

The Messenger

St. Mary Magdalene Council of Catholic Women, Newnan GA

Adoring Christ Like the Magi

On the Solemnity of the Epiphany, Pope Francis encouraged people to spend time in the presence of Christ in adoration, like the Magi. "Let us never forget this: the journey of faith finds renewed strength and fulfillment only when it is made in the presence of God," Pope Francis said in St. Peter's Basilica on Jan. 6, 2022.

"For this reason, let us not forget adoration, the prayer of adoration, which is not so common among us: to adore, in silence ... There, like the Magi, we will have the certitude that even in the darkest nights a star continues to shine," the pope said in his homily. The Solemnity of the Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the Magi — also known as the Three Wise Men or Three Kings — who came with gifts to worship the Child Jesus shortly after his birth.

In his live-streamed homily in 2022, Pope Francis said that the feast of the Epiphany is a moment to ask: "Where are we on our journey of faith? 'Have we been stuck all too long, nestled inside a conventional, external, and formal religiosity that no longer warms our hearts and changes our lives?' he asked.

"Do our words and our liturgies ignite in people's hearts a desire to move towards God, or are they a 'dead language' that speaks only of itself and to itself?"

Pope Francis suggested that the way to increase desire for God is to place oneself in his presence.

"God ... elevates our desires; He purifies them and heals them of selfishness, opening them to love for him and for our brothers and sisters. ... please let us not forget adoration," the pope said.

Pope Francis added that the pilgrimage of the Magi is an example for all who are called to journey towards Jesus.

"The journey of life and faith demands a deep desire and inner zeal. Sometimes we live in a spirit of a 'parking lot'; we stay parked, without the impulse of desire that carries us forward," he said.

"The Magi teach us that we need to set out anew each day, in life as in faith, for faith is not a suit of armor that encases us; instead, it is a fascinating journey, a constant and restless movement, ever in search of God, always discerning our way forward," the pope said.

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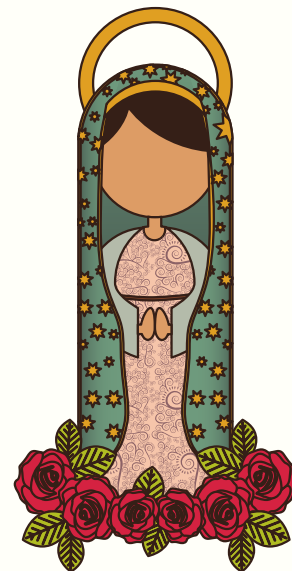
December CCW Memories

One of our newest members shared her thoughts with us about December's meeting that I think sums up the evening nicely. In Teresa's words, "I had the best time last night making new friends, having a delicious meal, and hearing a very inspirational speaker. Suzette, thank you for organizing this event. You are amazing! Until next time, have a Blessed and Merry Christmas. Jesus is almost here".

Our guest speaker was Cynthia Bennett, one of our very own parishioners, shared her passion with us about the Coweta County Meals on Wheels. We wrote postcards that will be shared with 250 meals on wheels clients. We also learned more about Our Lady of Guadalupe. Suzette shared an inspirational video with us that I've included in this article in case you were unable to attend the meeting.

<https://youtu.be/KEhjuCsDDsc?feature=shared>

A huge thanks goes out to all the ladies that helped to make our wonderful authentic meal, especially the homemade tamales from Marisela Hernandez and the taco meat from Monique Haskins.



JANUARY 2024

December CCW Memories

FIESTA!



JANUARY 2024

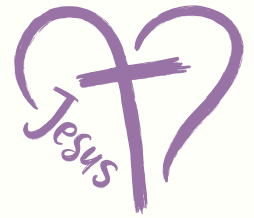
Bell Ringing Memories

We have some wonderful smiling faces to share with you. Thanks for all those that stepped up to help with our Salvation Army bell ringing service project. These photos truly made my day! A special thanks goes to Krystal Bugden, Amber Wehr, Judith and Mike Burton, the Haskins family, and to Joyce Campisi for opening up this service opportunity to us.



Thank You!





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-subs-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



Upcoming CCW Activities

Please save the date for our following upcoming activities:

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| 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 |
| Feb 1 | CCW Board Meeting, 11:30 AM, Room 101/102 |
| Feb 10-11 | CCW Bake Sale, after all Masses |
| Feb 21 | Midwest Food Bank Service Opportunity, 6:30-8:30 PM |

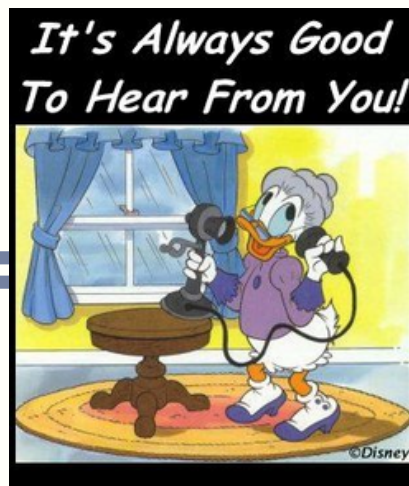


Use the following link to signup to assist with the Bridging the Gap Service Opportunity:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449ADA82DA20-46627789-bridging>

A link will be provided in next month's newsletter for the Midwest Food Bank day.

Original SMM Parishioner Memories

Are you an original SMM parishioner? Is your envelope number less than 400? If so, we would love to hear from you. Do you have photos and stories of the earliest days at SMM that you would like to share as part of our upcoming 25th Anniversary Celebration? If so, please contact Patty Kani at pkani1956@yahoo.com. We would love to hear from you!



CCW Poinsettia Success

By: Cheri Hooper

A huge shout out to all those who were part of our CCW Poinsettia fundraiser!

We were very pleased with number of orders from everyone and hope you were pleased with the beauty of the plants. Our new vendor was prompt and helpful and the new varieties of colors was wonderful.

It was a change this year, in that we had our delivery come on a Tuesday. But pick up was also a success, as all plants were picked up at the two pick up times.

Thank you to all the volunteers for your help, including narthex sales, unloading, sorting and handing out the plants. Also, to our volunteers who were flexible for the night pick up. It was a chilly, but very pretty day.

Keep on the look out for our SPRING flower sale, as this new vendor will have some new and exciting plants to pick from. We will keep you informed when we have the dates.



JANUARY 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.

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