



MASSES

Saturday [anticipated] 4:30 pm

Sunday 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am

Mass Tuesday-Friday in the chapel at 9 am

CONFESSIONS

Tuesday 7-7:30 pm

Saturday 3-4 pm

in the chapel

& ST IGNATIUS ST LUKE'S

27 September 2020

THE LITTLE WAY

French Discalced Carmelite nun **Thérèse of Lisieux**, born Marie Françoise-Thérèse Martin on 2 January 1873, (in religion, Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face) has been a model of sanctity for Catholics because of the simplicity and practicality of her approach to the spiritual life, which she called her “little way.” Thérèse felt a call to religious life in childhood, and overcoming various obstacles, in 1888 at the early age of 15, she joined two of her older sisters in the cloistered Carmelite community of Lisieux, Normandy. After nine years as a Carmelite religious, having fulfilled various offices such as sacristan and assistant to the novice mistress, and having spent her last eighteen months in Carmel in great physical suffering and in a night of faith (a time when she is said to have felt Jesus was absent and when she even felt tormented by doubts about the existence of God), Thérèse died on September 30, 1897, at the age of 24, from tuberculosis.

The “little way”

Thérèse entered the Carmel of Lisieux with the determination to become a saint. But after six years as a Carmelite, she saw the limitations of all her efforts. She remained small and very far off from the unfailing love that she wished to practice. Reading the Old Testament, Thérèse found a passage from Proverbs (9:4) that struck her with particular force: “Whosoever is a little one, let him come to me.” She is said to have understood then that it was from insignificance that she had to learn to ask God’s help.

Another passage, Isaiah 66:12–13, also caught her eye: “you shall be carried at the breasts, and upon the knees they shall caress you. As one whom the mother caresseth, so will I comfort you.” She knew that she would never be perfect, so she went to God as a child approaches a parent—with open arms and a profound trust. The smallness of Thérèse, her limits, became in this way grounds for joy, rather than discouragement. In the final section of her autobiography she gave this discovery the name of *little way*, “petite voie”:

I will seek out a means of getting to Heaven by a little way—very short and very straight little way that is wholly new. We live in an age of inventions; nowadays the rich need not trouble to climb the stairs, they have lifts instead. Well, I mean to try and find a lift by which I may be raised unto God, for I am too tiny to climb the steep stairway of perfection. [...] Thine Arms, then, O Jesus, are the lift which must raise me up even unto Heaven. To get there I need not grow. On the contrary, I must remain little, I must become still less.

In the quest for sanctity and in order to attain holiness and to express love of God, she realized that it was not necessary to accomplish heroic acts or great deeds. She

wrote, *Love proves itself by deeds, so how am I to show my love? Great deeds are forbidden me. The only way I can prove my love is by scattering flowers and these flowers are every little sacrifice, every glance and word, and the doing of the least actions for love.*

Thérèse prayed over the details of the Gospels, she devoted herself to small acts of charity and care for others, doing small services. She accepted criticism in silence, even unjust criticisms, and smiled at the sisters who were unpleasant to her. Kathryn Harrison, in her 2003 book, *Saint Therese of Lisieux: A Penguin Life*, gives details from Thérèse’ beatification process: “Martha of Jesus [*a novice under Thérèse’ care in the novitiate*] testified that Thérèse deliberately ‘sought out the company of those nuns whose temperaments she found hardest to bear.’ What merit was there in acting charitably toward people whom one loved naturally? Thérèse went out of her way to spend time with, and therefore to love, the people she found repellent. It was an effective means of achieving interior poverty.”

As Carmelite Fr. Rev. John F. Russell notes, “Her life sounds so routine and ordinary, but it was steeped in a loving commitment that knew no breakdown. It is called a little way precisely by being simple, direct, yet calling for amazing fortitude and commitment...St. Thérèse knew the difference love makes by allowing love to be the statement she made each day of her life.” Thérèse’ Little Way has inspired Christians for over a century. Pope St. Pius X called her “the greatest saint of modern times.” Now also a canonized saint, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, originally called Agnes, explained her choice of the name Teresa as follows: “I chose Thérèse as my namesake because she did ordinary things with extraordinary love.” And in 1997, Pope St. John Paul II in recognition “that Thérèse is a teacher of spiritual life through a particular doctrine, simple yet at the same time profound,” named her a Doctor of the Church.



“Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love.”

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick: Joe Coleman, John Hogan, Deirdre McQuade, Danny Hart, Amy Howard, Mary Morehead and family, Curtis Bailey, Leondre Massey, Sister Constance Ward, George Cochran, Mark Anthony Turner, Rachel Fisher, Patricia Ransom, Beverly A. Woods, Kerianna Prather, Victoria P.; D.K.C., M.M., R.M., K.M., C.M., C.A., E.D., E.G., W.B., J.M., H.G., and J.G.

Please call or email the office to add a name to the prayer list.

Before calling, please be sure you have spoken to the person [or a member of his family] about adding the name—we do not want to inadvertently disregard someone's desire for privacy.

Names of those who are sick or suffering will be kept on the list for one month; to keep a name on the list for longer, you must email the parish office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEW PROJECT

We continue taking pledges and contributions for the refinishing of the church pews. Interested in sponsoring a pew? Donation forms are available in the back of the church and in the auditorium entrance.

HURRAY!

Many thanks go to Don and Diana Gritz, who dedicated months of phone time with PG County to getting the sidewalk to the church repaired! We are all grateful for their service to the parish.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESUMES ON OCTOBER 4TH.

Classes for both children and adults are held in the school Sundays from 9:30-10:30 am, allowing families to conveniently attend together either the 8 am mass before class or the 11 am after class.

There are currently four levels in our Religious Education Program—**Little Lambs:** For children in Pre-Kindergarten through First grade, **Sacramental Preparation:** For all children grades Second through Sixth, **Comprehensive Sacramental Theology:** For young adults and older children (seventh grade and up) who are missing sacraments, and **Adult Continuing Formation:** For adults and confirmed high school students.

Registration forms are available in the back of the church and the entrance of the school auditorium. **Register Now!**

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 26 September

Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

4:30 pm John Leishear + [Rosemary Collier]

Sunday, 27 September

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Lorraine Killion [Jane Slattery]

11 am Robert Matlack + [Steve and Jane Lawrence]

Monday, 28 September

Wenceslaus, Martyr

Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs

9 am *no public mass*

Tuesday, 29 September

Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

9 am Paul Raymond Jackson + [anniversary commemoration]

Wednesday, 30 September

Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

9 am David Lamham [Edwin P. Smith]

Thursday, 1 October

Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

9 am Emily, Lucy, Zelig, Henry, and Edward Guinivan

Friday, 2 October

Holy Guardian Angels

9 am Madeline's intentions [George F. Hickey, Jr.]

Saturday, 3 October

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

4:30 pm special intention [S. White]

Sunday, 4 October

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Sheila Brown [Jane Slattery]

11 am Rachel Wolford

St. Ignatius Finance Council

Florian Hocke - *Co-Chair*

Jackie Chancio

Deacon Clark Glenn

Joseph Somerville

Clifford Woods

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CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor, St. Luke's

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Fran Doyle • James Guinivan

Ada Okafor • Elizabeth Shivone

Connie Somerville

Patrick Delaney - *ex officio*

Susan White - *ex officio*

St. Luke's Finance Council

Patrick Delaney - *Co-chair*

Nicole Crawford • Mario Enzler

David Lewis • Franco Madan

Susan White - *ex officio*

Karen King - *ex officio*

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