

The Messenger

St. Mary Magdalene Council of Catholic Women, Newnan GA

Eve of All Hallows

The Eve of All Hallows, that is to say the feast of All Hallowed (Holy) Souls, or All Saints, Hallowe'en, is the day before All Hallows, All Saints. As one of the major feasts of the Church's year, All Saints is a holy day of obligation, and until the reforms of 1955, it had both a vigil and an octave. The octave meant that the same Mass, the Mass of All Saints, would be celebrated again on the eighth day, and sometimes on intervening days. The vigil Mass, with its own prayers and readings, was celebrated the day before. This arrangement made possible, for the greatest feasts of the Church's year, repeated opportunities to contemplate the mystery expressed in the feast and, in the case of the vigil, an opportunity to contemplate it in a penitential mode, before celebrating it as a joyful feast. For the vigil was a penitential day: violet vestments were worn, and the 1917 Code of Canon Law listed the Vigil of All Saints as a fast day.

All Hallows also introduced a month of special prayers for the dead. The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, All Souls, came to be celebrated on the following day, and has with Christmas Day alone the distinction of having three different Masses that can be said. This is a reminder that priests have the privilege of celebrating three Masses on those two days, whereas for the rest of the year, they can celebrate only one unless there is pastoral need.

The combination of the penitential anticipation of All Saints and the days following dedicated to the not yet holy dead quite naturally raises an association with graveyards and ghosts. First, as the texts of the vigil remind us, the prospect of the glory of the saints should remind us of our own coming death and our need for repentance. Second, the Catholic view is that ghosts are the spirits of those in Purgatory who are allowed to visit their families and the places associated with them in life in order to remind the living to pray for them. Third, the liturgy of these days is all about the transition from the state of earthly life and of Purgatory to the beatific vision of the blessed in heaven—the journey of the soul from one state to another.



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NOVEMBER 2023

Ignite Your Faith Parish Mission

Our Fall Parish Mission titled "Ignite Your Faith" was held on the nights of October 15, 16 and 17. The presenter was Fr. Ron Hoyer, a Vincentian priest from St. Louis MO. He sparked everyone's interest to learn more about his message, as he preached at the weekend Masses. His presentation, a blend of humor, story, sacrament and spiritual reflection was enjoyed by parishioners of all ages. Several parents shared that their children brought friends on the second night because Fr. Ron said "bring a friend." What a joy to see everyone filled with the Holy Spirit. A reception was held following each presentation, and a good will offering, along with our prayer requests was collected on the final night. It is safe to say, Fr. Ron gave the parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene a spiritual boost and drew us into a deeper relationship with Jesus. Fr. Ron is also the founder of a devotional app called The God Minute. For more information, visit thegodminute.org.

I wish I could put into words how full my heart was to see 200-250 people attending each night. I had no idea what to expect, so it was such a beautiful experience. God is good!

Blessings and peace,
Karen Hibbs



WORDS OF WISDOM

Each December 12th, Central and South Americans celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This celebration commemorates the appearance of Mary to the Mexican peasant Juan Diego in 1531. The feast day is an important holiday in Mexico. It has also become an important day for Mexican Americans to celebrate their religious and cultural identity. Community celebrations and traditions vary from region to region.

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November CCW Activities

Please save the date for our following upcoming activities:

November 2	CCW Board Meeting, 11:30 AM, Rooms 101/102
November 3	Service Project for SVDP - Pumpkin Pie Bake
November 11-12	Poinsettia Plant Sales in the Narthex
November 18	Bridging the Gap Service Project, 8 - 11 AM
November 19	Coffee & Donuts for Parish after 9 AM and Noon Masses



We are utilizing the volunteers that signed up on the Interest cards for these activities. If you see an activity that you are interested in knowing more about, please contact Suzette at suzettebinek@gmail.com.

