



Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas!

We're so happy to have you worshipping with us. We invite you to join fully in our worship of God during this Mass. That includes praying the responses, singing the songs, and listening in the Scriptures for the best news ever: God became man to rescue you!

We hear often this season that Jesus is *Immanu-El* (Hebrew for "God is with us"). Jesus comes close to us. He draws near to us. And even more, He isn't content to remain at a distance from you. Jesus didn't want heaven without you, so He brought heaven - His very self - down to earth. The God of the universe humbled Himself and became human because He wants to raise you to become like Him.

From the moment of His birth, rescuing you was the only thought in His mind. You are His sole purpose for coming to earth. He determined that He wanted nothing to separate you from Him. He never wants a day without you again. So to keep you as close as possible, He has not only become human, but He remains with us always physically present in His Body and Blood in Holy Eucharist. If you are a Catholic and in a state of grace, you can come forward to receive Him in the best and most perfect way imaginable at Communion. Even after Mass, He waits for you in every tabernacle in the world. He longs for even one more moment of time with you.

Let's pray together: *Please come, Immanu-El, God who is with me right now. You came to earth to be with me. I will spend the rest of my life on earth remaining with You. Amen.*

If you have questions about God, Christianity, Catholicism, or just about life, we invite you to connect with us. Simply scan the code below with your phone's camera and fill out the very simple form. We will be back in touch with you shortly! And if you want to receive even more of Jesus' incarnational love, join us for a Household Night (learn more on pg. 5). If you want to explore the deeper questions, we invite you to join us for Alpha (learn more on pg. 6).



Please know that you are loved.
You are at home here.
And we can't wait to get to know you better!

- *The St. Thérèse, Little Flower Staff Team*





Beloved parishioners,

Happy birthday, Jesus!

Once a little boy was upset his parents did not give him presents on Christmas Day. The parents lovingly said to him, “Son, when we celebrate Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. You do not get presents when you celebrate another person’s birthday; instead, you give them presents...”

Many of us could identify with this little boy. We sometimes reduce Christmas to a season only for giving or receiving gifts. There is nothing wrong about this if we keep the true meaning of Christmas alive in our hearts. Unlike the parents of the little boy above, I would say that God gives us the gift of His Son at Christmas. Even though it is Christ’s birthday, he is the one giving us gifts. So, let us open our hearts to receive all the gifts that Christ’s birth brings.

Christmas is about Jesus! It is about the incarnation, the enfleshment of the divine and eternal Son of God. It is about God entering into our chaos and restoring it from within. He who is outside of time enters into time to redeem it. St. John captures this very beautifully in the prologue of the fourth Gospel. He writes, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...” This Word became flesh like you and me and dwelt among us. He took on, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, what was not his originally—that is, human flesh—in order that he might make us to share in his divinity. (The Eastern Fathers are very big on teaching that the goal of our creation is theosis, which is, our divinization). The distortion of the original innocence of creation by the disobedience of Adam and Eve is healed and restored by the obedience of the Virgin Mary who brought forth the Son of God. Christmas is God’s gift to the world; a gift of redemption and restoration. Humanity has sinned and deserved the decay and corruption that come as a consequence of sin; but God would not sit and watch creation go into annihilation. What does he do? He enters into creation in order to put a stop to its self-inflicted wound and to restore it to its original glory. This is what Christmas is all about. And we are recipients of this wondrous gift of God’s self to the world.

Our response? We need to be grateful for the gift that we have received, even though we are most undeserving of it. We must rejoice and be joyful that God has entered our world as Emmanuel, God with us. And like the angels, let us sing: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:14).

In the spirit of the season, I pray that the joy and peace of Christmas will help lighten the burden and pain in the hearts of those who have lost loved ones or who might have experienced a significant relationship change that might be reason for sadness this Christmas. May Jesus heal all who are hurting. Amen.

I wish you and your families a very blessed and Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

With blessings from my heart,

Christmas is God's gift to the world; a gift of redemption and restoration.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT WORSHIPS TOGETHER

Scripture readings for Mass

You can follow along with the Scripture readings by using the blue hymnal found in the pews. The readings for Christmas Masses can be found at #1003 (4:30 pm & 7:00 pm Mass), #1004 (10:00 pm Mass), and #1006 (9:30 am Mass).

The readings for the Feast of the Holy Family can be found at #1007.

Back-to-back Mass Obligations

1st Obligation: Christmas	<i>pick one</i> 	Dec. 24 - 4:30 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm OR Dec. 25 - 9:30 am*
2nd Obligation: Feast of the Holy Family	<i>pick one</i> 	Dec. 26 - 9:00 am, 11:30 am, 8:00 pm

*Please note that there will NOT be a Saturday vigil Mass on December 25th.

Order of the Mass

The Mass is made up of two principal parts:

1. **The Liturgy of the Word** (a reading from the Old Testament, a Psalm, a reading from the New Testament, and a reading from one of the Gospels, and a homily by the priest)
2. **The Liturgy of the Eucharist** (the actions and prayers during this part culminate in the Consecration and reception of the Holy Eucharist, which is the Body and Blood of Jesus)

The Octave Day of Christmas Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Although it is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year, we will be celebrating the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God with Mass on Friday, December 31st at 6:30 pm and Saturday, January 1st at 9:00 am & 12 noon.

Please note there will be no 5:30 pm Mass on January 1st.

Mary, Mother of God, Patroness of the Americas, pray for us!

