

FEBRUARY 2023

COURIER

St. Mary Magdalene Council of Catholic Women



PRAYER TO OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL

We turn to you, our Mother of Good Counsel,
as we seek to imitate your faith-filled life.
May we be led by the same Wisdom
which God sent forth from Heaven
to guide you along unfamiliar paths and through challenging
decisions.
Keep us in mind and heart,
as we go forward in joyful hope
toward the grace-filled freedom that Saint Augustine
recommends.
O Virgin, Mother of Good Counsel,
hear our prayer, as we look to you for guidance.
Pray for us to our loving and merciful Father,
to your Son, our Lord Jesus the Christ,
and to the Holy Spirit, giver of all Wisdom
one God forever and ever.
Amen.

CONTENTS

Circle Updates - 2
SMM Circle Information -2
New Circle Forming -3
Pre-School Moms Circle -3
Adopt a Seminarian -3
Women's Day of Reflection Recap -4
Accepting Woman of the Year
Nominations -4
WDR Memories -5
Shrine Memories -9
Ave Maria Grotto Visit -10
Souper Bowl Sunday Help Needed -11
Birthday Blessings -11
Mark Your Calendars -12
Contact Information -12
Spring Plant Sale Help Needed -12

CIRCLE UPDATES

St. Margaret's Circle

The St. Margaret Circle met on Wednesday, January 18th, at Anne Benson's house. Lunch was served and we discussed the movie Mother Teresa: No Greater Love. The Knight's of Columbus produced the film in partnership with the Missionaries of Charity, and it aired in select theaters last fall. The movie chronicles the life of Mother Teresa and shares the impact she and her organization, Missionaries of Charity, have had on the people they have served throughout the world. We shared favorite Mother Teresa quotes and stories from the movie. If you're interested in seeing this documentary on the amazing life of Mother Teresa, it's for rent on Amazon Prime for \$1.99.

"I alone cannot change the world. But I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

Mother Teresa

St. Monica's Circle

This month, St. Monica's circle invited Marie Swope to talk about the St. Vincent de Paul Society at our parish. She told us how SVdP was involved in the community after the tornado and how the society worked closely with other agencies to get tornado victims the help they needed. She invited us to get involved with our community, and help others who are in need.

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.



SMM CIRCLE INFORMATION

Are you interested in learning more about our prayer circle opportunities. We are fortunate to have a New Member/Circle Coordinator to help answer any questions you might have. Feel free to contact Dee Heegan at 678-662-0071. You can also contact our circle leaders directly if you have any specific questions about the activities for each circle.

St. Agnes Circle meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10 AM at SMM in Room 101. This circle rotated who hosts or leads the circle each month. The circle leader is Kiki Kane and her email is rmewife@kane.us.

St. Margaret Circle meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11/11:30 AM (it can vary each month) at various locations (possibly a member's house, the church, or at an outing at a restaurant). The circle leader is Anne Benson and her email is abenson0416@gmail.com.

St. Monica Circle meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at SMM in Room 104. The circle leader is Thalia Eden and her email is Thaleden@aol.com.

St. Theresa meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 11 AM at SMM in Room 101. The circle leader is Judy Maurer and her email is songal@aol.com.

NEW CIRCLE FORMING

Being a part of a small faith group is really important and can be loads of fun. I have been lucky enough to be a part of St. Margaret's circle since its inception. However, schedules change, and I'm looking to start up a new circle. For now, it would be more of a social group to support each other and build friendships within our parish so, if you're ready to shake up your schedule, make new friends, or start something new - this is for you!

A new circle is starting in March. The circle will meet the FIRST MONDAY OF MARCH, APRIL and MAY at 5PM - 6:30PM. This spring, the group will meet to build friendship and decide the direction of the circle going forward. Since we are strictly social for now, don't worry if you are running late, need to leave early (or even show up a little early), dressed for the gym, or coming straight from work. Just come and share some time with you CCW sisters. Meetings this spring will be hosted at Maggie Heatherman's house, 60 Bridle Walk Trail, Sharpsburg. 770 842 6107. Text if you plan to come, but if you forget-COME ANYWAY! Don't bring anything but yourself and a friend. Again, this spring is the springboard to a fabulous new circle!

