



# THE LITTLE FLOWER GARDEN

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2023

## SUMMERFEST 2023

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for SUMMERFEST 2023  
June 2, 3, and 4

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Easter Celebrations
- Parish Life
- Ash Wednesday/Lent/  
Easter Calendar
- LF Spotlight
- LF PPS
- Gabriel Project

The festival leadership team is already working hard to bring the community a fun-filled weekend! Make your plans now to bring your friends and family to have a great time at Summerfest!

This year's festival proceeds will go towards a new heating and cooling system for the parish center. The parish center is our only building that still has old-fashioned window A/C units for cooling and a very old boiler for heat. The parish staff and its visitors are very much in need of an upgrade to keep everyone the right temperature all year round!



We believe our festival leadership team and all of our volunteers are truly the best around! However, we also need the help of all of you to make Summerfest a huge success. Below are various ways to help, most of which almost anyone can do:

- ✳ **Raffle!** The main raffle remains a primary source of festival revenue. A successful festival depends on a successful raffle! Raffle tickets will be distributed in April.
- ✳ **Volunteer!** Opportunities to sign up to help will be provided in the coming weeks and months. Even an hour or two of your time would help greatly.
- ✳ **Come one, come all!** Plan now to attend, and invite your family, friends, and co-workers. Word of mouth is our best advertising, and it is imperative that we bring guests in from outside of the parish if we are going to be successful.
- ✳ **Donate!** Watch the bulletin for details on donation of items. And as always...
- ✳ **Pray!** Please pray for the success of your festival.

*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 4/21/23 in order for them to be published in the **May 2023 issue.***

Please e-mail all pictures and info to [lfp parishnews@yahoo.com](mailto:lfp parishnews@yahoo.com). Thanks!

Access the LFG online at:  
[Littleflowerparish.org](http://Littleflowerparish.org)



**Watch the Theresean (Sunday bulletin) for more news as the festival draws closer!**

## EASTER TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Catholics know how to throw an Easter party. The Church celebrates fifty days of Easter, spanning the time between Easter Vigil and Pentecost. That's plenty of time to throw a party or two!

Looking to shake things up a bit this year? Check out these fun Easter celebrations from around the world for some inspiration!

### Host an Egg Fight

You've heard of an Easter egg hunt, but how about an Easter egg fight? In Bulgaria, adults and children alike arm themselves with hard boiled eggs. They then go around tapping each other's eggs. The person whose egg doesn't crack wins the contest and is believed to have good health for the year to come.

### Get Treats from the Easter Bells



French children don't believe that the Easter bunny comes to visit their home to bring treats. Instead, the treats come from the Easter bells. In France, no bells are rung between Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil. French legend holds that the bells weren't rung on those days because they grew wings and flew to Rome to be blessed by the pope. The bells returned from their flight loaded down with chocolate and gifts for the children.

### Explode an Old Cart.

Fireworks aren't just for New Year's Eve. In Florence, Italians celebrate Easter with the tradition of "scoppio del carro," or "explosion of the cart." Italians load up an old cart with fireworks and pull it in front of the Duomo. Then the Archbishop of Florence lights a fuse during the Easter Mass that leads to the cart outside in the square. Spectators enjoy an Easter firework show.

Looking for another Italian tradition? Residents of Panicale, a town south of Florence, celebrate the day after Easter with a friendly competition. Town residents roll huge wheels of cheese around the perimeter of the town.

### Put Together a Blessing Basket



Święconka is one of the most beloved Polish Easter traditions. On Holy Saturday, Polish families make blessing baskets. The baskets are filled to the brim with Easter foods that each contain a symbolic meaning. For instance, eggs symbolize Christ's rising from the dead, while ham reminds the Polish people of great joy and abundance.

Lent doesn't end until the priest blesses the Easter blessing baskets. In rural communities, the priest goes from home to home, blessing the baskets. But it's more common to see parishioners gather at the church for a communal blessing.