This week's Mass Intentions

<p>Friday, December 24</p> <p>8:30 am Robert William Kamugisha 4:30 pm Intentions of Daniel Tucker 7:00 pm †Ron Mudwilder 10:00 pm †Ron Schriver</p> <p>Saturday, December 25</p> <p>9:30 am †Clem & Janr Tafelski And Barbara Tjarksen</p> <p>Sunday, December 26</p> <p>9:00 am †Mr. & Mrs. Doan Dinh 11:30 am The Parish Family of St. Thérèse, Little Flower 8:00 pm †Justine Sova</p> <p>Monday, December 27</p> <p>8:30 am †H. Joshua Stieglitz</p> <p>Tuesday, December 28</p> <p>8:30 am †Jane Tafelski</p>	<p>Wednesday, December 29</p> <p>8:30 am †Alfonso Hernaiz</p> <p>Thursday, December 30</p> <p>8:30 am †Greg Calhoun</p> <p>Friday, December 31</p> <p>8:30 am †Alfonso Hernaiz 6:30 pm Intentions of Pat Gehred</p> <p>Saturday, January 1</p> <p>9:00 am †James Lynskey</p> <p>Sunday, January 2</p> <p>9:00 am †Mr. Vincent Dinh 11:30 am †Vivian Ann Pesaresi 8:00 pm The Parish Family of St. Thérèse, Little Flower</p>
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A Gift for YOU!

Merry Christmas! At the doors of the church you will find a Christmas present from our parish to you: free copies of "Why We're Catholic" by Trent Horn.

"Why We're Catholic" is a short, simple introduction to the basic truths of the Catholic faith. Fear not, you don't need a Master's degree in theology to understand it! Instead, each chapter tackles an important question that you or someone you know is probably already asking:

"Why should I believe in the existence of God?"

"What's the relationship between faith and science?"

"How do I know Jesus really was who he said he was?"

"What makes the Catholic Church different from other churches?"

"Is there life after death? What happens when we die?"

This book was written for absolutely anyone to read. Whether you consider yourself an agnostic, atheist, or spiritual seeker; whether you're one of our Protestant brothers or sisters; whether you were raised Catholic but don't go to Mass much anymore; or whether you're already in love with Christ and his Church and want to learn more: this book is for you.

We are so glad that you came to join us this weekend as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. May he bless you richly this Christmas season.

Sincerely,



Daniel Tucker
Director of Sacred Music & Liturgy



Household Life at St. Thérèse, Little Flower Catholic Church

Households are medium-sized intentional communities of parishioners (and their families) gathered under a particular charism and united under a community covenant. Households gather monthly in homes to eat, pray, and 'do life together'! Monthly gatherings are open to anyone: Catholics, non-Catholics, seekers, and those just curious about Jesus.

The motto of household night is: "Be loved and be fed."

To sign up for the Household newsletter to receive monthly gathering details scan the code or visit bit.ly/3dK45oi



WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT
BUILDS & SENDS DISCIPLES



Healing Prayer Corner: The Darkness Has Not Overcome It

The words, "The darkness has not overcome it," is found in the Gospel of John in the Christmas Day Mass. They follow after the words heard in the Gospel of Luke in the Christmas Mass during the night, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

We live in uncertain and fearful times. Wars, rumors of big wars, Covid and fears of more epidemics, weather catastrophes in greater number and of devastating consequences, politics that have reached new levels of sordidness, school shootings and the expectation of more. The list goes on and on. But...

All this darkness cannot overcome the fact that God Is With Us, Emmanuel, commemorated every year, but with us every day, every minute, if we let him. If we invite him into our hearts and be people of love and compassion. If we let him form our minds, and be people of understanding and wisdom. And if we let him form our actions, and be people of care and courage.

Yes, our actions! Do not be afraid. Let us not be afraid to proclaim the good news and be doers of the word. Therein lies healing which the world so desperately needs.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT SERVES THE POOR



Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Giving Tree for St. Margaret's House! Your generosity will bless women and children in need this Christmas.

Food Pantry Updates

Thank you for your continued support of our parish Food Pantry! We are excited to be back to serving clients 2 days a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30–3:15 pm).

We will reopen after the holidays on January 4th.

Thank you to our bulletin Sponsor of the Week:

Tree of Life Dental

(See their ad on the back cover)

Whatever You Do Outreach: You Are Light Shining in the Darkness

So many folks who have called for assistance have asked us to thank you, the donors to and lifeblood of the Whatever You Do Outreach Program, and to wish you a merry, or joyful, or happy Christmas. These are folks, many of whom are on the edge of eviction and facing homelessness, who are in fear of the gas being disconnected and dealing with the cold, or the electricity being disconnected and being without lights. Some are dealing with debilitating diseases or injuries, some are elderly who are used to skimping, but still can't pay all their bills. But they are humbled by and filled with gratitude, and often tears, for whatever assistance we give. The wonderful thing is this. Because of your great generosity, we are able to gift them not only with assistance that prevents an immediate disconnection, but the payment of a whole bill that gives them some breathing room. You have been a source of hope for them, and strength to not give up.

Thank you. May your Christmas season be filled with blessings.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT EXTENDS THE KINGDOM OF GOD



Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

Saturday, January 8, 2022

The Knights of Columbus will be conducting a Free Throw Contest. This contest is for ages 9-14 Boys and Girls. The date of our contest will be January 8th. Please see the parish website or contact Brother Scott Smithburn at irishman1991@gmail.com to register. Winners of our contest will move on to regionals, district, state and ultimately national. If you are into basketball we invite you to give this a try. Contact Scott Smithburn at the email address previously provided or Grand Knight Ben Janczewski at wytotechben@gmail.com.

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Barbara & Dick Tjarsen	Peck & Lohmann Families	Morell-Piza Family	
Hanson & Bauer Families	Ouellette & Parent Families	Peterson Family	
		Dillman Family	
		Christine Stayback	
		For the Poor Souls in Purgatory	