

ST. THERESE – LITTLE FLOWER

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4720 E 13th Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46201

www.littleflowerparish.org

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

*Celebrating 100 years
of our beloved school*



PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Jude Meril Sahayam, Administrator

frjude@littleflowerparish.org

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dcngary@littleflowerparish.org

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amackell@littleflowerparish.org

Peggy Clegg, Pastoral Associate – Health & Senior Ministries:

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

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Invite Commission

Liturgy Commission

Mark Erdosy

Parish Life Commission

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School Commission

Jesse Purvis

Stewardship Commission

OPEN POSITION

At-Large Member

Kathryn Leszczynski

At-Large Member

Catharine Diehr

At-Large Member

Consuelo Quiroz

At-Large Member

Jeff Usher

At-Large Member

Rick Fischer

At-Large Member

Pattiann Gavaghan

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Mass Saturday: 5:30 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM

Weekdays: Tue. 8:30 a.m., Thurs. 5:30 p.m.

Holy Days: Check inside the bulletin.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday 5:00 p.m. or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please contact the parish office to schedule your child's baptism. 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 is hospitalized or 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 September as part of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). 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.



For the Week August 31 – September 6

01	September	Tuesday
	8:30 a.m.	Bill Rathz by Anita Moody
03	September	Thursday
	5:30 p.m.	Dennis Braun by Traub Siblings
05	September	Saturday
	5:30 p.m.	For the People
06	September	Sunday
	9:00 a.m.	For the Intentions of the Little Flower St. Vincent DePaul Society

2nd Collection for the Assumption Sisters of Nairobi, Kenya

Please welcome Rosalie Stluka who will be making an appeal at our Masses this weekend on behalf of the Assumption Sisters of Nairobi, Kenya, in Africa. Rosalie is a lay person from Lima, Ohio, who has visited these sisters in Nairobi and toured several of their facilities. The mission of the Assumption Sisters is to provide education and health care to the disenfranchised, and to serve the poorest of the poor, especially women in Nairobi. Please be generous in your consideration of this mission appeal. There is no regular envelope for this appeal. Please make your check payable to the parish, noting in the memo line that it is for the Assumption Sisters.

Welcome, Sr. Maité!

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Sr. Maité Rodriguez-Mora, who will begin serving at Little Flower as our Parish Office Manager on Tuesday, September 1.

Sr. Maité is currently in formation with the Sisters of Providence of Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods. We are delighted to welcome her to our staff and look forward to all she will bring to the Little Flower community.

Welcome to Little Flower, Sr. Maité! We are so happy to have you with us!

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

August 30 – September 6, 2026

DAY	ROOM	TIME	GROUP
Sunday	Duffey Hall (School Cafe)	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Donuts
Tuesday	Duffey Hall (School Cafe)	7:00 p.m.	Choir get together
Wednesday	St. Therese (Parish Center)	5:00 p.m.	SVDP
	Duffey Hall (School Cafe)	6:30 p.m.	Euchre
	St. Patrick (Parish Center)	7:00 p.m.	School Commission
Thursday	St. Therese (Parish Center)	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	St. Therese (Parish Center)	4:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary
	Duffey Hall (School Cafe)	6:30 p.m.	Ladies Club
	St. Therese (Parish Center)	8:00 p.m.	AA
Friday	Offsite	7:00 a.m.	Golf Outing
Saturday	St. Patrick (Parish Center)	7:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Group
	Duffey Hall (School Cafe)	6:30 p.m.	Pizza with Fr. Jude
Sunday	Duffey Hall (School Cafe)	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Donuts



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson will preside at the all-school Mass at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 1, in celebration of Little Flower School's 100th anniversary. All parishioners, school families, alumni, and friends are warmly invited to attend.

The parish office will not open until 11:00 a.m.

