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 Ifmusicministry.If@gmail.com

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

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

Office Hours:

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



Dear Little Flower,

As we gather during this season of Epiphany, we are reminded of the extraordinary journey of the Magi—wise men who followed a star, seeking the newborn King of the Jews. Their story is not just a tale of ancient times but a living parable for us, the Church of the Little Flower, as we journey together as pilgrims of hope.

The word "Epiphany" means manifestation—a revelation of God's love to the world. The Magi saw the light of Christ and were drawn to it. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, symbols of their faith and understanding of who Jesus is King, God, and Savior. In their seeking, they remind us that wise men and women still seek Him today.

We, too, are called to be seekers, guided by the light of faith, hope, and love. Like the Magi, our journey is not without challenges. The star led them over long distances, through unknown lands, and past obstacles, yet they remained steadfast. As we begin this year as pilgrims of hope, let us remain steadfast.

Seeking Him in Our Families

The Magi teach us that Christ is not hidden from us but revealed in the most humble and unexpected places. Whether aware of it or not, families today still yearn to know Him. As we celebrate the Epiphany, let us recommit ourselves to making Christ known in our homes. Let us gather in prayer, share the Scriptures, and reflect on His love and mercy.

Parents, grandparents, and guardians—your role as the first catechists of your children is sacred. Like the star that led the Magi, your witness of faith can guide your family to encounter Christ. Young people, your questions and searching hearts are part of the journey. The same God who placed the star in the sky has placed the light of His presence in you.

Mass Schedule: Saturday Mass - 5:30pm Sunday Mass - 8:30am & 11:30am Daily Mass – Monday - Saturday - 9am

Confession: Saturdays 4 - 5pm or by appointment

Mass Intentions

January 4 - 5:30 pm: People of the Parish

January 5 - 8:30 am: Fanny Price

January 5 - 11:30 am: Emil Skyba

January 6 - 9 am: Adeline Bing and John Sordillo

January 7 - 9 am: Frieda, Matthew and Ruth Gerlach

January 8 - 9 am: Delia Clemente

January 9 - 9 am: Andrew DaPazzo

January 10 - 9 am: MaryAnn Rubsan

January 11 - 9 am: Stephanie Tokash

Sharing His Light with Others

The Magi returned to their lands transformed by their encounter with Jesus. They carried the light of Christ to a world waiting in darkness. As pilgrims of hope, especially this year, we are called to do the same. How can we, the Church of the Little Flower, be bearers of Christ's light to our neighbors, our community, and beyond?

Through continuing our works of charity, we reflect the love of Christ. Through the deepening of our prayer life, we draw closer to the One who leads us. Through forgiveness, we manifest His mercy. In every gesture of kindness, we help others see the face of Jesus.

May the star of Bethlehem inspire us to seek Him always, the Christ who is Emmanuel—God with us. And may our journey as pilgrims of hope bring us closer to Him and to one another.

Your parish priest, Fr JC Merino

It has been a family tradition in the Catholic Church to bless chalk at the Mass for Epiphany and use the chalk to bless one's home in the New Year. The tradition began in Eastern European parishes and has migrated to the Western world. The numbers represent the New Year; the first three initials of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The crosses stand for the four seasons. The chalk is used to mark the lintel over the main door of the house as shown.

Epiphany

Use this prayer as you bless your home for the New Year:
Lord, God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten
Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it.
Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

20+C+M+B+25