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DECEMBER 2025

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# THE MESSENGER

ST. MARY MAGDALENE COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

## WHAT DOES ADVENT MEAN FOR US?

Advent means "to come". It encompasses 4 Sundays and weeks leading up to Christmas. The focus of Advent is to help us prepare for Christ coming at Christmas. With all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, we need to remember to prepare our hearts for Christ coming. We do this with prayers, reflections, daily reading of scripture or a good spiritual book. We can also try to go to at least one Mass during the week or go to confession. Doing acts of service helps us keep our focus of the true meaning of Christmas as we prepare our hearts and homes to celebrate the birth of Christ. Everything we do can be made into a prayer and reflection; from putting up an Advent wreath and calendar to baking cookies with family and friends to putting up a tree. Serving others really helps us focus on why Jesus came which was to save us by showing us how to love God and one another by serving.

Some feast days during Advent help us focus on the "why" we prepare for Christ.

December 6th is the Feast of St. Nicolas

December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, which is a holy day of obligation.

December 12th is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 13th is the Feast of St. Lucy

These feast days help us become more compassionate and Christ centered.

We remember Jesus was always concerned with the whole person. He always saw to people's needs before he preached. We need to always remember our brothers and sisters all year long so we can imitate Jesus.

An Advent prayer:

Heavenly father, your Son Jesus is your greatest gift to us. He is a sign of your great love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent as we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and your son Jesus. Give us the love and strength that we need every day. Help us to always trust you. Come, Lord Jesus, lead us closer to you. Please dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen. We wish everyone a happy holy Christmas season.





# SAVE THE DATE

*Please join us for the  
CCW Christmas Party*

**DECEMBER 9TH | 6:00-8:30PM**

*Lots of Food and Fun Steal An Ornament Exchange  
(Voluntary)*

*Special Guests:  
Harpist: Hannah Botte  
playing Christmas Tunes  
St Vincent de Paul Guest: Claire Berube*

*RSVP by Dec 3 at (470) 662-0045 or  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C074BA9A82CA274C70-60207435-ccwchristmas>*



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## CCW PUMPKIN PIE AND SOUP JAR DAY

Around 20 CCW members gathered At SMMCC on November 14 to bake pumpkin pies and fill pint jars with soup ingredients. The pies and soup jars were put into baskets which were already filled with other items to enable St Vincent de Paul client families to have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving. The group baked 24 pies and prepared and decorated 67 soup jars. We also put together over 400 Epiphany Blessing kits, which will be blessed by Father Revak and given out at Masses the weekend of 3-4 January.

We had chili and Sloppy Joes for lunch when we took a break. All in all, it was a wonderful day of fellowship while we did God's work. Moreover, we have some ideas to make this an even better day next year!



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## Ten Characteristics of A Servant-Leader

by Teresa Barczak

In previous articles, we have shared with you four characteristics of a servant-leader as defined in the National Council of Catholic Women (CCW). They were #1 thru #4, Listening, Empathy, Healing and Awareness. This month we are sharing #5 Persuasion, #6 Conceptualization and #7 Foresight.

#5. Persuasion - the servant-leader seeks to convince others rather than coerce compliance.

#6. Conceptualization - a servant-leader seeks to nurture their abilities to dream great dreams. Servant-leaders are called to seek a delicate balance between conceptual thinking and a day-to-day operational approach.

#7. Foresight - a characteristic that enables the servant-leader to understand the lessons from the past, the realities of the present, and the likely consequence of a decision for the future.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### DECEMBER 2025: Merry Christmas

11/15-1/25 CCW & WWP Coat Drive

12/9 CCW Christmas Party, 6-8:30 PM, SMM

1/24 SMM Women's Day of Service, 10 AM - 3 PM

2/14-2/15 CCW Bake Sale



## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in making a difference in our community? Please consider signing up for this opportunity. Joyce is also trying to set up some bell ringing opportunities as well. Details will be sent at a later date.

12/5: Special Olympics Bowling Tournament Support

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449ADA82DA20-58118984-special#/>

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## PRAYER CIRCLE UPDATES

### St. Margaret's Circle

St. Margaret's Circle met at Anne Benson's home on Nov. 19th. We learned about Saint Maria Faustina (Kowalska) who is known worldwide as the Apostle of Divine Mercy. Her mission was to remind all of God's merciful love for us and for us to give mercy to others. She was a Sister of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland and received many visions over her short lifespan (33 years) of Jesus. He told her to "paint an image (of Jesus) according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I Trust In You - to be blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy". This is the Divine Mercy Jesus painting we see showing Jesus with one hand on his heart and one hand raised up as in a blessing, with white and red rays emanating from His heart. Saint Faustina has an entire diary filled with her many visions of Jesus. Her mission was in saving souls. At our luncheon, each member was given a prayer card with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and we also spoke about the Divine Mercy Novena.

Our Circle also collected many gifts for Christmas for a family of five who receive help from Coweta Pregnancy Services. Thank you, Maggie Heatherman, for organizing this!

Next month on Dec 17th our Circle will meet at Monique Haskins home.

### St. Agnes Circle

No updates at this time.

