



THE LITTLE FLOWER GARDEN

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2021

IS THERE A W IN CHRISTMAS?

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Advent/Christmas calendar of events
- Choir
- Gabriel Project
- Thanksgiving
- Parish Life
- Men's Club
- Ladies Club
- LF School News
- Special thanks
- Power of Prayer

*We would love to hear from you if you have any upcoming events. Take lots of pictures so we can use some of them in future issues. Submit photos and info by 1/28/22 in order for them to be published in the **February 2022 issue.***

Please e-mail all pictures and info to lfparishnews@yahoo.com. Thanks!

Access the LFG online at:
Littleflowerparish.org

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations...extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending.

Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas. My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment...songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer. So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title.

Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row - center stage - held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song.

As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down - totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W". The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W".

Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities. For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear: "CHRISTWAS LOVE" And, I believe, He still is!! God certainly does work in mysterious ways!!

-Author Unknown



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2021 – EPIPHANY 2022 CALENDAR

ALL WEEKEND MASSES November 27 and 28

First Sunday of Advent

BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATH

Help those less fortunate – Get your tags from the Christmas Giving Trees

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 – 7:00 P.M.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE AT OUR LADY OF LOURDES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Holy Day of Obligation)

9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Masses (No anticipation Mass)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

Third Sunday of Advent

Regular Mass Schedule

Parish Christmas Party - 10:30 A.M. in the Parish Social Hall (after 9:30 A.M. Mass)

followed by School Band/Choir Concert at Noon in the Gym

PLEASE RETURN YOUR GIVING TREE GIFTS TO CHURCH THIS WEEKEND

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15 – 7:00 P.M.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM FOR GRADES 1 THROUGH 5

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24 - 4:00 P.M.; 5:30 P.M.; & 10:00 P.M.

Full Christmas Choir at 10:00 P.M. Mass (music beginning at 9:25 P.M.)

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th - 9:30 A.M.

NO Confessions and NO Mass on Saturday evening

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

NO CONFESSIONS AND NO ANTICIPATION MASS on December 25

Sunday, December 26 - 9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.

Full Christmas Choir at 9:30 A.M. Mass

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE-SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

This is a holyday, but not a holyday of obligation this year

Anticipation Mass on Friday, December 31, at 6:00 P.M.

Friday evening is the only Mass for the Holyday

NO MORNING MASS on Saturday, January 1

NO CONFESSIONS on Saturday, January 1

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

Anticipation Mass, Saturday, January 1, at 5:00 P.M. (NO confessions before Mass)

Sunday Masses at 9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.

Full Christmas Choir at 9:30 A.M. Mass

LITTLE FLOWER CHRISTMAS CHOIR



Preparations for the Little Flower Christmas Choir are right around the corner. Every year, our adult choir welcomes in adults from inside and outside the parish who may not want to commit to the choir on a year-round basis. We also welcome parish children in grades 6 and above who wish to join.

The Christmas Choir rehearses on the five Tuesdays prior to Christmas at 7:00 p.m., beginning this year on Tuesday, November 23. The choir will then sing at the 10:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve and the 9:30 a.m. Masses on Sunday, December 26 and Sunday, January 2.

Members are asked to commit to four of the five practices and are also asked to commit to two of the three Masses at which the Christmas Choir sings unless special circumstances exist and arrangements are made in advance. Special arrangements will be made for returning college students.

Please consider being a part of this special tradition! Questions should be directed to Tom Costello at tcostello@littleflowerparish.org. *Please be advised that our current plan is to require the use of face masks at practices and Masses for choir members.* If you plan to join, please e-mail Tom as soon as possible. We want to make sure we can accommodate everyone safely and that we have enough music ready for everyone! **It is very important that we know in advance if you plan to come!**

WELCOME BACK



Welcome back to our Adult Choir who returned to their ministry at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on September 12th. They had not been able to sing together since March 2020. Even now, in order to be as safe as possible, they are singing with face masks. This is not a comfortable thing to do, so we appreciate their effort. Many parishioners have remarked that it is good to have them back.

Likewise, our youth choir (grades 8 through 12) returned to the 6:00 pm. Mass on their two times per month schedule on October 24th. They add so much to our liturgy with their participation. Since they last sang pre-pandemic, five members have gone off to college. We have had five new members join, but we are always in need of and open to new members. If you have questions, please contact Tom at tom@littleflowerparish.org.

