

NEW WEBSITE!

November 1, 2017 marked the launch of a brand new website for Little Flower Catholic School that will surely bring many benefits for both prospective and current school families.

Underwritten by alumnus Chuck Finkbiner and his wife Debbie, this site replaces a site launched nearly six years ago. We have partnered with Finalsite, who serves more than 2,200 schools and over 1,200 clients worldwide.

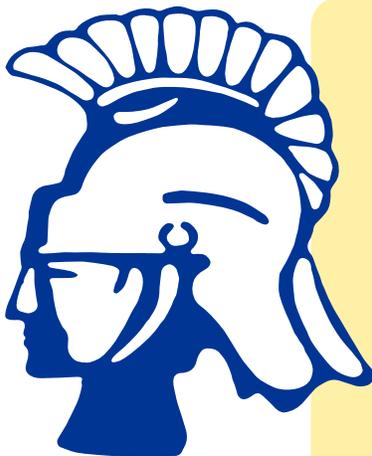
You can read about wonderful kids like Mya and her award winning video:

In fifth grade we took a field trip to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center. It was really cool, so I researched Anna (the Tiger) and got help from my teacher to create my video.

And AJ and his journey to becoming a runner:

My family is all involved in athletics so it's a good family thing to do. My grandpa passed away and I wanted to do it for him.

And more at www.littleflowerparishschool.org



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A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This year, as I was reflecting on all we have to be thankful for, I came across this letter written five years ago by one of our then eighth graders. I cannot say it better, so I will let Alex give our thanks:

Luck By: Alex

Luck. It's all around us. I was struck with a wave of luck when my mother decided I would go to Little Flower Catholic School. At Little Flower, I was not exposed to the frequent violent occurrences that happen at public schools. I have been raised into Catholic morals and have been happy doing so.

Lessons learned at Little Flower will most definitely be remembered throughout my whole life.

They have been both religious and academic. For example, I am doing algebra in math class. I'm only in seventh grade! I have also learned many prayers since the beginning of the year. My favorite lesson was in writing, when I learned and wrote many poetic pieces.

In Social Studies, I studied Africa and am now planning on going there when I grow up. I've learned about pollution, and I now try to create as minimal pollution as possible.

But let's not focus only on the teaching of Little Flower Catholic School, but on the ones who teach it.

The principal, Mr. Gawrys' never-ending ability to forgive someone has taught me forgiveness. Mrs. Herrman, the gym teacher, has taught me to try my hardest and to never give up. Miss Mitchell, my writing teacher, has introduced many new books to me. Mrs. Laham, the art teacher, has taught me many times how to be creative and how to express yourself. Now, I could go on talking about my genius teachers, but I feel that you should know even more about my school.

At Little Flower Catholic School, we are constantly learning. Even when it seems we are just having fun, we are still learning. For example, later this year the seventh grade will be going on a field trip to see a basketball game. Now, it might seem like we are just going to have fun, but actually we are trying to see how basketball can relate to school subjects like math. I bet that doesn't happen anywhere else except in private schooling.

Ultimately, the most important lesson learned at Little Flower Catholic School is how to live in a community. That is the best part of Little Flower. It is such a close-knit community that you will almost immediately feel warm and welcome in our community. It is like a big family of classmates and teachers. We are constantly getting new students and teachers that feel welcome within the first week of school.

The teachers and students aren't the only ones to teach me lessons though. My mom taught me a very valuable lesson. By paying for me to go to Little Flower, she taught me that sometimes people have to make sacrifices for others. I am very grateful for that even though I might not show it sometimes. That lesson will be remembered for a lifetime. And it will be passed down through the generations.

So as I said before, everyone gets lucky at one point in their life. My luck just seems to emanate from my nice little Catholic School. And from there I will grow from a little flower to a big old tree.

MISSION STATEMENT

Little Flower Catholic School, an educational ministry of Little Flower Parish, exists to provide quality Catholic education for the Eastside and beyond as it has since 1926. Little Flower is a compassionate, caring community for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade that celebrates the growth of each person. We welcome all families who share our philosophy and mission.

