

JANUARY 2023

COURIER

St. Mary Magdalene Council of Catholic Women



A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR AND THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD

As sisters of the SMM CCW, we pray you and your family shared a blessed and holy Christmas together, celebrating the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. With the approaching new year, take a quiet moment to give thanks for the blessings granted to you last year. Ask Mary, the Mother of God, to continue to intercede on your behalf in 2023. Start the New Year with the heavenly support of Mary, the Mother of God. Let her nurture and protect you in the way she did her Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Most Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us that we may grow closer to your Son, Jesus Christ.

CONTENTS

Circle Updates -	2
Women's Day of Reflection -	3
Service Opportunity -	4
Birthday Blessings -	4
Mark Your Calendar -	5
Contact Information -	5
Chalking The Door -	6

CIRCLE UPDATES

St. Margaret's Circle

The ladies of St. Margaret's Circle met in the month of November to discuss the benefits of all types of music.

MUSIC
It has the power to make us smile and bring us to all types of tears.
It can carry us back in time and inspire us to dance in the moment.
For all our happiest days, and our saddest, there is music.

With music, we can also spread our faith, pray to our Lord, and learn through the words of others. We found and discussed how many times the bible mentions song in the bible and how it is used to worship God. We witnessed testimonies of singers who came to Christ because of music. We did not meet in December due to the holidays but look forward to meeting again in January. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 11:00 am at a member's home, who provides lunch. If you would like to know more about our circle, please contact Anne Benson, our circle rep at abenson0416@gmail.com.

St. Monica's Circle

At our December meeting, we created gift bags for the girls currently being helped by Wellspring Living. See our pictures below.

St. Agnes Circle

No news to report at this time. We look forward to hearing from you next month.

St. Theresa

No news to report at this time. We look forward to hearing from you next month.



WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION

Don't miss out on this opportunity specially created for YOU! If the craziness of the holiday season leaves you feeling exhausted and in need of quiet time to reflect on your relationship with God and to just be your true self, then come join us to have your soul renewed for the New Year.

What: Women's Day of Reflection

When: Saturday, January 21st, 9 AM - 3 PM

Where: St. Mary Magdalene

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Guest Speaker: Mr. Clint Byars, a local pastor and author of 8 books on prayer and meditation,

What to Expect: Fantastic hands-on activities, an engaging spiritual talk, special time for reflection, a wonderful home-made brunch, and the opportunity to develop and build on friendships with women just like you.

Theme: "You are God's Masterpiece". We are taking this day to recognize and celebrate that each of us is created in God's own image,

How to Register: Register on line using the following link:

[Women's Day of Reflection Jan. 21, 2023 | St Mary Magdalene \(osvhub.com\)](https://osvhub.com/Womens-Day-of-Reflection-Jan.-21,-2023-St-Mary-Magdalene)

Don't delay in registering. This event is always a sell out.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Our next service opportunity is right around the corner. We will be assisting with Tools for Empowerment project. Tools for Empowerment program puts trade tools into the hands of vocational school graduates around the world. These eager young women and youth have the education, skills and drive - but the tools they need to put their new skills to work are expensive and out of reach for most young students. As part of this project, we will be refurbishing/cleaning donated trade tools and equipment which will then be shipped to Salesian Missions of Don Bosco schools.

Graduates of the schools are awarded their own tools to assist them in earning a livelihood. For more information, you can visit their website at <http://www.asapempowers.org>.

Date: Saturday, January 14th, 9 AM - Noon

Location: 1 Beaver Street, Newnan GA

To sign up, please use the link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4FA8AD2EA6FD0-tools>

If you have any questions, please email Joyce at joycecampisi@gmail.com.



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

May God bless you with peace and happiness on this unique day that you celebrate. And may that divine peace and happiness follow you the rest of your life. Have a blessed and fun birthday.

