



"This is the one about whom it is written:
'Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you.'"

Matthew 11:10

ST. THERESE - LITTLE FLOWER ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4720 E. 13th Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46201

www.littleflowerparish.org



PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Robert J. Gilday, Pastor:
FrBob@littleflowerparish.org
Angie Mackell, Director of Stewardship and Administration:
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Peggy Clegg, Pastoral Associate – Health & Senior Ministries:
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Jeannie Zimmerman, Parish Secretary:
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Lisa Gibbons, Accounting Clerk/Religious Education Coordinator:
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Kevin Gawrys, Principal:
KGawrys@littleflowerparish.org
Gavin Craig, Music Director:
GCraig@littleflowerparish.org
Jacob Comley, Maintenance Director:
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Sandy Clegg, Office Assistant:
SClegg@littleflowerparish.org

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Chairperson	Elizabeth Mann
Vice Chairperson	Kurt Schnell
Secretary	Bernie Sponsel
Finance Council	Pat Brake
Faith Formation Commission	Lisa Gibbons (interim)
Invite Commission	Cindy Woods
Liturgy Commission	Holly Hodges
Parish Life Commission	Carol Wehlage
School Commission	Lauren Lay
Stewardship Commission	OPEN POSITION
At-Large Member	Patrick Becker
At-Large Member	Kelly Dunn
At-Large Member	Katie Leszczynski
At-Large Member	Michele Rosenbaum

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Mass Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:30 AM, 6:00 PM
Weekdays and Holy Days:
Check inside the bulletin for schedule.

Communion Services

Check inside the bulletin.

Little Flower 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.

The Theresean

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
PARISH CENTER 317-357-8352 Fax 317-357-5316

SCHOOL 317-353-2282 Fax 317-322-7702
The school offers Pre-school 3's and 4's through Grade 8.
Extended Care is available until 6:00 PM.
Contact the school for more information.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:45 PM to 4:30 PM or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are held on most Sundays during the year. Baptisms are held after the 9:30 am Mass. If you prefer to have your child's baptism scheduled during Mass, you may request this at the time you return the baptism information form. Requests for the date and time specified will be honored to the extent possible. Parents who have not yet received pre-baptismal instruction are required to attend a Baptismal Preparation Class that is held 5 times per year. Call the Parish Office well in advance so that class arrangements may be made.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Contact the priest 9 to 12 months in advance. A Wedding Handbook is available from the Parish Office which provides the necessary information on arranging for a marriage.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING/MINISTRY TO THE SICK

In an emergency, contact the parish at any time. Please contact the Parish Center if you or a loved one are hospitalized, or are confined to home or a nursing facility, to receive the Eucharist and/or Anointing. Hospitals and healthcare facilities no longer routinely inform churches when a parishioner is admitted.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS

Priesthood or Vocation as a Religious Sister or Brother. Those considering entering the Priesthood or a religious vocation, please contact our Pastor or the Archdiocesan Vocation Office at 317-236-1490.

LITTLE FLOWER COUNSELING CENTER

Counseling services are available to Little Flower parishioners at a reduced rate. Please call Maureen Sweeney at (317) 617-2522.

INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

Inquiry Classes begin in late August as part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Call Parish Center for information.

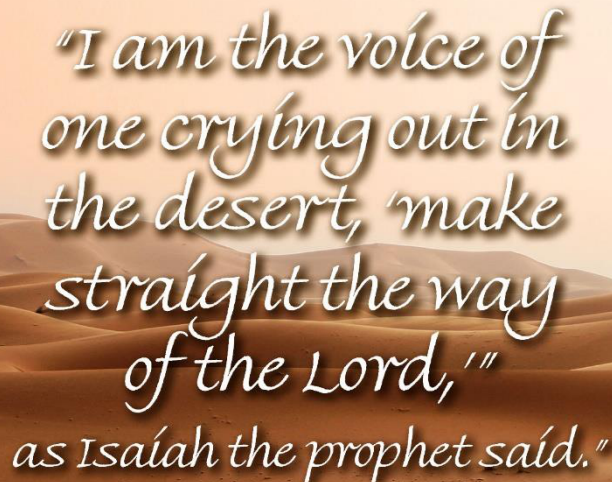
PARISH REGISTRATION

We welcome all those visiting with us today. If you are interested in knowing more about our parish or wish to register for membership, please call the Parish Office. Registration forms are also available at each of the church doors.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Articles for the bulletin must be submitted in writing to the Parish center or by email to lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org by noon on Monday.

