10

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SKYLYNN AT 419-223-6045 OR REGISTER ONLINE AT LIMAYMCA.NET