

Pastor

Rev. JC Merino
frjc.littleflower@gmail.com
908-464-1585 ext 111

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Matthew Dooley
pvicar.lf@gmail.com
908-464-1585 ext 113

Deacon

Michael Montemurro
mmontemurro.lf@gmail.com

Pastoral Associates:

Teresa Johnson
Office/Business Manager
officemgr.lf@gmail.com

Genevieve Emanuel
Religious Formation/ Family
Ministry
religiousformation.lf@gmail.com

Dan Grossano
Outreach & Ministries
pastoral110.lf@gmail.com

Giovanni Longo
Music Ministry
lfmusicministry.lf@gmail.com

Carolee Aresco
Technology & Media
lfttech.lf@gmail.com

Eileen Baker
Peggy Squazzo
Isabel Cabrera
Reception
littleflower.frontdesk@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Mon - Thu - 9am - 5pm
Fri - 8:30am - Noon

908-464-1585
Church: 310 Plainfield Ave.
Bernauer Parish Center:
290 Plainfield Ave.
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922

My dear Little Flower,

Last weekend, I had the blessing of traveling to Texas to witness and officiate the wedding of two of our parishioners as they embarked on their sacred journey of marriage. Witnessing their love and commitment to each other, I was drawn into a deep reflection on the beauty and significance of marriage in our Catholic faith. Marriage is not merely a personal milestone; it is a sacred vocation, a divine calling that reflects Christ's love for His Church and the sacred covenant God has designed for humanity.

"...Today is a day of great hope. As you stand before God and your loved ones, know that your marriage is not just about the love you share today, but about the love that will grow in the years to come. Root your marriage in faith, lean on each other in times of trial, and never lose sight of the gift you are to one another. And always remember—you do not walk this journey alone. We will always be here - your family and friends - to support you. May God bless you abundantly as you begin this sacred adventure together" (FJC, Homily 02.01.2025).

As we observe World Marriage Day this weekend, we as a parish family take a moment to recognize and celebrate the gift of marriage. In a world where love is often misunderstood and relationships face countless challenges, the sacrament of matrimony stands as a beacon of fidelity, sacrifice, and grace. The vows exchanged at the altar are not just promises between two people but a profound "yes" to God's plan, where husband and wife become "co-producers" in the story of His divine plan and love.

Marriage is super-important! It's the bedrock of families and where faith is first nurtured. The love between a wife and husband shows children a glimpse of what God's love is like. The ups and downs of married life teach couples to rely on God, and strong marriages make our whole community stronger and more loving.

As we continue to celebrate this month of love, I invite all—whether married, preparing for marriage, widowed, or discerning our own calling from God—to reflect on the role of love in our lives. I further extend an invitation to those who are divorced and separated to find healing and solace within this family community of God. May you find restoration from the pain and human fallibility associated with this experience.

Let us pray for all married couples, that their love may be a true reflection of Christ's love for His Church. Let us also encourage and support those who are preparing for marriage, that they may enter this sacrament with faith, joy, and a heart open to God's grace. Pray also for those contemplating to enter the journey of marriage. Let us pray for those who are separated and divorced, that they might find in God, and from this community, a source of strength and encouragement to continue our journey together closer to the heart of the Father's love. May our parish always be a home where love is nurtured, marriages are strengthened, and the beauty of God's covenantal love shines brightly.

Your parish priest,
Fr. JC Merino