

April 26th, 2020 | 3rd Sunday of Easter

WERE NOT OUR HEARTS
burning
WITHIN US?

ST. THERESE, LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC CHURCH

From Father Terry

I saw a parishioner in the grocery this past week, and as we talked I could see that she really missed coming to church and that some of her days have been quite hard on her. She was able to hold back her tears but only barely. When I explained that she could come to pray any day (from 8am-10pm) she seemed relieved and I think she was resolving to make a stop sometime soon. Even just that little bit meant a lot to her, and I hope that knowing that God is still here becomes a comfort for her.

Emotionally, this has been a difficult time for all of us, but some more than others. Loss is never easy, and we have lost a lot. With the past month, we have all had to throw away so much of our expectations and routines for how we live day to day. People have said farewell to hobbies, fun events, special ceremonies like weddings and funerals, graduations and sports leagues, friends and for some people, even their work. It is a huge sacrifice, and God sees every bit of it. I believe He will reward our offerings when we bear them gracefully, alongside Christ Jesus.

And yet, in the midst of the storm brewing in our souls, God's still small voice is present. It can be hard to hear it if we don't quiet our hearts. But yes, Jesus is still in our boat, and he cares for us. He will take care of us.

Perhaps soon, if our state government continues its course, things will start to transition out of our current way of life. As we look up from the bottom of this valley toward the next mountain the Lord is leading us towards, we must continue forward peacefully and above all, patiently.

I would like to recommend to you a great book about peace (and thus also patience). Jacques Philippe is a contemporary writer and a priest from France. He has written so many useful, brief, approachable, insightful, down-to-earth and yet uplifting books. I would recommend any of them, but perhaps above all I would direct you to the first one I ever read: *Searching for and Maintaining Peace: A Small Treatise of Peace of Heart*. This book was very important to me in my time of seminary, when my family grieved the tragic and sudden loss of my uncle James Coonan. I don't know what those days would have looked like if I hadn't been reading that book at the time. I am grateful to God for His providence that was such a help for me then. I have given away many copies of this book at my own expense, finding it to be a great resource for people in difficult periods of life. Perhaps this is one of those times for you.

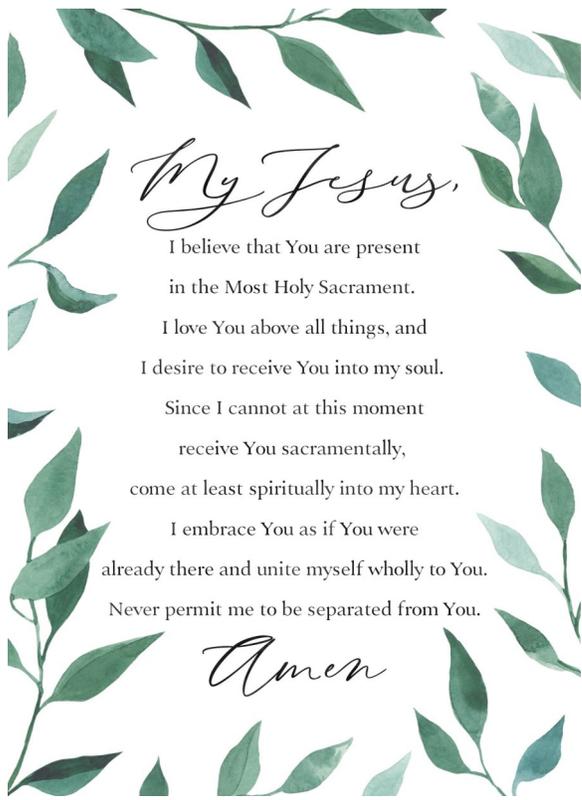
When Jesus appeared to the disciples, His first words were "Peace be with you." The peace that is the surest of all is the peace founded on the solid rock of the Lord's Resurrection and his infinite love. May the Lord God give you His Peace this Easter season.

"How few hearts surrender themselves without reserve to the infinite tenderness of His Love. Happy are we who are privileged to understand the inmost secrets of Our Divine Spouse." May these words of Saint Thérèse, the little flower, strengthen our peace.

Yours in Christ Jesus,



WE ARE AN
EASTER
PEOPLE AND
ALLELUIA
IS OUR SONG!



My Jesus,

I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and

I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment

receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were

already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen

Healing Prayer Corner: Crack the Shell

Last week, we mentioned that one of the Triduum blessings that came to this writer was a prophetic encouragement from Patrick Reis, Executive Director of Encounter Ministries. Patrick spoke of inspiration that came from Nehemiah 6:8-10 in which the Israelites were building a wall around Jerusalem and their enemies were trying to frighten and intimidate them to stop. The Israelites responded by redoubling their efforts. The message is good for all disciples of Jesus.

