

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT  
MARCH 23, 2025



ST. THÉRÈSE  
LITTLE FLOWER  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



## Our Mission:

St. Thérèse, Little Flower Parish exists to **rescue** people from the poverty of an identity outside of **Jesus**.

### Weekend Mass Schedule

#### Saturday Vigil

4:30pm

#### Sunday

9:00am, 11:30am, 8:00pm

### Daily Mass Schedule

Morning Mass, followed by Adoration w/ Confessions

#### Monday - Friday

8:30am

#### Saturday

8:00am

### Eucharistic Adoration

#### Weekdays

5:00 am - 10:00 am

#### Saturday

8:30am - 9:30am

### Reconciliation Times

#### Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9:00am - 9:30am

#### Saturday

8:30am - 9:30am

### Office Address

54191 N. Ironwood Rd,  
South Bend, IN 46635

### Parish Office Hours

Mon - Tues 9:00am - 4:00pm

Wed - Fri by Appointment

### Main Phone

574-272-7070

### Baptism, Anointing, Marriage

Contact the office for more information.



### Join our Parish!

Scan the code or visit our website

<https://littleflowerchurch.org/connect>

### Get Connected



@stthereselittleflowersb



@saintthereselittleflowerch793

## Mass Intentions and Scripture Readings

### Saturday, March 22

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

8:00am: Codty Pierce

4:30pm: Little Flower Parish Family

### Sunday, March 23 | Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

9:00am: John Ferry †

11:30am: Dave Heck †

8:00pm: John Anderson †

### Monday, March 24

2 Kings 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

8:30am: Albie Okula †

### Tuesday, March 25 | Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

8:30am: Members of the Christ Child Society, Living and Deceased

### Wednesday, March 26

Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

8:30am: Linda Konecny †

### Thursday, March 27

Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 11:14-23

8:30am: Matthew Kuspa †

### Friday, March 28

Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17; Mk 12:28-34

8:30am: Kathy Coriden †

### Saturday, March 29

Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

8:00am: Dennis Johnston

4:30pm: Pablo & Nasaria Bayot †



# FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

## A Lesson in Repentance

Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge his authority and actions.

Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was common to view people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin.

Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

We may be unfamiliar with fig trees, but we might know about the growth of spring flowers. Perhaps we have looked at a dry, brown flower bulb and wondered how this produces the colorful tulip or daffodil blossom that we expect to bloom in the spring. Perhaps we've even thought about the patience and hope that are required to plant flower bulbs in October. We don't have to be gardeners, however, to know about patience and hopefulness. We practice these virtues each day. Today's parable suggests that God is working with us in patience and in hope that one day we will show evidence that such work is not in vain. Consider the patience and hopefulness that God has with us as he works with us, calling us to return to him when we sin.

Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and cares for us so we may bear the fruit he desires from us.

This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts. Let us offer prayers of thanks and praise to God for his patience and hopefulness towards us. Next week's Gospel will give an even clearer picture of the kind of mercy that God shows to us.

*Excerpts from Sunday Connection. Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle C. Loyola Press.*

Let us  
pray:

- that we may have greater trust in the endless mercy of God.
- for the courage to forgive others from the hurts they have caused, both intentionally and without knowing.
- for an increase in hope, this jubilee year, so that we may strive to be with God in a renewed fervor.

## ways to meet God this week

### Eucharistic Adoration

Weekdays | Adoration Chapel  
5:00am -10:00am; 7:00pm-10:00pm

### Holy Rosary

Saturdays | 4:00pm  
Sundays | 8:30am and 11:00am  
Church

### Small Group Bible Study

Sunday | 10:10am - 11:25am  
Parish Center, Room 1

### Men's Prayer Group

Mondays | 6:30pm -8:00pm  
Parish Center, Rooms 2/3

### Food Pantry

Tues & Thurs | 1:30pm -3:15pm  
Lower Parking Lot

*\*Bring a photo ID and a piece of mail dated  
in last 30 days.*

### Fit for Life

Tues & Thurs | 8:00am – 10:00am  
Wellness Center

### Young Mom's Book Study

Tuesdays | 7:30pm - 9:00pm  
*\*Email Abby@littleflowerchurch.org  
for location*

