



# THE LITTLE FLOWER GARDEN

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 4

NOV 2024

## A CHRISTMAS LETTER

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Christmas & New Year's Calendars
- Christmas Choir
- Parish Life Events
- Feb 1, 2025
- LF PPS
- LF Athletics
- Golf Outing Recap
- Annual Fund
- Little Flower, Little Stories

### Celebrating 100 Years

*We would love to hear from you if you have any upcoming events. Take lots of pictures so we can use some of them in future issues. Submit photos and info by **1/31/25** in order for them to be published in the **February 2025 issue.***

Please e-mail all pictures and info to [lfp parishnews@yahoo.com](mailto:lfp parishnews@yahoo.com). Thanks!

Access the LFG online at:  
[Littleflowerparish.org](http://Littleflowerparish.org)

### *A Christmas Letter from Jesus*

*When you look for me at Christmas,*

*You won't need a special star.*

*I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,*

*I'm right here where you are.*

*You may not be aware of me  
amid the celebrations.*

*You'll have to look beyond the stores,  
and all the decorations.*

*But if you take a moment*

*from your list of things to do,*

*To close your eyes and say a prayer,*

*I'm waiting here for you.*

*You're the one I want to be with,*

*You're the reason that I came!*

*And you'll find me in the stillness*

*Where I'm whispering your name.*

## CHRIST THE KING/ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024 – EPIPHANY 2025 CALENDAR

ALL WEEKEND MASSES NOVEMBER 23 and 24  
Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
Commissioning of All Liturgical Ministers (except Eucharistic Ministers) at all Masses  
Anticipation Mass, Saturday at 5:00 P.M., Sunday at 9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.

ALL WEEKEND MASSES November 30 and December 1  
First Sunday of Advent - Regular Weekend Mass Schedule  
Anticipation Mass, Saturday at 5:00 P.M., Sunday at 9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.

BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATH  
*Help those less fortunate – Get your tags from the Christmas Giving Trees*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 – 7:00 P.M.  
ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE FOR OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND LITTLE FLOWER  
First Reconciliation for Little Flower First Communion Candidates  
THE SERVICE IS AT LITTLE FLOWER THIS YEAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7/SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8  
Second Sunday of Advent - Regular Mass Schedule  
**Parish Christmas Party - 10:30 A.M. in the Parish Social Hall (after 9:30 A.M. Mass)**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9  
SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Holy Day of Obligation)  
*Solemnity transferred to Monday, December 9*  
9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Masses (No anticipation Mass)

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14/SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15  
Third Sunday of Advent - Regular Mass Schedule  
PLEASE RETURN YOUR GIVING TREE GIFTS TO CHURCH THIS WEEKEND  
OR TO THE PARISH OFFICE NO LATER THAN 3 P.M. ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 – 6:00 P.M.  
SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM FOR GRADES K THROUGH 5

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21/SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22  
Fourth Sunday of Advent - Regular Mass Schedule

DECEMBER 24 AND 25 - CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE  
Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24 - 4:00 P.M., 5:30 P.M. & 10:00 P.M.  
Full Christmas Choir at 10:00 P.M. Mass (music beginning at 9:25 P.M.)  
Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 A.M.

DECEMBER 28 AND 29 - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH  
Anticipation Mass, Saturday at 5:00 P.M., Sunday at 9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.  
Full Christmas Choir at 9:30 A.M. Mass (music begins at 9:15 A.M.)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1  
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD  
Masses on Tuesday, December 31 at 6:00 P.M. and Wednesday, January 1 at 9:30 A.M.

JANUARY 4 AND 5 - SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD,  
Anticipation Mass, Saturday at 5:00 P.M., Sunday at 9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.  
Full Christmas Choir at 9:30 A.M. Mass (music begins at 9:15 A.M.)



### THANKSGIVING DAY

Please join us for Mass on Thanksgiving Day at 9:30 a.m. so that we might together give thanks to God for all the blessings we have been given.

## LITTLE FLOWER CHRISTMAS CHOIR



Preparations for Little Flower Christmas Choir are right around the corner. Every year, our adult choir welcomes in adults from inside and outside the parish who may not want to commit to the choir on a year-round basis. We also welcome parish youth in grades 6 and above who wish to join.

The Christmas Choir rehearses on the five Tuesdays prior to Christmas at 7:00 p.m., beginning this year on Tuesday, November 19. Please note, the starting date is early this year in order to get five practices in. The choir will then sing at the 10:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve and the 9:30 a.m. Masses on Sunday, December 29 and Sunday, January 5.

Members are asked to commit to four of the five practices and are also asked to commit to two of the three Masses at which the Christmas Choir sings unless special circumstances exist and arrangements are made in advance. Special arrangements will be made for returning college students.