Our school provides a safe, nurturing environment, a challenging academic curriculum, with an emphasis on the arts, that prepares students for higher education and helps them develop into confident, responsible citizens. Following the words of St. Therese, our patroness, "Love is repaid by love alone," we promote a dedication to the Catholic values of peace, justice, and service.



A WORD FROM FR. BOB

Dear Friends,

During Advent, we prepare to celebrate God's greatest gift, the gift of Jesus Christ, who makes all love possible. Sandi Patti recorded a Christmas song entitled "The Gift Goes On." A Little Flower Catholic School education is a gift that goes on.

On Saturday, November 4, 2017, we celebrated our Annual All-School Reunion. As always, the highpoint of our reunion was the presentation of awards.

Each year the \$1,000 Bob Kiley Scholarship is awarded to an outstanding 8th grader who is an altar server. The family of Bob Kiley, Class of 1949, established this scholarship in gratitude for the education Bob received at Little Flower. This year's award winner was Madelynn Martin. Although Madelynn suffered a sprained ankle in a basketball game that afternoon and spent part of the afternoon in the emergency room, she was present at the dinner to accept her scholarship. In her application for the award, Madelynn wrote, "Little Flower's focus on God and community has shown me the most important things in life and has helped me set my priorities in the right places...The school has give me the ability to understand that helping others is one of the most important things I can do with my life." *And the gift goes on!*

We also recognized Tom Costello, Class of 1967, for all he did for Little Flower School as Director of Stewardship and Administration from 2000 until July 23, 2017. As most of you know, Tom has been a life-long member of Little Flower Parish. During his 17 years in this role, Tom has had a tremendous impact on Little Flower Parish and School. Perhaps his most important achievement was during the early to mid-2000's when parish income and school enrollment were decreasing. Tom's careful management of parish and school finances made it possible for Little Flower Parish and School to continue to thrive. The capstone of Tom's stewardship ministry at Little Flower was our 2015 capital campaign to install a new heating and air conditioning system in school and to replace the school roof. Tom designed and implemented the campaign. Our goal was \$800,000. Through your generosity and the generosity of the entire Little Flower family, we raised over \$1 million dollars. *And the gift goes on!*

Four outstanding alumni were added to our Wall of Honor.

Mike Hassfurder graduated from Little Flower in 1965 and Cathedral High School in 1969. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from IUPUI. In August 1990, Mike became the Vice President and Controller for Standard Change-Makers, INC., located on the Eastside of Indianapolis. He retired in December 2016. For the past 27 years, Mike has been a volunteer for the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Indianapolis, including eight years on the Board of Directors. Mike and his wife Susan (LF Class of 1970) are members of Holy Spirit at Geist Parish in Fishers, Indiana, where he is a member of the liturgy committee, a Eucharistic minister, an usher, and an altar server. *And the gift goes on!*

Kevin and Lori Watts Johnson both graduated from Little Flower in 1973 and Scecina in 1977. They fondly remember Little Flower being the center of everything in their lives, whether it be faith, family, or friends. They were married at Little Flower in 1981. During their young married life, Lori was instrumental in starting a "Young Married Couples" group and coached volleyball and kickball. Kevin served on the Parish Council and was a Eucharistic minister. Together, they were moderators of the CYO Youth Group. After moving to Seymour, Indiana, in 1991, they were both very active members of St. Ambrose Parish and in the larger community. Since moving back to Indianapolis, Lori and Kevin have been active members of Holy Spirit Parish and are actively involved with Scecina Memorial High School. *And the gift goes on!*

Sister Davida Lund, OSF graduated from Little Flower in 1951. After graduating from St. Mary Academy, she joined the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, on September 8, 1955. Sister Davida spent over 35 years teaching in schools across Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and Missouri. She was a Pastoral Assistant for 4 years in Beattyville, Kentucky, and a receptionist at St. Anthony Messenger Press in Cincinnati, Ohio, for 9 years. She returned to the Motherhouse in Oldenburg, Indiana, in 2010, where she has since served as a telephone operator. Sister Davida is not only an alumna of Little Flower. She also had the privilege (her words) of teaching at Little Flower from 1981 to 1984. *And the gift goes on!*

The award winners embody Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel: "The gift you have received, give as a gift" [Mt. 10:8; NAB 1970]. Each of our honorees received a gift from Little Flower that they have shared with others.