February

Kathy Holcomb	1
Maggie Heatherman	5
Claire Randolph	9
Marie Swope	10
Cathie Belk	11
Joyce Campisi	13
Filomena DeLuca	17
Jamie Bowne	18
Jude Pytlik	18
Mary Price	20
Lisa Fleckenstein	23
Gayle Pizzitola	23
Laura Weikle	21
Judy Maurer	24
Christa Hannasch	25



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January

January 5	CCW Board Meeting, 7 PM, SMM Rooms 101/102
January 7	Trip to Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament
January 14	Tools for Empowerment Service Project
January 21	Women's Day of Reflection Retreat, SMM



CONTACT INFORMATION

Board Member Contact Information

- President - Monique Haskins 817-929-9146 texmominga@bellsouth.net
- President -elect - Suzette Binek 724-513-0837 suzettebinek@gmail.com
- Secretary - Margaret Hennum 952-465-6742 maggienjeff@yahoo.com
- Treasurer - Cheri Hooper 817-991-2415 cheri24hooper@gmail.com
- E-Communication chair - Jamie Bowne 618-604-6390 jamielynnbowne@gmail.com
- Newsletter chair - Julie Keller 770-296-1997 dkeller@numail.org
- Spirituality and Service chair - Joyce Campisi 678-520-5613 joycecampisi@gmail.com
- Welcome and Circle Coordinator chair - Dee Heegan 678-662-0071 deidreheegan@gmail.com
- Special Events Coordinator - Monica Tschantz 770-599-9210 monicatschantz@gmail.com
- Fundraising chair (floral) - Kathy Holcomb 770-683-2759 kaholcomb75@gmail.com
- Past President - Karen Magee 770-363-6764 karynmagee65@gmail.com
- Birthday chair - Midge Beals 678-423-7507 jtuxbury1019@gmail.com
- St. Agnes Circle Representative - Kiki Kane 404-583-2414 rmewife@kanes.us and Linda Dryer 678-464-6912 ldryer127@aol.com
- St. Monica Circle Representative - Thalia Eden 478-719-9905 teden4494@aol.com
- St. Margaret Circle Representative - Anne Benson 660-864-3440 abenson0416@gmail.com
- St. Theresa Circle Representative - Judy Maurer

CHALKING THE DOOR

A number of years ago, my husband and I had the privilege to participate in an Epiphany celebration at the home of Linda and Hal Barry. At this celebration, I was first introduced to the *Chalking The Door* blessing. At the time, I had never heard of this tradition. I was so moved by the experience that I took the time afterwards to learn more about it so as to deepen my faith. Perhaps this article might introduce this wonderful blessing to your family and home as well.

So, what is Chalking the Door?

Chalking the Door is an Epiphany blessing over your door whose purpose is to bless your house and everyone who enters it. It's a centuries-old tradition (less common in the United States) that started shortly around the end of the middle ages. Priests would traditionally visit the members of their parish after the Feast of the Epiphany and bless their homes. As parishes grew, the responsibility was transferred over to household members.

The Epiphany blessing is a simple blessing written on your door with chalk as follows: the first two digits of the year + C + M + B + the last two digits of the new year. So, today, it would look like this: 20 + C + M + B + 23.

The C M B serves two meanings:

1. The initials of the wise men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.
2. The first letters of the Latin phrase: *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless this house."

The + sign represents the Cross. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless those homes so marked and that He stay with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year.



What will we need?

You will need holy water, chalk, the prayer, and your family. Of course, you'll perform the blessing at the door of your home.

How do we perform the Chalking the Door blessing?

- Make the sign of the cross and sprinkle holy water on the door.
- Mark your door using chalk. For the year of 2023, you would write 20 + C + M + B + 23.
- Recite a simple prayer such as this:
"May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us;
and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your
incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen."



When do we do this blessing?

Typically, this blessing is done on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6th. This blessing is really a proclamation to anyone who comes by that your home is a home for Christ and your family continues to serve God outside of Mass. It's also a conversation starter because almost all visitors will ask what it is.

Why should we do this?

Practicing traditions like the chalking of the doors helps us to live our Faith more concretely and serve as an outward sign of our dedication to Our Lord. Our homes are also the place where many of us will make the greatest strides in our spiritual growth, through observance of daily prayer, spiritual reading, and work offered as an oblation to God.

The chalking of the doors of a home encourages Christians to dedicate their life at home to God and to others. Seeing the symbols over our doors can help to remind us, while passing in and out on our daily routines, that our homes and all those who dwell there belong to Christ. It also serves as a reminder of welcoming the Magi gave to Jesus. We should strive to be as welcoming to all who come to our homes to visit us!