Jesus' suffering, death, and crucifixion were not the final word. His resurrection was the final word. So it is that the suffering and death from COVID-19 can not be the final word. The prophetic encouragement for us is that we're to redouble our efforts in combating the intimidation, anxiety, and fear that is coming at us by COVID-19. There will be more suffering and death, but when this silent and invisible enemy has finally retreated, we cannot remain a single grain of wheat in our shell (see John 12:24); rather we must crack the shell, become new creations, and redouble our efforts to live and preach the Good News.



Quarantine and the Corporal Works of Mercy: A Short Meditation by Daniel Padilla

As COVID-19 continues to afflict our country, many of us are seeking ways to be helpful in our parish, our community, and our nation. When I think of all the needs of this new world –joblessness, hunger, loneliness – and all those that have been affected, it can be overwhelming. It's times like these when I find that the Corporal Works of Mercy can provide direction. These seven acts, given by Jesus in Matthew 25, give us concrete ways to care for the bodily needs of our neighbor.

There is a certain beauty in the simplicity and wholeness of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. I connect immediately with the first four; they are self-evidently merciful and good. It wasn't until the Great Quarantine that I understood the final three.

It's a strange thing that visiting the sick and imprisoned are merciful acts. It seems to me that the merciful thing to do would be to "heal the sick" or "free the imprisoned." But perhaps Jesus understands that for us, healing may not be possible, and freedom may not be just. But once I encountered loneliness, deep loneliness, I recognized how essential human interaction was to a flourishing life. This quarantine might be the first time many have experienced isolation, especially those of us that live alone. At the risk of equating my quarantine with imprisonment, I will say that I have a newfound appreciation for the gift of human presence. Video chats are well and good, but the act of looking another person eye-to-eye, implicitly recognizing their existence as human and desiring to connect, is so essential to our lives that giving it to a person who is deprived of it is profoundly meaningful. Indeed, giving that experience to someone who has been justly deprived of it, like one imprisoned, is deeply merciful. (Side note: The 20th century theologian Jean-Luc Marion called this moment "the crossing of the gaze," and he claimed that in it was all we needed to understand the selfless and other-yearning nature of love. But that's an idea for another time.) Watching the news in this stay-at-home time also led me to a greater understanding of the last corporal act of mercy.

Burying the dead is, as a work of mercy, very peculiar. (Who are we being merciful towards?) And yet it is also very human; animals do not bury their dead. We not only bury them, we process them through the street, adorn their graves with flowers and memorials, and offer up a Eucharistic Sacrifice for them. I have played dozens of funeral masses, and they are some of the most beautiful and significant liturgies I have seen. But it wasn't until I saw the images of mass graves of COVID-19 victims in New York City that I was moved to understand the merciful nature of burial. There they were, hundreds of unclaimed bodies, being laid into the earth. We as a society recognize that even those without friends or family at the end still deserve a burial. Their lives mattered and deserve to be mourned. It is an act of mercy to mourn them, to recognize that their death is a tragedy, and to pray for their souls.

I pray that God keep us safe through this pandemic. I pray that He continue to bless us with wisdom and draw us closer to Him. And I pray that the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Mass Intentions