Thank you for all your support for Little Flower School. I hope all of you will participate in this year's Little Flower Annual Fund campaign. The gifts you give to Little Flower helps to guarantee that the gift of a Little Flower education will continue for today's and tomorrow's students.

Have a wonderful Christmas and blessed New Year.

fr. bob

Alumni Come from Near and Far to Celebrate All-Class Reunion

On November 4, 2017, we celebrated the annual All-Class Reunion for Little Flower Catholic School. Around 300 Little Flower Alumni and their guests were in attendance.

The evening began with tours of the school building, allowing alumni to reminisce about their old classrooms and to see new additions to the building since their own glory days at LF. After the tours, Mass was celebrated by Fr. Bob Gilday, '63, with a homily given by Deacon Mike Braun, '65. Voices provided by the Little Flower Adult Choir and the Student Liturgical Choir reminded us why Little Flower is known for its music program.

Alumni then gathered at the Indianapolis Marriott East for a social hour, followed by a delicious dinner and dessert. The highlight of the evening, as always, was the presentation of awards.

The Bob Kiley Scholarship was awarded to 8th grader Madelynn Martin. Four Outstanding Alumni were honored: Mike Hassfurder, '65, Kevin and Lori Watts Johnson, '73, and Sr. Davida Lund, '51. We also gave special recognition to Tom Costello, '67 for his contributions to Little Flower School during his years as Director of Stewardship and Parish Administration.

Outstanding Alumni are chosen primarily from nominations made by other alumni, friends, or family. Anyone wishing to nominate a Little Flower graduate for this honor should send an email to lfalumni@yahoo.com. Characteristics to consider include occupation/vocation, community/parish involvement, and demonstrated Catholic school values.

Next year's All-Class Reunion will be on Saturday, November 3, 2018. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this enjoyable evening!



Kiley Award Winner Madelynn Martin (center) with her parents Jerry and Diana, principal Kevin Gawrys (far left), and pastor Fr. Bob Gilday (far right)



Outstanding Alumni Award Winners (from left, Fr. Bob, Sr. Davida Lund, Kevin Johnson, Lori Watts Johnson, and Mike Hassfurder)



Fr. Bob gives special recognition to Tom Costello

Annual Fund Launched in November

Each year Little Flower Catholic School conducts an annual appeal, launched at our All-Class Reunion. Our Annual Fund is essential to the operation of Little Flower School, as it helps with the costs of sustaining programs and improving facilities that are not covered by tuition. It is important for our continued sustainability to have a successful Annual Fund.

Over the years our annual appeal has funded a variety of projects and improvements in our school—new computers, the renovation of the Bosart Street entrance, restroom modernizations, and classroom remodeling. The Annual Fund also provides needs-based tuition assistance for those students who do not qualify for full state vouchers.

This year we have set a goal of \$118,000. Although this target is ambitious, we feel is quite reachable based on your generosity in the past. As of November 21, the Annual Fund has generated just over \$30,000.00 in donations, which is a little over a quarter of our goal. We are off to a good start, but we still have some distance to go.

Monies raised in this effort will be used to improve technology and innovation in the classroom. We hope to accomplish this by building a technology reserve fund to replace outdated equipment, continuing the development of our Engineering Lab, and implementing a Teacher Innovation Grant Fund.

Your gifts will also continue to benefit tuition assistance for those in need. In our current year, students qualified for over \$109,000 of needs-based assistance over and above any assistance from the state. This enables us to make a Little Flower education possible for all students.

We will also use your gifts to continue to improve our facilities. As our enrollment continues to increase, classrooms that have not been used for several years need to be re-purposed to enhance the learning environment for our students.

Our new school website makes it easy to make a last-minute year-end donation before the tax deadline. Go to littleflowerparishschool.org, click the "Support Us" link, then click the link to the Annual Fund, and you will find a donation button.

