

# 2016-17 Little Flowers Girls' Club Information and Registration Packet

Welcome all new and returning moms to Little Flowers Girls' Club. I am excited to begin a new year of Little Flowers with our Little Leader in training Carolena Grade 7!

This packet contains all the information you need to know about Little Flowers. A couple of important items of note:

- **The first meeting is Thursday, September 15, at 6:30 pm in the school library.**
- **Please make a note of the dates on page 6 on your family calendar.**
- **Registration forms and fees due no later than the first meeting on 9/15– see registration form – last page.**
- **Volunteer –The participation of the mothers makes the club really special. If you would like to volunteer, please grab the signup sheet at the end of the meeting. We hope you're fighting over it. Well, maybe that wouldn't be virtuous, but you get the point!**

Your Coordinator,

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## What is the Little Flowers Girls Club?

Little Flowers is a Catholic mother/daughter club centered on learning virtues. Virtues are learned through lively presentations, crafts and activities. Each year a “wreath” is worked on for the blue sashes the girls wear to the meetings. The wreath is made up of 9 flower badges for the 9 virtues studied that year. Badges are earned by completing activities at home.

## What are Virtues?

Virtues are good habits that help us to be holy. Some examples are obedience, sincerity, order, patience and perseverance. Some claim there are 117 virtues! The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines virtue as a “habitual and firm disposition to do good”.

## Why be a Little Flower?

Don't be fooled by the name -- Little Flowers is not meant for just little girls. It's for girls (and their moms) who are growing in maturity and strength of soul. Little Flowers is named after our patroness, Saint Therese of Lisieux, She called herself the “Little Flower” because she saw herself as giving joy to God by doing small acts of love well, not in “great things”.

Besides giving you and your daughter(s) an easy-to-follow program for developing the virtues, Little Flowers is fun! And, the girls enjoy spending special time with their moms!

## Membership

Little Flowers is open to girls in grades K-6 in the parish, school and local area. Mothers also attend all meetings.

## When & Where

We meet one Thursday a month, Sept thru June, at 6:30 pm in the Saint Joseph school library. Meetings last approximately one hour. The schedule is included in this packet or visit the school website.

## Registration

To register, please submit the registration fee and completed registration form and picture permission form included in this packet no later than the first meeting. The registration fee is based on the cost of

materials needed by new or returning members. See the registration form for details.

Please complete the picture permission form regardless of whether or not your daughter is a student at Saint Joseph School. If you have already filled one out for the school office, we still need another one completed for Little Flowers.

Your registration may be submitted at the first meeting or to the school.

The late fee of \$5 after September 17<sup>th</sup> covers extra shipping charges.

## Wreaths

Each year we complete one “wreath”, representing 9 virtues. Each meeting, one new virtue is presented and the girls then complete at-home activities before the next meeting to earn the badge for their wreath, which is sewn to their sash.

Wreaths do not have to be completed in order. We are working on Wreath 2 this year. For those members who have already completed Wreath 2, please see the “Veteran Little Flowers” section.

## Badges

If your daughter has not already completed the wreath we are working on this year, she will be earning badges. To earn a badge, there is a checklist of activities in the member guide. A sample is attached to this information packet. Each checklist has 10 activities, but no one needs to complete all ten. The number of activities required to earn a badge is based on your child's grade level, as outlined below:

- Everyone does activity number 1 (the scripture memory verse)
- Grades K-2 do any 3 additional activities
- Grades 3 and up do any 5 additional activities

Moms vouch for completion of the badge activities. At the end of each meeting, badges are awarded. The girls sing the memory verse and share about their activities.

Girls earn a badge whenever their activity list is complete. If you are absent or did not complete the activities before the meeting, you may receive your badge at a later date. However, we encourage you

to try and complete the activities on time. This makes our group discussion livelier and enables your daughters to fully participate.

### **Veteran Little Flowers**

For those girls who have already completed Wreath 1, we offer the Little Flowers virtue medals, instead of the badges. These medals are on pins and incorporate a medal of the saint and a silk flower.

To earn these medals, Veterans memorize the scripture verse and **either** (your choice) complete a medal project described in the member guide **or** complete some significant reading/research on the saint and write an essay (minimum 3 paragraphs) on the saint.

Although your Little Flower will be repeating the same virtues, perhaps she hasn't mastered them! Each year, Little Flowers always offers something new, because each year the virtue presentation is always a little different, and as we grow older, we understand things a little more deeply.