### Pet an Easter Bilby

Australians consider rabbits pests because they wreck havoc on the land. So instead of visits from the Easter rabbit, Australian children are visited by the Easter Bilby. In 1991, the Foundation for Rabbit-Free Australia started a campaign to replace the bunny with the bilby. Today, Australians purchase chocolate bilbies for their Easter celebrations and the funds support bilby conservation efforts.



### Dance the Morris

In the U.K., people gather for Morris dance performances. Morris dancing is a folk dance that dates back to the Middle Ages. Men show up with bells around their ankles. Everyone dances through the streets waving ribbons. Legend says the Morris dance drives out the spirits of winter and brings good luck for the year to come.

Morris dancing isn't just for the English, though. Morris sides (or teams) can be found in the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, and Cyprus.

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## NEWS FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMISSION



The Parish Life Commission will host our annual Holy Thursday Soup Supper on April 6. We will begin serving at 5:30 p.m. and continue serving until 6:30 p.m. The menu will include soup, salad, bread, desserts, hotdogs for the kids, and drinks. Following supper, everyone is encouraged to attend our Holy Thursday liturgy at 7:00 p.m. Don't miss out on this opportunity to "break bread" with your parish family! Please contact Peggy Clegg at 317-357-8352 or [pclegg@littleflowerparish.org](mailto:pclegg@littleflowerparish.org) if you have any questions.

# LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER CALENDAR - 2023

## Wednesday, February 22 - Ash Wednesday

Mass and Distribution of Ashes: 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

## Friday, February 24

Stations of the Cross and Communion Service at 5:30 p.m.

*Fish Fry in Social Hall: 4:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.*

*Dine In, Carry Out, and Drive-Thru Available Every Friday During Lent*

## Tuesday, February 28

***LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE AT OUR LADY OF LOURDES – 7:00 P.M.***

Confessions will also be heard at Little Flower on:

Saturdays, February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25, and April 1 from 3:45 until 4:30 p.m.

## Friday, March 3

Stations of the Cross and Communion Service at 5:30 p.m.

Fish Fry in Social Hall: 4:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

## Friday, March 10

Stations of the Cross and Communion Service at 5:30 p.m.

Fish Fry in Social Hall: 4:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

## Friday, March 17

Stations of the Cross and Communion Service at 5:30 p.m.

Fish Fry in Social Hall: 4:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

## Friday, March 24

Stations of the Cross and Communion Service at 5:30 p.m.

Fish Fry in Social Hall: 4:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

## Friday, March 31

Stations of the Cross and Communion Service at 5:30 p.m.

Fish Fry in Social Hall: 4:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

## April 1/2 – Palm Sunday

Regular Mass Schedule – All children invited to participate in procession with palms

Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 9:30 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

## April 6 – Holy Thursday

***Soup Supper in Duffey Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. – serving until 6:30 p.m. - All are welcome!***

Adoration Chapel closes at 7:00 p.m.

Mass at 7:00 p.m. including commissioning of all Eucharistic Ministers

Eucharistic Adoration in Church after Mass

ending with Night Prayer at 9:00 p.m.

## April 7 – Good Friday

Living Stations of the Cross at 9:30 a.m.

Living Stations of the Cross at 1:00 p.m.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion – 7:00 p.m.

## April 8 – Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00 p.m.

**NO** 5:00 p.m. Mass or confessions

## April 9 – Easter Sunday

Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Adoration Chapel reopens after 10:30 a.m. Mass -- There is **NO** 6:00 p.m. Mass



## LITTLE FLOWER SPOTLIGHT: MEET THE DAVIS/CHEEVER FAMILY

This issue's "Little Flower Spotlight" is on the Ryan Davis/Liz Cheever Family. Thanks to Cindy Woods for conducting this interview.

*Little Flower Garden News (LFGN): Tell us about your family, names and ages of children, how you met, and how long have you been members of Little Flower.*

**Ryan Davis/Liz Cheever Family (DCF):** We are a blended family. We met while we were both working at the Indiana School For The Blind And Visually Impaired. Although we had seen each other, we worked in different parts of the school and we hadn't met until we both answered an email "call out" for people interested in running the Boy Scout programs at the school. We were the only ones who showed up, so we were hired! I (Liz) took on the Cub Scouts and Ryan took on the Boy Scouts. We were fast friends!