### Ablaze Young Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays | 7:00pm -8:30pm  
Parish Center, Room 1

### Biblical Foundations

Friday | 10:00am – 12:00pm  
Parish Center, Upper Room

### Fridays During Lent

Fridays | 5:30pm – 8:00pm  
Stations of the Cross  
5:30pm – 6:00pm

Soup Supper & the Chosen  
6:00pm – 8:00pm

*An episode of the Chosen will be shown in  
the Upper Room following dinner.*



# MAY WE REMEMBER TO WALK WITH CARE

## Catholic Relief Services Special Collection

On the weekend of March 29-30, 2025, the faithful in many dioceses in the United States will have the opportunity to assist people worldwide who suffer from war, natural disasters, violent persecution, and extreme poverty by contributing to The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Across the globe, war, natural disasters, political strife, extreme poverty, and human trafficking combine to affect families in ways often unimaginable. Families are separated by migration for long periods of time, sometimes indefinitely. A decrease in the availability of visas makes prompt reunification unrealistic. Unaccompanied minors are exploited. Difficult and expensive legal systems keep families apart.

The Catholic Relief Services Collection values families. It works to provide for their basic humanitarian needs, protect vulnerable children, reunite families, and encourage legislation that reflects the importance of family in society. The reach of this Collection spans the globe, helping families on every continent from an array of ethnicities and backgrounds, addressing a myriad of needs.

The Collection supports Catholic agencies that prioritize the family and protect the life and dignity of each person. Now more than ever, your participation in this collection is vital to the Catholic initiatives that reveal Christ's love to those in need.



### Lenten Events

#### FRIDAYS DURING LENT

##### Stations of the Cross

5:30pm – 6:00pm

##### Soup Supper & the Chosen

6:00pm – 7:00pm

*An episode of the Chosen will be shown in the Upper Room following dinner*

The widely popular and award winning series, "The Chosen," illustrates Jesus' love beautifully and shows us well how to love others. Join us after a delicious soup supper and explore the question of what Jesus' love looks like.

### CHRISM MASS

**Monday, April 14, at 7:00pm | Saint Matthew Cathedral**

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has invited all priests, sisters, brothers, deacons and lay people of the diocese to the annual Chrism Mass for the diocese. At the Chrism Mass, the Holy Chrism is consecrated and the oil of catechumens and oil of the sick are blessed. This beautiful Mass manifests the communion of the priests with their bishop in the same priesthood and ministry of Christ.



**Thursday, April 3, 7:00pm**

**St. Therese, Little Flower**

Please join us for a special Mass at Little Flower to pray for the return of our adult children to the faith (or other loved ones). After Mass, we will pray the Stations of the Cross with reflections written particularly for this same intention. All are welcome!



**CATHEDRAL**

**HOLY HOUR**

**FOR VOCATIONS**

**6:00pm-7:00pm**

**St. Matthew's Cathedral**

**First Tuesday of the month**

Each month is led by a different priest or deacon.

*Questions? Visit*

*[diocesefwsb.org/vocations](http://diocesefwsb.org/vocations)*

**Have you heard false claims about Catholic Charities' work with migrants and refugees?**



**"If we didn't help them, who would?"**

Luz Ostognal, Director of Immigration Services  
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Get the facts at [TODAYSCATHOLIC.org](http://TODAYSCATHOLIC.org)





# AS WE CONTINUOUSLY WALK ON HOLY GROUND

## Solemnity of the Annunciation

March 25

The Solemnity of the Annunciation celebrates the coming of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to announce to her the special mission God had chosen for her in being the mother of His only son. The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord is a Christmas feast even though it is not celebrated during the Christmas Season. Nine months before we celebrate the Lord's birth, we celebrate His incarnation in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Mary's "Let it be done to me" transforms the humble house of "her" being into God's House, becoming a Tabernacle of the Most High Jesus. All it took was her "Let it be done to me", a sign of her willingness, knowing she could trust in the action of the Holy Spirit. And God entered into history, accepting to "make" history in the lives of those who have said and who would say over and over again, "Let it be done to me".

