



The desert & the  
parched land will exult;  
the steppe will  
rejoice & bloom.  
They will bloom with  
abundant flowers, &  
rejoice with joyful song.  
The glory of Lebanon  
will be given to them,  
the splendor of Carmel  
and Sharon; they will  
see the glory of the  
LORD, the splendor  
of our God.

3rd Sunday of Advent | Isaiah 35 :1 & 2

# WELCOME

St. Thérèse, Little Flower Catholic Church

WE ARE SO GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

## WE CARE ABOUT GETTING TO KNOW YOU:

Let us know what you are looking for and a member of our team will reach out about how we can walk with you.

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## OUR MISSION

Driven by the missionary zeal of St. Thérèse, the Lord anoints us to proclaim to the poor and broken the good news that Jesus calls us to abundant life in Him.

## WHAT WE'RE UP TO

### Today: Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Spanish Heart Dance and Music Company will present a luncheon/theater concert celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sunday, December 11 after the 11:30 Mass in the Parish Center.

The Knights of Columbus will host a taco bar. This is a fund raiser for Little Flower Church and the Ultra Sound Fund for the Women's Center.

Theater tickets are: Adults \$10.00; Children 12 and under \$5.00. The taco bar will be a separate price.

For more information, contact:  
Carolynn Hine-Edington  
(Phone: 574-329-2977)



### The Big Picture of Hunger

**Thursday, December 15, 7:00 pm in Rooms 2/3 of the Parish Center.**

Coming Attraction of the Social Justice Commission sponsored series on hunger, Hunger Is Not a Game, the final presentation.

Marijo Martinec, Executive Director and CEO of the Food Bank of Northern Indiana, will speak on the scope of the problem of hunger nationally and locally and efforts to address hunger in our region. Food insecurity in our nation and locally is a huge issue. It is a problem for everyone, including those of us who are food secure. Everyone needs to be involved in the solution. Come and discover the huge contribution of the Food Bank.

## LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

The Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice." Our celebration today echoes those words, "Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." This weekend, the celebrant at Mass has the option of wearing rose-colored vestments, and we light the rose-colored candle on our Advent wreath to emphasize our joy as Christmas draws near. The lighter colored candle also speaks of the coming of Jesus, who is the light of the world, and whose light dispels the darkness of night. The near arrival of our redemption should be a cause of great joy for us. The Lord is coming again in glory to restore our dignity, which was stolen from us by the evil one, who tempted our first parents. We sing O Come, O Come, Emmanuel as we express our expectant hope of his glorious return at the end of time, and also of his coming among us in the innocence of a child.

But what is there to rejoice about when the world as we know it is constantly in a flux, and life seems to get more difficult by the day? Why rejoice when wars and threats of nuclear and large scale combats are destroying lives, limbs and properties? Why rejoice when the moral fabric of society is collapsing and violence of every kind are becoming the norm? Why rejoice when the Church and institutions we once trusted seem silent or not speaking loudly in the face of social injustice and suffering around the world? We can go on and on... While I might agree with the majority opinion about the state of affairs in our world, I prefer not to trade blames, but do my part to make the world a better place. I find the sayings of St. Peter of

Alcantara insightful: "Truly, matters in the world are in bad state; but if you and I begin in earnest to reform ourselves, a really good beginning will have been made."

Is our joy contingent on the fact that we have nothing to worry about? Should it be defined by the news media or by the government of the day or its policies? Should our joy be dependent on a thriving economy or the victory of our favorite football team. If our joy was reliant on these ever-changing circumstances, we would be a helpless bunch. On the contrary, our joy is built on the assurance that our hope is not deceptive (Romans 5:5), that Christ will come again as he promised. He will come to take us to our eternal home, where we would behold God face to face, and see him as he truly is. This is the hope of a Christian. It is not this-worldly, but ever focused on the life to come. Thus, our joy cannot be determined by the temporal and always changing situations on earth. We have confidence in him who said, "in the world you will have trouble, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

May Jesus bless you, and may Our Lady protect you!