Save the Date

Date: December 14th, 7 PM

Please join us for our Winter CCW General Meeting. This is open to all women of the Parish. We will cover some CCW general business, but we will also have some wonderful new experiences to share. We are having a guest speaker, Cynthia Bennett, from Meals on Wheels come and share her experiences while we complete a Postcard Service Project. We will also be celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day by learning how this wonderful feast day is celebrated in different parts of the world. Of course this celebration wouldn't be complete without sampling traditional food too! Mark your calendars and come join us. Consider bringing a sister friend from the Church too! We look forward to seeing you.



WORDS OF WISDOM

In preparation for the feast day on December 12th, many individuals in the community erect altars in their home. In many cases, they are made of a painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe that is surrounded by candles and flowers. In preparation for the Feast Day, many congregations gather together to say a special Rosary.

NOVEMBER 2023

Pilgrimage Update

In August, we published an article about a pilgrimage trip to Israel. We were asked to share the following update with you.

Blessings to you,

The security situation in Israel and the Gaza Strip has been a long-standing and complex issue. Tensions and occasional escalations in violence have occurred over the years due to various political, social, and historical factors.

Likely some of you are wondering how these events may impact upcoming pilgrimages with Good Shepherd Travel. We continually monitor news reports and reports from people living in the West Bank and Israel as we make decisions around pilgrimages. The safety and security of our pilgrims are first and foremost in our minds as these decisions are made. We want a safe and rewarding experience for all.

For the time being, we watch and wait for clarity, knowing there is a global desire for a peaceful resolution. We continue lifting prayers for peace and an end to violence.

As the situation becomes clear we will keep you informed of any decisions moving forward.

Respectfully,

Tony Abuita

President & CEO

Prayer Partner Program

We had great response for the Prayer Partner Program!

It was so fun to type everyone's information and learn a little about each of you! If you didn't sign up, it isn't too late, I can always add more participants! If you think you signed up and didn't receive an e-mail, check your "junk" e-mail, all emails were sent out on 10/19! If you don't find it there, reach out to me and we will figure it out together!

Remember, you are welcome to reach out to your previous prayer partners too! Maybe meet at Mass, for coffee or drop them a note!

Monique Haskins

817-929-9146

texmominga@bellsouth.net



WORDS OF WISDOM

The night before the Feast Day, some communities gather for a vigil. Outside of the church, they gather in a circle and recite prayers and recount the story of the appearance of Mary to Juan Diego. After completing the prayers, they move into the church and sing songs in celebration of Our Lady.

NOVEMBER 2023

AACCW Convention Recap

Created to Praise God

Made in God's Image

By Suzette Binek

The Atlanta Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women held its 67th Annual Convention on October 13 -15, 2023. This year St. Peter's Catholic Church, in LaGrange, hosted a full schedule of events to attend. From their General Business Meeting to their smaller District Meetings, you came away with a glimpse of what has been happening and what is to come. Most notable was the installation of a new board. The following ladies were installed and blessed by Most Reverend Gregory J. Hartmayer in a touching ceremony: President, Pamela Tennell; President-Elect, Louise Coniglio; Secretary, Darcy Leis; and Treasurer, Claudette Wells. With a couple of the above ladies moving up, this meant the Southwest District (which we fall under) had to install a new board as well. This is our new SWCCW Board: President, Kim Brannon-Sykes; President-Elect, Stacy Gale; Secretary, Alison Mimms; and Treasurer, Rose Holmes. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Now that business is taken care of, I will touch upon how the rest of our weekend was spent. Opening Friday afternoon, we started with reciting the Rosary in Church and upon closing on Sunday with Mass presided by The Most Reverend Gregory J. Hartmayer and The Very Reverend Timothy Gdziala, there was a heartfelt ceremony for the following ladies, Mary M. O'Keeffe Hargaden, Joan Therese Lucas, Ruth Maguire Bates, Ann Deirdre Holler and Peggy Jean Fritz, who were called to be with our Lord and Savior this past year. Each day's meals were thoughtfully planned from continental breakfasts and luncheons to our Saturday evening Banquet. In between those hours, we had two amazing speakers, Paula Umana, who discussed her life-altering medical journey to where she is today, and Archbishop Hartmayer, who talked about the need to spend more time with our youth and guide them to be involved in constructive activities away from violence. There were two workshop sessions with a variety of talks to engage in, as well as an experience, or shall I say FREE TIME, to enjoy. These experiences included the Hills & Dales House & Garden Tour, the Biblical History Center Ancient World Tour, and/or a Paint Party with MJH Designs. Plus, each evening was packed with fun activities including games, karaoke, dancing, and more.