We were very excited about developing and growing the Scouting program. We had similar ideas for providing opportunities for the boys and we were very excited to get started! We developed a strong friendship and we worked well together, which led to us working together on multiple projects around the school for years. Fast forward 8 years...I had been a single mom for 5 years and Ryan was newly single and we decided to see if our friendship could evolve into something more and it did! We married in 2017.

Between us we have nine children. I had four biological children and an adopted daughter and Ryan had four biological children. So in age order: Mercades is 20, Dean is 16, Rain, Frank, and Joe are 14, Sky and Dorothy are 12, Violet is 11, and Hazel is 8. Mercades graduated from ISBVI last May and she is living on her own. Dean, Rain, Frank, and Joe are all attending Scecina Memorial High School. Sky, Dot, Violet, and Hazel all attend Little Flower.

I have been a member of Little Flower since 2001. Dean, Frank, Joe and Dot were all baptized at Little Flower as infants. Mercades became Catholic and was baptized in 2017. Ryan became Catholic and joined the church in 2018. Rain, Sky, Violet, and Hazel were all baptized at Little Flower in 2018 as well.

*LFGN: What do you do for a living and what are your volunteer activities?*

**DCF:** Ryan is a performer and educator with Silly Safaris. He loves working with people and sharing his knowledge of animals with them! He is also a substitute teacher at Little Flower and Scecina, and he is the Scoutmaster at the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ISBVI). Ryan is also a very talented artist.

I am a social worker for Catholic Charities and I work at St. Philip Neri School. I am the Cubmaster at ISBVI, and a part time student in the Masters of Theology program at Saint Meinrad. I am also the director of a wonderful summer youth service program, Lawrence Youth Corps, that operates out of Lawrence United Methodist Church.

As far as volunteering, I am a lector and a Christopher minister. Ryan, Dean and I are Eucharistic ministers. Dean, Rain, Frank, Joe, Sky, and Dot are altar servers. We are all adorers in the chapel. Ryan and I have been coaches for kickball and basketball. Ryan and I are on the RCIA team. Our whole family is involved in working the Summerfest, as Ryan and I are in charge of the Kids Games area. We love to participate in parish activities when we can, and we have been leaders for the ChristLife program and other programs. We volunteer for 40 Days for Life on Saturday mornings as peaceful, prayerful protesters during their campaigns throughout the year. We are Church Cleaners as well.

*LFGN: What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?*

**DCF:** Ha-ha! We're busy! We are always looking for fun family activities. We enjoy being outdoors...walking, hiking, riding bikes, rollerblading, playing football, frisbee, basketball, swimming and having bonfires in our backyard. All of the kids are very creative and there are always a lot of painting, drawing, Lego, PlayDoh, clay, slime, and cooking projects going on. Many of us love to read and visit the library, and video games are popular with the boys when they're available. We are avid game players and have quite a collection of board games.

*LFGN: In what activities are you and your kids involved at Little Flower and Scecina?*

**DCF:** We are involved in many ministries, as mentioned above. The kids are also involved in sports. This year we are in basketball, volleyball, cheerleading, and kickball. The girls are involved in choir and the school play. We have some in Dungeons and Dragons club at LF and some in the Gaming Club and the Chess Club at Scecina.



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## MEET THE DAVIS/CHEEVER FAMILY

*LFGN: How would you describe Little Flower Parish and tell us what your faith means to you.*

**DCF:** We love Little Flower! It is definitely our church home. It has always been a welcoming, peaceful, and joyful place for us. Our faith is our foundation. Christ has to be at the center of everything...our marriage, our parenting, our home. It does not always come easy. We are so busy all the time, we often have to re-center and refocus. Our faith is a source of both comfort and joy. We are working very hard to make sure that our kids have that foundation as well. We want them to know that God is always there for them and their faith and the church is something they can always lean on.

