

Dear Parish Family,

I hope everyone noticed the good news about Little Flower School in last Sunday's bulletin. Little Flower School had its **best ever** ISTEP scores. This is the third consecutive year that Little Flower has shown growth on the ISTEP (the only Eastside school to do so), and this year, as a result of both overall ISTEP performance and year to year improvement, Little Flower School is now rated "**Exemplary**" by the State of Indiana. Congratulations to our students, parents, faculty, staff, administration, and **parish**. Your prayers and your gifts of time, talent, and treasure play an important part in the success of Little Flower School. Seccina Memorial High School also received an "Exemplary" rating from the State of the Indiana from overall ISTEP performance and year to year improvement. Congratulations to the Seccina family as well.

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. For Christians, and especially for Catholics, Holy Week is the most sacred week of the year.

- On Palm Sunday, we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
- On Holy Thursday, we celebrate his Last Supper with his disciples during which he instituted the sacraments of Eucharist and Priesthood.
- On Good Friday, we commemorate his Passion and Death.
- Finally, on Holy Saturday, we celebrate his triumphant resurrection from the dead and celebrate the sacraments of initiation with our Elect and our *Confirmandi*.

Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are called the Sacred Triduum or Sacred Three Days. Several times I have been asked which, if any, of these days are Holydays of Obligation. When I answer that none of are, people are surprised and ask, "If these are the most important days of the Church year, why aren't they Holydays of Obligation?" I am not sure what the answer is.

If I were going to guess, I would think part of the reason is that because these celebrations are so sacred, the Church did not want parishes multiplying them. If they were Holydays of Obligation, when more Catholics observed Holydays, this would have necessitated having, for example, six Easter Vigils. Each Easter Vigil would take two to three hours. In other words, it would not have been reasonably possible.

Although they are not Holydays of Obligation, I would strongly encourage you to celebrate these three days with our Little Flower faith community. There is no better way for us to enter into the mystery of Jesus' dying and rising than through celebrating the Triduum as a parish family. Please note the schedule for Holy Week and mark your calendars.

Also, please note that this Saturday, April 4th, will be the last scheduled confessions before Easter. Confessions will be from 3:45-4:30 p.m.

Have a wonderful week.

fr. bob

**Masses of the Week****FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 30 – APRIL 5, 2009**

30 March	Monday
7:00 am	Communion Service
5:30 pm	Marcia Duncan by Dr. John P. Fleming
31 March	Tuesday
8:30 am	Communion Service
5:30 pm	Betty Gavaghan by Dan Hagist
01 April	Wednesday
7:00 am	Communion Service
5:30 pm	Bernadette Guneratne by Frank & Mary Wilson
02 April	Thursday
8:30 am	Communion Service
1:30 pm	Miller's – Jay Albrecht
5:30 pm	Communion Service
03 April	Friday
8:30 am	Gene Gandolph by Pat Gandolph
5:30 pm	Way of the Cross and Communion Service
04 April	Saturday
8:30 am	Communion Service
5:00 pm	Vigil- Palm Sunday
	Louis and Anna Haboush by Arvina Fuller
05 April	Sunday – Palm Sunday
8:30 am	Rita Ernestes by Butch & Donna Brown
10:30 am	For the People
6:00 pm	Violet Popp by The Family

Mark Your Calendars!!

It's that time of year for Spring Cleaning and the Parish Center is in need for a deep clean! Please help us spruce the place up on Sat. April 18th at 9 am. Watch the bulletin for more details.

GOOD NEWS FROM LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL

Over 150 Little Flower students and parents participated in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade. Check out our picture on our website www.littleflowerparish.org/school and in this week's Criterion. Thanks to Melissa Egan for organizing this event.

Adventuresome Group

Sr. Mildred Wannemuehler will speak on the Triduum at the next **Adventuresome Group** meeting on **Wednesday, April 8th**. This is during Holy Week, so don't miss out on this opportunity to learn more about the Triduum and our Catholic beliefs, customs and traditions. Mark your calendar and plan on attending. Sr. Mildred is a Benedictine Sister from Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove. She was formerly the Parish Life Coordinator at St. Agnes Parish in Nashville, IN. She currently is retired, volunteers at St. Vincent DePaul and give presentations on a variety of topics for parishes throughout the Archdiocese. Please call the Parish Office to RSVP.

Don't forget save your loose change in your as a way of almsgiving during Lent. Proceeds from the Baby Banks go to the Gabriel Project, the Respect Life Committee, and St. Gabriel Parish in New Orleans. **Baby Banks should be returned to Church the weekend of April 4th and 5th even if your bank is empty we still ask that you return it.**

Bookmama's, 9 Johnson Avenue in Irvington, will be having a book-signing on April 4th at 1:30pm promoting "A Belief in Providence: A Life of Saint Theodora Guerin" as well as "Images of America: Historic Irvington" Parishioner Julie Young will be on hand to sign copies of the books which make great gifts for the upcoming spring holidays.

Little Flower Catholic School is now accepting registrations for the 2009-2010 school year. If you would like more information or a tour of the school, please call the school office at 353-2282 or e-mail kgawrmys@littleflowerparish.org.

Help Needed

We are in need of ushers full and part time. Position open to male or female must be at least 18 years of age. Excellent opportunity to assist your parish while also meeting parishioners. If interested please call Jerry Bullock at 357-4556 or fill out application in usher room (rear of church south of main gathering area).

