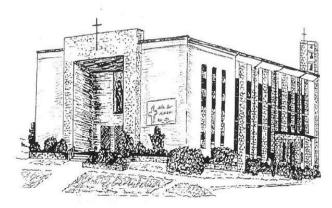


Volume 60 Number 3 March 2024



LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC COMMUNITY "THE LIGHT OF THE LOOP"

2053 Government Street Mobile, Alabama 36606 www.littleflowermobile.com www.facebook.com/littleflowermobile

Rectory: 473-3340 School: 479-7881/5761 Parish: 478-3381 Fax: 476-4064

Holy Week Schedule

MONDAY, MARCH 25TH Mass at 5:30 pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 26TH Chrism Mass at 11:00 am (Cathedral)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27TH Mass at 5:30 pm Mass of Healing (Anointing of Sick) 5:30 pm

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH Mass of the Lord's Supper at 5:30 pm

All Eucharistic Ministers are asked to take part in the procession on Holy Thursday after the 5:30 pm Service Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6:30- 8:00pm

A-F: 6:30/6:50pm G-L: 7:10/7:20pm M- S: 6:50/7:10pm T-V: 7:20/7:40pm W-Z: 7:40/8:00pm

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH Day of Fast & Abstinence Stations of the Cross at NOON Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 5:30 pm

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH Confessions at NOON Easter Vigil Mass at 7:30 pm Reception of new Catholics into Full Communion

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31st Masses at 8:00 am, 9:30 am and Noon No 5:30 pm Mass

FROM THE DESK OF FR. JOHN:

Thank you and congratulations to all. We exceeded our goal for the 2024 Catholic Charities Appeal. It is not too late to contribute if you haven't. The basic pledge is \$53 a month. If you are unable to give please let us know so that you will not be contacted to ask your intentions. Thanks for your support.

If you haven't purchased your ticket for Leprechauns at the Loop do so soon. This event will be held Friday, March 15th at 6:00pm at the school cafeteria. Tickets are \$30.00 each. This event is a great opportunity for the *ADULTS* ONLY in the parish to socialize and get better acquainted. Hurry and get your dinner ticket as there is an absolute limit. THERE WILL BE NO AVAILABLE TICKETS AT THE DOOR. YOU MUST HAVE A TICKET TO GET IN. In conjunction with the event we are selling raffle tickets for five dollars each for a chance to win one thousand dollars! You do not have to be present to win.

The Friday fish frys have been great! The food and comraderies have been wonderful. The Knights and Ladies are doing a wonderful job, as usual. I do not take their work lightly. We are blessed to have them host the fish frys. It entails a lot of work and organization. If you haven't been to one yet, do so before Lent is over. Thank you Knights and Ladies!!

I hope you had a chance to one of Fr. Andrew Jones' Mission presentations. I heard they were very informative and interesting. It was good to have him back; his first priestly assignment was here.

Easter is approaching fast and our RCIA Class is getting excited about entering the Church at the Vigil Mass. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. The schedule is on the opposite page.

Happy Easter, Fr John

LITTLE FLOWER MUSIC MINISTRY

I want to take this opportunity to brag a little bit on our school choir. The choir is composed of about 20 students, mostly 1st and 2nd graders with a couple of students in higher grades. On Monday mornings we practice the songs that the school will sing at the school Mass on Friday. To help the students, the teachers make copies of the sheet music for the songs so that the children will be able to follow along easier than using the hymnal. Their teachers usually practice with the choir on the other days of the week. I am grateful for the help that their teachers, Ms. Milwee and Mrs. Frank, provide for the students and myself.

The students are enthusiastic and truly enjoy singing. By their singing, they are ministering to the rest of the students at Mass by helping them to sing as well. In addition to singing at the school Masses every week, they have also sung at a few parish events. This year they have sung at two Sunday Masses as well as singing at the parish Christmas tree lighting in December.

If you missed the Sunday Masses or the Christmas tree lighting, we invite you to come to a school Mass on Friday to hear them sing. The joy on their faces and the sound of their beautiful voices will warm your heart. Dave Maslíne

FIRST FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST EUCHARISTIC 9:30AM TO 5:15PM ADORATION and SECOND SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH 9:30am to 10:30am All are encouraged to join us

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, The Legion Of Mary

Jesus and Mary say, "We were so pleased to spend March's First Friday (3/1) Day of Adoration with you, listening to your prayers, comforting you and enjoying your presence, as We always do. In April, after Easter this year, we invite you to spend your First Friday (4/5) Adoration (9:15AM-5:15PM) and your Second Saturday (4/13) Holy Hour (9:30-10:30AM) with us, sharing Our Joy in the Glory of the Easter Season."

