

The Messenger

St. Mary Magdalene Council of Catholic Women, Newnan GA

Lenten Origins

It's hard to believe that we will shortly start the Lenten season. I found some information in *Catholic Customs & Traditions* by Greg Dues about Lenten traditions to share.

Lent was closely associated with the transition from winter to spring. The word "lent", comes from the Anglo-Saxon word for springtime, *lencten*. It describes the gradual lengthening of daylight after the winter solstice.

During the 2nd century, Christians prepared for the annual Pascha, or Easter, by fasting for two days. This was a natural thing to do in preparation for the holiest of times, when during the first generations, the Lord's final return was expected. In the 3rd century, fasting was extended to all of Holy Week.

Lent evolved around the theme of baptism. During the first centuries, preparation for baptism could last several years. Adults couldn't just sign up to become a member of the church. They were tested for up to three years. During this time, they received instruction, they withdrew from pagan practices, and were taught to live a new life. Only then were they admitted to candidacy for baptism. During the Lenten season, they received intense instruction, submitted to exorcisms, participated in special rituals, fasted on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, and were baptized during the Easter Vigil. Gradually, it became popular for those already baptized to participate in the tradition of fasting. As infant baptism became more widespread, Christians began the tradition of fasting for forty days in preparation for Easter.

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Spring CCW Calendar

FEBRUARY

- 1 Newsletter released
- 8 CCW Meeting, 11:30 AM, SMM Rooms 101/102
- 10-11 CCW Bake Sale
- 21 Midwest Food Bank, 6:30-8:30 PM

MARCH

- 1 Newsletter released
- 7 CCW Meeting, 11:30AM, SMM Rooms 101/102
- 8 CCW Sponsored Lenten Simple Supper
& Stations of the Cross
- 9-10 Spring Plant Sale in the Narthex
- 9 Bridging the Gap, 8-11 AM
- TBD Plant pickup

APRIL

- 1 Newsletter released
- 13 Tulip Tea Social with Speaker Deacon Swope
10 AM, SMM (Note Date/Time Change)

MAY

- 1 Newsletter released
- 2 CCW Meeting, 11:30 AM, SMM Rooms 101/102
- 4 Bridging the Gap, 8-11 AM

JUNE

- 30 5th Sunday Rosary with KOC

JULY

- 13 Bridging the Gap, 8-11 AM



FEBRUARY 2024

Last But Not Least Bell Ringing Memories

I received one more photo of a bell ringer that stuck with it despite terribly windy conditions. Maggie, thanks for your bell ringing services!



Thank You!

Bridging the Gap Service Memories



Wow! St. Mary Magdalene showed up in full force for the Bridging the Gap Loadout Day on January 13th. We had 34 volunteers come help to pack 140 boxes of food for our neighbors in need, sort clothing, package toiletry items, and more. It was wonderful to see families come to help serve. What a wonderful way to put our faith into action.

Save the Date

WE HAVE SOME AMAZING NEWS! Suzette was able to secure a special guest speaker for our Tulip Tea Social on April 13th at 10 AM. Please note that this is a revised date from our originally published calendar. Deacon Steve Swope has agreed to come to our Tulip Tea Social and talk about his personal experiences as a volunteer for Catholic Relief Services. If you haven't heard Deacon Swope speak, you are in for a treat. Not only is he a wonderful speaker, but he will be speaking about a topic that is very close and personal to him. Save the date and join us as we hear a wonderful message, share friendship, fellowship and light refreshments.



Midwest Food Bank Service Opportunity

We have another SMM Service Opportunity. This is open to all parishioners. Minimum age is 10 years of age. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

We will be packaging food for distribution to local food pantries. We will be inside a conditioned space warehouse.

Date: February 21st, Midwest Food Bank, PTC, 6:30-8:30 PM

Space is limited to a maximum of 20 participants. This will fill up.

Don't delay in signing up.