Mary's first characteristic is her faith. She believes and entrusts herself to God, certain that nothing is impossible for Him. God is not afraid of our moments of confusion, of reflection, of trying to understand. God does not force our freedom, but teaches us how to be free so that each one of us can say our own "Let it be done to me".

The second characteristic is that she accepted God's time and pace—His time requires our time, it requires that we live more profoundly. God asks for our "yes", but He also asks that we assume go at His "pace" and "time" which is not simply the ticking of the clock. God's time is the right time, the fullness of time, the opportune moment, the moment of grace.



The Angelus prayer is a traditional Catholic prayer that is recited three times daily: at 6:00am, 12:00pm, and 6:00pm. It has a long history, dating back to the 13th century, and is based on the biblical account of the Annunciation.

The Angelus prayer is an important part of Catholic devotional life, and is often recited in churches and homes. The prayer serves as a reminder of the mystery of the Incarnation, and of the role of the Virgin Mary in salvation history. The prayer is also seen as a way to sanctify the day, and to remind the faithful of the importance of prayer and devotion in their daily lives. Today, the Angelus prayer continues to be an important part of Catholic devotional life, and is recited by millions of Catholics around the world.

## Angelus Prayer

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:  
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:  
Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made Flesh:  
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that  
we may be made worthy of the  
promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord,  
Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to  
whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy  
Son, was made known by the message  
of an angel, may by His Passion and  
Cross be brought to the glory of His  
Resurrection, through the same Christ  
Our Lord.

Amen.

## Project Rachel: Hope after abortion.

If you are hurting after an abortion, you are not alone. It's normal to grieve a pregnancy loss, including loss through an abortion. It can form a hole in one's heart, a hole so deep that sometimes it seems nothing can fill the emptiness. There is healing through God who is Love and Mercy.

You are loved. Your grief is seen. Your loss matters. You are invited to be made whole.

If you are hurting, know that we care and understand. We are here to listen to and support you and to guide you toward healing and peace.

[projectrachelhope@  
gmail.com](mailto:projectrachelhope@gmail.com)

1-855-RACHEL HOPE

1-855-722-4354

[https://diocesefwsb.  
org/project-rachel/](https://diocesefwsb.org/project-rachel/)



# PARISH NEWS

## Auditions for "Fifty Days" Coming up!

Sunday, March 30 | 1:00pm, Parish Center, Room 2/3  
Monday, March 31 | 6:30pm Parish Center, Upper Room

The play, "Fifty Days," a sequel to "Gethsemane" which was performed at Little Flower in 2023, covers the period from Jesus' resurrection to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Men and women of all ages will be needed to bring this story to life. Your talents can help bring others deeper into this period of Church history. The play will be performed on May 30, 31, and June 1.



## Knights of Columbus

Tuesday, April 1 | 7:00 – 8:30pm | Parish Center Rooms 2/3

We are men who lead, serve, protect and defend, whether we are giving out Coats for Kids, lending a hand in disaster relief efforts, supporting local pregnancy centers by donating ultrasound machines, or providing top-quality financial products. The Knights of Columbus are a worldwide organization empowering Catholic men to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work and in their community. Founded on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity, this organization was established to bring financial aid and assistance to the sick, disabled and needy members and their families.

Interested in joining? Contact our Grand Knight Brian Peterson at [council17043@indianakofc.org](mailto:council17043@indianakofc.org).



## Spring Cleanup

April 12 | 9:00am-3:00pm

The Garden Ministry is in need of a large number of volunteers. We will be doing a spring cleanup around the church and property on April 5 & April 12, 9:00am-3:00pm.

