



Church of the LITTLE FLOWER

The
Light

DECEMBER 14, 2025

III SUNDAY OF ADVENT

III DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

*Blessed is the one
who takes no
offense at me*

*Dichoso aquel
que no se sienta
defraudado por mí*



PASTOR

Rev. Manuel F. Alvarez

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. David Zallocco

PRIESTS IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Juan Escamez

Rev. Francis Gnanasegaram

Rev. Stephen Saawuan

Rev. Fidelis Uko

PERMANENT DEACONS

Deacon Roberto Fleitas

Deacon Miguel Parlade

Deacon Srinath Perera

Deacon Gustavo Roversi

TOGETHER, WORSHIPPING THE LORD, FORMING DISCIPLES, SERVING IN THE NAME OF JESUS
JUNTOS, ADORANDO AL SEÑOR, FORMANDO DISCÍPULOS, SIRVIENDO EN NOMBRE DE JESÚS

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - FRIDAY

Time	Language
6:15 am	English
8:00 am	English
5:30 pm	Español

SATURDAY

Time	Language
8:00 am	English
5:00 pm	English (<i>Saturday Vigil</i>)

SUNDAY

Time	Language
7:30 am	English
9:00 am	English
10:30 am	English
12:30 pm	Español
5:30 pm	English
7:00 pm	Italiano (<i>1st Sunday, Montefi</i>)

WEEKLY CONFESSIONS

Priests are available to hear Confessions every Saturday morning, from 8:30am to 10:00am in the church.



ST. JOSEPH PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

Visit www.cotlf.org/adoration for more details



CHURCH OF THE LITTLE FLOWER - RETILLY PARISH CENTER

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Address

2711 Indian Mound Trail
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Contact

P. (305) 446-9950
F. (305) 482-6183
www.cotlf.org



OFFICE STAFF

Luis Cuza - **Ext 308**

Director of Music Ministries

Ivonne Davila - **Ext 302**

Admin. Asst. to the Pastor
Sacramental Records Coordinator

Juan del Sol - **Ext 310**

Weddings Coordinator

Ashley Dominguez - **Ext 309**

Director of Development

Jorge Santibáñez - **Ext 307**

Parish Manager
Director of Religious Education

Ariadna Schanz - **Ext 300**

Receptionist

Charlotte Ushela - **Ext 304**

Parish Secretary / Virtus Coordinator

Nubia Vivas

Custodian

Rene Denis

Maintenance - Commodore Prop. Mgmt



SAINT THERESA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

School Office Hours

Monday - Friday
7:15 am - 3:15 pm

Address

2701 Indian Mound Trail
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Contact

(305) 446-1738
www.stscg.org

Administered by the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of L.A. - Sr. Rosalie, Principal

SACRED STEPS | SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS AT COTLF



Welcome to the Catholic Church!
Congratulations to our newly baptized:



Congratulations and God's blessings to our newly married couples:



Rest in Peace.
Let us pray for our recently deceased:
• Humberto Rodriguez-Noda

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

- Arrangements must be made with the Parish Office at least two (2) months in advance. Visit cotlf.org/baptism for more information.
- Arreglos de bautizos se deben hacer en la oficina por lo menos con dos (2) meses de anticipación. Visitar cotlf.org/baptism para mas información.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

- Arrangements must be made with the Parish Office at least six (6) months in advance. Visit cotlf.org/weddings for more information.
- Arreglos de bodas se deben hacer en la oficina por lo menos con seis (6) meses de anticipación. Visitar cotlf.org/weddings para mas información.

SIGNS OF OUR STEWARDSHIP

DEC 7, 2025

Attendance:	2,080
In-Church Collection:	\$ 10,364
Online Giving Offertory:	\$ 19,401
Drop-off/Mail-in Offering:	\$ 436
Children's Collection:	\$ 635
Devotional Candles:	\$ 1,188
Poor Box/Charities:	\$ 209
Relics Tour:	\$ 6,259

Thank you for your generosity!

¡Gracias por su generosidad!

