



Little Flower

CATHOLIC PARISH

Welcome to Mass!

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 4:30pm
Sunday: 8:30am & 11:00am
Second Sundays: Youth Mass, 6pm
Monday - Thursday: 8:15am
Tuesday: 7:00am
First Fridays: 8:15am

RECONCILIATION

30 minutes prior to every Mass
(in the Hospitality Room)

BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated the third Sunday of each month. Please contact the Parish Center.

MARRIAGE

Please contact the Parish Center at least six months prior to your wedding date.

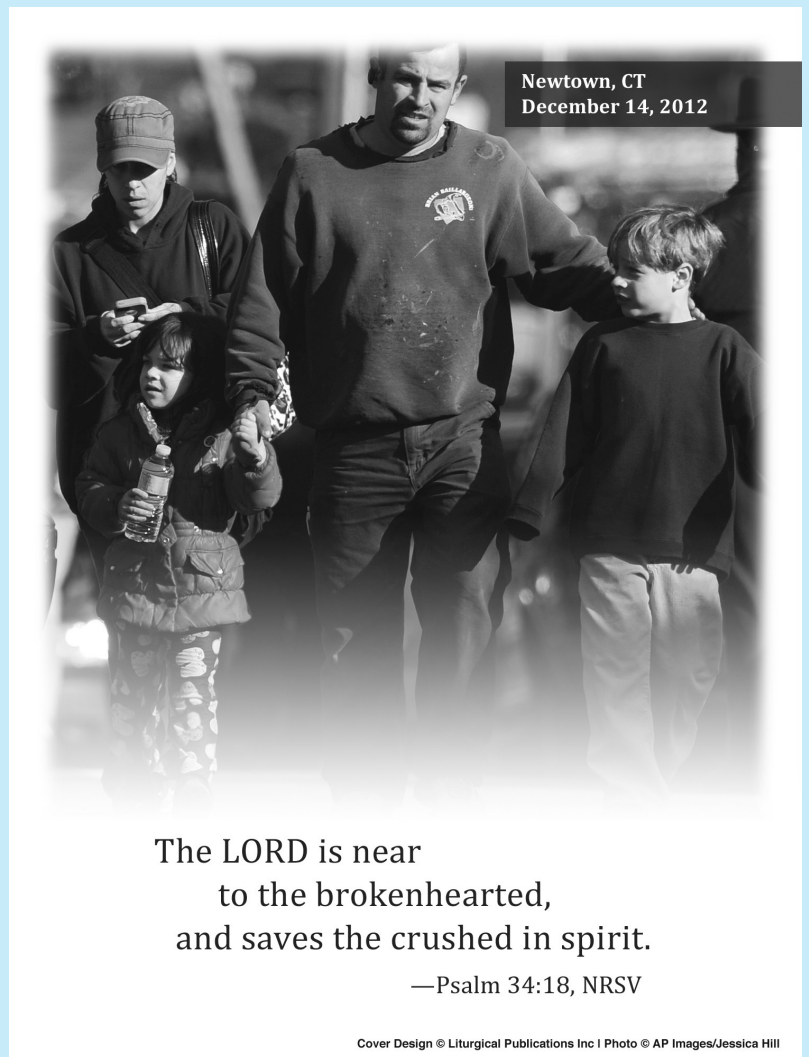
ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If you or a loved one are seriously ill or facing surgery, please contact the Parish Center.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Fridays 8:45a - 8:00p

DECEMBER 23, 2012
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The LORD is near
to the brokenhearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.

—Psalm 34:18, NRSV

Cover Design © Liturgical Publications Inc | Photo © AP Images/Jessica Hill

WHERE IS GOD?



Everyone is straining to know *why*. This is a natural reaction. After all, we are wired to want to understand. However, the staggering scope of violence unleashed in Newtown, Connecticut, defies human comprehension.

What caused this hellish fury of rage to burst upon a peaceful scene filled with children who only had arrived moments earlier at their school?

Arriving in the shell-shocked small town in his state whose carnage likened a grizzly wartime crime, Governor Dan Malloy tersely stated that, “evil has visited this community.” No truer words could have been spoken.