**Please consider being a part of this special tradition!** Questions should be directed to Tom Costello at [tcostello@littleflowerparish.org](mailto:tcostello@littleflowerparish.org). If you plan to join, please e-mail Tom as soon as possible. We want to make sure we can accommodate everyone safely and that we have enough music ready for everyone! **It is very important that we know in advance if you plan to come!**

## PARISH LIFE COMMISSION ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



Please join us for **Journey into Advent: Faith, Family, and Fun** on **Monday, November 25, from 6:00-8:00pm** in the cafeteria. This is an opportunity for families to make an Advent Calendar before Advent begins on Sunday, December 1. Dinner (pizza) will be provided – just think – no need to prepare a meal! Please call the parish center at 317-357-8352 by Friday, November 22, if you plan on attending. The event is free but registration is required so that we may purchase adequate supplies and food.

The weekend of **November 30/December 1** the Parish Life Commission will once again do our **Advent Cake Project**. Families will be given a gift bag containing a cake mix, icing, a few balloons and a few candles. Each family is asked to make a birthday cake for baby Jesus. We would love to see pictures of any cakes that are made! You may send pictures to Peggy Clegg at [pclegg@littleflowerparish.org](mailto:pclegg@littleflowerparish.org) or text them to her at 317-403-7444.



Our annual **Christmas Party** will be held on Sunday, **December 8**, following the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Brunch will be served. Santa will be there, so bring a camera to capture those Kodak moments. There will be door prizes for adults and children! There will be a craft activity for the little ones! Please mark your calendar and plan on attending.



And to help you overcome those midwinter blahs and blues, **SAVE THE DATE** for the combined Little Flower Athletics and Little Flower PPS Reverse Raffle & Bingo Night on February 1, 2025!

### SAVE THE DATE!



LF Athletics  
& LF PPS



# 2025

## Reverse Raffle & Bingo Night

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1st in LF CAFETERIA  
Doors open 6:00pm

550 per Ticket includes: Raffle Entry  
5 Games of Bingo  
Dinner, Drinks  
Add'l games & raffles

\$400 Table includes: 8 Tickets +  
1 Free Raffle Entry

**FULL TABLES available!**  
Includes 8 Tickets +  
1 Free Raffle entry

Questions? Sponsor or Donation info? Email [drewtorz@gmail.com](mailto:drewtorz@gmail.com)

INDIANA License # 002626

Must be age 21+ to attend

## LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL PPS UPDATE



To kick off the 2024-2025 school year, the Little Flower PPS helped fund a back-to-school picnic that included food, fellowship, and fun. We've already held several familiar fundraisers, including trash bag sales, spirit wear sales, and the annual walk-a-thon. Read on for some highlights and for info on how you can help.

### **Walk-a-thon:**

The walk-a-thon made a triumphant return to the fall season with a fun event for the kids while also raising over \$5,000. The whole student body from preschool through 8th grade made their way around the beautiful new Scecina ball field, walking and running laps on a sunny October day with a few dance breaks mixed in for good measure. All students donned a new t-shirt, with a student-designed Walk-a-thon logo that they can wear throughout the year on field trips and spirit days. While the design of every shirt was the same, each student received a different color – matching their house colors as part of the new house system this school year.

### **Dine to Donate:**

Throughout the school year, PPS is planning several “dine to donate” events, partnering with restaurants that will donate a portion of their sales to our group. In the past we've partnered with Papa Johns and the first one for the new school year was Texas Roadhouse. We're exploring several other yummy options. Who doesn't love an easy dinner that also helps our school? Announcements will be made at Mass for each upcoming dining event, so be on the lookout for our next event.

Remember – PPS Meetings take place the 3rd Thursday every month at 6:30pm in Duffey Hall. Please join us at our next meeting to see how you can help out and join the fun! Feel free to reach out to PPS President Mandie Wade at [pps@littleflowerparish.org](mailto:pps@littleflowerparish.org) with questions or for more information about any of our activities. Also, give us a follow on our TikTok: [lfpps2024](https://www.tiktok.com/@lfpps2024).



*Left: Students and teachers alike enjoyed a dance break during the walk-a-thon  
Right: One of the creative class posters on display at the walk-a-thon*

## LITTLE FLOWER ATHLETICS: VIRTUE=STRENGTH

The Girls volleyball season wrapped up with the various CYO city tournaments in November. All of the teams showed significant growth in every aspect of the game. They fought some tough battles and never gave up.

The Eastside Chess team has begun moving their pieces in place for another successful year. This program and chess as a whole has been growing every year and we are fortunate to have a dedicated coaching staff.