Sunday, April 26

The Parish Family of
St. Thérèse, Little
Flower

Monday, April 27

†Tim Bergling
†Agnes Jones

Tuesday, April 28

In Thanksgiving for Dositha

Wednesday, April 29

†John Bycraft
†Matthew Vu Phong Pham

Thursday, April 30

†Greg Calhoun

Friday, May 1

†Robert Good

Saturday, May 2

†Kathy Buszkiewicz

Sunday, May 3

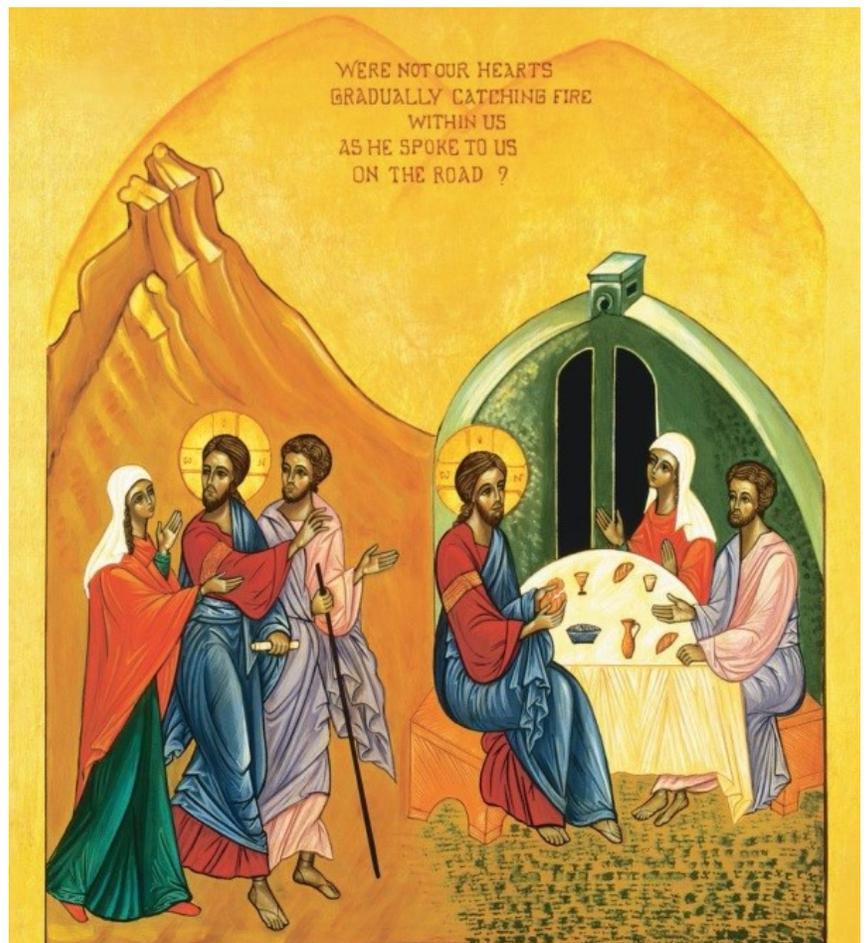
The Parish Family of
St. Thérèse, Little
Flower

Please join us in also praying for all those
affected by the Coronavirus in various ways.
Lord, hear our prayer!



Scripture Readings for the Week of April 26, 2020

Sunday	Third Sunday of Easter Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35
Monday	Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday	Saint Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr; Saint Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest Acts 7:51—8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab; Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday	Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a; Jn 6:35-40
Thursday	Saint Pius V, Pope Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51
Friday	Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59 or Gn 1:26—2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Mt 13:54-58
Saturday	Memorial of Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Jn 6:60-69
Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10



A Litany of Blessing in Time of Grief

Before we breathed our first, O God,
you etched our names upon your hands,
like stretchmarks on our mothers' skin.
And those same hands that bear our lives
will carry us home as we breathe our last.

So even in our grief, O God,
let every breath we carry within
announce your goodness with praise unending.
For you have made us to be your own,
a people of your Spirit with blessing on our lips.

Therefore:

Sun and moon: *Bless the Lord!*
Stars of the sky: *Bless the Lord!*
Depths of ocean: *Bless the Lord!*
Birds of air: *Bless the Lord!*
Let all creation: *Bless the Lord!*

Blessed be God for doctors and nurses: *Blessed by God forever!*
For scientists and researchers: *Blessed by God forever!*
For pharmacists and technicians: *Blessed by God forever!*
For social workers and caregivers: *Blessed by God forever!*
For all who endeavor to keep us safe: *Blessed by God forever!*

Blessed be God for grocery clerks and janitors: *Blessed by God forever!*
For restaurant chefs and fast-food workers: *Blessed by God forever!*
For farmers and delivery drivers: *Blessed by God forever!*
For field laborers and postal carriers: *Blessed by God forever!*
For all who feed and care for us: *Blessed by God forever!*

Blessed be God for pastoral staffs: *Blessed by God forever!*
For clergy and religious who pray for us daily: *Blessed by God forever!*
For catechists teaching in creative new ways: *Blessed by God forever!*
For liturgical ministers tackling technology: *Blessed by God forever!*
For all who serve the domestic church: *Blessed by God forever!*

Blessed be God for teachers and parents: *Blessed by God forever!*
For those who sing and those who dance: *Blessed by God forever!*
For musicians, artists, composers, and poets: *Blessed by God forever!*
For comedians, actors, and story-tellers: *Blessed by God forever!*
For all who inspire and sustain our hearts: *Blessed by God forever!*

And blessed be God for the human spirit: *Blessed by God forever!*
That strives to live in more gentle ways: *Blessed by God forever!*
That connects with others while staying apart: *Blessed by God forever!*
That weeps and laughs and sits in silence: *Blessed by God forever!*
For the human family in deeper communion: *Blessed by God forever!*

In faith and love, we ask you, God, let not this virus consume our world. But breathe your Spirit in us again that we may praise you unceasingly with Christ our Lord, from whom all good things come.

