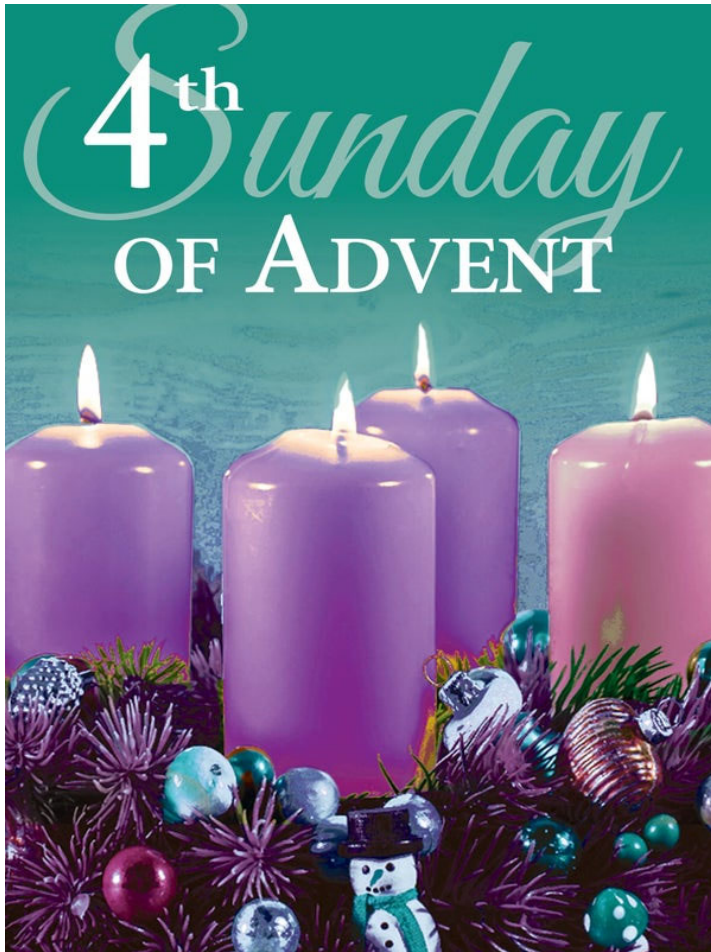


Church of the Little Flower

December 22nd, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent



"We Remember"

"We Celebrate"

"We Believe"

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Eucharistic Community of the Little Flower is to deepen the relationship of its members with God and with each other; to witness to and, therefore, to reveal Jesus Christ and His Good News to the local and wider communities; and to serve as a model of Catholic Christian community valuing the diversity of backgrounds and sharing the gifts of its varied members.

PASTORAL STAFF

Parochial Administrator

Fr. Christopher Rubie
314-645-1445 Ext. 12
frubie@littleflowerstl.org

Senior Associate Pastor

Rev. Lawrence Herzog
314-645-1445 Ext. 15
lherzog@littleflowerstl.org

Senior Associate Pastor

Msgr. William McCumber
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wmccumber@archstl.org

Parish Office Administrator

Ms. Debra Richter
314-645-1445 Ext. 10
drichter@littleflowerstl.org

Parish Bookkeeper

Ms. Christine Bodus
314-645-1445 Ext. 11
cbodus@littleflowerstl.org

Director of Music & Liturgy

Mr. Chuck Chauvin
314-645-1445 Ext. 16
cfchauvin@littleflowerstl.org

Maintenance

Mr. David Solomon

CONTACT US

St. Vincent de Paul 314-289-6101 ext.2236

Parish Office

1264 Arch Terrace
Richmond Heights, MO 63117
phone: 314-645-1445
fax: 314-645-3258
littleflower@little-flower-parish.org

Parish Email

littleflower@little-flower-parish.org

RCIA Email

drichter@littleflowerstl.org

Office Hours

Monday - Friday,
6:45am - 2:45pm

Website

www.littleflowerstl.org

MASS & SACRAMENTS

SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday: 5:00pm
 Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday - Friday: 7:00am
 Holyday Masses: Please check the bulletin for Mass schedule
 Legal Holidays: 9:00am

MORNING PRAYER of the LITURGY of the HOURS:

Monday through Friday: 7:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 4:00-4:45pm or 6:45am-6:55am Monday thru Friday

PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS:

Tuesday: 6:45am (before 7:00am Mass)

ROSARY:

Saturday: 4:30am

ADORATION: Friday: 8:00am-5:00pm

BAPTISMS:

Baptisms are a cause for celebration and may be celebrated with the entire parish at one of the weekend Masses. Parents are asked to complete the preparation sessions prior to scheduling the date for the baptism. Please call the parish office to arrange the sessions. A baptism class will be offered monthly on the second Sunday after the 10:30 Mass.