Some characterize God’s opponent as a comical figure and dismiss the devil altogether. Others depict God’s opponent as a vestige of uneducated people from a dark middle age and similarly scorn people of faith. Of this I am certain: *whoever rebuffs the existence of a real spiritual battle at play always upon the human stage is a fool*. I commend President Obama for having set aside pressing political interests and choosing to speak more as a parent in addressing the heinous slaying of innocents. It is instructive that he offered consolation and hope to a reeling nation by invoking God’s Holy Name and quoting Sacred Scripture.

Both leaders demonstrated keen perspective about vital *spiritual dimensions* that best are kept in view.

For decades, God has been removed from our daily living, pushed further and further toward the periphery of our ordinary experiences. Places and events formerly marked by Judeo-Christian prayer and filled with revered symbols of faith, have been assailed by pagans and atheists who have managed to find favor with key judges and other select leaders in local, state and federal governments.

Lest you find my claim exaggerated, kindly allow me to provide a few current examples:

- Scores of lawsuits filed against municipalities have forced the removal of numerous manger scene and other Christian images from public areas where they have been displayed without controversy for generations.
- Aggressive legal actions or fears of their being levied have silenced the singing of Christmas carols in many public places and within an increasing number of government institutions.
- Religious peoples and groups who hold to the truth that human life begins at conception, including Catholic churches, Catholic schools, Catholic hospitals, Catholic continuous care facilities and Catholic charities, are told to renounce their fundamental belief under government aegis and ordered to help provide tax-funded pills designed to cause abortions. The same hostile action is directed toward private employers who are people of devout Christian faith.

Wrongful actions used to be described as sinful and offensive to God, for that is what they are. More recently, pressures are underway to term these same immoral activities as “dysfunctions” or “disorders” with no reference at all to God or clear indications of their depravity. There even are some who have issued calls for deeds resolutely condemned in Sacred Scripture and Judeo-Christian tradition to be reclassified as healthy and normal.

A basic axiom of physics is that nature abhors a vacuum. Applied to the supernatural, the elimination of God brings that which is not of Him filling the void. The abolition of God and removal of sacred items from ordinary living does not create a neutral space, a sort of cultural Switzerland. Just as water pours into an open cavity when it can, so too does God’s opponent – the devil, Satan – seize an opportunity to confuse our minds and harden our hearts. Our Lord Himself says as much when He warns, “the one who is not with me is against me” (Luke 11:23).

As I see it, we have driven God from our daily living. We have marched God straight out of the ordinary experiences that define our local, state and national communities. No longer is the place reserved for the sovereign God whose Holy Name now seems such a threat to the fabric of our republic that it no longer even is permitted to be spoken reverently in many public and government locations where it formerly was honored.

Ought we really to be aghast that a culture seeking to drive God from our daily experiences seemingly has accomplished much of what it set out to become?

And yet the shrill cries still are heard: “where is God?”

The very instant the extreme wickedness commenced, *God was present*. How? *God was present* in the teachers and administrators who dared to put their own lives between a frenzied killer and their children. *God was present* in the police and other law enforcement officers who unhesitatingly risked their lives in order to champion an even higher good. *God was there* inspiring heroic strength within other first responders who witnessed the fires of hell and still pressed forward to defend and protect members of their community – some whom they may have known, others who were complete strangers. In the face of unspeakable evil, *God poured out* His love and compassion through the tear-filled embraces of parents and children in the fire house and throughout the community. *God was present* in the local churches and places of worship that still cannot begin to contain the total numbers of people seeking God in their darkest hour.

Some will opine the situation and its aftermath has nothing to do with God. *They are fools*.

A final thought: imagine if we choose to reverse the rising godless cultural tide. For instance, how might daily living change if we resolutely took to heart God’s 10 Commandments instead of debunking them? Most assuredly, ordinary living would be much safer and more fulfilling for all people.

Maybe God knows what He has done and desires still to do for us.

J. Dave

Weekly Schedule

Saturday, December 22

- 3:45 pm Rosary
- 4:00 pm Reconciliation
- 4:30 pm Mass - Michael Flowers & William Mitchell

Sunday, December 23 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am Reconciliation
- 8:30 am Mass - Gladys Althen
- 9:30 am School of Religion
- 10:30 am Reconciliation
- 11:00 am Mass - John & Pearl Urbanski;
Michelle Pisano-Kowalski
Children's Liturgy
- 7:00 pm Youth Group Holy Grounds (OCR)



Holiday Schedule

Monday, December 24

- 4:00pm: Mass - Shirley Arnold
- 7:00pm: Mass - Richard & Gen-O Christian
- 10:30pm: Mass - Jim Kruse, Helen Rosowski & Ann Wasilec