*LFGN: Would you like to share a favorite Scripture?*

**DCF:** I hate to pick favorites of anything because I feel like they always change based on my mood! At this moment, the first thing that came to my mind was Philippians 4:13: I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me.

Ryan's favorite verse is 1 Corinthians 13:13: So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love. Another special verse for us as a couple is 1 Corinthians, verses 4-8 [Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.]. Verse 8, Love never fails, is our favorite. We have used this verse as an anchor and a tool throughout our relationship, even when we were just friends, to counsel and comfort each other as we went through various trials. We then used it as a reading in our wedding.

*LFGN: Is there anything funny/touching/ we should know about you and your family?*

**DCF:** We are strong believers in watching and listening for God's Will in our lives and trusting in God's timing. Over and over God has shown us that He is trustworthy and always with us.

Beautiful examples of that are intertwined in our weddings. As soon as we got together in 2017, we knew we wanted to get married. We had been friends for so long, and we believed that our friendship was a strong foundation for our marriage and instant family. We desperately wanted to be married in the church, but because we had both been married before, we needed to go through the annulment process which takes 18 months or longer. Ryan has Multiple Sclerosis and takes daily medication. We felt that we needed to marry quickly so that he could be covered by my insurance. We initiated the annulment process immediately, consulted Father Bob, and prayed about the situation. We felt very strongly that being together was the right thing to do and that our marriage cases would be granted annulments. We stepped out in faith and planned a small ceremony for a May wedding on the circle downtown, with just our children and our witnesses. After days of rain, the day of our wedding was idyllic! It was the most breathtakingly beautiful day! The sun was shining and the sky was a beautiful blue! It felt like a miracle! We couldn't have asked for a more perfect wedding day! Our perfect day also turned out to be National Comic Book Day, so we marched our little wedding party down to the comic book store! It was such a crazy fun thing and the kids still talk about it to this day!

Although that was such a joyful day, we were still praying that we would be able to be married in the church. The waiting was agonizing at times, and worrying about what we would do if for some reason we weren't granted permission to marry. We focused on giving it to God and trusting in Him. In the midst of our waiting, COVID happened. More waiting and praying and trying to decide what to do...Ryan was given permission to marry first, but we continued to wait, praying that mine would come through as well. FINALLY, in 2020, we were both officially free to marry in the church and we started serious planning! What a relief and a blessing! Despite COVID restrictions, we got married at Little Flower in February 2021, surrounded by our children and close family and friends. It was another absolutely perfect day! All of our children were in the wedding and close friends participated in the mass. We have an amazing picture taken from the choir loft that shows all of us together with Father on the altar (and Tom at the piano!). It's beautiful and makes me tear up every time I see it. We are so incredibly thankful to God as we look back on our relationship. Where we could NEVER have seen His plan for us, it was always there. Our family is a lot. We are often a spectacle as we come and go. We struggle and we persevere, but one thing we know is that we are so very blessed and God led us to each other!

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

## LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL PPS: AN ACTIVE WINTER



The Little Flower PPS wrapped up 2022 with some great fundraisers and events, including a book fair, cookie dough sales, and a pancake breakfast. One of the awesome things PPS does is sponsor field trips throughout the school year, and below are photos from fun field trips in December. The week before Christmas break, PPS provided our beloved teachers, aides, and staff with a meal every day as well as a small gift. The day before break, the students enjoyed festive activities, food, and fellowship at the classroom Christmas parties.

After celebrating Mardi Gras on Fat Tuesday with classroom parties on February 21, PPS is looking forward to two exciting outings this spring. The St. Patrick's Day Parade is Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and we hope to have a large Little Flower contingent walking the parade route and spreading Irish cheer. Last year, we handed out noise makers and papers with random acts of kindness on them, which were a big hit among the spectators. Watch the bulletin and church announcements to see how you can join us in walking the parade route.

For the second outing, we are also looking to attend an Indianapolis Indians game, with the date to be determined. Last year's Indians game was a big success and we hope to have even more school families and parishioners join in the fun this year. Watch the bulletin and church announcements to see how you can purchase tickets (a portion of every ticket sold will benefit PPS!).