Right now, it's "Happy Lent!" We're two weeks "ash-ed" and continue intent upon entering the sufferings of Jesus and His Mother, supporting them with our own prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we, members of His Mystical Body, join all our (much smaller) sufferings with His for the salvation of the World: where the Head has gone, we follow, yes?

Lent does its lighter moments! Father John (with the Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary), has made Lenten Friday abstinence from meat almost a pleasure. After the 5:30 Mass and Stations of the Cross, a fish dinner (eat in or take-out), and desserts, are offered for sale. The topper is Leprechauns at the Loop (3/15), which gives us an Irish break mid-way.

But for the rest, drawing on the graces of Father Andrew Jones' Lenten Mission (2/25-26, 6:15 PM), and learning to lean on Jesus, we will be praying for ourselves and for all our brothers and sisters, growing in self-discipline, and offering generous help to the needy, the lonely, the neglected, the little ones, the sick, and the aged. In all of this we look forward to the Triduum, a single service divide in three: Holy Thursday (3/28) Mass, with the washing of feet ("... wash one another's feet!"), leads to Good Friday (3/29), with a reading of the Passion and prayer service ending with Holy Communion, and flows into Holy Saturday (3/30) where the Easter Vigil begun in darkness ends in a blaze of glory as we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection and welcome our new Catholics into the Church.

Need a break? Harried? Worried? Come see your Mother every Monday God sends, Bringer Center, 6:15PM. She always knows best!

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Among other things we in preparation for the Lenten season, the Men of St. Joseph at Little Flower watched a video by Brandt Petrie, who is a noted speaker and teacher of the Catholic faith. He stressed that Lent is really about repentance and what we do to please God is all important. With that in mind, he suggested that fasting, prayer, and almsgiving may be more pleasing to Him, than possibly giving up our favorite food or beverage. We pray that the Men of St.

Joseph, be good examples to our family of doing the things that most please God, our Father, especially during this Lenten season. Tom Ebel

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

"St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph. Terror of demons. prav for us."

> WEEKLY MEETINGS TUESDAY 6:00pm ST. JOSEPH ROOM (NEXT TO RECTORY)

"The Men of St. Joseph is an association of Christian men, united under the Catholic Church, who meet weekly to pray together and encourage each other to be the spiritual leaders of their families." Please join us.

LITTLE FLOWER BIG FLOWER GARDEN CLUB

The cold was not kind to our flowers in the flower beds. We need



your help. If you enjoy playing in the dirt and growing things, this is the organization for you! Our next gathering is March 23, 2024 at 8:00am under the pavilion in the habitat yard. Bring your gloves, small hand tools and good cheer. If you need more information please contact:

Alex Smith (251-209-3200) or Steve VanArsdale (251-404-8724).



LITTLE FLOWER ALTAR SOCIETY



March will be a busy month at Little Flower but it seems as though they all are recently.

The AS will host a cleaning day to prepare the church for the Holy Week celebration. The date is Friday, March 9, 2024 - 9:30 AM.

If you prefer special supplies, please bring those however we will have the usual ones available.

The cleaning day is for those chores that do not get attention regularly with the weekly church cleaning. This is part of the duties of the Altar Society (and the parishioners) to maintain the House of our Lord as we do our own.



Altar Service for March: Kay Case Start Date-March 1st

God Bless. Betty Ebel

KNIGHTS OF COEUMBUS LADIES AUXIEIARY

The KOC Ladies Auxiliary is busy making preparations for our upcoming fundraiser, "An Afternoon Tea". It will be a traditional 3 course tea with finger sandwiches, scones and muffins, dainty desserts, and of course a variety of delicious teas (punch for those who prefer that). Plans for the Fascinator craft are coming together nicely and should be an enjoyable activity. There will be a contest for the best fascinators with tea-themed prizes. Tickets will go on sale March 12th. They will be available for purchase from any Ladies Auxiliary member or by calling Melinda Finan at 251-751-3124. Ticket prices are as follows: adult tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 day of event. Children's tickets (age 4-10) are \$10 in advance and \$15 day of event. More details to follow in the bulletin.

The Ladies have been busy providing delectable desserts for purchase at the Lenten Fish Fries. Thank you for your continued support of our fish fry bake sales.

Our next meeting is March 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Ladies Auxiliary room. Hope to see some new faces there!