Mass Attendance**August 22- 115****August 23 - 284**

The Adventuresome Group will meet on **Wednesday, September 9, at 11:30 a.m.**, for lunch in the Parish Center. This month our guest speaker will be Evelyn Hoefer, from Central Psychological Services, LLC. She will give a presentation on: "Abundantly Alive: Mind, Body, & Spiritual Wellness." Please call 317-357-8352 if you plan to attend or email Peggy Clegg: pclegg@littleflowerparish.org. Feel free to bring a friend.

Stewardship CornerYour Gifts of Treasure

Weekly Budget Goal	\$	13,350.00
Collection of August 22 and 23	\$	8,746.67
Electronic Contributions 8/17-8/21	\$	8,837.70
Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Actual	\$	8,837.70
Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget	\$	101,919.69
Fiscal Year 2026-2027 YTD DEFICIT	\$	- 4,880.31

Home Improvement Fund

June Contributions	\$	2,888.51
July Contributions	\$	2,862.51
August Contributions (to date)	\$	2,848.51

Home Improvement/Capital Project Updates

Tuckpointing on front of school and parish center-work to be scheduled.

Church exterior doors -keypad installed and operational; remaining doors waiting for programming.

Campus lighting - We are evaluating the need for additional lighting throughout.

Church floor refinishing – will be completed by Sept. 1.



Ladies, please join us for the Ladies Club meeting on **Thursday, September 3, at 6:30 p.m.**, in the school cafeteria. We will be installing our Officers for the 2026-2027 year. We will also be hearing from Julie Gahimer on the Importance of Laughter. Dinner will be provided. We are looking forward to seeing everyone.

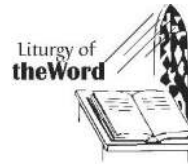


Adult Choir is always seeking new members, especially in the men's and alto sections. **Our first practice is Tuesday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Church.** The choir will sing at most 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning Masses from September through May.

There is no audition needed and no minimum skill required. Many of our members started with no previous choir experience or music-reading ability, so please start to give some thought to if God is calling you to serve in this ministry. New members are always what will keep the choral tradition alive.

We are kicking off with a gathering at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, in the school cafeteria. Those in choir, or interested in choir, are encouraged to attend. Sweets and drinks will be provided.

Email gharlan@littleflowerparish.org with questions.

**READINGS FOR THE 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME****August 29 and 30**

Jeremiah 20:7-9

Romans 12:1-2

Matthew 16:21-27

To read the readings on-line, go to

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/083026.cfm>

LITTLE FLOWER MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL BASEBALL TRIP**REDS vs. CUBS
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

Join the Little Flower Men's Club for a family-friendly trip to Cincinnati to watch the **Cincinnati Reds take on the Chicago Cubs** at **6:40 PM** at Great American Ball Park!

**Tickets: \$34 each****Reserved seating — Section 105****Members, family & friends are ALL WELCOME!**

Some of us will meet at the **Secena Memorial High School parking lot at 1:00 PM** to carpool/caravan to Cincinnati. We'll have the opportunity to enjoy **Oktoberfest Zinzinnati** on the Riverfront area before the game.

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!

To purchase tickets and arrange payment/electronic transfer, contact:

mensclub@littleflowerparish.org

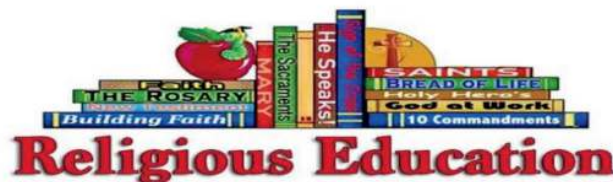
Faith Formation Information



**Confirmation classes begin on
Sunday, September 13 at 10 a.m.**

(after Mass) in the Parish Center.
For Little Flower Parishioners in 8th grade or High School

If you missed the Parent Meeting, or you have questions,
please email confirmation@littleflowerparish.org.



