

The Messenger

St. Mary Magdalene Council of Catholic Women, Newnan GA

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness, send
your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for
Christmas.
We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces
to hear your voice each day,
We who are anxious over many things look
forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the
complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your
presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet
seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"
Amen.



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December CCW Meeting & Celebration

Date: December 12th, 7 PM at SMM

(Please note the date change due to the recently scheduled Penance Service.)

All SMM Women are invited to join us. We will have a short CCW business meeting and then we will have some wonderful opportunities to learn more about our community and to learn more about our faith.

- Come meet Cynthia Bennett from Meals on Wheels and learn about their important ministry.
- Participate in a Meals on Wheels Postcard Service Project.
- Learn about the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- Enjoy traditional food for Our Lady of Guadalupe's Feast Day.
- Bring a sister friend from the Church.

Come as you are. Enjoy this opportunity to take a break from the busy holiday season and spend time with friends.



WORDS OF WISDOM

Advent Wreaths

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple, and one is rose, but white candles can also be used. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

DECEMBER 2023

Upcoming CCW Activities

Please save the date for our following upcoming activities:

| | |
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| Nov 30 | Salvation Army Bell Ringing Service Opportunity |
| Dec 5 | Poinsettia Pickup |
| Dec 6 | Midwest Food Bank Service Project, 6:30-8:30 PM (All Slots Are Now Full) |
| Dec 12 | CCW General Meeting, 7 PM, with Special Guest from Meals on Wheels & Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration |
| Dec 18 | Salvation Army Bell Ringing Service Opportunity |
| Dec 31 | 5th Sunday Rosary with Knights of Columbus |
| Jan 4 | CCW Board Meeting, 11:30 AM, Room 101/102 |
| Jan 12 | Day Field Trip Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Conyers GA |
| Jan 13 | Bridging the Gap Service Project, 8 - 11 AM |

Save
the
Dates

CCW Directory

A HUGE thanks goes to Cheri Hooper who graciously updated and sent out our CCW Directory electronically. If you didn't receive a copy or your information was not in the directory and you want to be added, please contact Cheri at cheri24hooper@gmail.com or cell/text at 817-991-2415. Thanks again to Cheri for her service to our CCW.



WORDS OF WISDOM

The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over, and they are close to Christmas.



Monastery of the Holy Spirit Journey

Field Trip to the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, Georgia

We all seek a place to help us push out the busy distractions and pressures of this world, a place where we can be restored. Be inspired and gain a deeper appreciation of this sanctuary - a place that assists in communing with God. Experience a day in the life of a monk and learn about the history of the Monastic way of life at the Historic Museum.

Join the CCW as we journey together to visit the Monastery. Invite your family and friends and get ready to enjoy the day!

Please allow 6 hours for this trip.

Date: **Friday, January 12, 2024**

We will meet at SMM parking lot @ 9 am.

Carpooling may be available, depending on group size.

R.S.V.P. by January 10, 2024

Admission is **FREE**

Bring a bagged lunch **OR** pay \$10.00 p.p. for a Publix boxed lunch

Choose from either a sub, wrap, and/or a salad box.

Sides included vary on boxes and a drink.

Please review Publix Super Market at The Village at Millers Chapel Conyers, Georgia boxed lunches online

<https://www.publix.com/menu-sub-and-wraps?nav=header>

<https://www.publix.com/search?searchTerm=salads&srt=products>

OR

Call Suzette Binek, 724-513-0837

suzettebinek@gmail.com

Payable via cash day of trip



WORDS OF WISDOM

The Nativity

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223. The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time. When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

Coffee & Donuts Recap

SMMCCW hosted a Coffee and Donuts Social on November 19th after the 9a and 12N Masses. Many parishioners attended with their families for these delicious desserts along with fellowship.

The CCW provided 11 dozen donuts and 3 dozen donut holes from TasTy Donut in Sharpsburg along with coffee, creamers, and orange juice. This event was the first of this kind in a while and from the grand turnout was a HUGE success!

We look forward to hosting again in the future.

We would like to give special thanks to our volunteers for the day:

Judy Maurer, Monique Haskins, Regina Walls, Teresa Barczak, Karen Hibbs, Nancy Schwoebel and Suzette Binek.

Well done my good & faithful servants.

Matthew 25:21



Prayer Circle Updates

St. Agnes Prayer Circle

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 our St. Margaret's Circle met at Anne Benson's house for lunch and fellowship. We enjoyed many laughs and also welcomed back an old member, Maggie Heatherman. We will be meeting for lunch at J Christopher's and Cracker Barrel in December.

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

Christmas Tree

The use of the Christmas tree is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays that depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle that symbolized Christ, the Light of the world. According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing. In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member, in connection with the evening meal on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time on Christmas Day.

CCW Poinsettia Sale

The poinsettia is often referred to as the “Flower of the Holy Night” or the “Star of Bethlehem.” It is believed to symbolize the birth of Jesus and his sacrifice for humanity. The plant’s vibrant red leaves represent the blood of Christ, while its green foliage symbolizes everlasting life.

The Council of Catholic Women would like to thank everyone who helped support our Poinsettia sale and hope that your plants bring hope joy and cheer during your holiday season.

Our vendor this year brought several changes such as, more colors to pick from and no price increases. We also have another change, in that their delivery is on a Tuesday instead of a Saturday.

This years Poinsettia pick up will be Tuesday, December 5, 2023.

We will offer two different times for pick up to allow for everyone’s schedules.

Pick up at the front of the church will be from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm and again from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cheri Hooper at cheri24hooper@gmail.com or cell/text at 817-991-2415.



WORDS OF WISDOM

Christmas Tree

While sixteenth century Germans are said to be the first people to bring Christmas trees into their homes, St. Boniface, an eighth century Catholic missionary to the Germans, is credited with creating the first Christmas tree. This happened one Christmas Eve when he chopped down a large oak tree that the Germans used for pagan worship. He pointed to a nearby evergreen tree, saying that it represented peace and eternal life. He told the crowd of Germans to gather around evergreen trees in their homes in a spirit of kindness and love, to commemorate the child Jesus.

DECEMBER 2023

Bell Ringing Service Opportunity

Please find the link to sign up to help the Salvation Army raise money at the Kroger on Lower Fayetteville Road on Monday December 18. The slots are 4:00 and 5:00. If we have more people who want to participate, please let me know and I will add more day or times. This is a great way for you and your family to serve others.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4FA8AD2EA6FD0-46336983-salvation>

Please email me if you have any questions.

Have a wonderful and blessed day.

Joyce Campisi

joycecampisi@gmail.com



WORDS OF WISDOM

The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means 'coming' or 'visit'. During this time we connect with the longing and expectant waiting of the Jewish people as they prepared for the advent of the Messiah. We also look forward with similar longing and expectancy to the second advent of Christ that we have been promised.

The Catechism points out both meanings:

"When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming." (No. 524).