We also want to express a thank you to our faithful crew of cantors who “did it all” while our choirs were sidelined. They continue to serve us faithfully at Masses where choirs are not scheduled.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Children’s Liturgy of the Word is a wonderful ministry for our youngest members of the parish and we are looking for volunteers to help! It is for children 3 years old through 1st grade and meets most Sundays during 9:30 a.m. Mass. Children’s Liturgy follows the Liturgical Year and Gospel Readings. Volunteers are provided with lessons and supplies to incorporate prayer, singing, and crafts that help the children gain the full message given during Mass. Volunteers are assigned on a rotating basis. Please consider helping with this rewarding ministry. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer contact Mindy Gordon at 317-402-3263, or email sun_moon_stars79@hotmail.com.



GABRIEL PROJECT PROVIDES MUCH NEEDED ASSISTANCE



The Gabriel Project has helped nearly 50 families with material assistance in addition to sending 10 families to the Catholic Center's Christmas Store. We also were able to go above normal assistance and help a desperate single mom. The mom was taking her two children to her car, getting ready to go to daycare and work. A past boyfriend on whom she had a restraining order attacked her, battered her and stole her purse with all her identification cards, credit cards and cash.

She contacted the Domestic Violence hotline because she was fearful about remaining in her apartment and was in need of shelter until her attacker was apprehended. All the local shelters were full and, resultingly, there was no help offered to her.

In desperation, she contacted the Little Flower Gabriel Project. We were able to give immediate assistance in the form of shelter in a motel for a week, gas for her automobile and help with diapers for her two children. Although we were not able to completely alleviate her problems, we were able to show her compassion and that someone cares.

Your generous support helps us offer assistance in emergency situations without the red tape which plagues so many of the larger organizations designed to help those in need.



THANKGIVING DAY

Please join us for Mass on Thanksgiving Day at 9:30 a.m., so that we might together give thanks to God for all the blessings we have been given.

THANK YOU!



Thank you to all of our parishioners who took one our blessing bags, did the required shopping, and returned the bag to us for distribution to our neighbors in need this Thanksgiving.

A thank you as well goes out to those who helped by donating grocery gift cards to assist our families in buying perishable food to complete their Thanksgiving meal.

PARISH LIFE COMMISSION EVENTS: ALL ARE WELCOME!



Are you looking for a way to make Advent more meaningful for your children? If so, please plan on attending **Advent Family Night on Monday, November 22 from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.** This is an opportunity for families and individuals to

prepare for Advent before it begins on November 28. Each family present will make a special Advent Calendar that will help them focus on God and Jesus during the season of Advent. Supper (pizza) is included and there is no charge. Reservations are needed in order to have enough food. Please contact Peggy Clegg at 317-357-8352 x106 or pclegg@littleflowerparish.org if you wish to attend or if you have any questions.



Our Parish Christmas Party will be on Sunday, December 12, following the 9:30 a.m. Mass in the school cafeteria.

The menu will include scrambled eggs, sausage patties, bacon, sausage gravy and biscuits, fruit, cheesy potatoes, cinnamon rolls, and muffins. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be present, so bring your cameras to capture that special bond between Santa and your child. There will be a craft project for the little ones to make and door prizes for adults and kids! Get into the Christmas spirit and plan on attending!!

MEN'S CLUB CREW CARWASH SALES



The Little Flower Men's Club is selling Crew Carwash online again this year. We will earn 50% of the sales. **Purchase car washes online until November 30.** See below for the link and instructions for purchasing Crew Car Wash tickets. Only single e-washes are available for our online sales and **you must use the Promo Code 60968 when purchasing your tickets.** Your e-washes will be delivered to the email provided at check out. E-washes can be printed or they can be scanned directly from any Smartphone. Book sales are not included in our package for the fundraiser, so please make sure you select the single E-Wash option.

Here are the instructions to make your purchase.