The Eastside Cheer Squad supported our Eastside Football program late in the season. These girls jumped in, hit the ground running and learned new cheers and skills every week.

The Eastside Football program gained ground on the field. Their numbers are increasing every year. These young men have worked hard and put a lot of sweat into this year's success. Our 34 White team played in the City Semi-Finals with the hope of continuing onto the City Final which was completed on November 2nd Roncalli High School. We congratulate all of these young men and women on their hard work and look forward to hearing more about their successes.



*Continued on page 5*

## LITTLE FLOWER ATHLETICS: VIRTUE=STRENGTH

Little Flower and the Eastside programs have been fortunate to have some amazing coaches over the years. The world has struggled to find a place for Catholic values and teachings in everyday life. A program that is helping find a way is called **Virtue=Strength**. Little Flower has been blessed with a leader who is dedicated to showing his teams, parents, and other coaches that following Christ and learning Catholic values doesn't stop at 3:00 p.m.



Mr. Jeff Lathrop has brought this program into both football and wrestling. He is always willing to teach and advocate for the **Virtue=Strength** program. His assistant coaches and other coaches at different levels have joined him in teaching a new virtue each week. Some of these virtues are courage, discipline, appreciation, sacrifice, and toughness. The coaches will sit and talk with their players before and after practice to go over a virtue, what it means, how it connects to the Catholic faith, and to their everyday lives as an athlete. The season determines how many virtues they cover. At the end of the season Mr. Lathrop hosts a "ceremony" and invites the players, parents, and members of the parishes involved.

Listening to the kids list the virtues they learned and the meaning of each one showed that these young people were able to make connections to their own lives. The players get to come up one by one

with their parents in front of everyone. This gives the parents the opportunity to express their feelings for their child. They have the platform to tell their child how much they are loved, how proud they are, and all the small things that they notice but don't say out loud. You could see the light in the children's eyes upon hearing their parents say those simple but powerful words.

Listening and observing throughout the evening reminded us of the importance of not only teaching skills for the sport but to help these young kids learn to be better people by following Catholic virtues. We are also reminded why we send our children to a Catholic School. Raising children and trying to follow the teachings of Jesus takes a village. And that is what the Catholic faith means to us.

**Virtue=Strength** shows us coaches that instructing young people to follow Catholic values is not just the responsibility of the religion teachers or priests. Having coaches show up and ask simple questions about the school day, the weekend, or life in general can have huge impacts on their players. Having a coach not only care about winning, which we do like to do, but genuinely caring for their players is a blessing.

Watching players grow on and off the field, court, mat, or board is every coach's dream. Seeing parents come to practice and be willing to help puts the biggest smile on their child's face. The community or village that the Catholic faith offers us is something to be cherished and appreciated. These young people that we dedicate our time to as parents, coaches, volunteers and staff are our future, and we need to work hard to instill in them our Catholic values.

**Virtue=Strength** sets the groundwork for teaching young minds that in all aspects of life they must remember to stay true to their beliefs. The program teaches us the importance of being present to our children, family, and communities lives. As life gets tough and throws curve balls, we all must remember that, no matter what, our faith will always be there.

Thank you to all those who are helping in preparing these young men and women to face the challenges of life. Your acts do not go unnoticed.



**PLEASE CONSIDER REMEMBERING LITTLE FLOWER  
PARISH AND SCHOOL IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING**

## WE THANK YOU, GOLF OUTING SPONSORS!

Our Annual Golf Outing was held on September 6 at Pleasant Run Golf Course. A record high 120 golfers participated in the event! Big thanks to the Golf Outing committee for putting together the event. Over \$10,000 was raised! Proceeds will help Little Flower School students pay for tuition and fees that are not covered by state vouchers, thus allowing them an affordable Catholic education. Thanks to all those who came out to play golf, and a special thanks to our sponsors listed below:

Atlas Bare Ground Weed Control  
Bill Harris Construction and Property Maintenance, Inc  
Church Family Tractor Repair  
Debdecr8s Interior Design  
Dr. Brian E. Nunley DDS  
Emerald society  
Hollywood's Collision Center  
In Memory of Chip Rochford & Freddy Smith  
In Memory of Donald Burnell  
In Memory of Joe Gawrys, Tom Lenahan and Val Bozymski  
In Memory of ZAC  
K&R Tool Shed  
KPS Commercial Construction  
Larry Adams and Associates, Inc.  
Law Office of Mark Nicholson  
The Lathrop Family - Michelle '86, Jason Franklin '86, Molly '88, Jeff '92, Hillari '22, and Isaac '25