MARRIAGES:

Arrangements must be made six months in advance.

BULLETIN DEADLINE:

Friday at 10:00am

Calendar of Events

Monday	December 23	6:45-6:55	Confessions
		7:00am	Mass
Tuesday	December 24 (Christmas Eve)	6:45-6:55	Perpetual Help Devotions
		7:00am	Mass
		5:00pm	Mass
Wednesday	December 25 (Christmas Day)	10:30am	Mass
Thursday	December 26	6:45-6:55	Confessions
		7:00am	Mass
Friday	December 27	6:45-6:55	Confessions
		7:00am	Mass
		8:00am-5:00pm	Adoration
Saturday	December 28	4pm-4:45pm	Confessions
		4:30pm	Rosary in Little Flower Chapel
		5:00pm	Mass
Sunday	December 29	8:00am	Mass
		10:00am-10:15am	Confessions
		10:30am	Mass

Ministers of Service Dec. 28 & Dec. 29 2024

MINISTERS OF SERVICE

12/28 5:00pm ~ Vol. Needed P. McClure T. Sullivan
 12/29 8:00am ~ A. Scherman Mattias & Anders Verry
 12/29 10:30am ~ S. Donovan Nora & Will Saykes

LECTORS

12/28 5:00pm ~ C. Verry P. Keenoy
 12/29 8:00am ~ S. McDonald B. Miller
 12/29 10:30am ~ E. & B Carmody

01/01/25-Solemnity of Mary 10:30am Volunteers Needed

THE GUILD of MOTHER ERNESTINE

(Sacristan Helpers)

12/28 5:00pm ~ A. Lewis & P. Williams **(Team B)**
 12/29 8:00am ~ R. Jacknewitz
 12/29 10:30am ~ C. Flottmann
 01/01/25 10:30am ~ B. Campeau

Jesus is the “Son of Man?”—The Dawn of Christmas Morning

Today is the 4th Sunday of Advent and for many of us, myself included at times, this Sunday feels more like a launch pad straight into Christmas Eve and Day. There are some years where the 4th Sunday of Advent is shortened by that same day being Christmas Eve. It hardly seems to be an Advent Sunday worth the same attention as the previous weeks. Yet, we’re encouraged to treat it as such even though we barely light the Advent candle on this Sunday before Christmas begins. For this year, the Church encourages us to reflect upon the title of Jesus as the “Son of Man,” and how this applies to His identity both within the ancient Jewish understanding of the title and in our own lives as Christians in the twenty-first century. Jesus as “Son of Man” is significant for knowing how He is important to our celebration of Christmas in just a few days.

Despite the political turmoil currently going on in the Holy Land, if one were to travel to Bethlehem and visit the “shepherds’ field,” you would notice a small church on the site. Walking into the church in the round there would be a few side altars. Above these altars are different frescoes depicting the scene of Christmas night when the shepherds were visited by the angels announcing, “Glory to the God in the Highest!” One of the frescoes has the shepherds walking towards the spot where the infant Jesus lay. Looking at the youngest of the shepherds, it’s a boy singing and dancing for joy. This shepherd boy is depicted, rather anachronistically, as the young King David. David, the shepherd-king, dances for joy in a way reminiscent of his leaping for joy at the sight of the Ark of the Covenant when it entered Jerusalem for the first time. Surprisingly, King David expresses joy at the birth of someone greater than him: that his heir, the rightful Davidic king who would fulfill God’s promise to David that his kingdom will last forever, is born in the town called Bethlehem—the “house of bread.”