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*"I am the voice of
one crying out in
the desert, 'make
straight the way
of the Lord,'"
as Isaiah the prophet said."*

Dear Parish Family,

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. The Latin word *gaudete* means *rejoice*. At the midpoint of Advent, we are called to rejoice because the coming of the Lord is near. As a sign of joy, the vestment color today is rose. Also, the third candle of the advent wreath is rose. Two verses from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians capture the spirit of the day: *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.... The Lord is near"* [4:4-5].

We can also rejoice that sunset is already later than it was earlier in December. The earliest sunset occurred at 5:20 p.m. December 6-9. Sunset today is 5:21. Unfortunately, the latest sunrise will not occur until January 4-5 when it will rise at 8:07 a.m.

If you missed our Advent Penance Service on December 6, Holy Spirit will have their Advent Penance Service on

Tuesday, December 19, at 7 p.m. Also, please remember that I hear confessions every Saturday afternoon from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m.

Next weekend the Church asks us to attend both a Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and a Christmas Mass. We will have only two Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent: Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. Fr. Jim Farrell will be the celebrant and homilist for that Mass. Please welcome him.

Christmas Masses will be Sunday, Christmas Eve, at 4:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. Incense will only be used at the 10 p.m. Mass. On Christmas Day, the only Mass will be at 9:30 a.m.

The parish office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas with our families and friends, I want to thank all who brought gifts for the Christmas giving tree. Special thanks to the St. Vincent de Paul Society for all their hard work with the Christmas giving tree project.

Also, thanks to the Parish Life Commission for hosting our parish Christmas Party last Sunday, those who helped in any way with setting up and/or cleaning up, and all those who attended.

Have a wonderful week.

fr. Bob



Adopt-A-Seminarian Program

The Office of Priestly and Religious Vocations has assigned Alexander W. Lindberg to Little Flower in their Adopt-A-Seminarian Program. Through this program we ask everyone to pray for, send words of encouragement, or care packages to Alexander throughout the year.

There are prayer cards with his picture at the church doors. Direct contact information for Alexander can be found at www.HearGodsCall.com.



Mass Schedule

For the Week of December 18 -25, 2023

- 18 December **Monday**
5:30 p.m. Don Wright by Patty Brown
- 19 December **Tuesday**
No Mass
- 20 December **Wednesday**
5:30 p.m. Jim & Ginny (Walters) Allen by Mike & Linda Jerrell
- 21 December **Thursday**
5:30 p.m. Jeanette Corrigan by Fran Doyle
- 22 December **Friday**
9:30 a.m. For the Intentions of Fr. Bob by Your Parish Family
- 23 December **Saturday – The Vigil of the 4th Sunday of Advent**
5:00 p.m. Catherine Mears by Mike & Pam Goodin
- 24 December **Sunday – The Fourth Sunday of Advent**
9:30 a.m. For the People
Vigil of the Nativity Mass
4:00 p.m. Sheridan & Catherine Bowron by Patricia Bowron
5:30 p.m. Diane Sharp by Ron Sharp
10:00 p.m. For the People
- 25 December **Monday - The Nativity of the Lord**
9:30 a.m. Jesse Quiroz by the Quiroz Family

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

December 17 - 24, 2023

DAY	ROOM	TIME	GROUP
Sunday	Church	9:30 a.m.	Children's Liturgy
	Duffey Hall (school café)	10:30 a.m.	Coffee and donuts
	School	10:30 a.m.	Religious Ed
Monday	Duffey Hall (school café)	7:00 p.m.	Men's Club
Tuesday	Duffey Hall (school café)	6:30 p.m.	Outreach Commission Christmas Craft
	Church	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Choir
Wednesday			
Thursday	St. Therese (Parish Center)	1:00 p.m.	Thursday Formation Group
	St. Therese (Parish Center)	8:00 p.m.	AA
Friday	St. Therese (Parish Center)	4:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
Saturday			
Sunday			

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26, in observance of Christmas.



Please welcome into our Christian Community Isabella Blue, daughter of Jeffery Hoyt and Leslie Fenton-Hoyt, who was baptized on Sunday, December 3, 2023.