Little Flower Adult Choir  
Little Flower Class of '63  
Lowell Street Ladies  
Master Carpet and Tile (Pete Gibbons)  
Mya & Macy Freudenstein  
Oakley-Hammond Funeral Home  
Office Linx, LLC  
Office 360  
Printing Partners  
Seccina Memorial High School  
Shirley Brothers Mortuaries & Crematory  
Steer-In  
The Law Office of Mitchell E. Pippin, P.C.  
Tronitech Document Imaging  
Woods Reality

## LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND

In early November the Annual Fund for Little Flower Catholic School was launched. We are hopeful that many alumni, parishioners, school parents, grandparents, and friends will recognize the value of a Little Flower education with a gift to the Annual Fund. An Annual Fund is essential to the operation of Little Flower School. It helps with the costs of sustaining programs and improving facilities that are not covered by tuition. A successful Annual Fund is key to our continued sustainability.

Little Flower Parish and School have played an important role in the lives of thousands of students. We want to continue to provide a valuable experience for the students of today and tomorrow. In order to do this, we need your help. Whether you are a first-time donor or a long-time benefactor, your assistance will make a positive impact on our students. We hope you will consider a gift to the Annual Fund.

## LITTLE FLOWER, LITTLE STORIES SERIES



Meet our speakers for the premiere of "Little Flower, Little Stories"! Seated l. to r. Bernie Sponsel, Cac Diehr, Rick Markins, Jim Maslar, Dianna Deputy, Paul and Kathleen Grimm, center Fatima Coronado. If November 21 has not already passed, join us that night for "Little Stories of Gratitude." The remaining schedule through next June is shown on the right. If you would like to share your own story, please contact Cac Diehr at 317-501-0060.

The Invite Commission is hosting the:

# Little Flower, Little Stories Series

November 21st Little Stories about Gratitude

Join your fellow parishioners, staff, teachers, and students for stories of sharing about their personal relationships with God and Mary accompanied by musical selections. Programs will be begin at 7:00 p.m. in the church and will last one hour.

**More to come:**

- December 12<sup>th</sup> Little Stories About A Special Christmas
- January 16<sup>th</sup> Little Stories About Sharing My Joy
- February 13<sup>th</sup> Little Stories About Recognizing God's Love
- March 13<sup>th</sup> Little Stories About Forgiveness
- April 10<sup>th</sup> Little Stories About How I Came to Know Jesus
- May 15<sup>th</sup> Little Stories About Mary and Me
- June 12<sup>th</sup> Little Stories About My Prayer Life

## *In Sympathy*

*Please pray for our parishioners who have died,  
and for their families...*



- ✠ Joe Shaler, July 31, 2024
- ✠ Patrick Heidelberger, July 31, 2024
- ✠ Tom Griffin, August 2, 2024
- ✠ Patricia Nelis, August 9, 2024
- ✠ Carol Walker, August 16, 2024
- ✠ Mark Payton, September 3, 2024
- ✠ Judy Steffey, September 9, 2024
- ✠ Denis Moriarty, September 26, 2024
- ✠ Katie Goodin, October 22, 2024
- ✠ Bill Babcock, October 24, 2024



### **WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LITTLE FLOWER PARISHIONERS!**

Myka Blackwell  
Meghan Gilday and daughter Mackenzie  
Jeff and Heather Hutson  
Mary Alice Pogue  
Chris Rudicel  
Daniel Rudicel  
Sam Rudicel and sons Jonah and Samson  
Guy and Linda Suesz

**Thanks for Joining Us!**



### **Please Welcome Those Recently Baptized into Our Christian Community**

- \* Griffin James, son of Courtney and Joseph Parker
- \* Bennett Cade, son of Grant and Kelsey Otten
- \* Jonah Hunter and Samson Maverick, sons of Samuel Rudicel and Kyntessa Alford

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus Catholic Church  
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## ***THE LITTLE FLOWER GARDEN***

*If there is anything that you would like to see featured in future issues, please contact us at [lfparishnews@yahoo.com](mailto:lfparishnews@yahoo.com)*

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## Dates to Remember

***Advent, Christmas and New Year's Calendars: See page 2***

Nov 25: Journey into Advent (page 3)

Nov 28: Thanksgiving Day

Dec 8: Parish Christmas Party (after 9:30 Mass)

Dec 14-15: Return Giving Tree Gifts (all Masses)

**Dec 25: Merry Christmas from *The Little Flower Garden***

Jan 1: Happy New Year 2025!

**Feb 1: Save the Date: Reverse Raffle and Bingo Night**

Feb 9: Super Bowl LIX

Many Blessings to you this Christmas and in 2025!

See you in February

**Little Flower Parish  
1925-2025**

**Celebrating 100 years**