Most of us are familiar with Jesus referring to Himself as the “Son of Man.” However, the title is both a claim on Davidic kingship and His royal divinity. Our responsorial psalm (Psalm 80) is a plea to the Almighty to protect His people Israel by principally protecting and safeguarding the Davidic king. Here the psalm pleads to “take care of this vine [Israel], and protect what your right hand has planted. The son of man whom you yourself made strong.” The topography of Jerusalem had the Temple facing the east. Just to the south of the Temple was the Davidic king’s palace where his throne faced east. Literally speaking, King David and his heirs would sit on their throne at the “right hand of God.” The psalm mentions “Son of Man” to refer to the Davidic king, who rules by his affiliation with God Himself. However, prior to Jesus this only served as a type, or foreshadowing, of what Jesus would fulfill more splendidly from His birth all the way to His glorious Ascension. In the Old Testament, divine sonship was applied, scripturally speaking, to the Davidic heir and only by affiliation with God’s kingship. Jesus exceeds this relationship by rightfully being both the Davidic heir and divine by nature. Simply stated, Jesus made the blessings of divine sonship, being both king and God, applicable to all those baptized into His life, death, and resurrection.

Yet, this psalm tells us something more: as the fate of Israel in the ancient world lay with the fate of their king, so too does our destiny lie with the fate of our king: Jesus Christ, who is both Son of Man and Son of God. If we approach our faith and our daily lives grafted to Jesus—recognizing and acknowledging that He has conquered sin and death through His paschal mystery—then we can have the confidence that nothing in this world, or the forces working against God, will defeat us. If Jesus is truly the “Son of Man,” then He is the “God-King” in which nothing will triumph over Him. Although we might be tempted to see evil and the forces of selfishness—yes, even during this Christmas season—appear to win the day, know that Jesus has already won the end game.

The dawn of Christmas Day is drawing near! Will you celebrate and dance for joy like the shepherd boy, David, for the *king who is to come*?

In Christ the Savior,

Fr. Rubie



“For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.”

(Luke 1:44)

When you hear the scripture reading and Gospel reading at Mass, Do you “leap for joy?” If not, don’t blame the lecturer or priest, Rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That we take time to properly prepare ourselves to celebrate Mass each Sunday.

Amen

Mass Schedule for the Immaculate Conception & Christmas Eve/
Night/Day Masses”

Christmas Eve—St. MM 4:30pm, Little Flower 5:00pm
St. M.M. Midnight Mass

Christmas Day—Little Flower 10:00am
St. MM—7:30am & 9:30am

Solemnity of Mary-Wednesday, Jan. 1st—Little Flower 9:00am
St.MM 5:30pm—Midnight Mass 12:00pm—9:00am Mass

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Emmanuel means “God with us”? Come to Adoration and experience His presence.

DECEMBER EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES!

For Dec. 22nd bulletin deadline is Dec.12th
For Dec. 29th bulletin deadline is Dec. 20th
For Jan. 5th bulletin deadline is Dec. 27th
Please get your notices in as soon as possible. Thank you!



Helpers are needed after the 10:30 mass on Sunday, December 22nd to decorate inside for Christmas.

We need 4 men to bring up the nativity set from the basement. This job takes only 30 minutes. Volunteers are also needed to move Christmas trees, wreaths and nativity figurines. Carrying even just one thing is a huge help. If possible, stay and decorate the sanctuary with garland and poinsettias. Or, be a ladder climber to hang banners. (We really need one more ladder climber!) We will certify service hours for high school students. Thank you in advance for your willingness to make Little Flower Church even more beautiful for Our Savior's birth.

Did you know that we have Benediction at the end of Friday Adoration?

Most Fridays we are now having Benediction at 5 pm. Please join us to receive a special blessing from our Eucharistic Lord. Even if you are there early in the day for Adoration, you can come back. And if you can only come at the end of the day for a few minutes with Jesus, you are welcome. Isn't receiving God's grace worth a moment of your time?



OCIA LESSON – BARRIERS TO MAKING A GOOD CONFESSION

Confession (or the Sacrament of Reconciliation) is the means by which we receive absolution—total forgiveness—of our sins. It also helps us to avoid sin and grow in virtue. By regular examination of conscience, we recognize how we have offended God and neighbor and what changes we need to make.

Fear often prevents us from confession: fear of admitting our faults, irrational fear of how the priest may judge you, fear of not being completely truthful. Lacking a sense of sin may be a barrier. Discerning what sin is grave and what is not may hold us back. You may not know what to say, so ask the priest for assistance.

After you acknowledge your sins, express true sorrow for offending God along with the desire to avoid those sins again.

Source: Evangelium

Interested in becoming Catholic? Please call the Rectory: 314-645-1445 or email: drichter@littleflowerstl.org

Holiday Hours for Rectory Office
The Parish Office will be closed
Tuesday, December 24th
Thru Thursday, January 2nd.

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows Way of Lights Run

The Shrine Grounds and Visitors Center
January 1, 2025, 5:00 pm.