Our Sympathy

We extend our condolences to *Bob and Mary Sitzman and their family* on the death of their great niece, **Chloe Christine Rooney**, who passed away on December 2 and whose funeral liturgy was held at St. Christopher on December 9. Please keep all of Chloe's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. May God welcome Chloe into his eternal glory.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Our bulletin company has been alerted by UPS and FedEx that both companies expect to be pushed to capacity this holiday season, if not beyond. Also, to ensure delivery with office closures during the holidays, we will have strict deadlines for bulletin submissions. Please make note of the changes.

Christmas Schedule

- December 31 bulletin** submissions are due by Thursday, December 21, at noon.

Holiday Bulletin Deadlines

Weekend Mass Attendance (weekly averages)

December 2019 - February 2020 (pre-pandemic)	608
June 2020 - May 2021	249
June 2021 - May 2022	434
June 2022 - May 2023	483
June 2023 - September 2023	469
October 2023	459
November 2023	515
December 2023	490



We will be having **Gifts for Baby Jesus** at all Christmas Masses. Please bring your **UNWRAPPED** gifts to Mass. There will be an announcement letting us know when to bring them forward to the crib. Much needed items are:

Hygiene products
Wipes
BABY Towels and washcloths
Nice receiving blankets
Diapers SIZE 4, 5, and 6
Bottles
Socks, clothing and snow suits sizes 0-12 month
PAC n Play sheets
Baby bathtubs

We happily accept gently used clothing, bouncers, walking toys, PAC n Plays, strollers, swings and highchairs year around. Thank you for all you do to support our efforts.



Calling all people who love to clean! The Church cleaning ministry is looking for 6 dedicated volunteers to help with cleaning the church for the upcoming year, 2024. We are saying goodbye to some folks that have given many years to this ministry. If you are interested in learning about or joining this ministry, please call Michele Rosenbaum at 317-443-7342. We need at least 6 people but would gladly take more!!



Please keep our ill and homebound parishioners and friends in your thoughts and prayers, especially the following people who have requested prayers for various reasons:

Bill Ajamie, Tricia Allstatt, Fr. Mike Barton, Jane Bell, Esther Capps, Joe Clegg, Mark Clevenger, Dan Dugan, Sherri (Ruegamer)

Dugger, Joanna Estes, Forestal Family, Carol Freeland, Olivia Jo Garrison, Haydee Gloria, Katie Goodin, Margie Greene, Linda Hedges, Mary Lou Hoggatt, Lois Irwin, Bobbie Lawless, Bobby Lesczynski, Larry Lynch, Catherine McKenna-Sexton, Sally Meth, Gene Miller, Jimmy Murphy, Carol Murphy, Mike Payne, Ray Quinn, Bill Rathz, Judy Rathz, Scott Rhinehart, Ray Riley, Lourdes Riedeman, Bill Schlosser, Gary Walters, and Janet Wilkerson.

If you get a chance, please send them a card or a note. It will brighten their day. This week we especially want to remember:

Bill Schlosser
Bridgewater Healthcare Center
14751 Carey Rd, Carmel, IN 46033

Pray for our active military family/friends:

Brian Ledgerwood, serving on the USS Theodore Roosevelt, son of Diane Anderson

Victor Franco, serving at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, MT.

Matthew Hughey, serving at Scott Air Force Base – nephew of Rita Cooning.

Aden S. Haigerty, United States Navy, serving aboard aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan – nephew of Mike Haigerty.

Javier Estrada – United States Navy, serving on the USS Wisconsin in Great Lakes, IL.

Jared Cox - United States Army at Fort Riley, Kansas, grandson of Ed and Cindy Wernsing.

If you or someone in your family is ill or serving our country and would like their name listed in the bulletin so others can pray for them, please contact Peggy Clegg at 317-357-8352 or pclegg@littleflowerparish.org.

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

Little Flower Euchre Nights

Sponsored by the Little Flower Men's Club

Who: Ladies and Gents at least 21 years of age

Where: Little Flower Cafeteria

When: The following Wednesday nights from 6:30-9:00 p.m.:

December 20

We will play a round robin within groups of 8, so you will play 7 rounds and partner with everyone in your group of 8. Rounds will last 15 minutes with each player dealing twice if time allows – we will strictly limit each round to 15 minutes. We will play 4 rounds then take a 15-minute break before playing the final three rounds.

Snacks will be provided and soft drinks/water will be available for \$1 each.

Little Flower Euchre Rules will be handed out when you register.