If you have any of your own tools, please consider bringing them. Some useful items would be garden gloves, knee pads, small garden tools, pruners, tarps, buckets, shovels, rakes, etc.

Questions? Contact Kara Onderdonk at 574-339-7142.



*Will you dare to believe that a good God exists, and even more than that, He loves you and chose you to be His beloved child?*



Haven't registered yet for the School of Identity? There's still time.

🔗 Register here: <https://littleflowerchurch.org/upcomingevents>

## School of Identity

April 4-5 | Parish Center

How would your life change if you believed the things that God says about you?

**YOU ARE SEEN. HELD. CARED FOR. KNOWN.  
CHOSEN. PROTECTED. YOU ARE HIS.**

It feels nearly impossible to let these truths sink deeply into our beliefs about ourselves. But when we can step away from the loud voices of the world and learn how to hear God say good things about me - even one weekend can change how I see myself, my God, and my whole life.

**YOU'RE WORTH SO MUCH MORE  
THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.  
DISCOVER THE TRUTH  
AT THE SCHOOL OF IDENTITY.**

## SONS & DAUGHTERS

retreat for kids

april 5 | 9am to 4pm | little flower  
facilitated by NET Missionary Alumni



## Outreach Ministries

### Financial Assistance

Through our Whatsoever You Do Outreach Program we provide financial assistance to help with utilities to our community.

If you are in need of financial assistance, please go to our website:

<https://LittleFlowerChurch.org/outreach>

### Food Assistance

Our Parish Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30pm-3:00pm.

Please bring a photo ID and official piece of mail as proof of address. The Parish Pantry is located in the lower parking lot.

### Get the gift of FORMED

We are excited to offer FORMED to our entire parish for free. With award-winning studies and parish programs, inspiring audio content, movies, e-books, and family-friendly kids' programming, there is something for everyone on FORMED.

To register for your free account and claim our gift to you:

1. Visit **signup.formed.org**
2. Enter our parish zip code or name

We pray that this gift will bless you!



Scan this code to visit Formed!

### Tithing

Thank you! We are so encouraged by all the ways that you respond to God's faithfulness and share your gifts. Gifts of prayer, time, and talent serve and support our community in so many meaningful ways. And financial gifts are incredible acts of service that allow us to continue our mission and the work of the Church.

To give online, visit our website or scan this code:



### Did you know



Our parish has Barnaby's pizza coupons available for sale? Coupons cost \$12 each. You will be supporting local business, and our parish benefits for every coupon sold!

Thank you to our Bulletin Sponsor of the Week

**Federico's Handyman Services**

See listing on the back cover.

## The Sowers

#### Pastor

Rev. Julius Okojie  
574-217-8848  
[FatherJulius@LittleFlowerChurch.org](mailto:FatherJulius@LittleFlowerChurch.org)

#### Director of Liturgical Music

Joseph Higginbotham  
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#### Business Manager

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#### Director of Evangelization

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#### Director of Outreach

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#### Director of Discipleship

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#### Maintenance

Darlene Pruett-Taylor | Roy Lawson  
574-272-7070  
[Darlene@LittleFlowerChurch.org](mailto:Darlene@LittleFlowerChurch.org)

#### Mission Support

Kelly Russell  
574-272-7070  
[Kelly@LittleFlowerChurch.org](mailto:Kelly@LittleFlowerChurch.org)



## Saint Thérèse, Little Flower Catholic Church

### Memorial Association Special Intentions & Remembrances

Andert Family  
Anthony & Ercolina Carlo  
B.L. Czerwinski  
Feck-Morris Family  
George Grochowski & Family

Otto A. Martinec Family  
Otto J. Martinec  
Morell-Piza Family  
Ouellette & Parent Families  
Clifford E. Perras

Szumski-Kaczorowski Family  
Jane & Clem Tafelski  
John F. Jr & Carolyn Tarwacki  
Barbara & Richard Tjarksen  
The Poor Souls in Purgatory



*If you or a loved one would like to be remembered, please contact the Parish Office between now and the end of March.*