*Fr. Julius*

## Use your gifting in music to help us celebrate Christmas!

Anyone interested in singing in the choir or playing an instrument at the Christmas Eve 7:00 pm or 10:00 pm Mass or Christmas Day 9:00 am Mass please contact Joe Higginbotham: [joe@littleflowerchurch.org](mailto:joe@littleflowerchurch.org)

Rehearsals will be Wednesday December 14th and 21st @ 7:00 pm in the church. Thank you!

### Christmas Eve Mass & Nativity Pageant

All children are invited to participate!

**3 - 10 years old**

- Nativity Roles (Holy Family, Shepherd, angel, etc.)

**11+ years old**

- Mass servers
- Reflection Reading
- Gift Bearers
- Greeters

Pageant Rehearsal - Dec. 18th, 10 - 11:20 am

Mass & Pageant - Dec. 24th

- Pageant starting at 3:45 pm
- Mass beginning at 4:30 pm



### Christmas Eve Children's Choir

All children who can read are invited to participate in our Christmas Eve Children's Choir. The choir will be providing music for the pageant and 4:30 pm Mass on December 24th.



Choir rehearsals will be  
Monday December 12th and 19th  
from 5:30 - 7:00 pm  
in the church.

Please scan the code or visit  
[bit.ly/3FB6DEa](https://bit.ly/3FB6DEa) to sign up for  
the pageant and/or choir!



## Scripture Readings

### For the Week of December 11, 2022

#### Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10;  
Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

#### Monday Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38

#### Tuesday Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Zep 3:1-2,9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23;  
Mt 21:28-32

#### Wednesday Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 7:18b-23

#### Thursday Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2 & 4, 5-6, 11-12a & 13b; Lk 7:24-30

#### Friday Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Jn 5:33-36

#### Saturday Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rom 1:1-7;  
Mt 1:18-24

## Join us for Simbang Gabi!

"Simbang Gabi" which literally means "Night Mass" or "Misa de Gallo" in Filipino (Tagalog) is traditionally celebrated for 9-days at early dawn usually when the rooster crows and before the farming folks start their work in the rice fields. It is a series of novena masses to our Blessed Mother, asking her intercession to help us with our temporal and spiritual needs as we prepare for the coming of her son, Jesus. The Filipino faithful in diaspora or those who reside in wintry countries celebrate this for at least one night to express the people's faith, hope, joy and love as they await their Savior's coming.

All are welcome to join us for 5:30 pm Mass here at Little Flower and a "Noche Buena" (feast!) following in the Parish Center until 10:00 pm!

## This week's Mass Intentions

### Saturday, December 10

5:30 pm †Veronica Marie Espiritu

### Sunday, December 11

9:00 am †Linda Konecny

11:30 am †Mr. & Mrs. Sonney Kerr

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

### Monday, December 12

8:30 am Intentions of Guadalupita

### Tuesday, December 13

8:30 am †Lucy & Neil Martin

### Wednesday, December 14

8:30 am Intentions of Lee Pendergast

### Thursday, December 15

8:30 am †Mary Lorraine Predny

### Friday, December 16

8:30 am Esteban & Amary Cruz Sr.—for their marriage

### Saturday, December 17

8:00 am †Len Sobecki

5:30 pm †Fr. David Link

### Sunday, December 18

9:00 am †Jane Tafelski

11:30 am †Ed & Audrey Hengen

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

## Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedules

### Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th

**4:30 pm**—Nativity pageant beginning at 3:45 pm

**7:00 pm**—Musical Prelude beginning at 6:30 pm by professional string quartet

**10:00 pm**—Musical Prelude beginning at 9:30 pm by professional string quartet

### Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th

**9:00 am**—Musical Prelude beginning at 8:30 am by professional string quartet

### December 31/January 1 - Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, December 31st - 5:30 pm

Sunday, January 1 - 9:00 am, 11:30 am (NO 8:00 pm)



We have such a compassionate God! It blows my mind every time I stop and really reflect on it! Who is this God who is so great and majestic and yet so full of mercy and concern for me?! He speaks tenderly to my heart as He spoke tenderly all those years ago to Jerusalem through His faithful prophets. And, like Jerusalem, I must hear His words of comfort and liberation, let them seep into my very being, and then go forth as a herald to share them with anyone who will listen!