Questions – contact Chris Johnson (317) 513-8168 or johnsojc@iupui.edu.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Your Gifts of Treasure

Weekly Budget Goal	\$	13,200.00
Collection of December 9 and 10	\$	6,635.99
Electronic Contributions 12/4-12/8	\$	8,127.67
Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Actual	\$	306,603.56
Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget	\$	316,800.00
Fiscal Year 2023-24 YTD DEFICIT	\$	- 10,196.44

Home Improvement Fund

October Contributions	\$	2,354.00
November Contributions	\$	2,364.00
December Contributions	\$	1,584.00

PLEASE NOTE

PLEASE NOTE: If you would like a donation to be credited in 2023, it must be received no later than the weekend of December 30/31. Also, any donations received in the envelopes marked for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (News Year's Day) will be credited in 2024.

United Catholic Appeal (gifts processed as of 12/11)

Parish Goal	\$ 62,294.00
# of gifts received or pledged	72
Amount of gifts received or pledged	\$ 16,440.00



MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

All men of Little Flower parish are invited to join a **Saturday morning prayer group**. These bi-weekly meetings will take place in the parish center from 7:00-8:00 a.m. See parish calendar for specific dates.

This once long-standing tradition at Little Flower is coming back after several years hiatus. We will read and reflect upon the Sunday scripture passages, followed by open discussion. We hope to strengthen our spiritual lives, while encouraging group fellowship, support, and prayer.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASSES DECEMBER 23 & 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Masses only at 5:00 P.M. Saturday and 9:30 A.M. Sunday

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Sunday, 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, Monday, December 25 - 9:30 A.M.

WEEKEND MASSES DECEMBER 30 & 31

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH

**Anticipation Mass, Saturday at 5 P.M.,
Sunday at 9:30 A.M. & 6 p.m.**

**Full Christmas Choir at 9:30 A.M. Mass
(Music begins at 9:10 A.M.)**

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
Mass at 9:30 A.M.**

WEEKEND MASSES JANUARY 6 & 7

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**Anticipation Mass, Saturday at 5 P.M.,
Sunday at 9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.**

**Full Christmas Choir at 9:30 A.M. Mass
(Music begins at 9:10 A.M.)**



100th Anniversary!

Little Flower Parish will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2025! An executive committee has been formed to begin planning a year's worth of celebrations, and subcommittees will be established to assist with

details. If you are interested in contributing in some way to the planning of our events, please contact Angie at amackell@littleflowerparish.org.



Knights of Columbus

Fatima Event Center

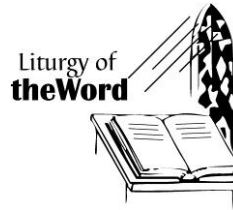
New Year's Eve Party

Located at 1040 North Post Road

New Year's Eve Dinner, Reverse Raffle \$1,000 Grand Prize, and Music (License No. 001617) Cost \$50 (\$25 dinner-\$25 Reverse Raffle). Can purchase one or the other and additional raffle tickets. \$35 at door for dinner ticket if not purchased in advance. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m. Raffle starts at 8:30 p.m. Dinner by City Barbeque includes: brisket, mashed potatoes, beef gravy, green beans, salad, dessert and shrimp cocktail appetizer. Additional raffles for baskets, 50/50, and pull tabs throughout the night. Photo booth and champagne toast after our version of the Ball Drop countdown at 10 p.m. The proceeds go to the K of C No.3228 charity account.



Crafters! The outreach committee needs your help to make our annual Christmas gift for our Little Flower neighbors. This year we will be doing ornaments and need your help adding paint and glitter to the inside! We are meeting December 19 in the cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. Many hands make light work, so looking forward to seeing you. Families are welcome. Any questions please call Mandie Wade at 317-410-5762.



Readings for December 23/24

4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

To read the readings on-line, go to

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/122423.cfm>

ATTENTION!

The Ladies Club will be taking a trip to the Indiana Historical Society to see the Festival of Trees on Saturday, December 30. We will meet in the Little

Flower parking lot at 9:15 and leave by 9:30 for those who may want to carpool. Please contact Peggy Clegg at pclegg@littleflowerparish.org or 317-403-7444 if you want a free ticket! Free tickets are on a first come, first serve basis. If we run out of tickets, you will need to purchase yours at the doors and the cost is \$14.00. This is a great way to wrap up the holiday season. All are welcome!

JOY

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