Tuesday, December 25

- 8:30am: Mass - Bob Kertesz
- 11:00am: Mass - Ronald Pietrzak, Louise Pietrzak, Thadeus Osemlak

Wednesday, December 26

- 7:45 am Reconciliation
- 8:15 am Mass - Dan Anderzack & Missy

Thursday, December 27

- 7:45 am Reconciliation
- 8:15 am Mass - Gerry Budy

Friday, December 28

Saturday, December 29

- 3:45 pm Rosary
- 4:00 pm Reconciliation
- 4:30 pm Mass - Raymond Duenas; Jane Nirschl

Sunday, December 30

- 8:00 am Reconciliation
- 8:30 am Mass - Louise Noe-Zalewski
- 10:30 am Reconciliation
- 11:00 am Mass - Little Flower Parish Family

- AR - Art Room
- CH - Church
- EDC - Ext. Day Care Room
- HR - Hospitality Room
- OCC - O'Grady Comm. Center
- OCR - O'Grady Comm. Room
- PH - Parish House
- STR - St. Therese Room

Readings for the Week of December 23, 2012

- Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
- Monday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
- Tuesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
- Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
- Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Friday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Mt 2:13-18
- Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
- Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

©Liturgical Publications Inc

Remember in Prayer: Mike Bercher, Edna Madalinski, Jean Okoroski & Family, Charles Kessinger, Betty Ruszkowski, Laurie Snider, Damien Morales, Eldon Kimmet, Dan Meyer, Dave Donovan, Bonnie Vance, Tom Kress, Alice Resnick, Laverne Nuding, Joanne Coykendal, Aaron Rihacek, Dave Kruse, Richard Snyder, Peggy Keeler, Theresa Mitchell, Elizabeth Przybylski, Georgette Stepan, Rosemary McCann, Rob Wooten, Kevin Boris, Marcia Boris, Eveline Baumgartner, Irene Sobota, Rose Koralewski, Ann Cantrell, Logan Coy, Bonnie Cole, Mary Jane Werner, Joshua Dorsey, Lisa Quinez **Military: All our troops, especially:** Collin Alexander, Ciara (Gentle) Stevenson, Sam Thornton, Corey Browne, Kevin W. Smith, David M. Lambert, David W. Lambert, Steve Barchick, John Marciniak, Chelsea Holmes, James Jagodzinski, Dominique & Nate Davis



Recently Deceased
Please remember in your prayers
Mary Ann Pruhs

From our Liturgist ...



Thank you to everyone who made Advent Lessons & Carols so fantastic! A special thank you to all the members of the parish choir, contemporary ensemble, youth choir our guest musician Dave Williams, and those who offered their voices for reading, as well as all the volunteers who helped organize the event, and Altar Rosary for the reception afterwards. A big thank you to all you parishioners who came to meditate and prepare for the coming of our Lord! Have a Merry Musical Christmas!

Thomas L. Williams
Director of Music & Liturgy

"...be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart..."
Ephesians 5:18-19

The parish offices will be closed
December 24, 25 and 26.



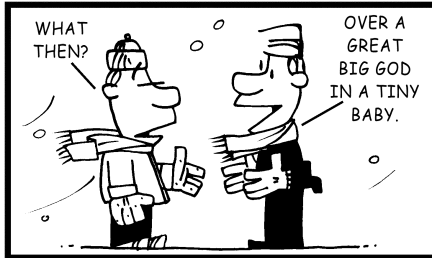
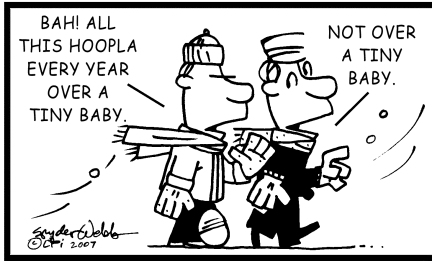
Stewardship Spotlight

Today's Gospel tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

Sunday Offering

Offertory.....\$8,553
No. of Envelopes.....228

CHRISTMAS



Altar & Rosary thanks everyone who helped in any way with the Christmas Bake Sale/Raffle. Thanks especially to bakers and those who stopped after Mass to purchase some of the baked goods. Little Flower parishioners are the best!

Find us online!
Littleflowertoledo.org

Minister and server schedules are now available on the website, found under "Worship".