Grand Total: \$38,492

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

OUR PARISH MINISTRIES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

III SUNDAY OF ADVENT - GAUDETE SUNDAY

5:00 pm (Vigil)	+ Zoraida And Oscar Leal
7:30 am	+ Rosa and Gustavo Rodriguez
9:00 am	+ Carmen Ferreira
10:30 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> - For All Members of Our Parish Family
12:30 pm	Manuela Antonia Perez
5:30 pm	+ Fernando F. Rey
7:00 pm (Italian)	Celebrated only on First Sundays, Monthly

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

Monday of Week III of Advent

6:15 am	+ Hermes Vargas
8:00 am	+ Suzanne Dockerty
5:30 pm	<i>Misa Comunitaria</i>

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

Tuesday of Week III of Advent

6:15 am	Intentions of the Murdock Family
8:00 am	+ Jorge Cosme Rodriguez
5:30 pm	<i>Misa Comunitaria</i>

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

Wednesday of Week III of Advent

6:15 am	+ Gustavo Alfonso
8:00 am	Intentions of the Murdock Family
5:30 pm	<i>Misa Comunitaria</i>

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

Thursday of Week III of Advent

6:15 am	+ Bernardina Abreu
8:00 am	Intentions of the Murdock Family
5:30 pm	<i>Misa Comunitaria</i>

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

Friday of Week III of Advent

6:15 am	Intentions of the Murdock Family
8:00 am	Diana Young's Birthday
5:30 pm	<i>Misa Comunitaria</i>

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

Saturday of Week III of Advent

8:00 am	Intentions of the Murdock Family
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

IV SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 pm (Vigil)	+ James Brennan
7:30 am	+ Suzanne Dockerty
9:00 am	Intentions of the Murdock Family
10:30 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> - For All Members of Our Parish Family
12:30 pm	+ Julian Morales
5:30 pm	+ Bill and Marlene Kerdyk
7:00 pm (Italian)	Celebrated only on First Sundays, Monthly

SUNDAYS

11:30 am	Carmel of Elijah (Cafeteria) - <i>Once Monthly</i>
1:30 pm	Homeless Ministry Service Outing (Varies) - <i>Once Monthly</i>

MONDAYS

10:00 am	Seekers Bible Study (Morras Conf. Room & Zoom) - <i>Biweekly</i>
7:00 pm	Adult Bible Study (Zoom)
7:00 pm	Talleres de Oracion y Vida (Chapel Conf. Room)
7:30 pm	Ejercicios Espirituales de San Ignacio (Morras Conf. Room)
7:30 pm	Emaus de Hombres (Reilly Conf. Room)

TUESDAYS

7:45 am	That Man is You Men's Group (Parish Office Center)
8:30 am	Holy Face Devotion (Church)
7:00 pm	OCIA Adult Formation Classes (STS Cafeteria)
7:30 pm	Legion of Mary (Legion of Mary House)
8:00 pm	English Charismatic Prayer (Chapel Conf. Room)

WEDNESDAYS

4:00 & 6:30 pm	Religious Education Classes (St. Theresa School)
7:30 pm	Women's Emmaus (Reilly Conf. Room)
8:00 pm	Communion & Liberation (Chapel Conf. Room)
8:00 pm	Oración Carismática en Español (Morras Conf. Room)

THURSDAYS

7:45 am	Walking with Purpose Women's Group (Cafeteria)
7:00 pm	Knights of Columbus (Comber Hall) - <i>Once Monthly</i>
7:00 pm	Schola Cantorum / Parish Choir (STS Music Room)
7:00 pm	Scouts (Cafeteria)
7:30 pm	Men's English Emmaus (Reilly Conf. Room)

FRIDAYS

10:00 am	Prayer Shawl Ministry (Reilly Conf. Room) - <i>3rd Friday</i>
6:00 pm	American Heritage Girls (STS Cafeteria) - <i>2nd & 4th Friday</i>
6:30 pm	Singles Ministry (STS Cafeteria)
8:00 pm	Marriage Covenant (Zoom)

SATURDAYS

7:00 am	First Saturday Devotion / Rosary (Church)
9:00 am	Baptism Preparation Classes (Reilly Parish Center)

OTHER MINISTRIES

Grieving with Great Hope Bereavement Ministry
Liturgical Ministries (Altar Servers, EMHCs, Lectors, Ushers)

Greyed out ministries are not currently meeting.
Visit www.cotlf.org/ministries for more details about each group.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

III Sunday of Advent

Year A, Missal Pages 116-120

Sunday	Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11
Monday	Num 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday	Gen 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Thursday	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Friday	Jdg 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Saturday	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rm 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Friends,

What brings you joy? On this Gaudete Sunday in which we focus on the virtue of joy, it is worth looking into our hearts and asking ourselves what and who brings us joy.

As your pastor, there are so many things that have brought me joy just in the first two weeks of this month with the myriad of events that have happened in the parish.

Yesterday, one of your fellow parishioners, Gustavo Roversi, was ordained as a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of Miami and of course, he will serve all of you here at Little Flower. This Sunday is his first Mass as a deacon and he will preach at the 12:30pm Mass and right after that Mass, he will baptize children for the first time. What a blessing that our parish has ordained three men to the permanent diaconate in the last six years! Please pray for Deacon Roversi and his family.

