

The Messenger

St. Mary Magdalene Council of Catholic Women, Newnan GA

Holy Thursday Mandatum

Why did Jesus wash the Disciples' feet? It seems like such a humiliating task, yet it's also personal, almost intimate. That Jesus performed this task as one of His last acts on Earth delivers an important message of how we are supposed to be as Christians. Are we willing to wash the feet of our neighbors? In the ancient world, even more than now, feet were dirty things. Sandals were common dress, and they often trod unpaved streets that doubled as sewers and channels for every kind of refuse. As a result, having clean feet, especially when entering a place, was important.

According to the Gospel, Jesus performed a final act of service for his Disciples, following the Passover meal. Arising from the table, He tied a towel about His waist and filled a basin with water. Then, He washed the feet of each disciple, except Judas, who had already departed to betray Him. When Peter protested, Christ admonished, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

Jesus explained that "You should wash one another's feet. I have set an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." (John 13:1-17)

We are to serve our neighbors, even if it means we must do things we might not like to do. Even if the work is dirty or hard, or even if we think it beneath us, we must still do our work. After all, Jesus Himself, the Son of God, washed the feet of His disciples. And we are no greater than Jesus, so surely we too should do the same.

On Holy Thursday, the foot washing ceremony is an important call for all people that they too should be willing to serve others. It is a reminder that we are of the Body of Christ and as such, and His followers, we too are called to serve others in a spirit of humility. And we are to do so, even if we do not feel the desire to do so. As Christians, this is our duty.

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CCW Calendar

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- 2 Tulip Social (**NOTE NEW DATE**)
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- 30 Special Olympics Field Day Volunteer Opportunity

MAY

- 1 Board Meeting, 11:30 AM, SMM Room 101/102
- 3 Bridging the Gap Service Opportunity

Prayer Circles

St. Agnes' Prayer Circle

St. Agnes Circle met on Tuesday, March 18th at 10 a.m. at SMM in rooms 101/102. Deacon Steve Swope spoke on Christian Morality and what it means to live a Catholic Christian Moral Life. It is much more than just following a prescribed set of rules that tell us what we can and cannot do. Christian Morality is given to us as a gift from God and in a meaningful way is our reason, freedom and conscience interacting with God's divine law. If you missed the meeting and would like to listen to Deacon Steve Swope's talk, here is the link to his homilies and talks on his website. It is the first one (at the top). <https://deaconsview.com/homilies/>

St. Agnes Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 15th at 10 a.m. at SMM in rooms 101/102. Hannah Bolte will be playing her harp and we will be discussing next year's planning.

St. Margaret's Prayer Circle

St Margaret's Circle met on Wednesday, March 19 at Amber Wehr's house. We ate lunch and had cake for dessert. We discussed that the 19th was a feast day for Saint Joseph, and Joyce shared with us a prayer to celebrate Saint Joseph. We also continued our discussion of the book Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table by Louie Giglio sharing quotes we related to in chapter 6. Before everyone left, Amber gave everyone mismatched socks to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day on 3/21.

Next month Margaret Hennun will host on April 16th at 11. We plan to discuss Chapter 7 in our book.



SMM Service Opportunities

There are a few upcoming service opportunities that are being offered to all Parishioners. Minimum age is 10 years. All minors must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

April 23, 6 PM - 8 PM

Midwest Food Bank, 6 PM - 8 PM

Dress is casual attire with closed toe shoes. We will be repackaging food for distribution to food pantries. Signup at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449ADA82DA20-54823626-midwest>

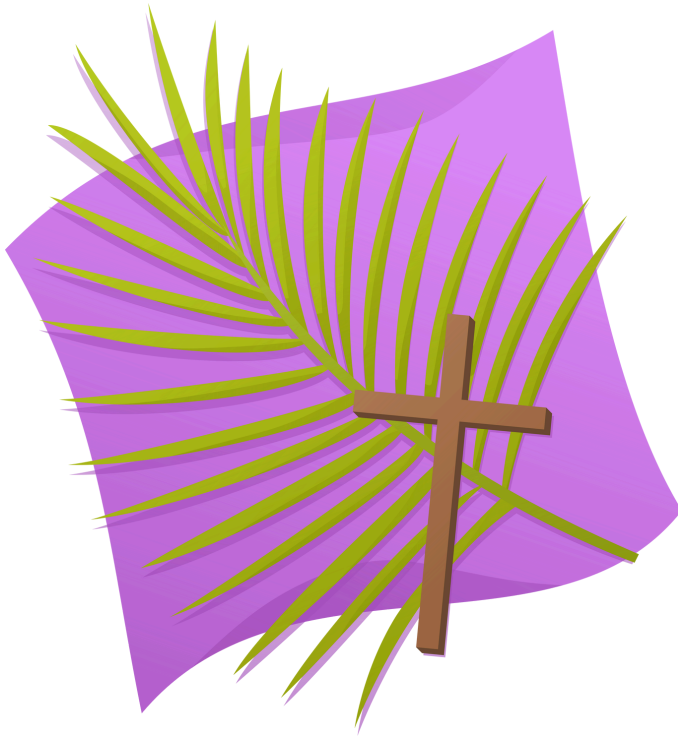
April 30, 8 AM - 1:30 PM

Special Olympics Field Day

Newnan High School Drake Stadium

Volunteers are needed to help run the field day games. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449ADA82DA20-55362812-special>

Many, Many Thank You's



The Council of Catholic Women began the Lenten meals and Stations of the Cross for the first week of Lent on March 7. The tremendous support for this evening's event was outstanding. We started strong with many helpers setting up for our simple meal of soup, salad and fresh fruit to top it off. Many parishioners showed for the first week and we received several compliments on the delicious soups. Thank you to all the volunteers helping in maintaining the cleanliness during the meal plus, I especially want to thank the clean-up crew. It's often a thankless job and I truly appreciate your dedication!



