



LITTLE FLOWER PARISH

STEWARDSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

The purpose of this Parish Stewardship and Accountability Report is to provide parishioners the results of this past fiscal year in terms of our stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. We are very grateful for all that has been accomplished through the generosity and dedication of our parishioners.

Parish Population (as of June 30, 2022)

Number of Families	905 (904 in '21)	New Families Registered this year:	34 (19 in '21)
Number of Individual Members	1,975 (2,001 in '21)	Families Inactivated this year	33 (35 in '21)

School Population (as of June 30, 2022)

Children (3 years old thru grade 8)	308 (315 in 2021, 307 in 2020, 331 in 2019, 331 in 2018, 326 in 2017)
-------------------------------------	---

Statistics (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022—last year's numbers in parentheses)

- ☐ 23 infants or minors were baptized (28)
- ☐ 31 adults and children received First Reconciliation and First Communion (51)
- ☐ 18 young adults and adults received the sacrament of Confirmation (25)
- ☐ 5 adults were baptized after participating in the RCIA program (4)
- ☐ 2 children were baptized after participating in the RCIC program (5)
- ☐ 1 adult was received into full communion with the church following RCIA (2)
- ☐ 0 children were received into full communion with the church following RCIC (0)
- ☐ 4 couples were prepared for the sacrament of marriage (6)
- ☐ 23 individuals were buried from our parish (17)

Little Flower Catholic Church

Mission Statement

Little Flower Church (St. Therese of the Infant Jesus) is a vibrant faith community in the Roman Catholic Tradition, striving to live out the Gospel values of Jesus Christ. Centered in the Eucharist, we are called by God to look beyond ourselves to respond compassionately to the needs of others.

Pastoral Staff

Pastor	Father Robert J. Gilday	317-357-8352 Ext. 101	frbob@littleflowerparish.org
Director of Stewardship and Parish Administration	Angie Mackell	317-357-8352 Ext. 102	amackell@littleflowerparish.org
Pastoral Associate Health and Senior Ministries	Peggy Clegg	317-357-8352 Ext. 106	pclegg@littleflowerparish.org
Music Director	Tom Costello	317-357-8352 Ext. 107	tcostello@littleflowerparish.org
Accounting Clerk/Religious Education Coordinator	Lisa Gibbons	317-357-8352 Ext. 105	lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org
Parish Secretary	Jeannie Zimmerman	317-357-8352 Ext. 103	jzimmerman@littleflowerparish.org
Parish Office Assistant	Sandy Clegg	317-357-8352 Ext. 104	sclegg@littleflowerparish.org
Maintenance Director	Jacob Comley	317-357-8352 Ext. 110	jcomley@littleflowerparish.org
School Principal	Kevin Gawrys	317-353-2282 Ext. 111	kgawrys@littleflowerparish.org
School Secretary	Amy Torzewski	317-353-2282 Ext. 112	atorzewski@littleflowerparish.org

LITTLE FLOWER PARISH

FINANCIAL SUMMARY July 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

Little Flower Parish remains in sound financial condition thanks in large part to your ongoing generosity.

Sunday contributions for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 increased by approximately \$5,800, but remained under budget (approximately \$5,300). The budget for Sunday collections was increased by 1% in FY 2022-2023 in an effort to better manage operating costs. However, we have recently experienced a decline in collections, and as-of the writing of this report we are under budget by approximately \$11,000.

REGULAR OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES (day to day operations of the parish and school)

Operating Income

Sunday and holyday collections ¹	\$ 691,888
Tuition and fees	2,227,193
PTO, Ladies Club, Athletics, and other groups	78,014

Total Operating Income	\$ 2,997,095
------------------------	--------------

Operating Expenses

Salaries and benefits	2,117,154
Archdiocesan assessments	198,833
Program and instructional expenses	202,403
Property and facility expenses	139,451
Administrative	123,589
Utilities	119,837
Spiritual life	14,467
PTO, Ladies Club, Athletics, and other groups	46,200

Total Operating Expenses	\$ 2,961,934
--------------------------	--------------

Net Excess of Operating Income over Expenses	\$ 35,161
---	-----------

Other Income

PPP Loan Forgiveness ⁴	\$ 369,101
Excess of Income over Expenses	\$ 404,262

EXTRAORDINARY INCOME AND EXPENSES (restricted and fundraising financials for capital projects)