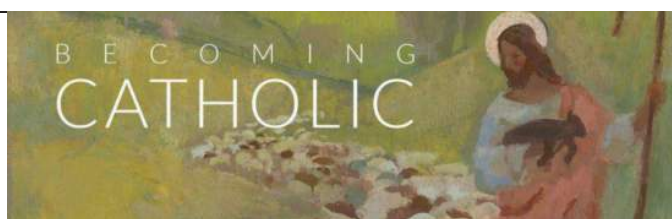
Enrollment is now open for our Religious Education Program for children in public schools, from kindergarten through eighth grade.

Program Details

- Classes begin Sunday, September 27.
- Classes meet most Sundays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Questions or Registration

To register or learn more, contact Lisa at 317-357-8352, ext. 105, or email lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org.



THINKING ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC?

**Come and discover the journey of
faith through OCIA
WHO IS OCIA FOR?**

- Anyone who has not been baptized
- Anyone baptized in another Christian tradition
- Catholics who still need First Communion or Confirmation

JOIN US

Tuesday, September 8

7:00–8:30 p.m.

Parish Center

Enter through doors #11 or #13

Learn about the journey, ask questions, and discover what it means to become fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

No pressure. No obligation.

Just an invitation to come and see.

**For more information, contact Lisa at
lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org**



First Eucharist and First Reconciliation

Sacramental preparation for First Eucharist and Reconciliation will begin in the fall for children entering 2nd grade. Children who attend Little Flower School will prepare during school. Watch for more information from school.

If you have a child that is in 2nd grade who attends public schools and needs to be enrolled in our Sacramental Program, please contact Lisa at 317-357-8352, ext. 105 or email lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org to register.

If you have a child in 3rd grade or above who has not made their First Eucharist, please contact Lisa at 317-357-8352, ext. 105 or lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org as soon as possible.

A requirement for First Eucharist is to be a baptized Catholic and a member of our parish. If your son or daughter has not been baptized in the Catholic Faith, please contact the parish center for more information.

**All things are
possible with God**



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, Charlotte Allstatt, Tricia Allstatt, Fr. Mike Barton, Marylyn Blackwell, Chip Brandt, Esther Capps, Joe Clegg, Mark Clevenger, Dennis Debruhl, Sherri (Ruegamer) Dugger, Joanna Estes, Carol Freeland, Olivia Garrison, Haydee Gloria, Margie Greene, Pauline Graf, Anna Marie Gutierrez, Mary Lou Hoggatt, Margaret Hughel, Lois Irwin, Carrie Jones, John Jones, Bob Lawless, Karen Lientz, Maximus Lopez, Larry Lynch, Catherine McKenna-Sexton, Sally Meth, Gene Miller, Carol Murphy, Mary Alice Pogue, Ray Quinn, Judy Rathz, Scott Rhinehart, Lourdes Riedeman, Denice Rose, Bette Smith, Eileen Walters, Gary Walters, Janet Wilkerson, Sister Lucia Christi Zetzi.

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:

Consuelo Quiroz

2228 N Bosart Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46218

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 in Tokyo, Japan – nephew of Rita Cooning.

Aden S. Haigerty, United States Navy, serving at Naval base Kitsap in Bangor, Washington – nephew of Mike Haigerty.

Javier Estrada – United States Navy, serving in AAMDS Poland. son of Liliana Estrada, grandson of Martin and Shannon Estrada.

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

Lexi Robertson, Navel Submarine Base Kings Bay, GA., granddaughter of Barb Bruce

Riley Allstatt, serving at the San Diego Marine Basic Camp, son of Mark and Christa Allstatt and grandson of Dave and Charlotte Allstatt.

Alex Oskins, 3rd Class Midshipman at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, son of Jill Oskins.

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.



WELCOME TO LITTLE FLOWER

Have you been attending Mass but are not yet a member?

