

# The Messenger

St. Mary Magdalene Council of Catholic Women, Newnan GA

## Thoughts on Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday begins the 40 days of lent, a time when we remember that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert fasting and resisting temptation. The day before Ash Wednesday, known by many as “Shrove Tuesday” or “Fat Tuesday”, is a chance to feast and indulge – maybe even eat a pancake or two. We do this in preparation of our own fasting on Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent.

As Jesus grew hungry from fasting in the desert, he was faced with the first of three temptations. Satan appeared before him and told him to turn stones into bread. But Jesus resisted, knowing that he was being tempted to do something God did not want. He knew the word of God was just as important as bread to survival.

He was then brought to the top of a building in Jerusalem and told that, if he truly was the Son of God, he should jump from the building and angels would carry him to safety. Jesus once again resisted, knowing not to challenge God.

On the third temptation, Jesus was brought to the top of a mountain and told that all the kingdoms he saw would be his if he knelt before Satan. But Jesus resisted again, proclaiming that it is only right to give worship to God.

Just as Jesus faced temptations in the desert, we too face many temptations in our everyday lives. As we celebrate the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, I encourage you to think about how you can better yourself during this important time of the year.

Along with reminding us of our mortality, the ashes on Ash Wednesday are also symbolic of grief; grief from the sins we have committed. We may not always be able to resist temptation as Jesus did, but Lent provides an opportunity to reflect, pray and repent for our sins. In doing so, many people make sacrifices or commit to life changes throughout the 40 days of lent. It’s a time for spiritual fasting so that we can cleanse our souls and renew our faith as we prepare for the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

-- Father Scott Donahue

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MARCH 2025

## CCW Calendar

### MARCH

- 6 Board Meeting, 11:30 AM, SMM Room 101/102
- 7 CCW Sponsored Lenten Simple Supper & Stations of the Cross
- 7/8 Spring Plant Sale in the Narthex
- 15 Bridging the Gap Service Opportunity

### APRIL

- 2 Tulip Social (**NOTE NEW DATE**)
- 23 Midwest Food Bank Service Opportunity
- 30 Special Olympics Field Day Volunteer Opportunity

### MAY

- 1 Board Meeting, 11:30 AM, SMM Room 101/102
- 3 Bridging the Gap Service Opportunity

## Prayer Circles

### St. Agnes' Prayer Circle

St. Agnes Circle met on Tuesday, February 18th at 10 a.m. at SMM in rooms 101/102. Father Terry was our guest speaker and spoke about Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 18th at 10 a.m. at SMM in rooms 101/102. We will have Deacon Steve Swope as our guest speaker and he will speak on a topic of his choice. If you have any questions please contact Dee Heegan at 678-662-0071.

## Lenten Meal & Stations of the Cross

Please join the Council of Catholic Women in hosting a Lenten meal and narration of Stations of the Cross for our parish, Friday, March 7. The attached link is provided for our meal plan.

Please be mindful of all times in the Signup.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C45A9A629A1F49-51155024-lenten>



# SMM CCW SPRING PLANT SALE

**10" Hanging Basket Boston Ferns**

**10" Hanging Basket "Go Anywhere" Combo**

**10" Hanging Basket Geraniums**

Cost: \$20 Each



Geraniums

**12" Hanging Basket Macho Ferns**

Cost: \$35 Each



Boston  
Ferns

**14" Hanging Basket "Go Anywhere" Combo**

**14" Potted "Go Anywhere" Combo**

Cost: \$45 Each



Go Anywhere  
Combo

Orders will be taken in person in the Narthex after  
all Masses on March 7/8.

Plants can also be ordered online at  
[https://www.osvhub.com/st-mary-magdalene-cath-  
church-1/forms/smmccw-spring-plant-sale-2025](https://www.osvhub.com/st-mary-magdalene-cath-church-1/forms/smmccw-spring-plant-sale-2025)

All orders are due by March 12th.  
Deliveries are estimated to be between March 25th  
and April 4th.



Macho Fern



## SMM Service Opportunities

There are a few upcoming service opportunities that are being offered to all Parishioners. Minimum age is 10 years. All minors must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

### March 15th, 8 AM - 11 AM

Bridging the Gap, 19 1st Ave, Newnan, GA 30263

Dress is casual attire with closed toe shoes. We will be packaging and distributing food to approximately 130 families. We will be working in warehouse with limited heating as well as loading food into vehicles outside. Signup at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449ADA82DA20-55148319-bridging>

### April 23, 6 PM - 8 PM

Midwest Food Bank, 6 PM - 8 PM

Dress is casual attire with closed toe shoes. We will be repackaging food for distribution to food pantries. Signup at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449ADA82DA20-54823626-midwest>

### April 30, 8 AM - 1:30 PM

Special Olympics Field Day

Newnan High School Drake Stadium

Volunteers are needed to help run the field day games. Sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449ADA82DA20-54823626-midwest>

## Huge THANK YOU!

The Council of Catholic Women celebrated their 2nd Super Bowl Bake Sale February 8-9. Our ladies once again stepped up and created a bountiful array of scrumptious desserts. I am pleased to announce that every item was SOLD! Thank you to all who contributed your time in preparations and volunteers who helped after the masses. Our grand total in fundraising was almost \$800. These funds will be distributed back into St. Mary Magdalene ministries at the end of our year.

thank you



## Woman of the Year

Congratulations to our Woman of the Year, Julie Keller. She has been a member of St. Mary Magdalene since 1998. She has been involved in variety of ministries over the years including the Usher Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul, Mercy Meals, CCW, and the 25th Anniversary Committee. A recognition Mass was held on March 1st at Holy Spirit Catholic Church to recognize all honorees from parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Atlanta. The Most Reverend Gregory John Hartmayer, OFM Conv., was the principal celebrant for the Mass. A special thanks to all those that came to share in the celebration.



## April Tulip Social - April 2 (NEW DATE)



Join the CCW as we celebrate our 3rd and final social of the year. Our guest speaker will be our very own Welcome and Circle Coordinator, Teresa Barczak. Enjoy the evening listening to her very personal experience as we conclude our year of Women on a Journey. Light refreshments will be served. The CCW will also induct a few special ladies to continue serving our ministry for the next 2 years. Please let us know you'll be coming.

**Date/Time/Location: April 2nd,  
Wednesday, 7-9 PM, SMM Parish Hall**

Please RSVP at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C45A9A629A1F49-53997971-april>