Respectfully Submitted, Melinda Finan, President

+ The Knights of Columbus, Council #13367 are looking for a few good men! We would like to invite men of the Parish to join us as we help support Little Flower! No need to come to every meeting or event. Come and help when you can. Our next meeting is Tuesday March 12 at 7:00 in the Bringer Center (the yellow building located across the street from the Church office. Please come by and join the Knights!!!

COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWS

Once again, we will have our Lenten Giving Tree in the back of the church! The items collected will be donated to the 2B Choices for Women, a division of Catholic Social Services. Items requested range from blankets and socks to highchairs, cribs, and car seats. Please choose one or as many items as you would like to donate. Donations may be left at the parish office or in the church. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 30th at 10:00am for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Look for details to follow in the weekly bulletin. \mathcal{O} \mathcal{O}





The "Little Way" Calendar Little Flower 2024 Donation Calendar



We are excited to announce a new fundraiser for our Parish, the "Little Way" calendar. It is an opportunity for you to dedicate a specific day, such as a birthday, anniversary, or memorial for a loved one. **We still have**

dates available!!

Funds will be divided equally to support Little Flower Church and School.

Here's how it works: each day of the year is assigned to a specific dollar amount based solely on where it falls in the calendar. For example,

- *January 1st is valued at \$1
- *January 2nd is valued at \$2
- *January 3rd is valued at \$3

*And so on, all the way up to December 31st, value \$365.

You can find the calendar and the corresponding dollar values on our website <u>www.littleflowermobile.com</u> by following the link the "Little Way" calendar.

We ask that you pick a date and donate the amount associated with that day. This can be done in honor or memory of someone and their name will appear as follows:

- *On the new digital billboard located on the exterior of the school gym
- *A post on the Little Flower Catholic Church Facebook page (names published once, weekly)
- *A reference in the Sunday Bulletin (names published once, weekly)
- *A morning announcement and prayer at Little Flower School

As an enticement, each donor will be entered in a drawing to win a minimum of \$1,000. If the entire calendar is full, we will draw for \$5,000. For example, January 1 = 1 chance, while December 31 = 365 chances.

Payment can be made by credit card through PayPal, through Venmo, or by mailing a check directly to the office. If you prefer to come to the office, we are happy to assist you in choosing your date! If you have any questions, please call the office at 478-3381

JANUARY THE "LITTLE WAY" CALENDAR MEMORY/ IN HONOR OF "DISIGNEES"

- 1. Nick West
- 2. In Memory of Pat Setterstrom
- 3. In Honor of Nicholas
- 4. In Honor of Dr. Thomas Doyle
- 5. In Memory of Dan Huffman, Sr.
- 6. In Honor of Mimi & Frank Fowlkes on their 42nd Anniversary
- 7. In Honor of Jon Carfagno's 45th Birthday
- 8. In Memory of John H. Beshel
- 9. In Honor of the Urquhart Family
- 10. Connor McKinney
- 11. In Memory of Our Lady of Lourdes
- 12. In Memory of Betty Huffman
- 13. In Honor of the Hill and Hory Families
- 14. In Honor of Kevin Ollis
- 15. In Honor of Julianna Roveda
- 16. In Memory of Patricia Kahalley
- 17. In Memory of John "Tractor" Barnett
- 18. In Memory of John "Pajeaux" Barnett
- 19. A Special Intention for Michael Thomas
- 20. In Memory Norden Bailey
- 21. In Honor of St. Therese, the Little Flower
- 22. In Honor of Our Mother Mary
- 23. Happy Birthday Avery Dill
- 24. In Honor of St. Joseph
- 25. In Memory of Lois Hakanson
- 26. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
- 27. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
- 28. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
- 29. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Thank you for your support! Check the calendar for open dates! All donations are tax deductiable and will be posted on your yearly contributions report.

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"Do not be afraid of getting lost: the more we give of ourselves, the more we will find ourselves." \sim (Pope John Paul II). During this season of Lent, may the three pillars (prayer,fasting,almsgiving) lead you to spiritual growth and reflection strengthening your relationship with God.

Important Dates:

February 11th --- no classes March 10th --- second First communion parent meeting March 24 --- Stations and Easter celebration March 31 --- no classes

Tommie Angel Director of Religious Education



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Flower

Youth Group

Little Flower Youth Group (grades 6-12th)

We are planning a Lenten service project and will let you know the details later via 'groupme' app. If you are interested in our ministry, please contact Mrs. Carole Grant at rathlegrant@bellsouth.net for more information.

VIKING NEWS

The mission of Little Flower Catholic School is to teach, learn and grow through the tradition of faith.