PAC Meeting Highlights

By Suzette Binek

The Parish Advisory Council held their bi-annual meeting, March 13 at 7p. The meeting was attended by ministry heads with Fr. Terry and Debbie Camp as guest speakers.

Fr. Terry spoke of the First Four Ecumenical Councils. Before I get too ahead of myself, you may be asking “what is an Ecumenical Council”? An Ecumenical Council is a meeting of all bishops in the union with the Pope that come together to discuss specific topics, usually after a crisis. They produce documents to address topics and clarify Church teaching. They DO NOT introduce “new” theology. Fr. Terry went on to say, the first meeting was held in Nicea in AD325, known as the First Council of Nicea, the second, the First Council of Constantinople, third, the Council of Ephesus and the 4th one in AD451 was the Council of Chalcedon.. During this period, the Doctrine of the Trinity was discussed at the first two councils and the Doctrine of Christology was discussed at the 3rd and 4th councils. This was a very good topic for discussion and could very easily be a discussion at one of your circle meetings in the future as there was so much to unpack.

Next up, Debbie talked a little about two ministries here at SMM. First was the Elijah Cup Ministry. Filling in for Laura and Jon Litzenberger, she discussed how the cup has origins in the Old Testament, 1 Kings 17, when Elijah tells a widow in the middle of a drought to make some bread for him with the last of her flour and oil. He promises if she does this, it will not run out. For the next year the widow and her son and Elijah ate bread from those same small ingredients, never running out! This is how we know God to always provide holy men and women we need to serve the church in religious life. As we pray for those discerning their vocations we lift them up in prayer. We remember the promise of Elijah and the faith of the widow and know that God will provide holy men and women to answer his call and lead his church. Consider participating in taking 1 of our 3 cups home with your family to pray during the week. More details can be found in the Narthex, or you can contact Laura, Laura.Litzenberger@yahoo.com, call or text 908-399-6724.

Secondly, Debbie spoke of the Soul Sisters. A newer ministry, these widowed women meet the first Thursday of the month at 12:30p. Currently, there are 15 ladies in attendance and lift each other in times of need. The Knights of Columbus has also partnered with the Soul Sisters to help with advice on chores that usually fell under their husband’s domain, including contracting outside sources and even sometimes themselves for small jobs. The Knights also sponsor a dinner for the ladies on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Afterwards, they recite the Rosary together. Just a thought, maybe next Valentine’s Day, our circles could offer roses or flowers for each of them. I’m sure they would truly appreciate this!

If you know of a widow that might enjoy this ministry, the only requirement necessary is that they have gone through a Grief Share program and are ready for their new future. Please contact Gayle Pizzitola, mamoseventimes@yahoo.com or 770-490-9494 and/ or Debbie Camp, debcamp725@gmail.com or 404-387-0037.



APRIL 2025

April Tulip Social - April 2 (NEW DATE)



Join the CCW as we celebrate our 3rd and final social of the year. Our guest speaker will be our very own Welcome and Circle Coordinator, Teresa Barczak. Enjoy the evening listening to her very personal experience as we conclude our year of Women on a Journey. Light refreshments will be served. The CCW will also induct a few special ladies to continue serving our ministry for the next 2 years. Please let us know you'll be coming.

**Date/Time/Location: April 2nd,
Wednesday, 7-9 PM, SMM Parish Hall**

Please RSVP at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C45A9A629A1F49-53997971-april>

Spring Flower Sale Appreciation

A special thanks to all the parishioners that supported our spring flower sale. We will see you again in the fall.

THANK
YOU



APRIL 2025

Abby's Angels Service Opportunity

I am reaching out to let you know that we will be celebrating the 10th Annual Abby's Angels Rainbow Run on Saturday, April 26th, 2025 at the Coweta Fairgrounds!

The Rainbow Run is the main fundraiser for the Abby's Angels Foundation that supports Abby's Closets, Teen Safe Driving Education, and college scholarships.

The Council of Catholic Women were so supportive in volunteering last year, that I wanted to reach out again and let you know that we are looking for volunteers again this year. and were hoping to solicit help from you and/or your students.

If anyone is interested, we need volunteers on any of the following dates and times:

Friday, April 25th at from 3 to 5:30 p.m. or 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Stonebridge Neighborhood Clubhouse, Stonebridge Crossing in Newnan

Saturday, April 26th (the day of the run) from 7:30 to 9 a.m. or 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Coweta Fairgrounds in Newnan

For more information, volunteers can reach out to me. Thanks so much for your time!
Karyn Magee Abby's Angels Rainbow Run and Family Fun Day - Volunteer Coordinator
karynmagee65@gmail.com