Feel free to reach out to PPS President Jennifer Lathrop at 317-326-6252 or [lathropjj@gmail.com](mailto:lathropjj@gmail.com) with questions or for more information about any of our activities. Don't forget: we are looking for sponsorships for the Walk-A-Thon. Let us know if you can step up for this awesome Fall event.

Remember – PPS Meetings take place the 3rd Thursday every month at 6:30 p.m. in Duffey Hall. Please join us at our next meeting to see how you can help out and join the fun!



### Left to right:

- The 7th and 8th Grade Choir/Band Field Trip perform a concert at the Indiana State Museum
- Spreading Christmas cheer with caroling at nearby nursing homes and Community East Hospital.
- 2nd graders enjoying their Christmas classroom party
- 4th grade field trip to the Indiana Historical Society to celebrate The Festival of the Trees

## GABRIEL PROJECT SERVING THE MOST VULNERABLE



The Gabriel Project is continues to work serving new and expectant mothers during pregnancy and postpartum. Your wonderful generosity provides our moms with material goods, financial assistance, and social-emotional support.

We were recently blessed with the opportunity to help a mom through an emergency premature delivery after she experienced a partial placental abruption. A healthy baby boy was delivered safely and spent a few weeks in NICU as he grew stronger under the care of his medical team. He was welcomed by mom, dad, and five big brothers, for whom we have also been able to provide material assistance through the Gabriel Project.

The Gabriel Project's annual Baby Bank collection will take place Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday. Your thoughtful donations allow us to provide practical, loving support to women who find themselves in difficult pregnancies minus the red tape of many social services. We are so grateful for your support over the past several years!

If you are interested in volunteering with the Gabriel Project, please contact Joanna Slisz at [slisz.joanna@gmail.com](mailto:slisz.joanna@gmail.com). We also accept donations in the bassinet located in the back of the church.



## *In Sympathy*

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



- ✠ Donna English, October 28, 2022
- ✠ Ita Moriarty, November 13, 2022
- ✠ Mary Sweeney, November 25, 2022
- ✠ Karen Alger, December 9, 2022
- ✠ Floretta Burton, December 10, 2022
- ✠ Joe Schmidlin, December 12, 2022
- ✠ Manuel Corpuz, December 16, 2022
- ✠ Cathy Mears, December 18, 2022
- ✠ Vincent "Jimmy" Tucher, December 22, 2022
- ✠ Norma Greeley, December 30, 2022
- ✠ Elizabeth McPherson, January 16, 2023



### **WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LITTLE FLOWER PARISHIONERS!**

Rafael Gascon  
Joe and Carolyn Schmidt  
Joshua Hubert  
Katherine Slisz  
Claudio Santo Rentas and Nicole Caster  
Paul and Kathleen Grimm and children, Grace, Brigid, Xavier, Augustine and Zélie  
Kevin and Maureen Fox and daughters, Isabelle, Emma, and Lily  
Daron and Karina Motley and children, Michelle and William  
Roberto Bautista and Alexandra Mejia and sons, Carlos and Owen  
Jordan Myers

**Thanks for Joining Us!**



### **Please Welcome Those Recently Baptized into Our Christian Community**

- \* Polly Josephine and Alma Bea, daughters of Cory and Abby Zeigert
- \* MaeLana Marie and Victor Manuel, children of Victor and Zoe Franco

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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](mailto:lfparishnews@yahoo.com)*

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## Dates to Remember

**\*\* Ash Wednesday/Lent/Easter calendars: See page 3**

Feb 24, Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Lenten Fish Frys

Mar 12: Daylight Saving Time begins (spring forward)

Mar 13: 10th anniversary of Pope Francis's papacy

Mar 17: Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Apr 9: Easter Sunday

Apr 15: Seccina Club 53 Extravaganza

Apr 18: Tax Day (sorry)

May 14: Mother's Day & 75th Mother's Day Breakfast

***June 2-3-4: Summerfest 2023!***

Happy Easter and have a wonderful spring!

See you in May