"A Litany of Blessing in time of Grief." Copyright @ Diana Macalintal, 2020. Used with permission.

Aching for the Familiar, Longing for New Life

"I am going fishing." This line of Peter's in last Friday's Gospel reading struck me (John 21:3). Their leader had been crucified, He had already appeared to them and broken open the word, and what did Peter do? He returned to what was familiar and known.

I relate so much to Peter. I get him. He enthusiastically wants to follow, but then mucks it up all the time. He wants to *do* something. And today that something is returning to life as it had been before. Does that mean he had abandoned everything else? Who knows. I suspect he just wanted to return to something familiar and comforting during a time of doubt and confusion after the Resurrection and before Pentecost.

But here's what else struck me ... Jesus met them on the shore. He wasn't surprised they went back to fishing, back to the familiar and comforting. He didn't even chide them for it - in fact He *helps* them. He meets them there and then calls them in deeper. Meets them where they are and then calls from there.

This is comforting to me. Because after all this quarantine and pandemic I *want* to be different, but I also have a deep ache and longing to go back to all that was comforting and familiar before. But that ache is ok. Jesus will meet me there too. He'll meet me wherever I am and call me forth. He's always waiting for me, like He was for the apostles on the boat, ready to reassure and remind them, and me, of the truth: He is risen. And that changes *everything*.

-Monica Markovich



Social Justice Commission: Hard Lessons I Learned

The topic of white privilege never crossed my mind or my reality until one day my wife asked if we would foster a four-year-old bi-racial boy. At 50, I wasn't planning on having kids, let alone having a child from a different background. We didn't even know how to wash his hair. After tackling some of the basic issues, I realized I didn't know anything about his world.



When the term of "White Privilege" was first introduced to me, I understood it to mean having certain advantages just because you are white. I asked some of my black friends to clarify. They gave me examples like being followed around a store as if you were going to steal something. Being scared of the police. Dealing with authority figures who do not look like you.

This was certainly going to be a different world from the one I grew up in. I pray for compassion, wisdom and love to guide my son and all children today.

"But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and truth." – 1 John 3:17-18.

– Pete Webb

Your thoughts? Share with us by email: sjinfo@littleflowerchurch.org.



Stay Connected!



Website: www.littleflowerchurch.org

Bulletin: Visit <https://discovermass.com/church/little-flower-south-bend-in/#bulletins> to sign up to get the weekly bulletin sent directly to your inbox.

Facebook: Visit <https://bit.ly/littleflowerfacebook> or search for us @littleflowersouthbend.

Instagram: Visit <https://www.instagram.com/stthereselittleflowersb/> or search for @stthereselittleflowersb.

YouTube: Click the link to view our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLUnz-iyXphpP5nNi5DdICA?fbclid=IwAR0wajroygbg77mdAwLPD-S6Chazh4kHnrfcPRuotVmPLrRmWfBCouzrlfc&app=desktop>, then click the "Subscribe" button so you never miss new videos from the Parish.

Email: We hope to make use of email as a consistent form of communication, especially for those who may prefer it to social media, however, we need your help! If we do not have an email address for you on file please reach out to the Parish office by phone (574-272-7070) or email (bulletin@littleflowerchurch.org) so we can update your contact information. Also, if you would be so kind as to encourage your friends and family in the parish to do the same we would appreciate it!

Office: The office is currently closed to the public. You may call the office between 11am and 3pm to speak with a staff member.

Diocesan Updates: For the most current COVID-19 information and directives, visit www.diocesefwsb.org/covid-19

Thank you to our bulletin
Sponsor of the Week
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Mass Times

Saturday Morning8:00 am
 Saturday..... Vigil 5:30 pm
 Sunday..... 9:00 am, 11:30 am, 8:00 pm
 Monday–Friday8:30 am
 Monday & Wednesday.....7:00 pm

Reconciliation Times

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday After 8:30 am Mass
 Monday & Wednesday6:30 pm
 Saturday.....8:30 to 9:30 am, and 4:30 to 5:00 pm
 (Or By Appointment.)

Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration

Saturday..... 8:30-9:30 am
 Most Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays.....9:00-10:00 am
 First Friday of Each Month.....7:30-8:30 pm

Additional Sacraments

Baptism & Anointing of the Sick—Contact the office for more information.
Marriage—Please contact the office at least 6 months in advance.

Office Hours

Monday-Friday.....9:00 am-5:00 pm

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