As hard as it is to believe, we are at the end of our third quarter of school. The staff and students are as busy as ever, and March ushers in even more activity. We are moving through the season of Lent by focusing on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Students also attend the Stations of the Cross every Friday.

One special event the students will participate in is Layups for Lisa on March 4th and 5th. This benefit will give students the opportunity to earn \$1.00 for each layup made in 45 seconds. The program is sponsored by Competing Against Cancer, a local non-profit, and all of the money goes to a family with a loved one experiencing cancer.

March will also bring student testing as they work for two weeks taking the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. Our teachers have been preparing students for this all year. We feel confident that they will all be successful.

Both the teachers and students will have retreat days this month. The teachers will be on retreat on March 15th and the students will `have their special time on Holy Thursday. We will be praying for you all and ask that you keep us in your prayers.

I am certain that March will allow us many other activities and adventures, none of which are more important than focusing on the final days our Lord spent on earth. What a beautiful way to close out a beautiful month with Holy Week.

Principal

<u>C?MMITTEE REP?RTS</u>

<u>Parish Council</u> Meeting is March 6th so it will be covered in the April Taproot.

Liturgy Meeting

We reviewed Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations. All events were well attended. The children's Christmas Mass was very solemn and well done. It was felt that having fewer children carry candles and no bells helped. St. Nicholas will donn a new garb and hat in 2024.

St. Blaise's blessing of throats was at all weekend Masses of February 3rd & 4th. This was appreciated by all who attended. Distribution of ashes was during 12:00 and 5:30 Masses on Ash Wednesday.

Our mission, Feb. 25th & 26th, with Fr. Andrew Jones was on the Eucharist. We hope all who came enjoyed it.

Stations of the Cross will be on Friday's of Lent after 5:30 Mass. All Lenten services will be in the bulletin and March Taproot. The choirs are looking for new members. The school children's choir is doing really well. It is made up of 1st through 3rd graders.

We are aware of the speakers in the balcony and back of church problem. We will work on this problem.

Sr. Mary Joyce Bringer, CSJ

PET VACCINE CLINICS

Every First Saturday of each month from 10:00am to noon there will be a pet rabies and vaccination clinic in the schoo parking lot. Rabies shots, \$12; nail trims, \$15. Dogs must be leashed; cats must be crated. Only cash is accepted. Sponsored by Petco and Fomas (Friends of Mobile Animal Shelter).



The Round Table We now have a couple of weeks of lent under

We now have a couple of weeks of lent under our belts. Hopefully we have been successful in beginning our climb towards Calvary. As we continue our journey to the cross we need to be diligent so we do not fall asleep like the three Apostles in the Garden or flee when we should be standing at the foot of the Cross. So, how? Perhaps by making use of the three pillars the Church has given us: prayer, fasting,

and almsgiving. A deeper dive into these as Lent progresses will produce real fruits from those resolutions in our spiritual life. In turn, we will be better prepared to rejoice in the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter.

We can let the pillars flow into each other. When we pray an extra Rosary, Chaplet, or Stations of the Cross, we could offer it for a friend or neighbor who needs our intercession. Praying for others is important and by praying for them we are giving of our time, which is the most important resource we have. When we fast from our favorite coffee, cookie, restaurant we eat at weekly, instead of thinking how much money we will save, we can put that money in the collection basket at Mass. Looking at ways we can give to God during Lent is one thing we will continue at the Round Table. Another focus will be on St. loseph whose feast is this month. St. John Paul II said, "Because St. Joseph is the protector of the Church, he is the guardian of the Eucharist and the Christian family. Therefore, we must turn to St. Joseph today to ward off attacks upon the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist and upon the family. We must plead with St. Joseph to guard the Eucharistic Lord and the Christian family during this time of Lent." Join us Sundays from 10:45-11:45 in the Bringer Center.

Round Table members wish you a most holy Lent and Easter.

submitted by Bette Sazfranski



The group is approaching an important threshold in their spiritual life - making making their first communion and receiving confirmation.

We know about First Communion but do we understand the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Being confirmed means receiving the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and anointing with the Holy Oils. It is considered a sacrament of initiation in that it brings one into deeper communication with the Church and God.

If you are one who has been baptized, received Holy Communion but have not been confirmed, then you should give yourself that gift. Your baptism is not totally completed until you are confirmed. With the anointing of the oils, you become priest, prophet and king. How wonderful is that??????

March 16th is our retreat date - a morning of reflection, spending time with God and sharing. This is a special time of bonding among the group and the team. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to lead us in the direction of encountering Jesus in a deeper way and to inspire words that should be heard for further spiritual development.