The e-Wash web store address is:

<https://websiteconnect.drb.com/crewcarwash/EWashGifts.aspx> or www.crewcarwash.com

- Click on Shop, then click on Wash Books & Gift Cards in the drop down menu - scroll down to the e-Wash section.
- ****Select the eWash(es) that you would like to purchase****
- Click on "View Shopping Cart"

The promo code 60968 must be entered before the checkout process for our organization to receive credit. You will find the promo field on the Shopping Cart page just before you check out. The fundraiser will be active for the entire month of November. Thank you for your participation in our annual event.

TO ALL LITTLE FLOWER CARD PLAYERS: SAVE THE DATE

Please join The Little Flower Men's Club 4th Annual **Euchre Tournament** on **Saturday, January 12, 2022**, following the 5:00 p.m. Mass in Duffey Hall (cafeteria).



A reminder: The Little Flower Men's Club meets the third Monday of every month in the cafeteria.

LF LADIES CLUB NEWS

We have had a busy November. We prepared 70 bags of personal hygiene necessities for the homeless. The cheeseball sale continues and we will be making them on November 20 in the school cafeteria.

December will be an exciting month and we hope everyone will join us. We begin the month with our regular first-Thursday meeting on December 2. This will be a pitch-in with entertainment: back by popular demand, the very talented and funny Ryan Davis. If you missed him in September, be sure to see him this time! Still in the festive month of December, we are going to the Festival of the Trees at the Indiana Historical Society on Tuesday, December 7. And to round out 2021, we will be lunching at the Rustic Root Tea Room in Beech Grove on Thursday, December 16.



The Ladies Club Wishes All A Very Blessed and Safe Holiday Season.

LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND



Student Andrew explains his Alternate Energy City

In November the Annual Fund for Little Flower Catholic School was launched. We are hopeful that many alumni, parishioners, school parents, grandparents, and friends will recognize the value of a Little Flower education with a gift to the Annual Fund. An Annual Fund is essential to the operation of Little Flower School. It helps with the costs of sustaining programs and improving facilities that are not covered by tuition. A successful Annual Fund is key to our continued sustainability.

Little Flower Parish and School have played an important role in the lives of thousands of students. We want to continue to provide a valuable experience for the students of today and tomorrow. In order to do this, we need your help. Whether you are a first-time donor or a long-time benefactor, your assistance will make a positive impact on our students. We hope you will consider a gift to the Annual Fund.

OPENING DOORS TO GIVE BACK

Little Flower Catholic School's "Opening Doors to Give Back" Silent Auction was held from November 6th through 17th! Thanks in part to generous alumni and parishioners, all the interior doors of the school were replaced during the summer of 2020. Since then the old doors and their memories have been held in the school building. Now was the time to share this bit of history with friends and alumni!

There were 26 old classroom doors available for bidding. Many of the doors were originals and dated back to the opening of the school in 1926. Funds from this special event will be used to purchase Little Flower custom-made rugs to be placed at school entrances in order to welcome all incoming visitors. The auction opened on Saturday, November 6th at 5:00 p.m. and closed on Wednesday, November 17 at 4:00 p.m. Winners of doors were to be notified of pick-up times at the school on Thursday, November 18 and Saturday, November 20.



Members of the Adventurousome Group teamed up with Little Flower School 8th graders to decorate pumpkins for Halloween.



All-Class Reunion: Old Friends and New Memories Little Flower School alums enjoy themselves at the all-class reunion held on Saturday, November 6.



THANK YOU TO OUR GOLF OUTING SPONSORS!

Our Annual Golf Outing was held on September 10 at Pleasant Run Golf Course. An impressive 78 golfers participated in the event! Thanks to Jeff Lyons and his committee, over \$6,500 was raised for tuition assistance at Little Flower School. Many thanks to all those who came out to golf and a special thanks to our sponsors listed below:

- Bee Window
- Bill Harris Construction, Inc.
- Braun Family
- Carrier HQ
- Church Family Tractors
- Dr. Brian E. Nunley, Family Dentistry
- Drew Torzewski
- Greene Family
- In Memory of Chip Rochford & Freddy Smith
- In Memory of Joe Gawrys, Tom Lanahan and Val Bozymski
- In Memory of ZAC
- Indianapolis Firefighters Emerald Society
- K & R Tool Shed
- Larry Adams and Associates, Inc.
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- Little Flower Adult Choir
- Little Flower Athletic Association
- Little Flower Class of 1963
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THE POWER OF PRAYER - *THE OUR FATHER*



Editor's Note: This open letter from parishioner Dick Kramer is the third in a series of personal thoughts about contemporary Catholic prayer. His goal is to elicit comments, advice and criticisms about how the words with which we pray impact our faith. Dick has provided his contact information at the bottom of this article if you would like to reply to him. The viewpoints expressed here are his alone.