In all, I was very pleased to attend this year's convention. Had a wonderful time talking with friends I haven't seen since last year's convention and met more ladies to add to my ever-growing CCW family. I look forward to next year's conventions, including the August NCCW Convention in Oklahoma City.



WORDS OF WISDOM

The Feast Day is often celebrated as a family event. Children dressed as Juan Diego and Our Lady, reenact the story of Mary's appearances. After the congregation prays a rosary, they all attend mass. Following mass is a large fiesta with food and music.

NOVEMBER 2023

Prayer Circle Updates

St. Agnes Prayer Circle

St. Agnes met on Tuesday, October 17th at 10 a.m. at SMM Church. We assembled 12 Boxes of Joy and enjoyed refreshments and socializing. We donated the left over items to St. Vincent de Paul warehouse to be distributed to our neighbors.

A decision was made to cancel both the November and December meetings due to the holidays. Instead, we will meet on December 5th at 11:30 a.m. at DueSouth in PTC. Reservations have been made. If there are more than 20 people attending we will have a limited menu of 4 entries to choose from. If you are NOT able to participate, please let Deb Camp know at debcamp725@gmail.com.

St. Margaret's Prayer Circle

This month we met at Krystal Bugden's home for lunch, fellowship, and box filling! Our group decided to participate once again in the Box of Joy service opportunity through Cross Catholic Outreach Ministries. This ministry provides school supplies, clothing, toys, and other treasured items to poor children in developing countries. Judy Maurer attended our meeting and told us more about Cross Catholic Outreach and also provided us with the boxes. Each box is also filled with a rosary and booklet in each child's language which tells the Story of Jesus. These gifts bring smiles to the faces of these poor children as a way to combat the hopelessness they may feel and to show Christ's love for them. We had so much fun putting together these boxes. Our Circle ended up filling 20 boxes for this very much needed ministry!!



St. Monica's Prayer Circle and St. Theresa's Prayer Circle

These prayer circles are both taking a break/hiatus while the Walk With Purpose educational program is being offered. We hope to give you an update after WWP concludes.



WORDS OF WISDOM

People in Mexico and in the United States celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. Mary is the Patron Saint of Mexico and Patroness of the Americas. Every year, thousands of people from all over the country make a pilgrimage to the Basilica in Mexico City. The day commemorates her apparition to Saint Juan Diego in the hills of Tepeyac in 1531. She asked him to go to the bishop and tell him that the Ever Virgin Mary, Mother of God, sent him to ask for a church to be built atop Tepeyac hill.

NOVEMBER 2023

CCW Poinsettia Sale



**IT'S TIME TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS
DECORATING AND GIFTING!**

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

This year, we will be able to offer several added colors of this beautiful plant!

We have 6" and 8" sizes available in each color.

They will be on sale in the Narthex,

6 INCH POT of any color is \$15.00

8 INCH POT of any color is \$30.00



RED



PINK



WHITE



JINGLE BELL



MARBLE

Plant pick up will be determined in November once the order is placed.

Please watch your Flocknote, the church web site, or the OSV order form to find out the pickup date after November 9th.

4 ways to order:

1. Use this link: <https://www.osvhub.com/st-mary-magdalene-cath-church-t/forms/smmccw-poinsettia-sales-3> to order.
2. Narthex sales – November 4 and 5 after all Masses.
3. Order form in ministry closet – Council of Catholic Women slot and turn in to office with payment.
4. Use the QR code if using credit card or bank account.