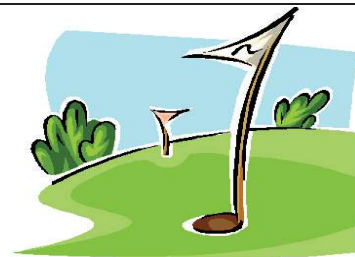
Consider this your invitation to join us.

A friendly parishioner and registration forms will be available at the

WELCOME TABLE in the gathering area next weekend.

Forms will also be available if your address or contact information has changed.

You may also register at www.littleflowerparish.org



The Annual Father Robert Borchertmeyer Golf Outing is just around the corner.

The outing will be on Friday, September 4.

7:00 a.m. Registration

7:50 a.m. Prayer & Announcements

8:00 a.m. shotgun start

Pleasant Run Golf Course.

Cost: \$90.00/player

See the link below to register.

<https://events.golfstatus.com/event/LFgolfouting>

Castle Nights at

Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary

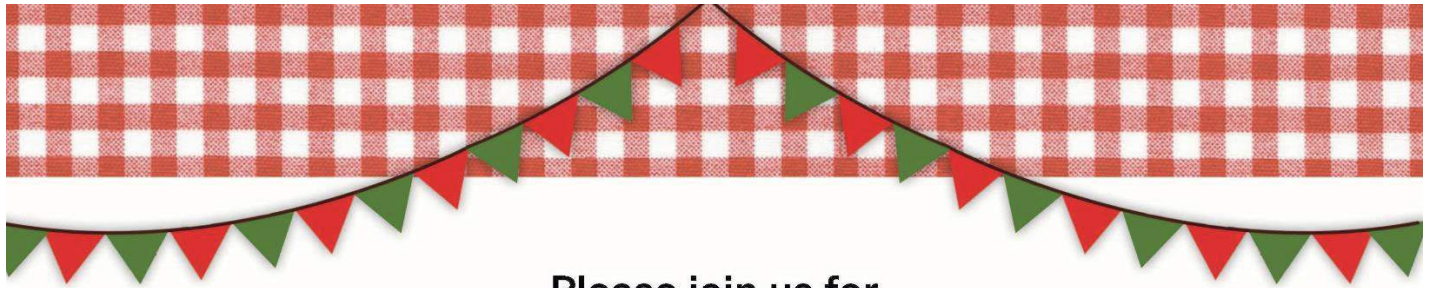
High school men are invited to join the Bishop Brute College Seminary Community for Castle Nights. Held once a month during the school year, you can come to one or all to see what life in seminary is like and spend time in prayer and fellowship with our college seminarians.

September 16, October 21, November 18, 2026

****Due to increased enrollment at Bishop Simon Brute Seminary, Castle Nights attendance will only be open to high school juniors and seniors. ****

To register go to

<https://heargodscall.com/castle-nights>



Please join us for

Pizza with Fr. Jude

Saturday, September 5th

following 5:30 p.m. Mass in Duffey Hall (school cafeteria)



This event is FREE and open to everyone, but RSVPs are required by September 1st so we know much pizza to order.

You may call the Parish Center at **317-357-8352**, or email **Peggy Clegg**, pclegg@littleflowerparish.org, to let us know you are coming.

Please indicate how many people from your family will be attending. Don't miss out on this opportunity to get to know Fr. Jude as he shares his vocation story with us. You will have an opportunity to ask him questions following his talk.

Beer, wine and soda will be available.



Continued Series on the Mass

Do This in Remembrance of Me, Part 5: The Altar Kiss

During the entrance hymn or antiphon, the celebrant approaches the altar and kisses it. Why? The gesture is a sign of reverence. Charles Belmonte explains that the priest and deacon, when present, kiss the altar because it is the Lord's table, the center of the Eucharistic action, and a symbol of Christ. For the same reason, the altar is covered with a cloth in honor of the memorial of the Lord's sacrifice (*Understanding the Mass*, p. 49).