Thanks to Troop 222 and families ...



... for sorting all these Caring Tree gifts!

Parish and school offices are now accessible in our new space! You may enter through the tower entrance for any office needs. For weekday Masses and funerals, please continue to use the narthex entrance to enter the church. Either entrance may be used for weekend Masses and funerals.



YOUTH GROUP ... spending our 86,400 wisely!!!

For the babies at Christmas and the rest of the year! Many of you make donations for special causes at Christmas time. Would you please consider donating something to help members of our youth group get to Washington D.C. to participate in the March for Life for 2013? Many youth would like to attend but cannot financially. Help them be your voice to stand up to the right to life from natural conception to natural death. We will be travelling with the Diocese of Toledo again this year; cost to participate is \$210/person. If you can, please send any offering to my attention at the Parish Center (mark the envelope March for Life) to assist those who want to make a stand for our religious freedoms!

Cathy Figliomeni, Youth Minister

And it is the Lord, it is Jesus, who is my judge. Therefore I will try always to think leniently of others, that He may judge me leniently, or rather not at all, since He says "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged."

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

CRHP Chatter - Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In time of need, whether spiritual, emotional or physical, we can depend on the faithful care and concern of the Father.

Next Newsletter deadline is Friday, December 28, for the February Newsletter.

From the Diocese ...

☼ Central City Ministry of Toledo is selling the cookbook, *Distinctive Recipes from Distinctive Eateries*, featuring dishes served at Main Street Ventures restaurants, including Real Seafood Company, Zia's, Ciao!, the Chop House, Gratz, and Palio. The cookbooks are \$20, \$10 of which will go toward tuition assistance for CCMT schools - Queen of Apostles and Rosary Cathedral campuses. The books are hard cover, coffee table quality. Place your order, cash or check only, payable to CCMT, by calling Deb at 419.244-6711, x155, or email dmarinelli@toledodiocese.org. Books may be picked up at the Toledo Diocese CYO office (1st floor), 1933 Spielbusch, Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays between 9a-4p. Shipping available for \$5.

Out and About ...

~ Teens and older! Join ProLife Connection for the first Youth Hour of Prayer in 2013 on Thursday, January 3, 4pm in front of the Center for Choice (328 22nd Street, Toledo). Come prepared for the weather - dress in layers! It gets VERY cold, but it's a great offering for the salvation of souls - and hopefully at least one unborn baby's life. For more info, visit www.prolifeconnection.com or call 419.708.9497.
 ~ BINGO! Check your cards! Come to Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall for bingo, food and fun for everyone! Doors open at 10am every Thursday. Lightning round with hard card and paper at 11am, series at 1pm. For more info, please call 419.865.2345. It's a fun time you surely won't want to miss!
 ~ Travel to Italy with Fr. Dan Zak May 15-26, 2013. Contact Fr. Zak: 419.450.0268 or zakdan@roadrunner.com.
 ~ Christian Appalachian Workfest Project in Jackson County, Kentucky, March 3-8, 2013 to do home repair with the poor of Appalachia. For more info, contact Fr. Dan Zack, 419.450.0268 or zakdan@roadrunner.com.

Bookkeeper

Missy Gillig, mgillig@littleflowertoledo.org

ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

419.536.1194; www.stbenedicttoledo.com

Office open Monday-Friday, 8a-3:30p

School Principal

Carol Huss, chuss@stbenedicttoledo.com

Secretary

Diane Spetz, dspetz@stbenedicttoledo.com

Little Flower Society of St. Vincent de Paul

419.531.5268

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Monday Noon.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

419.537.6655; Fax 419.537.1469

Littleflowertoledo.org

Office Hours Mon-Fri, 8:30-4:30

Pastor, Rev. David W. Nuss, dnuss@littleflowertoledo.org

Parish Liturgist/Music Director, Tom Williams,

twilliams@littleflowertoledo.org

Pastoral Associate

Sue VanHersett, svanhersett@littleflowertoledo.org

Youth Minister

Cathy Figliomeni, cfigliomeni@littleflowertoledo.org

Deacon, Doug Bullimore, dbullimore@littleflowertoledo.org

Parish Business Manager

Christine Lewinski, clewinski@littleflowertoledo.org

Parish Secretaries

Lynn Harman and Laurie Fitzpatrick

parishcenter@littleflowertoledo.org

