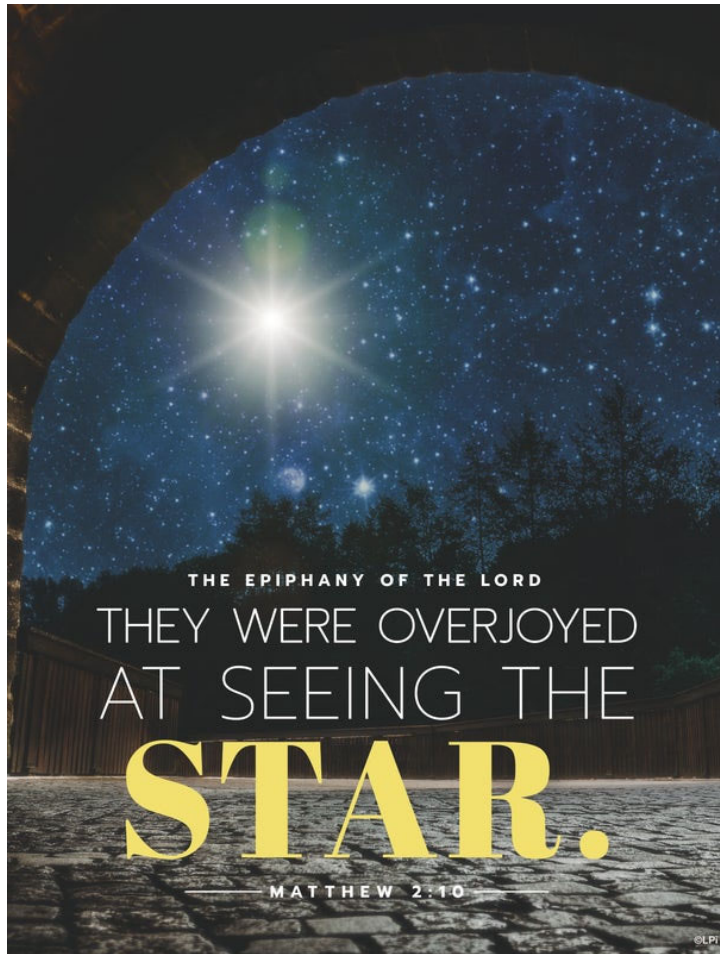


Church of the Little Flower

January 5th, 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord



"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
314-961-8400 Ext. 114
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

Calendar of Events

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

Monday	January 6	6:45-6:55	Confessions
		7:00am	Mass
Tuesday	January 7	6:45-6:55	Perpetual Help Devotions
		7:00am	Mass
Wednesday	January 8	7:00am	Mass
Thursday	January 9	6:45-6:55	Confessions
		7:00am	Mass
Friday	January 10	6:45-6:55	Confessions
		7:00am	Mass
		8:00am-5:00pm	Adoration
Saturday	January 11	4pm-4:45pm	Confessions
		4:30pm	Rosary in Little Flower Chapel
		5:00pm	Mass
Sunday	January 12	8:00am	Mass
		10:00am-10:15am	Confessions
		10:30am	Mass

Ministers of Service Jan. 11 & 12 2024

MINISTERS OF SERVICE

01/11 5:00pm ~ Curran & Keegan Koontz J. Schibig
 01/12 8:00am ~ Liesl & Phillip Armbrecht M. Husmann
 01/12 10:30am ~ A. Scherman A. Eppert L. Zylka

LECTORS

01/11 5:00pm ~ M. Hazelwood L. Bub
 01/12 8:00am ~ Patrick Dolan Pat Dolan
 01/12 10:30am ~ C. Flottmann R. Provaznik

THE GUILD of MOTHER ERNESTINE

(Sacristan Helpers)

01/11 5:00pm ~ A. Lewis & P. Williams **(Team A)**
 01/12 8:00am ~ K. Sargent
 01/12 10:30am ~ K. & S Toombs

The Magi and the Three Gifts

Over the last couple of weeks we've been celebrating with great joy the Christmas season—encouraged by the Church to grow deeper in our contemplation of the mystery and beauty of Our Lord's birth. This weekend we celebrate Epiphany Sunday, which is the first time Jesus the Savior is revealed to the world in the persons of the Magi from the East. Who are these men from the East? Where do they come from in this foreign land and what was their purpose in visiting Jesus in Bethlehem? Recently, I picked up reading a book written by Fr. Dwight Lonenecker titled, *Mystery of the Magi: The Quest to Identify the Three Wise Men. It is a fascinating historical and biblical examination of the Magi from the East: their relationship to the Star of Bethlehem, their use of astrology, the relationship they had with King Herod the Great, and why they came to visit a newborn king in Bethlehem and offer gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. While there is a lot to say about the Magi from reading this book, I want to touch on the significance of the Magi's gifts to the infant Jesus.*

