

At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face.

At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.

1 Corinthians 13:12



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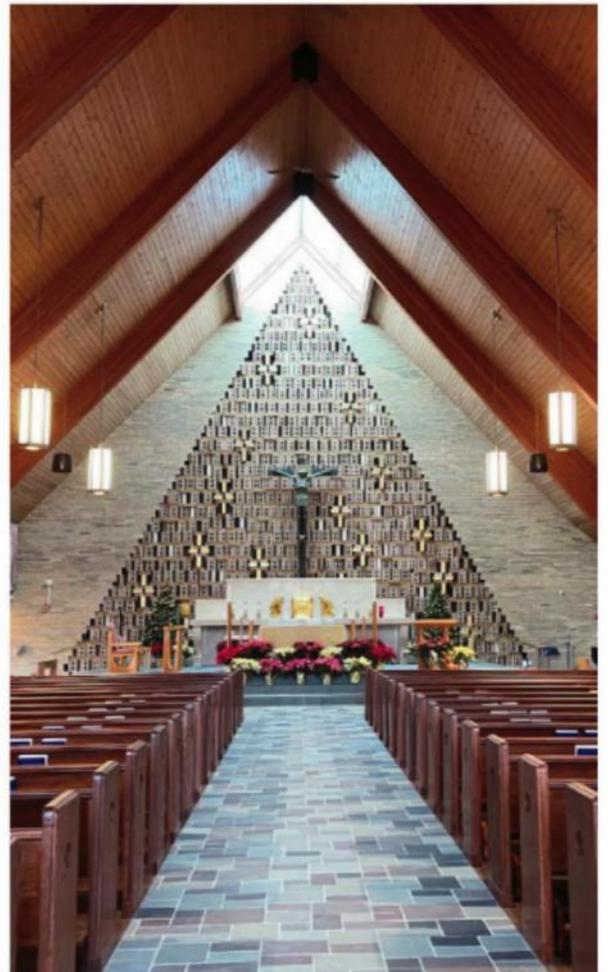
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The call of Jeremiah and the ministry of Jesus in the Gospel offer us some glimpse into some of the challenges of a prophet. Jeremiah could be seen as a foreshadowing of the 'Suffering servant' of Isaiah, and a type for the Messiah. Although not a royal figure as the Davidic Messiah spoken about in Isaiah, we see in Jeremiah's life a lot of similarities with the life of Jesus. Both Jeremiah and Jesus were called and anointed by God before they were born, to be a prophet to the nations. Both suffered rejection at the hands of those to whom they were sent, both felt abandoned, were tortured, and eventually suffered a shameful death. But in all their troubles, the Lord was with them and never allowed their enemies to overpower them. The First reading and the Gospel for this weekend show us that though evil might come to the one chosen by God, the Lord will deliver them from it all. God never abandons us to the tyranny of the evil one. Every setback has its expiration, when God would triumph and reign supreme. The people in today's Gospel could not kill Jesus. God delivers him from their hands because his time had not come. So, hang in there!

But how did their admiration for Jesus change so quickly? How did he attract their ire by his reference to scripture? The concept of 'family honor' is very strong in Mediterranean culture of antiquity, and in the time of Jesus. A child brought honor to his or her family, and to dishonor one's family was a matter of life and death. It is said that in the Mediterranean world of antiquity, everyone had a proper place assigned to them at birth, and no one was expected to become something better than or to improve on the lot of their parents. Children were to continue in the trade of their parents but could not deviate from family lines of business. Jesus is perceived by people in his village as having gone beyond his family boundaries. He does not continue with the trade of Joseph, his foster father, instead he becomes an itinerant preacher. The people in Nazareth knew Jesus and his family very well. Thus they wondered, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" The controversy that greeted Jesus' homecoming could have resulted from his choosing not to continue with Joseph's trade. This is a breach of family honor. As though this was not grave enough, he preaches not even to fellow Mediterranean Judeans but to Gentiles and even performs miracles of healing among them, citing the ministry of Old Testament examples such as prophets Elijah and Elisha among non-Israelites. By so doing, Jesus puts himself in the tradition of the prophets as one like them. We could understand why his townspeople were enraged and wanted to kill him. He had violated the Mediterranean honor code.

How does this fit with our American culture today, where it is expected that children do better than their parents? Where competition to excel is the order of the day? Well, there is nothing wrong with pursuing excellence in the material life. My invitation to us would be to pursue excellence in our spiritual life with same vigor and zeal as we pursue it in our academics and professional life. If we miss heaven after all our strivings, for success, accomplishments, fame, wealth and popularity, we would have lost all.

This week I will be away at Camp Bullis in San Antonio, Texas for a training. Keep me in your prayers, as I will do same for you. Please remember our vicariate's Listening Session for the Synod coming up at St. Pius X in Granger on February 3rd at 6 pm. I hope everyone would attend. My gratitude to Father William, who would be helping with the sacraments while I am away. May Jesus bless you, and may Our Lady protect you!