Extraordinary Income

Restricted contributions	241,086
Other contributions	238,807
Fundraising ²	198,025
Scrip and other income	88,099

Total Extraordinary Income	766,017
----------------------------	---------

Extraordinary Expenses

Capital and restricted expenses	\$ 149,729
Fundraising expense ³	103,476
Scrip and other expenses	87,440

Total Extraordinary Expenses	\$ 340,645
------------------------------	------------

Net Excess of Extraordinary Income over Expenses - reserved for capital improvements.	\$ 425,372
---	------------

1 Represents an increase of \$5,800 for Sunday Collections from prior year.

2 Includes the festival, fish fry, golf outing, and other school and parish fundraising.

3 Includes all expenses associated with Fundraising income (e.g., festival, fish fry, and golf outing expenses).

4 Government loan for Paycheck Protection Program during COVID shutdown. Funds were received and disbursed in 2020-2021; the loan was subsequently forgiven in 2021-2022.

2021-22 Accomplishments

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Stewardship

- ◆ Planned and achieved the most financially successful Summerfest in its history, with profits exceeding \$83,000.

Finances

- ◆ Total income exceeded total expenses for the fiscal year.
- ◆ Various generous grants allowed us to complete capital projects that would not have been possible with regular operating revenue.

Facilities

- ◆ Received a grant to go towards replacement of the gym floor with a new wooden floor. Installation was scheduled for September 2022.
- ◆ Began construction of a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) lab in school. Construction will be completed in November 2022.
- ◆ Parking lot was resealed in May 2022.
- ◆ Installed 4 new exterior doors and added electronic features to 6 exterior doors of the school.

LITURGY COMMISSION

- ◆ Began new adult choir season without masks. Added four new members after experiencing some loss in number due to some not returning or choosing to "retire" post-pandemic.
- ◆ With only mixed results, we have attempted some different initiatives to encourage people to return to Mass on a regular basis.

ATHLETIC COMMISSION

- ◆ No information provided.

PARISH LIFE COMMISSION

- ◆ New parishioners were sent a Welcome Packet shortly after registering in the parish.
- ◆ Funeral Luncheon Committee hosted "Mercy Meals" for families following the death of a loved one.
- ◆ Parish Life Commission sponsored a parish picnic, Halloween Party, Advent Family Night, Christmas Party, and Soup Supper.
- ◆ Through the Christopher Ministry, homebound parishioners received Communion throughout the year and cards were sent weekly to homebound parishioners. Weekly bulletins were mailed to our homebound parishioners as well.
- ◆ In conjunction with Little Flower's Health Ministry, we hosted 1 blood drive. Grief books were sent to those in the parish that suffered a loss.
- ◆ Members of the Gabriel Project gave material assistance to 80 women ranging from full layettes to diapers and clothing. They assisted one woman financially as she was moving to a new home due to domestic violence.
- ◆ Through the generosity of parishioners, our St. Vincent de Paul Society helped families and nursing home residents at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many families were assisted with paying utilities, received gas cards or household appliances, and/or were assisted with rent money. Bags of food and grocery gift cards were given as needed throughout the year.
- ◆ Through their fundraising efforts, the Ladies Club presented a check to Fr. Bob to help with parish expenses in addition to collecting money for flowers for Easter, Christmas, and our Novena. Members donated socks stuffed with soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste for the homeless.
- ◆ Members of the Men's Club worked hard this past year keeping our grounds in order, along with many of the parishioners involved in the Green Thumb ministry. Men's Club members hosted a weekly Fish Fry on Fridays during Lent. They assisted with decorating the church for Christmas and also with taking down the decorations after the Christmas season. They enjoyed a number of social outings.
- ◆ Coffee and Donuts were offered after the 9:30 a.m. Mass on most weekends.
- ◆ The Adventuresome Group met monthly for lunch and some type of program, often involving school students.
- ◆ The IU Health Congregational Care Network supported patients throughout IU Health Network through telephone support and a network of community resources including Little Flower as a spiritual option. Members of this ministry address issues of social isolation and loneliness, especially for those who have chronic illness. When necessary they will help people get in touch with organizations and/or individuals that can help them with rent, make upgrades to their house if it promotes better health,, utilities, and other needs that may arise.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

- ◆ Prayerful focus on reengaging parishioners to return to Mass. This is a topic of extreme importance that the Council has been discussing from many different angles throughout the past year. Some of the fruits of this labor was a call to common prayer during each Mass last Fall, the development of a survey to help uncover and address reasons why families are not returning to Mass and a heightened sense of awareness within ministries about the importance of Mass attendance.