It is important to be historically accurate according to the timeline in which the Magi visited the infant Jesus. Many popular images of the birth of Jesus—along with a cast of characters at our Nativity sets—show the Magi present at the scene of the baby Jesus in the manger on Christmas night. This is biblically and historically inaccurate: Matthew's gospel has the Magi coming to Bethlehem sometime later when the Holy Family have moved into a house in Bethlehem. Jesus could at this point be a few days or a few months old by the time the Magi come on the scene. However, regardless of the chronological timeline, it's important for us liturgically to celebrate the birth of Jesus and His epiphany to the Magi as part of the mystery of His incarnation. Again, who are the Magi and why these gifts? Prepare to be eye-opened by the subtlety from where they are from and who they are in the infancy story.

The Magi were more likely not three wise “kings” from a Far-East country like India or Persia. Instead, the Magi were more likely royal courtiers of the Nabatean king, Aretas IV. The Nabatean kingdom was a southern and eastern kingdom neighboring Israel. Its capital city was Petra and it was, and still is, southeast from Bethlehem and Jerusalem in the country Jordan. To put it in perspective, to travel by car from Petra to Bethlehem is about 4 ½ hours—which is like driving distance-wise from St. Louis to Kansas City. However, the region of the Magi and their king contained goods that most kings and people of wealth sought after because they were hard to obtain. Large gold deposits and gold mines were found in the Nabatean kingdom, which extended into current day Saudi Arabia. Also, frankincense and myrrh were produced by skilled workers who tapped frankincense from trees that grew in southern Arabia, and myrrh from gum resin also from the same region. Frankincense was a hot commodity because it was used for nearly every religious and cultic practice both in Judaism and in pagan religions. Myrrh, while it too gave off an aromatic scent when burned, was sought out for its medicinal properties. It was also used for burial purposes to slow down the decomposition process. Thus, for the Magi and those in the Nabatean kingdom, these commodities were not only good for the economy, but they advantageously served as tribute gifts to foreign kings. Paying tribute to a foreign king was an act of alliance or, particularly in the ancient world, an act of submission to a mightier power.

It is likely King Aretas IV paid tribute with these commodities to Caesar Augustus in order to befriend Rome. Likewise, since Herod the Great was allied with the Roman empire during the time of Our Lord's birth, it is reasonable to assume Aretas IV was looking for the opportunity to pay tribute to King Herod to forge an alliance. The Magi probably ascertained the birth of a new king in Israel and notified Aretas IV of this newborn king. Thinking that this was the opportunity to honor Herod the Great, he sent the Magi on their way to pay tribute to a newborn king of Israel. This was customary to do even with the birth of a new king. Hence, the Magi set off on a route they would be familiar with because they took what was a trade route to Jerusalem, first to see Herod, then Bethlehem to see the infant Jesus. However, following the Star of Bethlehem enabled them to find Jesus and not necessarily find Bethlehem or Jerusalem.

The gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh were not only precious commodities from Arabia that the Magi brought simply as a diplomatic gesture of good will to the newborn king. These wise men brought them as an expression of both political, diplomatic, and religious significance. In the ancient world, politics, diplomacy, and religion were mixed together; it is not statically distinguished and separated like it is today in the contemporary world. When the Magi came to the infant Jesus in Bethlehem, they intentionally wanted to offer their submission, allegiance, and homage to a king that could very well come from divine origin. This also was common among tributaries to Caesar in Rome. However, the Magi would have been familiar with the Old Testament prophecies considering how close the Nabatean kingdom, especially Petra, was geographically to Israel. Could the Magi be offering gold, frankincense, and myrrh to a newborn king that exceeded anything they would have done for Caesar or King Herod? Considering the Magi went a different route on their way back home, it is possible the route they took was not south, but north to Damascus. Perhaps Aretas IV would find out about their trickery toward Herod and, having risked his alliance with King Herod, seek their lives? It is fascinating to think about this and to see how the religious, diplomatic, and political drama unfolded around a newborn king.

Gold, frankincense, and myrrh were the treasures from Arabia. Yet, it was encountering the greatest treasure to mankind that set the Magi on a new life's path!