Fr. Julius

**And he said,
"Amen, I say to you,
no prophet is accepted
in his own native place."**

LUKE 4:24

From the Director of Sacred Music & Liturgy

This coming week's daily Masses feature two special liturgical blessings that I urge you to avail yourselves of. Firstly, on **Wednesday February 2nd, we will have a blessing of candles** to mark the celebration of the Presentation of the Lord (see Luke 2:22-40). If you have a prayer corner or devotional area at home, this is an excellent opportunity to have candles blessed for use in those spaces. I should mention that the feast of the Presentation is also known as Candlemas (on account of the candle blessing that happens on this day every year), as well as the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary (in accordance with ancient Jewish law - see Leviticus 12).

Secondly, on **Thursday February 3rd, we will have the blessing of throats** that accompanies the liturgical commemoration of St. Blaise (+316), bishop and martyr. St. Blaise is the patron saint of those with throat ailments and, in this time of pandemic, we should certainly ask his intercession!

In other news, the choir is moving right along. They can be heard singing at the 11:30 AM Mass twice per month. New members are always welcome! No experience is necessary, just drop by our rehearsals on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:15 PM.

Peace,



Daniel Tucker
Director of Sacred Music & Liturgy

WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT
WORSHIPS TOGETHER

Readings for the Week of January 30, 2022

Sunday	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Jer 1: 4-5, 17-19/ Ps 71: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17/ 1 Cor 12: 31-13: 13 or 1 Cor 13:4-13/ Lk 4: 21- 30
Monday	Memorial of Saint John Bosco, Priest 2 Sm 15: 13-14, 30; 16:5-13/ Ps 3:2, 4-5, 6-7/ Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday	2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/ Ps 86: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord Mal 3:1-4/ Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/ Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40
Thursday	1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/ 1 Chr 29:10, 11 ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/ Mk 6:7-13
Friday	Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 & 50, 51/Mk 6:14-29
Saturday	Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr 1 Kgs 3:4-13/ Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13,14/ Mk 6:30-34
Sunday	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/ Ps 138: 1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8/ 1 Cor 15:1-11/ Lk 5:1-11

St. Thérèse, pray for us!

This week's Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 29

5:30 pm †Greg Vela

Sunday, January 30

9:00 am †Norma Miller

11:30 am Paul Costello

8:00 pm The Parish Family of St. Thérèse,
Little Flower

Monday, January 31

8:30 am †John Peck

Tuesday, February 1

8:30 am †Laurie Crisp

Wednesday, February 2

8:30 am †Mark Love

Thursday, February 3

8:30 am No Intention at this time

Friday, February 4

8:30 am No Intention at this time

Saturday, February 5

8:00 am No Intention at this time

5:30 pm †Mike Perkins

Sunday, February 6

9:00 am †Barbara Tjarsen

11:30 am †Rick McCoy

8:00 pm The Parish Family of St. Thérèse,
Little Flower

WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT BUILDS & SENDS DISCIPLES



SUNDAYS
6:30-8PM
UPPER ROOM

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, February 5th, after 8:00 am Mass

We are excited to announce that the men's prayer breakfast will be returning to St. Thérèse, Little Flower. Thanks to Charles Ingram who will be leading this important men's prayer and discussion hour. The prayer breakfast will be the First Saturday of each month beginning after the Saturday Morning Mass. All men are invited to attend and help if you so desire. Please reach out to Charles Ingram at hogman63@yahoo.com.

SEEKING HELP IN THE PARISH OFFICE

We are looking for regular volunteers to help in the parish office. The greatest need is Wednesday mornings and Friday afternoons, but any help is welcome!
Come share your talents with us!

WELCOME
Be a welcoming presence to parishioners & visitors.

ACCOMPANY
Walk with parishioners, visitors and those calling in.

SERVE
Be the loving voice of Christ to those calling in for assistance or comfort.

Questions? Ready to help? Please contact Gail via gail@littleflowerchurch.org

You're invited to a Synod Listening Session

Through Synod 2021-23, Pope Francis is seeking input from ALL members of the laity, especially those whose voice is not typically heard. You are invited to share how the Holy Spirit is speaking to you. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is hosting listening sessions across our geographical region from late January through early March. The diocese will then prepare a summary document on these consultations to share with the Vatican. Interested? To learn more, attend our listening session at St. Pius X on Thursday, February 3rd at 6:00 pm or visit diocesefwsb.org/synod for other opportunities.

how can you help design

Catholic Technology?

All are welcome to participate in this 1-minute survey today!

<https://bit.ly/littleflower-techsurvey>



Healing Prayer Corner: Time To Be Bold

The opening line of Jeremiah – “The word of the Lord came to me, saying: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you...” – stuck in this writer's heart for this Healing Prayer column.