Maggie Heatherman
770 842 6107
timheatherman@comcast.net

PRE-SCHOOL MOMS CIRCLE

We are excited to announce that the CCW will be partnering with the SMM Preschool to form a new circle for preschool moms. The circle will meet on the first Wednesday of each month at SMM just after they drop their children off at 9AM. We will begin on Wednesday, March 1. If you know a mom of a preschool child, please invite them. Their child does not have to attend SMM preschool to participate.



ADOPT A SEMINARIAN

We have an exciting opportunity through the Archdiocese of Atlanta Council of Catholic Women (AACCW). They have begun an Adopt a Seminarian program. We will pray for and can send cards/gifts to a seminarian for the remainder of his time in seminary. Our assigned Seminarian is Mr. Jack Skeeane! His birthday is right around the corner (2/18), and I would love to shower him with birthday cards! If you would like to send him a card, his mailing address is: Mr. Jack Skeeane

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary
10701 S. Military Trail
Boynton Beach, FL 33436

Please sign your card in such a way that he knows you are from the St. Magdalene CCW.



WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION RECAP

This year's Women's Day of Reflection was a great success. Our theme this year was "We Are God's Masterpiece".

Everyone was warmly greeted and asked to pick a tool from a basket. This led to quite some discussion because no one knew what they were going to have to do with their tool. Once we sat down, Monica Tschantz, the Event Director, asked us to share how our tool will help us realize our goals for that spiritual day. One participant chose a paint roller and told her team that she planned to just roll with it for day.

Each participant then shared their thoughts on something that was a masterpiece to them, and we created posters that illustrated our ideas on what makes a masterpiece. We had several parishioners think of the same piece of artwork, *A Sunday on the La Grande Jatte*, others thought of pictures drawn by grandchildren, and one parishioner said that the miracle of a child was her idea of a masterpiece. A few tears were shed by all.

We listened to an incredible guest speaker, Mr. Clint Byars, who reminded us that we have permission to be masterpieces under construction. He told us that it is God's good pleasure to give us his kingdom. He also shared Luke 12:22-34 with us which reminds us just how loved we are by God:

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!"

After a wonderful brunch, we held an activity that allowed us to see how others see us. Sometimes, we just don't see God's creation in ourselves. We then reflected on what we learned and created *I Am* affirmative crosses to remind ourselves that we are created in God's image and we are his masterpieces. After a short break, we became Christ's disciples by writing postcards to the 200 senior citizens in our community that receive Meals on Wheels. We reminded them just how wonderful it was to have them as part of our community and that they are also God's masterpieces.

We were blessed by a visit from Deacon Weeks. He walked us through each step of the Mass and explained how we as believers ask for God's forgiveness and mercy throughout the Mass and it is granted to us. He also shared some thoughts about examination of conscience in preparation for reconciliation. To further our reflective experience, we quietly walked through a prayer labyrinth in the Sanctuary. Robin McCord shared a special prayer that she says repetitively when she goes on her daily walks and she also used while going through the labyrinth, "Thank you for your favor, God direct my path".

When we returned from our time of reflection, Monica walked us through a grounding exercise utilizing all of our senses.

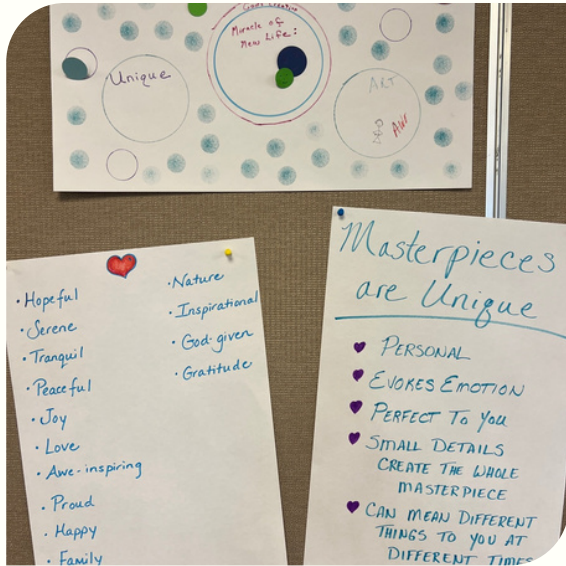
A heartfelt shout out goes to the women of St. Matthews and St. George that came to this event. Your presence made it a very special day for us. If you weren't able to make it this year, we hope that you will prayerfully consider joining us next year.