In Christ the Savior,

Fr. Rubie



“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

(Luke 3:16)

The Catholic Catechism states that “Jesus” immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves, to do God’s will.” In other words, as baptized Catholics there is

Only one gift that we need to give to Jesus—the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

*That we may fulfill our own
Baptismal call by giving
ourselves entirely to God and answer
His call to holiness.*

Amen



OCIA LESSON – ANOINTING OF THE SICK—A DYNAMITE SACRAMENT!

As Jesus healed the sick spiritually and physically during his public ministry, he promised that his disciples would also lay hands on the sick for their recovery. (Mt 10: 1) Through the anointing of the sick with blessed oil and the prayers of the priest, the sick person receives grace, possible bodily healing and forgiveness of sins.

This sacrament is offered to one who is seriously ill or in danger of death from sickness or old age. It strengthens our souls and bodies at the approach of death, either to heal us or help us die in a state of grace.

Remember to call your parish priest as the need arises.

Source: Evangelium; Catholic Catechism

Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Call the Rectory 314-645-1445 or email drichter@littleflowerstl.org



DONUT SUNDAY!

JANUARY 19th



Our parish is offering a convenient service for contributions! Online Giving is a web-based application that allows you to start, stop and change your contributions at any time. Please notice that our offering envelopes now have a check box which indicates “I’ve given online,” which you can use to present during offertory at Mass. Online Giving is very easy to use and requires no special knowledge other than how to access the Internet. If you haven’t already signed up, then go to our parish website at www.littleflowerstl.org and select Online Giving or you can register at our parish app.

Simply scan with your smart device. It will take you to the on-line portal of our Website.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that if we want to be great we must serve

Did you Know?

If you are homebound or know of anyone in the parish who is homebound, and would like to receive Communion please contact the rectory office at 314-645-1445. We will be happy to arrange that.

Also if you are homebound and do not have access to a computer, we would gladly send you a weekly copy of the bulletin. Please let us know what we can do for you by calling the rectory office. 314-645-1445

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?

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



Lolly's Place After-School Tutoring

Lolly's Place is *thrilled* to announce that we have launched a second tutoring location at Little Flower. We are very excited to be a part of your community!

Lolly's Place is a holistic, literacy focused, after-school tutoring and mentoring program for children in grades K-8. We work to close learning and academic achievement gaps for children from diverse backgrounds through customized services and one-on-one tutoring. We also infuse our program with a variety of enrichment and experiential learning activities.

To enroll your child, please visit <https://lollysplace.org/tutoring-enroll>. Feel free to call Mary Pat Gallagher at 314-800-4260 or email her at 2mpg@lollysplace.org

Adorers Needed

Did you know that Little Flower has weekly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays? It's true. We have Adoration on Fridays from 8a-5pm. You are welcome to come join us in spending time with Jesus. We could really use additional Adorers from 9-10am, 12-1pm, and 3-4pm. If you're interested in committing to coming at one of these times or being available to sub as needed, contact Jackie Waugh at 314-704-5619 or Jane McCabe at 314-605-6098.



LITTLE FLOWER NEWSLETTER

If you would like an announcement or event included in the Little Flower newsletter, please send the information or graphic to littleflowernewsletter@gmail.com.

If you would like to receive the Little Flower newsletter with updates and announcements, please send your contact information to littleflowernewsletter@gmail.com!

THE PARISH THAT PRAYS

TOGETHER,

STAYS TOGETHER!

Little Flower Parish invites you to join us for:

The Rosary Crusade for America and the Church will be prayed every Saturday at 4:30 in the Little Flower Chapel. Whether you attend the 5:00 Mass or just join for the rosary, everyone is invited.

Little Flower on YouTube

Did you know the Little Flower parish is on YouTube? We livestream all of our Masses, Sacred Devotions and Morning Prayer. Please subscribe to our YouTube channel, *Little Flower Parish – Richmond Heights*. Be sure and **LIKE** our videos, and share this information with your family and friends.



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



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 gathering:

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....

"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	January 6 Richard Doerr
Tuesday 7:00am	January 7 Sp. Int. (Sr. Cynthia Kozicki)
Wednesday 7:00am	January 8 Jean Leonhardt
Thursday 7:00am	January 9 Celebrants Choice
Friday 7:00am	January 10 Nancy Mueller
Saturday 5:00pm	January 11 Celebrants Choice
Sunday 8:00am 10:30am	January 12 For the People of Little Flower & St. Mary Magdelen Celebrants Choice

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 | Chris Lewis Hutchcroft | 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 |
| Chandlor 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 January 5, 2025

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/ Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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*