The joy of the visit of the relics of St. Therese two weeks ago still have our hearts overflowing. There have been so many spiritual fruits that our community has received, so many witnesses of faith, and so many conversion stories that I could fill an entire edition of this bulletin. But the greatest thing I saw during her visit was how our ministries came together to organize and welcome the thousands of visitors that we received. I cannot thank this incredible team enough. St. Therese has definitely been interceding for our church and school.

The joy that we experienced last weekend during our Parish Fair was something palpable. Hundreds of parishioners came together to put on the biggest fair we have ever had. Seeing the smiles on the faces of our children, and also seeing the great fun that the adults had as well as we rallied to raise money for our centennial campaign and build community.

Whether it was dancing at the fair or watching a sporting event together or enjoying the great food as a family, one could feel the joy that was present on the grounds of our school.

Speaking of the great food, I want to highlight something that is never seen and probably taken for granted. All the delicious food is cooked somewhere, and there is an army of volunteers in the school kitchen that spend months preparing for fair weekend and then they are the first to arrive and the last ones to leave in order to make sure we all have amazing meals during the fair. I have always said in this column that there are so many parishioners who do heroic and saintly deeds every single day that go unnoticed. They do it for love of their church and their school and especially the children of our community. Most importantly, they do it with joy in their hearts!

For the Christian, every action we do must be done with joy! I want to thank every single person who volunteered at our Parish Fair particularly those who labored long hours to put this complicated event together for the benefit of our church and school. The chairpersons of this event go above and beyond making sure no detail is left unnoticed. We are indebted to them.

So these are the few of the things that have brought your pastor joy these last two weeks. This joy will only intensify as we draw closer to Christmas. That is why the Advent wreath is three-quarters of the way lit this Sunday. The light of the wreath is growing, and we are filled with joy. Let us spend these last two weeks of Advent spreading the joy of this holy season, and giving thanks to God for the many blessing we have received as a parish community during this historic month.

God bless you all,



DEL ESCRITORIO DEL PÁRROCO

Más Queridos Amigos,

¿Qué les produce alegría? En este Domingo de Gaudete, en el que nos centramos en la virtud de la alegría, vale la pena mirar en nuestros corazones y preguntarnos qué y quién nos trae alegría.

Como su párroco, hay tantas cosas que me han traído alegría solo en las dos primeras semanas de este mes, con la multitud de eventos que han sucedido en la parroquia. Ayer, uno de sus feligreses, Gustavo Roversi, fue ordenado diácono permanente para la Arquidiócesis de Miami y, por supuesto, servirá a todos ustedes aquí en Little Flower. Este domingo es su primera Misa como diácono y predicará en la Misa de las 12:30 p. m. e inmediatamente después, bautizará a niños por primera vez. ¡Qué bendición que nuestra parroquia haya ordenado a tres hombres al diaconado permanente en los últimos seis años! Por favor, oren por el Diácono Roversi y su familia.

La alegría de la visita de las reliquias de Santa Teresita hace dos semanas todavía inunda nuestros corazones. Ha habido tantos frutos espirituales que nuestra comunidad ha recibido, tantos testimonios de fe y tantas historias de conversión que podría llenar una edición completa de este boletín. Pero lo más grande que vi durante su visita fue cómo nuestros ministerios se unieron para organizar y dar la bienvenida a los miles de visitantes que recibimos. No puedo agradecer lo suficiente a este increíble equipo. Santa Teresita definitivamente ha estado intercediendo por nuestra iglesia y escuela.

La alegría que experimentamos el fin de semana pasado durante nuestra Feria Parroquial fue algo palpable. Cientos de feligreses se unieron para organizar la feria más grande que jamás hayamos tenido. Ver las sonrisas en los rostros de nuestros niños, y también ver la gran diversión que tuvieron los adultos mientras nos uníamos para recaudar fondos para nuestra campaña del centenario y construir comunidad.

Ya fuera bailando en la feria, viendo un evento deportivo juntos o disfrutando de la deliciosa comida en familia, se podía sentir la alegría que estaba presente en los terrenos de nuestra escuela.