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Dates to Remember

March 29 – April 5, 2009

DAY	ROOM	TIME	GROUP
Sunday	Parish Center	8:30 am	Children's Liturgy
	Duffey Hall	9:30 am	NO COFFEE & DONUTS
	Church	6:00 pm	RCIA – 3 rd Scrutiny
Monday	Duffey Hall	6:30 pm	Financial Peace
	St. Jerome	7:00 pm	Prayer Group
Tuesday	Parish Center	7:00 pm	RCIA
Wednesday	St. Therese	9:30 am	Bible Study
	St. Patrick	7:00 pm	School Commission
Thursday	Duffey Hall	6:30 pm	Ladies Club Meeting
	John 23 rd	7:00 pm	LFAA Board Meeting
	St. Therese	8:00 pm	A.A.
Friday	Duffey Hall	4:30 pm	Fish Fry
	Gym	8:00 pm	Adult Volleyball
Saturday	St. Therese	7:00 am	Men's Prayer Group
	Church	9:00 am	RCIA Retreat
Sunday	Duffey Hall	9:30 am	Coffee and Donuts
	School	9:30 am	Religious Education
	Church	5:00 pm	Youth Choir
	Parish Center	7:00 pm	Youth Room

Little Flower Athletic Association News

The Little Flower Athletic Association will be holding elections during the next business meeting on April 8th at 7 pm. To be an officer or to vote you must be a paid member and attend the April meeting. The following people are pursuing positions:

President - Katie Lyons	Vice President - Adam Muller
Treasurer - Chris Johnson	Secretary - No candidate
Male at Large - Barry Greene	Female at Large - No candidate

ALL ARE WELCOME! Do you know how to talk to someone who has had an abortion? Do you have a close friend who is considering abortion? Do you know anyone who has had an abortion? Did you know that abortion hurts not just the woman, but affects her whole family? Come learn more about how abortion can have an impact on the life of others. **Debbie Miller**, founder of **Healing Hidden Hurts**, a post-abortion ministry, will speak at the **Ladies Club Meeting on Thursday, April 2nd at 7pm in the Social Hall**. Mark your calendar and plan on attending and bring a friend. There is **HOPE AND HEALING** in Christ.

FESTIVAL NEWS

May 29th, May 30th, and May 31st.

Rummage Sale donations - NEW THIS YEAR! Collect items suitable for the rummage sale during your spring cleaning. **Bring them to Mass the weekend of April 18th/19th**. We will have a convenient drop-off location at the cafeteria door or the school south stair tower so you can easily drop them off before each of the Masses!. Start to gather your items now to take advantage of convenient drop off on April 18/19.

FISH FRY IS HERE!

ONLY ONE WEEK LEFT!

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS! LET'S GO OUT WITH THE BIGGEST CROWD OF THE SEASON! THANKS TO THE RCIA TEAM AND CLASS FOR HELPING AT LAST WEEK'S FISH FRY. ON FRIDAY, APRIL 3, OUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL WILL JOIN OUR CORE GROUP IN SPONSORING THE BIG EVENT THE LADIES CLUB REQUESTS YOUR CONTINUED HELP IN BRINGING DESSERTS. BE THERE!

GREEN THUMBS

The *Green Thumb Ministry* assists in the maintenance of a well-landscaped parish campus. These volunteers "adopt" specific outdoor areas and keep them planted, watered, and weeded. With spring approaching, all current volunteers and those interested in volunteering in this area are asked to meet in the school cafeteria following the 8:30 Mass on Sunday, April 19th. This meeting is important as we need to coordinate our efforts. Our meeting will conclude early enough to attend 10:30 Mass if you prefer. Coffee and Donuts will be available. Please call Rae Anne Brizendine at 322-9640 with any questions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Join us in celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. A Mass will be celebrated at Lucas Oil Stadium on May 3, 2009 at 3pm. This Mass will also include confirmation for all archdiocesan youth and the recognition of all couples married 50 years or more.

We are looking for assistance from 350 volunteers to assist in most aspects of the Mass such as assisting the Bishops with Confirmation, ushering, sign bearers, and Communion Guides. Volunteers will need to be able to walk up and down stairs. Jobs will be assigned when you arrive at Lucas Oil. Please register on line at www.archindy.org/175th. (look for Volunteers). You may also e-mail steve.james@archindy.org. Please call Steve James at 317-236-1451 or 800 382-9836 x1451 with questions.

HOLY WEEK/EASTER SCHEDULE

April 9 th	Holy Thursday	Soup Supper in Duffey Hall – 5:30 pm
April 10 th	Good Friday	Mass of the Lord's Supper and commissioning of all Eucharistic Ministers - 7pm Living Stations of the Cross at 8:30 am and 1:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (<i>main service for Good Friday</i>) at 7:00 pm
April 11 th	Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil at 7:30 pm
April 12 th	Easter Sunday	Masses at 8:30am, 10:00am, and 11:30am

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND PARISH

Weekly Budget Goal	\$ 14,000.00
Collection of March 21 st and 22 nd	\$ 9,366.60
Electronic Contribution 3/9 to 3/16	\$ 1,499.00
Year to Date Budget Goal	\$ 532,000.00
Year to Date Collections	\$ 516,890.53
Year to Date DEFICIT	\$ - 15,109.47

Home Improvement Fund

February Contributions	\$ 1,903.00
March Contributions (to date)	\$ 2,726.18

ANNUAL GODPARENT COLLECTION

Year-to-date \$ 1730.00

Legacy for our Mission Capital Campaign

As of 2/27/2009

Amount Pledged \$903,955.00

Amount Received on Pledges	\$750,327.00
Pledges still outstanding	\$133,842.00