- ◆ Invited by the Archdiocese to respond to the 10 categories that will be discussed at the Synod next year. Little Flower Council Members discussed topics in depth and provided a response to the Archdiocese that will be compiled with many parishes across the archdiocese.
- ◆ Began the process of re-evaluating our parish strategic goals to ensure that we remain relevant and in touch with the current needs of our community.

INVITE COMMISSION

- ◆ Continued to offer ongoing courses and seminars. This year included studies on the Mystery of the Eucharist, Forgiveness (a discussion on the sacrament of Reconciliation), One Hundred Catholic Questions, the season of Advent, and a Study of the saints of the Reformation. The afternoon group enjoyed viewing and discussing two seasons of The Chosen, the popular TV series on the life of Christ.
- ◆ Continued to sponsor movie nights. Recent selections were *John Paul II—Uniting a Continent* and *The Fourth Wise Man*.
- ◆ With the help of Little Flower parishioners, Little Flower School, and Little Flower Neighborhood we donated a truckload of non-perishable food and household items to Shepherd Community, a food bank that serves the entire east side.
- ◆ Little Flower junior high students designed holy cards featuring drawings of St. Therese with Mass times and a prayer on the back. These are distributed at all parish events and are available at the Church doors.
- ◆ Staffed welcome tables and led Church tours during Summerfest.
- ◆ Hosted National Night Out in August, an annual event featuring food trucks, free school supplies, music, fire trucks and police cars. Mayor Hogsett even stopped by to show his support!

LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND THE SCHOOL COMMISSION:

- ◆ 8th grade resumed their tradition of taking a 4-day trip to Gettysburg and Washington D.C.
- ◆ Performed a spring musical, *Matilda, Jr.*, under the direction of music teacher Miss Katie McGannon.
- ◆ Field trips, class parties, and many other Little Flower traditions returned.
- ◆ Introduced Little Way Bucks mini-economy and Golden Trojan VIP awards to recognize students for daily achievements.
- ◆ Build a Comprehensive Calendar to tie together school events, parish and Catholic events, justice themes, social and emotional learning lessons, and Little Way themes.
- ◆ Established a PPS (Parish, Parents, School) Organization in place of the PTO. The PPS will serve many of the same functions as the PTO but will work to include parishioners and to build closer ties between school and parish.

2022 Challenges

- ◆ To return to pre-pandemic (or greater) levels of Mass attendance. This is our single biggest challenge, and it is critical to maintain the vitality of the parish. Decreased attendance at Mass has made communicating with parishioners more difficult.
- ◆ To increase the number of members in the youth choir in order to survive long-term. 30% of current membership will graduate next spring.
- ◆ To increase the number of members in the adult choir.
- ◆ To encourage more people to become or return to acting as Eucharistic ministers. Current ministers are being overscheduled. Also head Eucharistic ministers are small in number, particularly on Sunday evening.
- ◆ To increase Sunday giving to meet our Sunday Collection budget.
- ◆ To encourage involvement and participation within ministries in a society with so many other pulls on our time and energy that have been massively drained by the pandemic and other factors. Some ministries are run by one or two people, and many of them are over the age of 70. Younger volunteers are needed in many areas.
- ◆ To continue to find funding to support all of the needs of our parishioners and those within our parish boundaries.
- ◆ To continue to find ways to minister to parishioners and for more families to participate in celebrations.
- ◆ To increase attendance at Invite Commission programs.
- ◆ To strengthen the bond between school and parish by hosting events that involve school families in parish events.
- ◆ Fewer families are taking advantage of religious education for their children who attend public schools.
- ◆ Addressing facility maintenance challenges in continually aging buildings.
- ◆ Continued school staffing challenges, especially since Catholic school teacher salaries are significantly lower than their public school counterparts.
- ◆ School enrollment, which declined slightly during Covid, has not rebounded to pre-pandemic levels. Charter and private school options continue to expand, creating more options.