Hablando de la deliciosa comida, quiero destacar algo que nunca se ve y que probablemente se da por sentado. Toda la deliciosa comida se cocina en algún lugar, y hay un ejército de voluntarios en la cocina de la escuela que pasan meses preparándose para el fin de semana de la feria y luego son los primeros en llegar y los últimos en irse para asegurarse de que todos tengamos comidas increíbles durante la feria. Siempre he dicho en esta columna que hay muchísimos feligreses que realizan actos heroicos y ejemplares a diario, que pasan desapercibidos. Lo hacen por amor a su iglesia, a su escuela y, sobre todo, a los niños de nuestra comunidad. Y lo más importante, ¡lo hacen con alegría en el corazón!

Para el cristiano, cada acción que realizamos debe hacerse con alegría. Quiero agradecer a todas las personas que se ofrecieron como voluntarios en la feria parroquial, en particular a quienes trabajaron largas horas para organizar este complejo evento en beneficio de nuestra iglesia y escuela. Los coordinadores de este evento se esmeraron al máximo, asegurándose de que no se escapara ningún detalle. Les estamos muy agradecidos.

Estas son algunas de las cosas que le han dado alegría a su párroco durante estas últimas dos semanas. Esta alegría se intensificará a medida que nos acerquemos a la Navidad. Por eso, la corona de Adviento estará encendida en tres cuartas partes este domingo. La luz de la corona crece y nos llena de alegría. Dedicuemos estas últimas dos semanas de Adviento a compartir la alegría de este tiempo sagrado y a dar gracias a Dios por las muchas bendiciones que hemos recibido como comunidad parroquial durante este mes histórico.

Que Dios los bendiga a todos,



MASSSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Wednesday, December 24th

4:00 pm — Children's Christmas Vigil Mass

11:30 pm — Christmas Musical Prelude

12:00 am — Midnight Mass

Thursday, December 25th

9:00 am — English Mass

10:30 am — English Mass

12:30 pm — Misa en Español

5:30 pm — English Mass



ADVENT REFLECTIONS AND CONFESSIONS

Advent Night of Reflection in English with Fr. David

Monday, December 15th — 7:00 pm, Church

Noche de Reflexión de Adviento en Español con el Padre David

Miércoles, 17 de diciembre — 7:00 pm, Iglesia

Advent Penance Service with Individual Confessions

Monday, December 22nd — 7:00 pm, Church



DIACONAL ORDINATION OF GUSTAVO ROVERSI

With gratitude to Almighty God, the Archdiocese of Miami Office of Vocations and the Church of the Little Flower joyfully announce the Diaconal Ordination of longtime parishioner Gustavo Roversi on Saturday, December 13, 2025!

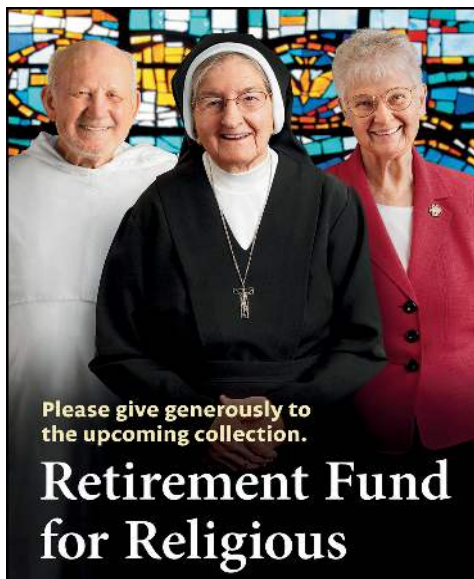
Deacon Gustavo will serve at his first Mass as a Deacon at 12:30pm this weekend.

Congratulations Deacon!

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The annual *COTLF Giving Tree* is now present in the vestibule of the church and parishioners are encouraged to bring new, wrapped gifts, with a tag indicating whether the gift is for a boy or girl with the corresponding age range. Donated gifts will be given to the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, who distribute them to children and families in need from throughout our local community. Thank you for your generosity!





RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

Our senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. They have spent decades caring for those in need, but years of service for little or no pay have left many religious communities without sufficient retirement savings. Today, over 20,500 elderly religious depend on the Retirement Fund for Religious to help cover rising health care and medication costs, as well as daily living expenses. Your gift can help ensure they receive the care they deserve. Please give back to those who have given a lifetime.

Please help support the Retirement Fund for Religious Second Collection through the in-pew collection this weekend or give online now.



UNDERSTANDING LITURGICAL PRACTICES: THE SIGN OF THE CROSS AFTER THE PENITENTIAL ACT

In the sacred rhythm of the Mass, each gesture and prayer carries profound significance, guiding the faithful deeper into the mystery of the Eucharist. One such gesture—the Sign of the Cross—is prominently made by all at the beginning of the Mass during the Introductory Rites. According to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), “All make the Sign of the Cross and the celebrant extends a greeting to the gathered people in words taken from Scripture.”