Signup at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449ADA82DA20-46973523-midwest>



FEBRUARY 2024

SMM CCW *Bake Sale*

LOVE to bake! Have a favorite family recipe that gets you many compliments!

Join the CCW in donating your favorite baked goods for our bake sale on February 10-11, 2024 after all the Masses.

Homemade cookies, cakes, pies, bread, and more are all welcome. Please sign up and let us know what you will be bringing. ALL PROCEEDS will help benefit the community.

Baked goods NEED to be at the church by 4 pm, Saturday, February 10, and packaged (box, Ziploc baggies, etc.) to go upon sale. More details about how to package your homemade goodies for the sale will be provided.

- We also need volunteers to help sell our wonderful baked goods.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C45A9A629A1F49-46491329-ccwbake>

FEBRUARY 2024

Looking Ahead - Lenten Meals

St. Mary Magdalene's Simple Lenten Supper and Stations of the Cross will once again be offered on Fridays during Lent. The Council of Catholic Women will be hosting a meal and narration of stations on March 8, 2024.

Please keep this date available to help with food donations, distribution and clean-up of meal, along with readings. A Signup Genius will be provided approximately 2 weeks prior. Thank you again for all your contributions!



Prayer Circles

St. Agnes' Prayer Circle

St. Agnes CCW Circle did not meet for the month of January due to inclement weather. We will meet again on February 20th at 10 a.m. in rooms 101/102.

St. Margaret's Prayer Circle

St. Margaret's Circle brought in the new year with their first meeting on January 17. Suzette Binek hosted this month's meeting at the church with a light lunch and the group continued to work on their Bible Study, "Living a Chocolate Life" by Deb Burma. Next month's meeting will be hosted by Monique Haskins at her home on February 14, Ash Wednesday, and Valentine's Day ❤️ If anyone is interested in joining St. Margaret, please contact Anne Benson at abenson0416@gmail.com.

RESCHEDULED Monastery of the Holy Spirit

Due to the inclement weather we experienced on January 12, our field trip to Conyers had to be postponed. I am happy to say that we have RESCHEDULED this trip for Friday, March 22, 2024.

We will meet in SMM parking lot at 9 AM. Please bring a snack or bag lunch with you, if needed, as the day will be 4-6 hours long. Carpooling may be available.

Please R.S.V.P to Suzette Binek, 724-513-0837 or suzettebinek@gmail.com NO LATER THAN MARCH 20.



SMM 25th Anniversary

Did you know that St. Mary Magdalene is turning 25 years old this year! As we begin this year, we will be embarking on a journey to celebrate our church's anniversary in a way that honors God, builds momentum and culture, encourages us to emulate St. Mary Magdalene's devotion to our Lord, and fosters a sense of belonging.

Our theme is St. Mary Magdalene: Redeemed by Love, Transformed by Faith.

There is a very small but mighty planning team that is coordinating the journey. To give you a sense of some of the activities planned, we will be having:

- Monthly local service opportunities
- 25 hours of adoration to start and end the celebration
- T-shirt/polo sales
- Special signage at the church
- Special prayer
- Commemorative Masses said by Fr. Dan and Fr. Joseph (our previous priests)
- Annual Parish Picnic with Commemorative Mass by Archbishop Hartmayer
- And more!

The best way to stay in the loop is to read the bulletin or look at the Events Section of the Parish website. If you want to help the planning team, please email Julie Keller at dkeller@numail.org. We are meeting once a month, and there are special one-time activities that we can use help with.



**St. Mary
Magdalene**
Catholic Church
25th Anniversary

Abby's Angels

My name is Cheri Hooper and I am representing Abby's Angels Foundation. I am excited to let you know that Abby's Angels Foundation has been chosen by the 25th anniversary committee as a local non-profit who will receive the generous help from parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene as part of the outreach celebrating this milestone in the parish.