Whether you are a first-time donor or a long-time benefactor, your assistance will make a positive impact on our students. We hope you will prayerfully consider a gift to the Annual Fund. Please continue to pray for God's continued blessings on our school.



MEET MISS DENNI

LITTLE FLOWER ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

1. What is your educational background?

I attended Marian (College) University for my undergraduate studies and graduated with a degree in Elementary education and a Kindergarten Endorsement. Three years ago, I completed a Master's at Ball State University in Mathematics Education.

2. Tell us about your family.

After living in Castleton, IN, I moved back to Batesville, IN about 3 ½ years ago to be closer to family. All of my immediate family, including my boyfriend of 8 years, Ben, live in or around Batesville. I love being so close to my 5-year-old nephew, Cameron and my two-year-old niece Ava! They keep me very busy!

3. What drew you to Little Flower? What do you enjoy about teaching here?

I received a call while on vacation from a friend, who was a LF teacher at the time, saying there was an opening at Little Flower. She asked if I would be interested and if she could pass my name on to Mr. Gawrys. He called shortly after to set up interviews, and I've been a part of the Little Flower family ever since.

There are so many wonderful things about Little Flower, but the most important, and what I have enjoyed the most, is the family environment. Many people ask me why I continue to make the drive from Batesville to Little Flower every day, and it's the families at Little Flower. They have become my family over the years.

4. Briefly, how would you describe your philosophy about teaching?

Teaching is a learning process for both the teacher and the student. This learning transpires best in a loving, safe environment. My students have always known that I will have high expectations for them, but all mistakes will be seen as an opportunity to learn and grow as students and people.

5. What are some interesting, perhaps unusual, things about you.

Fall and Winter are two of my favorite seasons! During the winter, Ben and I often travel to Michigan and snowmobile. In my free time, I love to bake and decorate cakes and cookies.



What is a math teacher's favorite sum?

SUMMER!

The days of teachers having summers off are a thing of the past (if they ever did exist). Little Flower teachers put in many summer hours to ensure that a Little Flower education is still second to none.

This summer six of our teachers took a week to review the standards and align our curriculum. Five of our teachers went to Florida (well, if you're going to work it may as well be someplace nice) for a multi-day workshop on Singapore Math. Seven of our teachers went to French Lick for a two-day Literacy Retreat.

John Antonetti, a nationally renowned speaker, came to Little Flower for a full-day workshop with all of our staff. Three teachers did week-long Project Lead the Way (STEM project-based program) training; one did a week-long Orton-Gillingham (multisensory learning) training.

This is in addition to the usual summer fare--weeklong staff training to begin the year, summer full of planning and mapping, getting classrooms ready, etc.

A quality Catholic education does not just happen. It takes time, effort, and dedication. In the spirit of the Sisters of St. Francis, our current teachers are up to the task.

ALUMNI LETTER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Joey Gray-Purcell on her wedding and thanks for the awesome e-mail about your LF days (printed with permission):

Also, I thought you'd be happy to know that I got married on 9/2/17 and 6 of my 9 bridesmaids were LF girls. Thank you for creating such a wonderful environment for us while we grew up so that we could make forever friendships with each other! I blame you for the CRAZY amounts of love I have for my LF sisters.

Hoping to run into you soon. Here's to another great school year!

*Much Love Mr. G,
Joey Gray-Purcell*

PS: The girls and me on my wedding day.

PSS: You know we all have matching 'little flower' tattoos, right? How about that for your next alumni newsletter! :)





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Six years ago, Little Flower was approached about joining a committee to create a designated children's area at the Irvington Halloween Festival. While the school had had a presence at the festival for several years prior to that, the Little Flower Marketing Committee jumped at the chance to start something new and, for these past six years, has been an anchor in the kid zone. We host a variety of games with candy and fun prizes as well as an information tent for area families to learn more about us and where current and former families drop by for a hello and to see what's happening. The LF Marketing Committee is grateful to all of the volunteers that turned out to make this our best year ever, with at least 400 kids coming through to play our games!



The Little Flower Marketing Committee hosts different events throughout the year, and we hope to see you at our upcoming Christmas Carol outing on Thursday, December 21, and at the Little Flower Open House on Sunday, January 27!