I am called to boldly speak truth into hopelessness, fear, death, poverty, loneliness, addiction, shame, and all the rest, "Here is YOUR God! He is coming to you with power, not to judge or harm, but to lift you out of the darkness that surrounds you. Let him gather you and carry you gently against His heart that beats with love for you. Let Him lead you home with care."

There is an urgency to this message. A quick scroll through your Facebook feed, 5 minutes of the nightly news, or a cursory glance at the statistics on alcohol and drug abuse, reveal a world that is very much in need of this message, a world that is aching to be comforted. Our world needs to hear that the God who we go to Church to worship, who we receive in the Blessed Sacrament, isn't just our God, He is their God. He is for them, each of them, in a unique, personal, individual way. And He is also for us collectively, as a human family, the people He made in His own image and likeness. "Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together..."

**We are each called, by virtue of our Baptism, to be the voice in the desert crying out.** The work of preparing the way of the Lord did not end with the prophets of the Old Testament or with John the Baptist, this is our work too. **We are to be prophets of Christ's second coming. This is the prophetic work that Advent annually reawakens us to.**

*Where am I being called to clear away the hatred and lies of the wasteland, to lay out the Truth as a highway for God to more easily enter into the hearts of all those He so desperately loves? What valleys of pain or loneliness am I closest to that I can fill in with love and hope through a thoughtful word or a simple act of kindness? What hills of self importance or mountains of pride are standing in my own heart that need to be made low?*

Will you share this Truth with just one person in an intentional way today? There is no time to lose in telling others that God's merciful love is awaiting them, that He is for them, that He is making a way in the darkness and His glory will be revealed!



**Megan Gettinger**

Communications Coordinator  
Megan@littleflowerchurch.org

## The Thrill of Hope

Thrive Women's Gathering

December 15th @ 7:00 pm

Scripture-based  
teaching,  
Eucharistic  
Adoration & the  
opportunity for  
Confession



## Advent Penance Service

December 19th  
5:30-8:30 pm

Multiple priests  
will be hearing  
confession

## THE EUCHARIST IN SCRIPTURE

Journey through Scripture with us on  
Friday mornings following Mass and  
Adoration in the Upper Room.



10:00 am ~ 11:30 am

January 13, 2023 ~ February 17, 2023

Visit [littleflowerchurch.org/info](http://littleflowerchurch.org/info)  
or scan the code to register!



WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT SERVES THE POOR

## Giving Tree for St. Margaret's House!

Join in the spirit of giving! Purchase a gift for a mother or child in need for this Christmas. Pick one (or more!) ornaments off the giving tree in the back of church. Purchase the requested gift & place the gift unwrapped with the ornament attached under the tree when you return. Please place gifts under the tree by **December 18th**. Help make it a special holiday season for the moms & kids at St. Margaret's House!



## Retirement Fund for Aging Religious

Aging religious have offered a lifetime of service. Most do not have adequate retirement funding. You can help. Please donate to the Retirement Fund collection at Mass next weekend. Learn more at [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org).

### Available Immediately:

One Invacare Semi-Electric Hospital-style Bed - used but in very good condition with a relatively new mattress. This bed is NOT fully automatic and utilizes a crank for certain adjustments. Originally sold and serviced by Alick's Home Medical. Alick's has agreed to pick up the bed and deliver/install locally. Please call the office, 574-272-7070 and ask for Jenny if you are interested.

## LET'S STOCK OUR FOOD PANTRY!

Add these most needed items to your shopping list and drop them off in the baskets in the back of the church.

- DICED TOMATOES
- TUNA
- SPAGHETTI SAUCE
- DRY CHILI MIX
- DRY RICE
- DRY BEANS

THANK YOU!



WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT EXTENDS THE KINGDOM OF GOD



SAVE THE DATE!

# COOKIES WITH SANTA

DECEMBER 18TH

12:30-2:00 PM

PARISH CENTER



## Please Note:

The Parish Office will be closed on **Thursday, December 15th** for staff orientation. Thank you!

## Wanted! Bake Sale Donations for Cookies with Santa

All proceeds from the bake sale will go toward sending the youth group to a summer conference.

Please bring your labeled (please note any allergens) baked goods to the Parish Office on Friday December 16th between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm or to the Parish Center Saturday December 17th between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm.

Thank you!

Questions?

Email Alexis: Alexis@littleflowerchurch.org

Thank you to our bulletin Sponsor of the Week:

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Saturday 8:00 am



### Reconciliation Times

Monday, Wednesday & Friday..... 9:00-9:30 am  
Saturday..... 8:30 to 9:30 am, and 4:30 to 5:00 pm

### 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.

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday..... 9:00 am-4:00 pm  
Closed Wednesdays..... 1:00-2:00 pm

## Advent Taize Adoration

All are invited to participate in Advent Taize Adoration on the Wednesdays of Advent at 7:00 pm at Holy Cross Parish, 920 Wilber Street, South Bend. Come for all or just part of the hour of Adoration. The sacrament of Reconciliation is also available during the holy hour.

## Join us for a Household Gathering!

Monday, December 12th @ 6:00 pm - **Rooted in Love**

Wednesday, December 14th @ 6:30 pm - **Jireh**

Friday, December 16th @ 6:30 pm - **House of Praise**

Scan the code or visit [bit.ly/30YoCpc](http://bit.ly/30YoCpc) to receive the monthly newsletter with locations and updates.

Have questions about Households? Want to learn more? Email Abby, [abby@littleflowerchurch.org](mailto:abby@littleflowerchurch.org)!



## OUR STAFF

**Pastor** ..... Rev. Julius Okojie  
217-8848 [fatherjulius@littleflowerchurch.org](mailto:fatherjulius@littleflowerchurch.org)

**Parochial Vicar** ..... Rev. William Ikhianosimhe Orbih  
272-7070 [fatherwilliam@littleflowerchurch.org](mailto:fatherwilliam@littleflowerchurch.org)

**Parish Business Manager** ..... Gail Waltman  
243-3443 [gail@littleflowerchurch.org](mailto:gail@littleflowerchurch.org)

**Director of Evangelization** ..... Abby Kyle  
243-3441 [abby@littleflowerchurch.org](mailto:abby@littleflowerchurch.org)

**Director of Catechesis** ..... Alexis Duffy  
243-3439 [alexis@littleflowerchurch.org](mailto:alexis@littleflowerchurch.org)

**Pastoral Associate For Discipleship** ..... Brenda McDonald  
272-7070 [brenda@littleflowerchurch.org](mailto:brenda@littleflowerchurch.org)

**Food Pantry Director** ..... Janet Lentz  
243-3438 [janet@littleflowerchurch.org](mailto:janet@littleflowerchurch.org)

**Director of Music & Liturgy** ..... Joseph Higginbotham  
272-7070 [joe@littleflowerchurch.org](mailto:joe@littleflowerchurch.org)

**Communications Coordinator** ..... Megan Gettinger  
272-7070 [megan@littleflowerchurch.org](mailto:megan@littleflowerchurch.org)

**Office Assistant** ..... Jenny Peterson  
272-7070 [jenny@littleflowerchurch.org](mailto:jenny@littleflowerchurch.org)

**Maintenance** ..... Darlene Pruett-Taylor and Roy Lawson  
[darlene@littleflowerchurch.org](mailto:darlene@littleflowerchurch.org)

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John Jr. & Carolyn Tarwacki  
Gregory Calhoun & Family

George Grochowski & Family  
Jane and Clem Tafelski  
Barbara and Richard Tjarksen  
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John Feck-Theis Family  
Morell- Piza Family  
Mary K. Bridenstein  
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