Many of you probably know the Bacho family through Steve's affiliation as a Knight, or Natalie from the ministries of Faith Formation or Mercy Meals or perhaps you've met one of their daughters, Hannah or Charlotte, who have been participants in Faith Formation here. As some of you know on December 22, 2012, their family was involved in a wreck when a distracted teen driver ran a red light and hit their family vehicle, which resulted in Steve and Abby both being flown by helicopter from the scene. Sadly, Abby was removed from life support and donated organs to five different recipients on Christmas Day, 2012 while Steve was in a medically induced coma for 4 weeks. At the time of her passing, Abby was in the 4th grade and attended Faith Formation classes and had received her First Communion here. The Memorial Prayer Garden, was an eagle scout project by another member Hayden Haskins, that was inspired by his friendship with Abby and her family. Abby's family started Abby's Angels Foundation the following year to honor Abby and her loving spirit. All of the activities funded through the foundation represent things that were important to Abby and help with education and support in the community.

One of the earliest projects of Abby's Angels was to install "Abby's Closets" which are brightly decorated and inviting areas in local schools where students can visit and select any school supply they wish; whether the need is emotional or financial. Currently, we stock 54 Abby's closets including all schools in Coweta County and many more in several surrounding counties. These originated because Abby loved school and helping her fellow students.

Through a partnership with Fear This 4 Life, we offer Teen Accident Avoidance courses every month for students and a parent to give them hands on training for accident avoidance and safe driving techniques. Graduating seniors who have completed the course can apply for 1 of 6 \$1000 college scholarships given annually.

Also, on a monthly basis we provide funding for Kate's Club, which allows children age 5-18 to participate, free of charge in a grief support group for children who have lost a sibling, parent or primary caregiver. It also provides parent support.

And lastly, organ donation awareness is spotlighted throughout everything we do, to educate the community of its lifesaving importance.

The weekend of February 17 and 18, we will have tables set up in the narthex after the masses, to help anyone register to participate in the Rainbow Run race, or sign up to volunteer to help with several aspects of the race which will be held April 20, 2024.

Some ways you can help:

Help stuffing runner bags for registered runners

Help distribute runner bags at packet pick up the day before the race.

Help set up for the run the day before the race

Help staff the lawn games at the Family Fun Day

Help clean up and put away the games, signs and supplies from the race.

Participate in the run/walk held on April 20th. Come as an individual, a family, or a ministry.

If you aren't able to see us in the Narthex on February 17 & 18th, please reach out to me at cheri24hooper@gmail.com.



FEBRUARY 2024

Soul Core

We have an opportunity to pray the rosary in a wonderful way while exercising our bodies. The reflections in between the mysteries are beautiful and add so much to the prayerful time you are offering up to our Lord through His Blessed Mother. It is offered at Holy Trinity in person or you are able to open up the link below to do it virtually. Please reach out to Joyce Campisi at joycecampisi@gmail.com for more information.

SOULCORE is a movement that combines core strengthening, stretching & functional exercises with the prayers of the rosary; a sensory experience combining candlelight, music, scripture, reflections & movement to nourish body, mind & soul and encourage deeper meditation on the mysteries & virtues of the rosary. SoulCore is a movement all its own. It is not tied to or affiliated with any other exercise disciplines. SoulCore is not yoga, nor are yoga poses or Sanskrit referenced at any time.

SoulCore is an invitation to integrate body & soul in prayer, fully orienting the heart & mind toward Christ, while discovering the beauty of the rosary: A gentle path to grow in virtue, interior peace & strength.

Visit www.soulcore.com for more information.

2024 SoulCore 8 am Friday Dates: (mark your calendars now!)

LIVE in the St. Clare Room at Holy Trinity!!

Dates:

January 19th at 8 am February 2nd and 16th March 1st and 15th
April 5th and 19th May 3rd and 17th

Where: St Clare Room at Holy Trinity

When: 8 am orientation, 8:15 -9:15 am class

What to bring: exercise mat, water bottle, open heart. weights are optional.

If you want to participate virtually, see details below.