### **Memory Verse CD**

As noted above, there is a scripture memory verse for each virtue. The memory verse CD has the memory verse set to a tune. We have the girls sing the memory verse that they memorized at the beginning of the meeting

The songs definitely make the memorization easier (and more fun!). Also, if you play through the whole CD in the car, you will find that you're a leg up on the new verses as we progress through the year.

### **Sashes**

Sashes are given to new members at the October meeting in a "sashing" ceremony.

Please wear sashes to meetings and all outings. A safety pin affixed at the shoulder to prevent slipping is recommended for greater comfort and a neat appearance! To encourage the girls to sport their sashes, we will award a Swedish Fish to every girl wearing their sash.

Sewing instructions: The badge manufacturer's instructions for badge application is to machine sew using clear monofilament thread. The badges are NOT iron-on.

**Meetings begin at 6:30 pm SHARP in the school library.**

While we are a "club" and may be more relaxed than other types of organizations, we ask that you make a serious effort to attend the meetings. The girls should be there to support each other. It is demoralizing for the girls when their friends are missing.

When the unexpected happens and you need to miss a meeting, please contact Susan as soon as possible so she can alert the craft leader that one less setup is needed.

If you are the virtue presenter or craft/activity presenter and cannot attend, please let Susan know as soon as possible.

### **Materials & What to Bring to Meetings**

All materials are available for purchase on the Registration Form and arrive for the October meeting. Please bring to each meeting:

- Binder
- Member Guide
- Sash
- Any materials requested by craft mom for that week

### **Mother Participation**

Little Flowers is a mother / daughter club. Mothers (or a suitable substitute) attend all meetings. Sometimes, mothers need to be somewhere else – we have had fathers attend on these occasions – or perhaps another mother can bring your daughter if you need to miss a meeting.

We would like to encourage all moms to be vocal during group discussions. The girls seem to listen to and enjoy the participation of the mothers. If you are a virtue presenter (see below), try to encourage mother participation during your presentation.

### **Giving the Virtue Talk**

The "virtue talk" is usually presented by one of the moms who has volunteered for this at the beginning of the year. The meeting format allows for roughly 15 minutes for the virtue presentation. The Little Flowers group contains girls in grades ranging from grades K through 6. Don't be overly concerned about trying to make your presentation appropriate for every age level. Our suggestion is gear the presentation to the age level you feel most comfortable with – there will be something in it for everyone.

There is some information, but no lesson plan, for the virtue lesson in the Little Flowers Leader's Guide. The lesson is a product of your own inspiration and creativity. Susan is the "point person" for the virtue presentation and can offer additional resources on the virtue and associated Saint for each virtue that you can draw from. You may, of course, do your own research and draw from your own materials as well.

The presentation should include a simple definition of the virtue and teach what it is. It can include information about the associated Saint. You can incorporate any of the following elements:

- Lecture/group discussion
- Handouts (the girls will all have 3-ring binders. Please try to hole-punch any handouts.)
- Reading/telling a story that demonstrates the virtue or saint.
- Short film

### **Organizing the Craft/Activity**

At each meeting we will complete a craft or some type of activity to go along with the virtue talk. The craft/activity is usually presented by one of the moms who volunteered for this at the beginning of the year.

There is a Little Flowers craft book with ideas and references for each virtue. Moms have also come up with their own ideas, which have been great!

We have a box with some of the basic supplies in it. (glue, scissors, tape, etc.) Please check with Susan for what is in the box that you need for your craft. The remainder of the items will be provided by the craft instructor for that month (we cannot reimburse your expenses).

# Outings and Special Events

## **Rake & Bake**

We will take part as a “team” in this huge volunteer community event. We meet at Brookfield high school for instructions and a pep talk, and then caravan to a local property to help a homeowner in need of assistance with their fall outdoor cleanup. This outing occurs between our “friendliness and initiative” virtue lesson thus helping to achieve completion of the tasks required and also giving the girls a sense of pride. This is a group project along with the Little Flowers of St. Marquette’s Church

## **“Christmas Cheer” Senior Home Musical Program**

Christmas cheer is a combined outing we share with the Little Flowers of St. Marguerite’s. If any moms, girls, or other family members have any instrumental talent to share, please let us know. After jointly rehearsing, we then caravan to the Village at Brookfield Common assisted living community. We were amazed last year at how many residents came out for our performance. We also bring baked goods to share with the senior home residents.