ACCEPTING WOMAN OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

The Woman of the Year committee is seeking nominees for the 2023 Woman of the Year. If you would like to nominate a worthy candidate, please submit her name, the reason(s) you feel she is worthy and her ministry involvement to Monique Haskins at texmominga@bellsouth.net by 2/20. Our nominee will be honored with other Women and Youth of the Year at a Mass on March 25 at St. Lawrence in Lawrenceville.



WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION MEMORIES



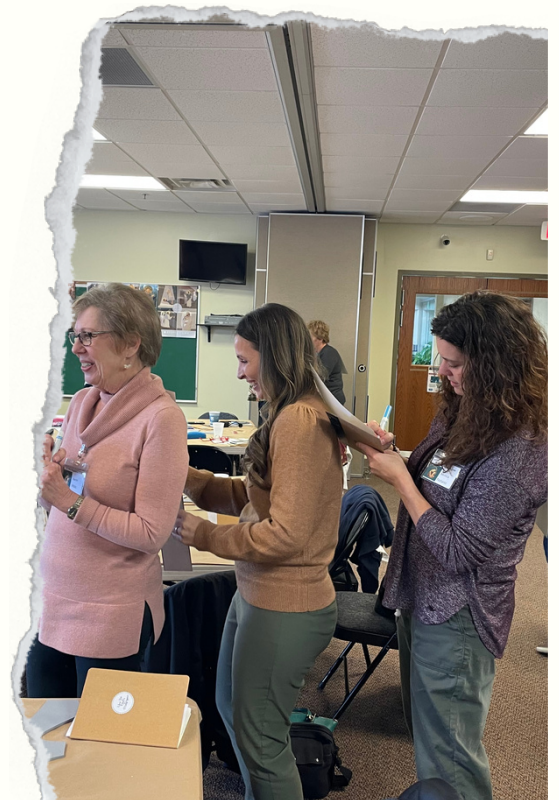
WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION MEMORIES



WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION MEMORIES



WE ARE
God's
MASTERPIECE
EPHESIANS 2:10 (NLT)



WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION MEMORIES



VIEWPOINTS OF....

SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT MEMORIES

By Deb Camp

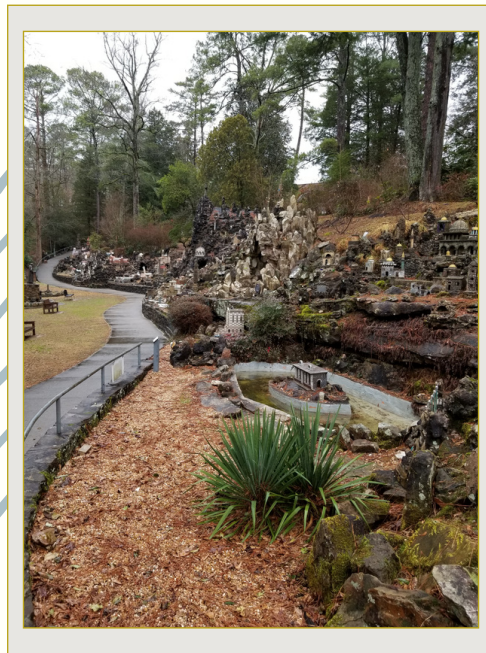
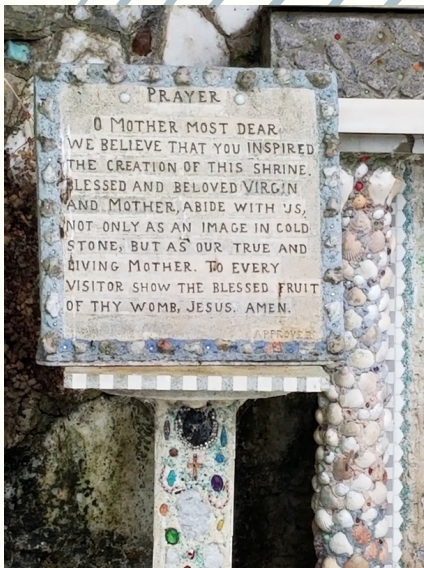
The trip to the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament on 1/07/23 started out at SMM @ 0700 where we all piled in multiple vehicles for a quick 3-hour ride to Hanceville Alabama. It was a wonderful opportunity to bond with people I had only seen in passing at the church. We talked the entire way up there and most of the way back. We shared lunch and dinner together along with the spiritual experience of going to Mass, partaking in the Divine Office and Rosary with the cloistered Poor Clares, and touring this magnificent holy place. There were two tours we participated in, the first one described the vision Mother Angelica was given to establish the Monastery and the second tour reviewed the Most Holy Eucharist in Scripture and history at the John Paul II Eucharistic Center. To see the 2nd largest monstrance in the world, the Shroud of Turin replica, a larger-than-life crucifix, life-size Nativity scene, and the "original" Stations of the Holy Eucharist were only a few of the highlights. It is a must see and if you missed this opportunity my understanding is there is talk of going back in the Fall. My personal plan is to return there this year because there were several things to see that we didn't get to. A special thanks to Suzette and CCW for coordinating this special event and Kathy Holcomb for being our wonderful Uber driver!