What better way to start the year than going through this exciting course while surrounded by a display of over 1.5 million beautiful, colorful and breathtaking Christmas lights!

Join us at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows for our annual 5k Run and

1.5-mile Fun Walk as you welcome in the New Year!!

Cost: Register by December 17 to receive a WOL Run T-shirt and the early you register, the better the price! Pricing now starts at \$35.00 for the Run and \$25.00 for Walk if registered by December 17, 2024. Price increases starting December 18, 2024.

For more information, visit <https://snows.org/wolrun/> or call 618-397-6700.

100% tax credits available to individuals and Businesses. Participate in the MOScholars Program today.

For more information call the Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation at 314-792-7032, visit our website at <https://ttef-stl.org/moscholars/> or scan the QR code.





THE LITTLE FLOWER COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

Office of the Archbishop

Cardinal Rigali Center
20 Archbishop May Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63119
p) 314.792.7841
f) 314.792.7842
www.archstl.org

December 1, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On May 9, 2024, Pope Francis issued “SPES NON CONFUNDIT” (Hope does not disappoint), Bull of Induction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025. The Holy Father invited “everyone to an intense experience of the love of God” and “calls on all Christians to become Pilgrims of Hope.”

The Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope will begin on December 24, 2024, with the opening of the Holy Door at the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome and continue until the closing of the Jubilee Year on January 6, 2026.

I invite all the faithful to join Bishop Mark Rivotuso to celebrate the solemn opening of the Jubilee on Sunday, December 29, 2024, at the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, 4431 Lindell Boulevard. The Jubilee will conclude locally on December 28, 2025.

As part of the Jubilee, the faithful of the Archdiocese of St. Louis will be able to obtain the grace of the Jubilee Indulgence by making a pious pilgrimage to any sacred Jubilee site under the usual conditions. I have designated nine Jubilee pilgrimage sites across the archdiocese:

Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis
Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France
Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters at the Mount Grace Covent and Chapel
Carmel of Saint Joseph at the Chapel of the Most Precious Blood
Saint Mary’s of the Barrens National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
Monastery of Saint Clare of the Immaculate Conception
Passionist Nuns of St. Louis
Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in New Melle
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Union

If you wish to learn more about the Jubilee Indulgence and for a complete list of the pilgrimage sites, please visit: archstl.org/2025jubileeyear.

Please visit the following links for much more information about the Jubilee Year:

The Vatican Jubilee 2025 website: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

The USCCB Jubilee 2025 website: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-2025>

I am confident that this Holy Year will be a time for rediscovery and unity, opening hearts to receive the fullness of God’s love and mercy through a personal encounter with the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of St. Louis

ST. MARY MAGDALEN AND LITTLE FLOWER KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



TRIVIA KNIGHT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2025 AT ST. MARY MAGDALEN GYM
CORNER OF BRENTWOOD & MANCHESTER

DOORS OPEN 6:30PM AND TRIVIA STARTS 7:00PM

\$200 FOR TABLE OF 8 (\$25/PER PERSON) *PAY AT THE DOOR*

SODA/WATER PROVIDED SILENT AUCTION AND 50/50 RAFFLE



TRIVIA KNIGHT

RESERVE YOUR TABLE BY USING THE CODE OR AT
[FORMS.GLE/MIRGXQNQH1CYGJKUA](https://forms.gle/MIRGXQNQH1CYGJKUA)
QUESTIONS? DAN.FITZGERALD@STMMCHURCH.COM

Eucharistic Prayer Companions—First Saturdays

Flowing with the Holy Spirit at the 10th Eucharistic Revival Congress, we are led to invigorate and honor Our Lady's Fatima request for the Rosary and Prayers of Reparation and Conversion on First Saturdays.

You are invited to gather with the Eucharistic Prayer Companions of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (EPC) at various Churches throughout the St. Louis Archdiocese on First Saturdays for Holy Mass followed by these prayers: The Rosary and Reparation prayers, the Chaplets of the Holy FACE and of Divine Mercy, followed by 15 Minutes of Silent Meditation on the Mysteries of the Rosary.

Prayer copies will be available at the Church.

Our next gatherings:

January 4th Little Flower Church 1264 Arch Terrace, Richmond Heights, 63117.

8am Mass followed by First Saturday Prayers.

Please invite others and share this invitation with your family and friends.

For updated information on future gatherings, please visit our website:

www.CentreForMercy.org/epc.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us....