The Significance of the Altar

The word *altar* comes from a Hebrew term meaning "place of sacrifice" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, p. 31). In the Old Testament, altars marked places where people encountered God, offered sacrifice, and prayed. This history helps us understand the altar in a Catholic church: it is where the Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated and where we encounter Christ truly present in the Eucharist.

The Mass is a sacrifice because it allows us to share in the one perfect sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. During the Eucharistic Prayer, Jesus Christ—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—becomes present. The altar therefore receives special honor as the place of this sacred encounter.

More Than a Simple Gesture

Belmonte writes, "To kiss the altar is to kiss Christ." The gesture recalls the woman who repeatedly kissed Jesus' feet and washed them with her tears; her great love brought forgiveness (Lk 7:38). It also signifies the union of Christ, the Bridegroom, with the Church, his Bride. As the priest begins Mass, the kiss expresses the Church's loving union with her Lord and the soul's union with its Redeemer (*Understanding the Mass*, p. 49). The altar kiss is therefore far more than a ceremonial gesture.

Relics and the Witness of the Saints

Because of its dignity, the altar is constructed with special care. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal states that a fixed altar should traditionally have a table of natural stone. In the United States, dignified, solid, well-crafted wood may also be used, provided the altar is structurally immovable (GIRM, no. 301).

Altars also commonly contain the relic of a saint—often a small bone fragment from a martyr or from the patron of the church. This tradition reaches back to the earliest centuries, when Christians celebrated Mass at the burial places of martyrs and in the catacombs.

As a priest, I often think about the saint whose relic rests in the altar—his or her life, faithfulness to Christ, and continuing intercession for us. The saint's witness strengthens our faith today. The connection between the Eucharist and the saint's life also reminds us that the same Eucharist strengthens each of us to live holy and faithful lives in Christ.

Do This in Remembrance of Me, Part 6: The Sign of the Cross

"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." After the entrance hymn or antiphon, Mass begins with this familiar gesture. We also use it often in personal prayer—but why?

Dr. Edward Sri explains that the Sign of the Cross is not merely a way to begin praying; it is itself a powerful prayer. Rooted in the earliest centuries of Christianity, it invokes God's presence and asks for his blessing, help, and protection (*A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, p. 17).

The early Christians made this sign frequently. Sri quotes Tertullian (A.D. 160–225), who described Christians marking their foreheads with the Sign of the Cross throughout daily life—while traveling, entering and leaving, dressing, eating, lighting candles, sitting, and lying down (*A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, pp. 17–18).

A Holy Gesture Rich in Meaning

Because we make the Sign of the Cross so often, we can overlook how much it expresses:

- **The Cross:** The gesture recalls Jesus' saving sacrifice, through which he conquered sin and death.
- **The Trinity:** We pray "in the name," not "in the names," because God is one God in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- **Baptism:** The words recall the formula of Baptism, when we entered God's family and received a share in his life.
- **God's saving work:** The Father sent the Son to save us, and the Holy Spirit guides us toward our heavenly home.

This brief action, completed in only a few seconds, proclaims the heart of our faith.

Making the Sign Reverently

One helpful meditation is to imagine the Blessed Virgin Mary making the Sign of the Cross. St. Bernadette, who saw Mary at Lourdes, reportedly urged others to make the gesture with greater reverence.

In the Roman Rite, use the right hand and touch:

1. The forehead: "In the name of the Father"
2. The middle of the chest: "and of the Son"
3. The left shoulder: "and of the Holy"
4. The right shoulder: "Spirit. Amen."

A Grace-Filled Gift

Repetition can make us less attentive, but the Sign of the Cross remains a powerful prayer. The next time you begin prayer or participate in Mass, pause briefly and make it from the heart:

- Move your hand and say the words slowly.
- Think of Christ's love as you trace the Cross.
- Remember your Baptism and thank God for sharing the life of the Trinity with you.
- Imagine Mary, St. Bernadette, or another saint making the gesture with reverence.

The Sign of the Cross is truly a grace-filled gift.

By Fr. Luke Spannagel

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