LAST DAY TO PLACE ORDERS WILL BE NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Any questions or concerns, please contact Cheri Hooper via email cheri24hooper@gmail.com or phone or text at 817-991-2415.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE SAINT MARY MAGDALENE COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN



WORDS OF WISDOM

Today, as a sign of their devotion to Mary, many pilgrims travel to this site on their knees for many miles. They do this as a sign of their devotion to Mary and to show gratitude for favors received from her. Outside of the shrine there are groups of mariachis, folk musicians, and ethnic dancers who have come to celebrate.

NOVEMBER 2023

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OPEN POSITIONS

Vice-President Welcome and Circle Coordinator Special Projects Coordinator
St. Monica's Circle Leader

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By Maggie Heatherman

The SMM nursery is back up and running; however, we desperately need volunteers. I have served in many ministries over the years, and found myself burning out and losing enthusiasm. So, I thought I'd try something new; what a great decision! Currently, we have 4 volunteers, 3 of whom have nursery age children themselves. Chelsa Broadbent is our leader. We would like to offer nursery at both Sunday masses, but we can't even cover every 9 am mass. We need help! Volunteers must be virtue trained and background checked. Many of you already have this completed because of other service. If not, it's very simple to accomplish. We have a regular group of families who depend on us in order to fully engage in mass. It's also incredibly fun!! I forgot how much fun it is to play with a 3 year old, to hold a 1 year old, and to watch little ones learn to walk. Please consider this ministry. Ideally, we have enough volunteers so that it's only an occasional volunteer job. Also, with enough volunteers, we could offer nursery during adult faith formation activities like bible studies. Please consider and reach out to Chelsea for more information.

Chelsa Broadbent

nursery@smmcatholic.org

216-233-3728 (text is best)



WORDS OF WISDOM

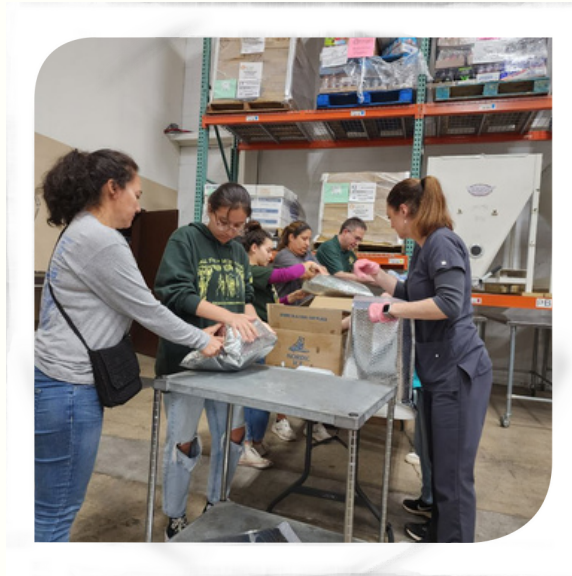
Inside, various priests and bishops from all over Mexico gather to celebrate Mass. In the evening, the entrance of the basilica is filled with pilgrims from different regions of the country. Many other fiestas or popular celebrations take place in honor of La Virgen Morena, or the dark-skinned Madonna, all over Mexico. Almost every household erects an altar to the Virgin Mary for the day and the faithful demonstrate their joy by lighting fireworks throughout their cities.

Midwest Food Bank Memories

By Juiie Keller

A fun time was had by all at the Midwest Food Bank on October 25th. There were 31 participants from the Knights of Columbus, CCW, SMM Youth Group, Girl Scouts, and even some German interns that my family is currently hosting. We worked for a combined total of 93 hours. In total, we served 5,488 people.

We packaged 5 lb bags of frozen chicken for distribution in Kentucky. We packed 275 bags with each feeding a family of 4 or 1,100 people supported. We sorted and packaged water bottles both loose into boxes and whole cases. We ended up handling 4,385 bottles. We also folded tablecloths from a recently completed fundraiser for MWFB. What a wonderful way to be the hands and feet of Christ.



WORDS OF WISDOM

Mary's apparition in Mexico to Saint Juan Diego aided the Catholic Church's effort to bring the Gospel to the Americas. This is why the bishops of the United States affirm: "Mary embraces God's will and freely chooses to cooperate with God's grace, thereby fulfilling a crucial role in God's plan of salvation."