### St. Monica's Circle

No updates at this time.

## BELL RINGING VOLUNTEERING

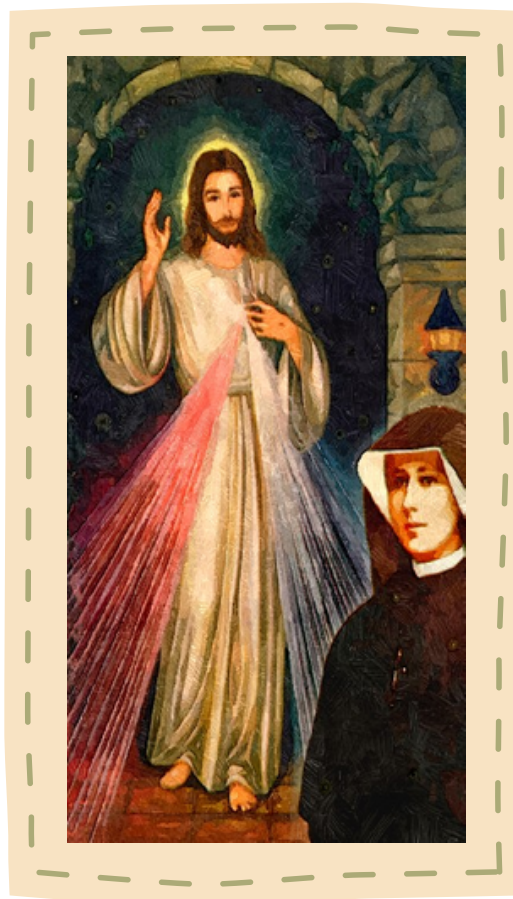
We have some upcoming opportunities to be Bell Ringers for Salvation Army. Here are the dates:

Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM - Noon, Kroger Lower Fayetteville Rd

Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM - Noon, Sam's Club

Dec 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM - Noon, Kroger Lower Fayetteville Rd

Joyce Campisi will send out a SignUpGenius link to volunteer.





CCW AND WWP ARE SPONSORING A

# WINTER COAT DRIVE



**This season, let's make a difference by participating in our Winter Coat Drive event. Donate your gently used coats and help someone stay warm during the cold winter months**

**Nov 15 '25 - Jan. 25 '26**

**DROP OFF: in bins located in  
Narthex after weekend masses**

***NEEDED: Gently worn Coats and  
new winter socks and gloves  
to Help the Less Fortunate and Financially  
Challenged this Winter Keep Warm***

**Thank You for Your Donation...**



# ST. MARY MAGDALENE WOMEN'S DAY OF SERVICE

***Hearts Like Mary, Hands Like Martha***

*Join us for a day to pray, serve, and to be present with one another.*

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
SMM PARISH HALL**

All women of the Parish and friends are invited for a day of faith, fellowship, and service.

Together, we'll complete projects benefiting more than 10 parish ministries and local nonprofits, including assembling toiletry kits and collecting items for the Newnan Animal Shelter.

We are looking for donations of some items to make our event successful. See donation link: <https://bit.ly/WDSsupplies>

**What to Bring:** A rosary

**Lunch:** Light lunch provided (donations welcome)

**Fee:** \$5 per person

**Register by:** January 11

**Online Registration:** Use the following link or QR code.

**<https://www.osvhub.com/st-mary-magdalene-cath-church-1/forms/dayofservice2026>**

**In-Person Registration:** Narthex, January 3/4

Come share your time, faith, and compassion as we serve together!  
Childcare will be available. There are limited slots so please register early.



Feel welcome to reach out for more information.  
Monica Tschantz | [monicatschantz@gmail.com](mailto:monicatschantz@gmail.com)



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## PREPARING FOR OUR WOMEN'S DAY OF SERVICE

Our Women's Day of Service has a new twist to it. We are not only helping ministries within our own Parish, but we are expanding our reach into the community as well. The event is on Saturday, January 24, 2026 from 10 AM - 3 PM at SMM Parish Hall. All the projects will be completed at our church. We have contacted various non-profit agencies in our community to assess what their needs are.

To make this event truly fabulous, we are in need of a few supplies. Anyone can help - those that can attend the Day of Service and those that can't because of other obligations. Feel free to share this with other ministries at SMM to see if they would like to donate items as well. We are grateful for all donations!

Here is a sample list of the items we are looking for:

fleece, in increments of 2 yards  
Christian cards suitable for anytime of the year  
gallon ziploc bags  
travel size tissues  
lip balm  
travel size lotions, soap, shampoo & conditioners  
toothbrushes & toothpaste  
rectangular plastic tablecloths  
and more .....



If you are like me, you have a stash of unused hotel shampoos and conditioners that you can donate.

Look at this link for a complete listing of items needed and sign up to donate.  
<https://bit.ly/WDSsupplies>

Our donation drive will kick off at the CCW Christmas Party on **December 9 at 6:00pm**, where donations will be collected in person. After the party, a donation box will be available in the ministry closet through **Tuesday, December 30** for anyone who wishes to drop off items at their convenience.

Thanks so much for your support.