Following this, the Penitential Act invites the congregation to acknowledge their sins and seek God’s mercy. This act culminates in the priest’s prayer, “May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.” It’s essential to recognize that this prayer, while penitential, does not constitute sacramental absolution as in the Sacrament of Penance. Therefore, the faithful are not directed to make the Sign of the Cross at this moment.

The inclination to cross oneself after the Penitential Act may stem from practices in the Extraordinary Form of the Mass (the Tridentine Mass), where certain gestures differ from those in the Ordinary Form. However, in the current liturgy, the Sign of the Cross is reserved for specific moments, such as the initial greeting, the proclamation of the Gospel (where the faithful trace small crosses on their forehead, lips, and heart), and the final blessing.

While personal devotions are valuable, it’s important to distinguish them from communal liturgical practices to ensure that the collective worship experience remains consistent and faithful to the Church’s guidelines.

In summary, while the Sign of the Cross is a powerful expression of faith, its use within the Mass is designated for particular moments. Refraining from crossing oneself after the Penitential Act aligns with the current liturgical norms and helps preserve the sacred structure of the Mass as intended by the Church.

-Reverend Richard J. Vigoa, Director of the Archdiocesan Office of Worship



COTLF IS HIRING!

Church of the Little Flower is seeking to hire a full time Parish Finance Manager. This professional reports directly to the Pastor and is responsible for supporting the Pastor in planning, directing, and coordinating all of the financial operations of the parish. Candidates will perform all duties and responsibilities in alignment with the mission, vision, and values of the Archdiocese of Miami and COTLF.

Scan to view Job Description and to apply:





Building on Our Legacy

www.cotlf.org/centennial

2025 Parish Fair Highlights



THANK YOU, DONORS!

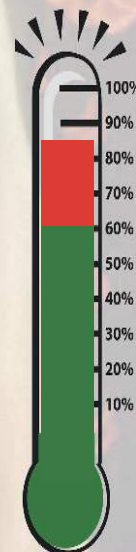
We are grateful to all our campaign donors who have made work on the Centennial projects possible! If you would like to set up a new pledge, increase your current pledge, give a new gift, restart your contributions, or check the status of your campaign giving, please contact Ashley Dominguez, Parish Director of Development, at ADominguez@cotlf.org • 305-446-9950, Ext 309



CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$13,000,000
TOTAL PLEDGED: \$10,761,208.03 (82.78%)
TOTAL GIVEN: \$7,744,777.68 (59.57%)

Updated as of December 10th



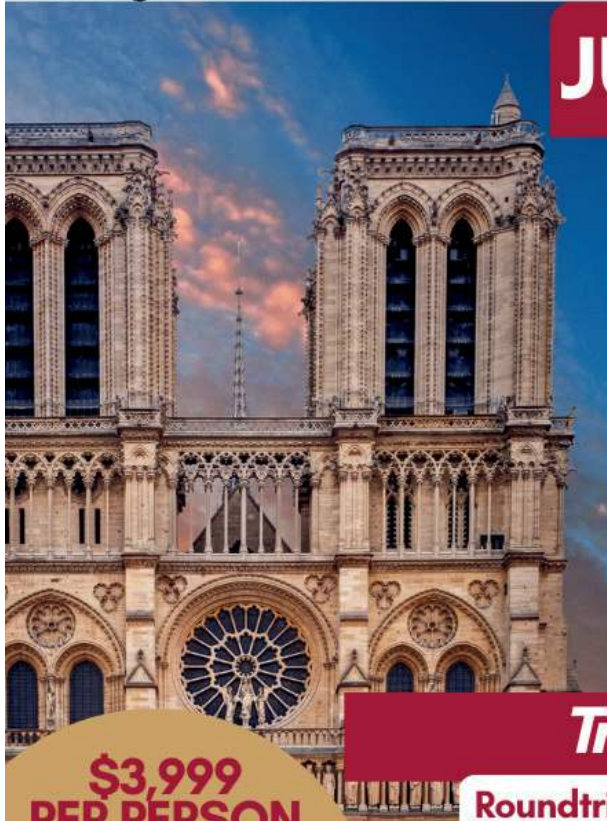
100 Year of Grace: A Marian Pilgrimage Celebration



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BOOKING & INFORMATION

305-446-9950 / TOURS@COTLF.ORG

Deposit & Registration: A \$350 non-refundable per person deposit is required at booking time together with the registration form & copy of the passport. A valid American passport (valid at least 6 months after the return date) is necessary to travel. Deposit deadline: December 20, 2025





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