The Giving Tree

Helping Those in Need



The Giving Tree will be up in St. Joseph's Chapel.

We are asking for donations of gift cards-some ideas are Walmart, Aldi, or Schnucks.

Gift cards may be placed in the offertory basket at mass, or in the rectory mailbox.

We ask for your continued prayers for our neighbors in need. Thank you!

"A Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament is worth more than a thousand years of human glory."
 ~ St. Padre Pio



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION is held in the Little Flower Chapel from 8:00am to 5:00pm every Friday. All are encouraged to come and spend whatever time you are able to in the Divine Presence of God.

*For more information and/or if you are able to commit to your own weekly hour of adoration, please contact:
 Jackie Waugh (314-704-5619) or Jane McCabe (314-605-6098)*

Mass Intentions

Monday 7:00am	December 23 Dan Miller
Tuesday 5:00pm	December 24 Christmas Eve Don & Nancy Mueller
Wednesday 10:00am	December 25 Christmas Day The People of Little Flower and St. Mary Magdalen
Thursday 7:00am	December 26 (Sp. Int.) Geoff Miller
Friday 7:00am	December 27 Helen Miller
Saturday 5:00pm	December 28 Caren Williams
Sunday 8:00am 10:30am	December 29 People of St. Mary Magdalen & Little Flower Judy Kramps

Interested in answering Jesus' call to serve others? Join The Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The society of St. Vincent de Paul provides clothes, shelter, food, medicine and more -and pays for utilities for people in need throughout the St. Louis region. Our personal, one-on-one approach gives people the help they need for today and helps them to see a better tomorrow. We are a Catholic lay organization, leading men and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering service to the needy and suffering. **Join Us.** See Christ in the face of the poor and to bring the love of God to those who are in material or spiritual need. You'll grow spiritually and make friends. **How to join us? Call the rectory at 314-645-1445**

*In your charity,
 please Pray for*

All the souls of the faithful departed, May they rest in peace...

The sick and shut-ins of our parish, especially:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Maria Adderley | Beverly Haffner | John McShane |
| Andrew Blum | Mary Ellen Havard | G. Tracy Mehan |
| John Boland | Louise Haynes | Mary Falk Mehan |
| Maxine Borowiak | Adrianna Hubb | Peg Mango |
| Jaxson Boyer | ChrisLewisHutchcroft | Helen Mango |
| Frankie Boyer | Stan James | Stephanie Mortenson |
| Steve Bradshaw | Rebecca Jenson | David Nathe |
| Joanne Buchholz | Barb Jones | Sr. Jo Ann |
| Ellen Carmody | Chad Keeven | O'Connell, BVM |
| Kathleen Carter | Donald Kenney | Lachlan Oddy |
| Rachelle Chaney | Mary Kinsley | Kristin Rafferty |
| Nicholas Coleman- | Kevin Koeller | Christi Rice Blum |
| Katie Crouch Willett | Joanne Kraus | Sue Rice |
| Clare Crouch | Ken Kuhlman | Marguerite Scheidegger |
| Margie Curran | Jack Lally | James Smith |
| Helena Czosnyka | Julie Lally | Tony Snider |
| Chandolor Davis | Marianne Lally | Hollie Soto |
| James Davis | Jim LaMartina | Matthew Stuart |
| James E. Davis | Patty LaRochelle | Gary Underwood |
| Nathan Glore Davis | Mary Laws | Miriam Varas |
| Patrick Dolan | Everleigh Lauber | Margaret Verzino |
| Bill Edwards | Sherry Lopez | Charles Volk |
| Kathryn Fischer | Greg & Shelley | Billy Wells |
| Bill Flottmann | Lowrey | Joseph Wheeler |
| Peter Freundl | Elizabeth Lyons | |
| Ron Garnier | Emma Lyons | |
| Joyce Griffen | Bob McShane | |

Readings for the week of December 22, 2024

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/

Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/

Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-

PLEASE PRAY for our PARISHIONERS and/or LOVED ONES SERVING in the United States Military



- Allen Conrey
 Mollie Conrey
 Rebecca Conrey
 Blaise Coultier
 Alex Garofalo
 Derek Hirtz
 Brian Kloppenburg
 Justin Kloppenburg
 Alexander LaRochelle*

- Maurice Muro
 Ashton Piper
 Christopher Wamhoff
 Jonathon Habbe
 Dashawn Arrendondo
 Ean Eicher*