There are two dominant sides to the “abortion issue” – the “pro-life” side and the “pro-choice” side. The sides are irreconcilable, and that fact, in light of the upcoming decisions of the United States Supreme Court, could very possibly ignite a seemingly intractable situation into something more ominous.

It is the Church's teaching that life is sacred beginning at conception. The words – “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.” – certainly support the sacredness of life beginning at conception. However, the painful realities of children conceived through rape or incest or children born after other “problem” pregnancies might cause some believers to wonder if the Creator really rejoices in life which begins this way because many of us are troubled by these births. So what to do?

The Church is taking new initiatives to empower believers into meeting the challenges of “problem” or “unwanted” pregnancies, but this writer thinks something much more is needed. The Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, needs to transform and heal the heart of the world. We live in a visual age. Perhaps the most persuasive action we can take is to create visual portrayals of the development of the unborn children from conception to birth. Actually, that much already exists, but something more is needed, something that is sensitive to the “hard” cases. Something so beautiful, so compelling, so magnificent, clothed in understanding and wisdom. And put these on YouTube and every other social media, and even in theaters. It would take a lot of \$\$\$, but the resources exist. What is needed is imagination and boldness.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT SERVES THE POOR

Baby Shower

Weekends of January 30th & February 5th

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Baby Shower We will have a collection container in the rear of the Church. The items collected will be taken to the Women's Care Center of South Bend. The Women's Care Center is an integral part of the Right to Life Movement, they provide essential care to women and children in need.

You can help by dropping off any of the requested items listed below. The Knights of Columbus, Women's Care Center and most importantly the mother's and children they serve, thank you!

Items needed by Women's Care Center

- 4T boy and girl clothes
- 5T boy and girl clothes
- Newborn boy and girl clothes
- Preemie boy and girl clothes
- 0-3m boy and girl clothes
- New, store bought plush baby blankets
- swaddle wraps
- cozy infant car seat covers
- diapers in all sizes
- pull-ups
- gas cards

Casserole Ministry

Providing casseroles for The Center for the Homeless is an important Little Flower ministry. Volunteers prepare a casserole six times a year (every other month) on a Monday or Tuesday of their choice and deliver it to The Center for the Homeless before 4 PM. A recipe book and pan are provided along with instructions on how to select the casserole for the date of the delivery.

If you can see yourself in this important volunteer role, please contact me for additional information. Your participation would be appreciated!

Susy Porter, Coordinator
The Center for the Homeless Casserole Program

937-307-6413
Sport1004@comcast.net

Whatsoever You Do: 2021 Outreach Report

\$88,857.67 to 375 families! That is what was distributed in 2021. The income for the Whatsoever You Do Outreach Programs comes in part from a parish tithing of \$1,500 monthly and an annual organizational donation to Little Flower that is directed to Outreach. But the bulk of donations is directly from you through the green envelopes and other giving methods. The numbers weren't quite as high as in 2020, in part because there was considerably more government help to individuals and families in 2021. But at the moment, the Child Tax Credit program and other government assistance programs are suspended.

A woman who recently called, panicked because she had a large utility bill and had no way of paying. She was employed but her position was eliminated because of the impact of Covid. Her husband was injured on his job, and while in recovery his position has been eliminated. They have four children. We were open to paying her entire utility bill, but unbeknownst to her another agency had provided some assistance.

Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!! Because of the great generosity of you, the parishioners, our capacity has increased. You are a blessing to many.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT EXTENDS THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Bringing back a Little Flower tradition:

The Chili Cook-off

February 18th | 6- 8 PM | Parish Center

Enter your best chili to compete by emailing
jenny@littleflowerchurch.org

OR

Help decide the winning recipe - come taste them all & vote for your favorite!



Job Posting

Saint Joseph High School has an opening for an Administrative Assistant for the Main Office. For information and to complete an application, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3rU3UNO>. Questions may be directed to 574-233-6137.

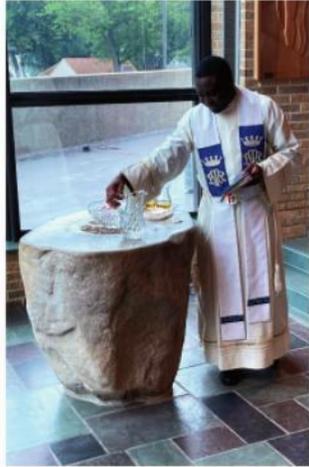
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 9:00 am, 11:30 am, & 8:00 pm
 Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm
DAILY MASS
 Monday - Friday 8:30 am
 Saturday 8:00 am
  

OUR STAFF

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 darlene@litttleflowerchurch.org

Reconciliation Times

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

Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 9:00-9:30 am
 Saturday 8:30-9:30 am

Additional Sacraments

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

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