Zoom Link:

<https://idlife.zoom.us/j/97914821892?pwd=Q1hTRld6ZklkczhLMnhFUXdQdjNKUT09>

Meeting ID: 979 1482 1892 Passcode: ROSARY



SOULCORE

FEBRUARY 2024

Habitat for Humanity

Here are some wonderful service opportunities in our local area.

ReStore - As with last year, the ReStore team would love to host us the second Saturday of the month from 9:30 - 12:00. For those new to this ministry, the ReStore generates revenue enabling their mission to build, rehabilitate, and repair affordable homes in the Newnan/Coweta County area. Volunteer work includes sorting, organizing, and sometimes assembling merchandise in the store. Our next opportunity is February 10th for those age 14 and up. Please use this link to register:

Re-Store Volunteer Signup: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4DAAAF2BA3F49-habitat#/>

- Construction - the next three houses in the East Broad Estates Habitat development have broken ground. Many of you assisted in building the last two houses in 2023. Based on the great support SMM parishioners have provided, we have been provided up to 15 dedicated slots for April 6th (8:30 - 3:00). At this point, we're not quite sure what work will be needed on this date - it may range from painting to landscaping to carpentry. No experience is required; Habitat team leads are on sight to provide direction. Volunteers must be 16 and up - the signup link below can also be used to register. We would love to see a huge turnout from the SMM team as we continue to show our support for this important cause.

Construction Volunteer Signup: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4DAAAF2BA3F49-47358724-habitat>

As always - please share with others (parishioners or friends) who may be interested in joining. Feel free to contact me with any questions!

Jon Litzenberger

908-797-8567

jwlitzenberger@gmail.com



Elijah Cup - Pray for Vocations

Hello SMM family,

We have weeks available now through the winter for you and/or your family to bring the Elijah Cup home as a focal point to pray for vocations. Participation is easy!

What is the Elijah Cup program?

The Elijah Cup has its origins in the Old Testament, in 1 Kings 17, when Elijah tells a widow in the middle of a drought to make some bread for him with the last of her flour and oil. He promises that if she does this, it will not run out. For the next year the widow, her son and Elijah ate bread from those same small ingredients. They never ran out!

In the same way, we know God will always provide the holy men and women we need to serve the church in religious life. When we pray with the Elijah Cup, we pray for those discerning their vocations to the religious life. As we pray for those discerning their vocations we lift them up in prayer. We remember the promise of Elijah and the faith of the widow and know that God will provide holy men and women to answer His call and lead His church.

What do I do?

Use the signup genius link or QR code below to select the desired weekend and indicate the Mass you will attend. When you arrive at Mass stop by the sacristy to check in and pick up the box. At the end of Mass you will be called forward to receive the cup- take the cup home and pray! Return the Elijah Cup to (any) mass the following weekend.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4aafa728aa8-Elijah>






What if I have more questions?

Contact Jon & Laura Litzenberger: 908-399-6724 or laura.litzenberger@yahoo.com

Virtual Seminar - Human Trafficking

Please find information below about a free virtual seminar being held locally on the topic of human trafficking.

Together, let's make a difference in the fight against human trafficking. I am sure you have heard about situations in our own community where people are being followed and approached in Target, Ashley Park, etc. We invite you to attend a crucial virtual Human Trafficking Prevention Class on June 30.

 Date: June 30  Time: 9 am - 11 am  Location: Virtual Event

Join us to become more informed about this serious issue affecting our community. Attached is a flyer with details, and you can easily click this sign up link:

<https://forms.gle/P97tV6LWyoyPuQBr8> or scanning the QR code here



Your participation can contribute to building awareness and preventing human trafficking in Georgia and in Coweta County. Let's stand united against this injustice.

Jeanette Bryant
Coweta Family Connection, Coordinator
678-953-2494
cowetafamilyconnection@gmail.com



LEARN ABOUT:

- Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)
- Community resources available to victims
- Trauma, abuse, and victimization of children
- Warning signs that trafficking victims may display