Greetings Fellow Parishioners of Little Flower,

In my article "An Introduction" from the May 2021 Little Flower Garden, I explained my six reasons for suggesting changes to commonly used prayers (see page one for how to access prior newsletters online). This quarter I offer a simple thought regarding the prayer "The Our Father."

When the Apostles asked Jesus how to pray to the Father in heaven, Jesus taught them the prayer handed down to us through centuries. This quarter, I do not propose any word changes to the prayer, but I have highlighted what I believe are significant words in the prayer:

***Our** Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give **us** this day **our** daily bread and forgive **us our** trespasses as **we** forgive those **who** trespass against **us**. And lead **us** not into temptation, but deliver **us** from evil. Amen.*

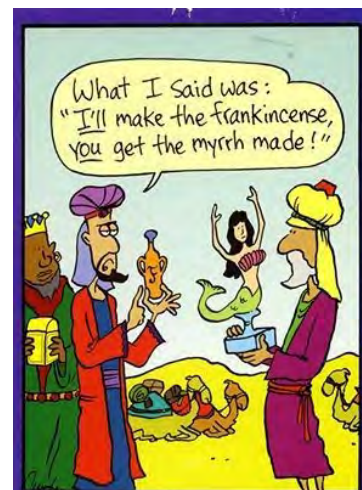
At this point you may have guessed where I am going with this: Jesus used simple language to help us understand that all of us are included in this powerful prayer. He was inclusive in his message and was the ultimate evangelist to which we are called to be. He set the standard for how all of us should act as one of his followers.

Consider how Jesus was inclusive on a few other occasions:

- "The Father sent me for the salvation of **all people**."
- Jesus was observed by the apostles conversing with a Samaritan woman at the well. She became an evangelist by acclaiming him as the Messiah.
- I believe the ultimate act of inclusiveness was when Jesus was dying on the cross and said, "Father, forgive **them** for **they** know not what **they** do."

What do you think? I welcome your comments.

Contact Dick Kramer 801 N. Wallace Avenue Indianapolis 46201 Cell: 317-965-1869 E-mail: remark41@sbcglobal.net



**PLEASE CONSIDER REMEMBERING LITTLE FLOWER
PARISH AND SCHOOL IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING**

In Sympathy

*Please pray for our parishioners who have died,
and for their families...*



- ✝ Katie Wood – September 12
- ✝ Bill Perry – September 15
- ✝ Wilma Peacock – October 5
- ✝ Mary Skinner – October 18
- ✝ Betty Witte – October 20
- ✝ Diane McAndrews – October 22
- ✝ John Kelly, Jr. – October 25
- ✝ Diane Sharp – November 9



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LITTLE FLOWER PARISHIONERS!

Felix Bruno
Nicole Lachmayer and sons, Caleb and Nicholas
Dolores Poteet

Thanks for Joining Us!



Please Welcome Those Baptized into Our Christian Community

- * Lennon Elizabeth Bradley, daughter of William Bradley and Angela Bradley
- * Laurel Rose Musser, daughter of Jesse Musser and Abigail Schopper
- * Paul Joseph Slisz, son of Gregory Slisz and Joanna Slisz
- * Aurora June Suozzi, daughter of Brent Suozzi and Theresa Suozzi

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THE LITTLE FLOWER GARDEN

If there is anything that you would like to see featured in future issues, please contact us at lfparishnews@yahoo.com

Editor: Steve Grohovsky

Contributors: Mary Conway, Rick Fischer, Dick Kramer, Anita Moody, LF Parish Staff

Dates to Remember

Nov 22: Journey into Advent (Family Night)

Nov 25: Thanksgiving Day

*** Advent/Christmas/Epiphany schedules (see page 2) ***

Dec 12: Parish Christmas Party after 9:30 a.m. Mass

Jan 17: Martin Luther King Day

Feb 13: Super Bowl LVI (Colts?)

Feb 14: Valentine's Day

A blessed Christmas and Happy New Year to all!
See you in February