AVE MARIA GROTTO VISIT

By Suzette Binek

During a recent day trip I planned for the CCW, friends and family, my husband and I decided to spend additional time in the town of Cullman, Alabama. One of our visits took us to the self-guided tour site of the Ave Maria Grotto. Located on the grounds of the St. Bernard Abbey, and only 10 minutes from The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, here you will find a hillside landscaped with 125 small stone and cement structures, created by Brother Joseph Zoetl, O.S.B., a monk of the Abbey for nearly 70 years. A pleasant two-block pathway winds alongside miniature buildings, passing in front of a large cavern style grotto, which is where the replica of the Ave Maria Grotto was constructed. All of Brother Joseph's unique artwork was masterfully created from either a memory of visitation or from examining detailed pictures in his spare time. All of his supplies used for his creations came from the unused scraps he would collect from his jobsite, at the Abbey power house, where he labored. Collections of stone, concrete and unwanted materials, such as broken plates, costume jewelry, ceramic tile, beads, marbles, seashells, and more were all collected and used to make his visions of gorgeous artwork. Words cannot express the feelings that overcame me. Knowing the time it takes making just one craft, really had you looking in "awe" at all the sculptures he made. The creative ingenuity he had was truly unmeasurable and astounding, having just used scraps of broken goods. I once heard this phrase, "One man's junk is another man's treasure", and I believe this fits Brother Joseph's life's passion well! If you ever find yourself in north central Alabama, I would highly recommend you take the time to visit the Ave Maria Grotto and the gift shop, where you can purchase fresh baked breads made daily by the Monks.



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY HELPERS NEEDED

We will again be partnering with the SMM Youth Group on Super Bowl Sunday, February 12th, from 4-5:30. Please see the link below to sign up to bring food or help with the event.

[SMM CCW: Super Bowl Tailgate for Youth Group \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.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.

March	
Mary Bales	1
Meagan Luschen	4
Mayra Diaz	7
Linda Hunt	8
Bobbi Griffin	17
Anne Benson	17
Liz Lotter	19
Neydi Belmonte	21
Mary Jo Rhodes	22
Midge Beals	30
Betsy Severino	31



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 2	CCW Board Meeting
February 11	Southwest District Gathering at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
March 2	CCW Board Meeting
March 4/5 & 11/12	Spring Plant Sale in the Narthex
March 24	Stations of the Cross and Lenten Meal, SMM
April 13	General Meeting with Elections and Baby Shower

SAVE
the
DATE

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

SPRING PLANT SALE HELP NEEDED

The annual spring flower sale dates are approaching! Volunteers will be in the Narthex on the weekends of March 4/5 and 11/12. If you would like to volunteer to help take orders after Masses or at delivery, please contact Monique Haskins at 817-929-9146 or texmominga@bellsouth.net.