## **May Crowning**

The Little Flowers has its own May crowning ceremony separate from the religious education group. The youngest of the group typically leads the procession with a crown of flowers that is placed on the statue outside the Church. All are welcome, bring a camera. .

## **Brookfield Memorial Day Parade**

The Little Flowers of Brookfield join forces to march in the Brookfield Memorial Day parade.

## **Tea/Movie Party**

At the end of the year we will have a tea party (mentioned above) to celebrate our accomplishments. To keep the cost of this exciting celebration down, we ask each mom to sign up to bring in some of the supplies or make one of the goodies. Recipes will be provided with the sign-up sheet.

## **Come and See meeting**

This meeting is for potential new member, friends, and neighbors to give them an opportunity to “check us out”. During this meeting we have a review of the virtues learned thru the year and a craft. It is interesting to see what the girls have remembered and gives them an opportunity to “show off” a bit. In years past the craft was donated by Home Depot.

## Schedule of Meetings and Events.

Meeting are typically the **second** Thursday of the month (**\*except when noted in bold below**).

\*\*Dates can sometimes change, due to the weather or unforeseen conflict with the school schedule. You will be advised in advance of any changes that occur.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Virtue</b>	<b>Saint</b>
<b>*September 15</b>	<b>Mercy</b>	<b>St. Faustina</b>
October 13	Courage	Blessed Margaret Pole
<b>*November 17</b>	<b>Joy</b>	<b>St. Clare</b>
November, Rake & Bake (date to be determined by Peter Brady/Handy Dandy Handyman)		
<b>*December 15</b>	<b>Generosity</b>	<b>St. Katherine Drexel</b>
December (date to be determined), Christmas Cheer program		
January 12	Prudence	St. Angela Merici
February 9	Wisdom	St. Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein)
March 9	Justice	Blessed Mary of the Incarnation
<b>*April 6</b>	<b>Loyalty</b>	<b>St Lucy</b>
May 11	Perseverance	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
May date to be determined, May Crowning after Friday morning Mass		
May 29, Memorial Day Parade		
Date to be determined, Tea party and/or movie night party. Usually after mass		
<b>*June 2</b>	<b>Annual “come and see” meeting for friends and neighbors</b>	

**Please pay by cash or check payable to Susan Lovell.**

Registration form and fees are due at the first meeting, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Late fee applies after September 15 (to cover additional shipping costs).

The order section of the registration form has been formatted for “a la carte” ordering. Do not order materials you already have from past membership.

Mother's Name		Phone Number(s)		
Email Address				
Mailing Address				
Girl's Name		Grade	Member of St. Joseph Parish?	Member of St. Joseph School?
Girl's Name		Grade	Member of St. Joseph Parish?	Member of St. Joseph School?
Girl's Name		Grade	Member of St. Joseph Parish?	Member of St. Joseph School?
Girl's Name		Grade	Member of St. Joseph Parish?	Member of St. Joseph School?
Item	Unit Cost	Qty	Extended	
Activity Fee (per family)	\$ 10.00	1	\$ 10.00	
Memory Verse CD for Wreath 2 (suggested)	\$ 12.00	1	\$ 12.00	
New Members Economy Member Pack (includes sash, Little Flowers Name Badge, Wreath 1 Member Guide, Wreath 1 badges)	\$ 24.00			
Binder	\$4.00			
Wreath 2 Member Guide	\$ 4.50			
Wreath 2 Badges	\$ 10.00			
Wreath 2 Medals (only for girls who are going on their 5 <sup>th</sup> year and have already earned their Wreath 2 Badges)	\$ 49.50			
Late Registration Fee (per family after Sept 15)	\$ 5.00			
<b>TOTAL</b>				

# St. Joseph School

## Picture Permission Form

Throughout the year, St. Joseph students are photographed and/or video taped at school events. As part of our communications activity, St. Joseph School occasionally uses photos/videos for publicity purposes. We would like your permission to Photograph/video tape you/your child for possible inclusion in school publications distributed to families, members of the community and/or the media for promotional and informational purposes. The images(s) will remain the property of St. Joseph School and may also be included in the St. Joseph School image library. You/your child contact details (name, address etc.) will remain strictly confidential.

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Please initial one:

\_\_\_\_\_ I grant St. Joseph School permission to photograph/video me/my child while participating school activities.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not grant St. Joseph School permission to use my/my child's photo/video in any way.

Child/children's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_