Thank all of you for your prayers for the members and the team but please continue. Prayers are always needed!

See in you Mass during this Lenten Season but especially during Holy Week.

OCIA Coordinator

Annual Leprechauns at the Loop



Leprechauns at the Loop is right around the corner and we are excited for the festivities on March 15th. The evening includes a fish fry dinner, entertainment and lots of laughter. We hope you can join us at this adult only event – tickets (if we are not sold out) are available in the Parish Office for \$30 per person.

A sampling of live auction items will include: Dinner with Father John A three night stay in Orange Beach Sunset Cruise Complete orthodontic (braces) care A gold and diamond bracelet Wine Cheer Basket Bienville Bites Food Tour

It is not too late to be a family or corporate sponsor for as little as \$100. For information, please the office.

Pot-of-Gold tickets are available in the Parish Office for \$5 each for your chance to win \$1,000. You need not be present to win. This year, proceeds from Leprechauns at the Loop will be spread among several endeavors. Some will be earmarked for The Lynes Share Scholarship, which provides financial assistance to our school children. Some will aid in restoring signage on the front of the Church and repainting the alcove molding at the front entrance.

Attention:

Calling all Lads and Lasses Take your wearing of the green to a new level. Join us for the Leprechauns at the Loop hat contest. Top five will be announced, with one trapping the leprechaun and taking his gold.

Mimi Strasaoich₍₁₆

LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Staff

Fr. John Lynes, Pastor Ron Martin, Deacon Curt Crider, Deacon Mimi Strasavich Joanne Siggers Dave Masline Sr. Mary J. Bringer William Vogtner Carol Endris (pastoral care)

Parish Council

Ann Corl, Pres. Ingrid Juzang, Vice Pres. Sr. Mary Joyce, Secretary Fr. John Lynes, Pastor Deacon Ron Martin Deacon Curt Crider Clara Brunk Deborah Ollis Tommie Angel, Religious Education William Vogtner Alex Smith Dedra Colbert Terry McKinney Laila Hockman

Liturgy Committee

Fr. John Lynes, Pastor Ron Martin, Deacon Curt Crider, Deacon Joanne Siggers (Liturgical Ministers) Sr. Mary Joyce Bringer, CSJ (Altar Servers) Dave Masline (Music) Betty Ebel (Altar Society) Emily Milwee (School) fr.j.lynes2053@att.net rjm0122@aol.com cridercurt@aol.com lffinance@littleflower.cc lfbulletin@littleflower.cc lfmusic@littleflower.cc smjbringer@littleflower.cc vogtnerw@bellsouth.net cendris@littleflower.cc

salsamom 1 @bellsouth.net juzang 2@comcast.net smjbringer@littleflower.cc fr.j.lynes2053@att.net rjm0122@aol.com cridercurt@aol.com clarabrunk 3900@gmail.com dollis@littleflowerschool.cc tangel@littleflowerschool.cc vogtnerw@bellsouth.net smithalec924@yahoo.co dedracolbert@gmail.com terrym@delaneyinc.net lhockman@littleflowerschool.cc

fr.j.lynes2053@att.net rjm0122@aol.com cridercurt@aol.com lfbulletin@littleflower.cc smjbringer@littleflower.cc lfmusic@littleflower.cc bebel@comcast.net emilwee@littleflowerschool.cc Knights of Columbus, Council 13367John Hyland, Grand Knightjhyland@cspire.com

K of C Ladies Auxiliary, Council 13367 Melinda Finan, President meli

Men of St. Joseph Tom Ebel

Altar Society Betty Ebel Katie Hyland

Legion of Mary Lucy Park http://www.lom-mobilecuria.com

Community Service Terry McKinney

Respect Life Danny Barnett

Religious Education Tommie Angel, CCD Kimberly Runkel, Sunday School Diana Smith, Sunday School Betty Ebel, RCIA

School Advisory Council Clara Brunk, Pres. Leesa Bolling, Secretary

School Tuition Beverly Crews

CYO Laila Hockman melindafinan86@gmail.com

thomas.ebel2@comcast.net

bebel@comcast.net LHysouth@aol.com

margueritelucy@cs.com

terrym@delaneyinc.net

Dbarnett31@hotmail.com

tangel@littleflowerschool.cc kimberlychristine77@gmail.com dls0903@comcast.net bebel@comcast.net

clarabrunk3900@gmail.co

bcrews@littleflowerschool.cc

lhockman@littleflowerschool.cc