

# The Messenger

St. Mary Magdalene Council of Catholic Women, Newnan GA

## Christmas Eve Prayer

Christmas Eve is filled with anticipation. And distractions. A simple prayer before bed can be a nice way to close the day, refocus on the birth of Jesus and connect the day that's passed with the big upcoming celebration come morning.

The Christmas Eve prayer attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson, a Scottish poet and author from the 19th century, remains a popular choice:

Loving Father,  
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.  
Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift  
and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.  
May the Christmas morning  
make us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds  
with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven,  
for Jesus' sake.  
Amen.



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# CCW Calendar

## DECEMBER

- 2 CCW Christmas Social, 7 PM  
First Communion Crosses Service Project
- 6 Poinsettia Plant Pickup (Unless Inclement Weather)
- 14 Bridging the Gap, 8-11 AM
- 29 5th Sunday Rosary with KOC

## JANUARY

- 2 Board Meeting, Canceled
- 25 Women's Day of Service, 10AM - 3 PM, SMM

## FEBRUARY

- 6 Board Meeting, 11:30 AM, SMM Room 101/102
- 8-9 CCW Super Bowl Bake Sale

# Upcoming Events

## Christmas Social - December 2

Please join us as we gather again for our 2nd annual social of the year. Monday, December 2 @ 7pm in SMM Parish Hall, we will be gathering again to talk a little on CCW, begin working on a service project and have a Christmas Ornament exchange, but with a TWIST. Please bring a wrapped ornament, handmade or store bought, and get ready to have fun!!! Please use this link to let us know you'll be there. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C45A9A629A1F49-52027313-christmas>



## Nominating Committee

"A Few Good Women" are needed to help the CCW recruit our next group of ladies for the Board. Recruiting begins in January and continues through February and March. All that is necessary from you is the willingness to talk with your sisters in Christ about continuing the good works that the Council of Catholic Women do for our parish and community. More information about our organization can be found in this newsletter by revisiting a prior article written by Judy Williams. Please email Suzette Binek, [suzettebinek@gmail.com](mailto:suzettebinek@gmail.com), if interested.

## GRATEFUL FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS!



I would like to take a moment once again to thank all the ladies that have been instrumental in helping the Council of Catholic Women serve our parish. With our 25th Anniversary Picnic, Box of Joy Pack-a-Thon, SVdP Pumpkin Pie Bake and Donut Social, your good works of mercy have not gone unnoticed. GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU!

## Christmas Poinsettias Pickup Date

Please plan to pickup your poinsettias on Friday, December 6th from 3:30 - 6 PM by Annunciation Hall unless inclement weather.



DECEMBER 2024

# The CCW Explained

NCCW -AACCW -SMMCCW

Sounds like a pot of alphabet soup!

Remember when the women of the church were called the Altar Society, Rosary Ladies or Women's Guild. Some parishes still use those names. So why do we identify as the Council of Catholic Women? There are several layers to CCW, each having a board of directors, bylaws and governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

Let's start at the top.

NCCW - National Council of Catholic Women was formed in 1920. Yes, we are 103 years old. The U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops encouraged women to unite, join together and be in solidarity on Catholic women issues.

Their mission statement reads:

The National Council of Catholic Women acts through its members to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.

Over the years this organization has worn many hats. It has evolved into a working voice for Catholic women. At one time, as many as 6,000 Catholic Women would gather at a convention. NCCW has annual Conventions all over the country open to ALL. This year it was in Salt Lake City, Utah, and next year it will be in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

NCCW represents Catholic women (you and me) not only at USCCB Meetings, as well, represents Catholic women at the United Nations, and the World Union of Catholic Women (WUCWO). NCCW enjoys partnering with many other organization, among them Catholics Relief Services, Cross Catholic Outreach and most recently Catholic Charities. Membership is open to ALL Catholic Women. Members have access to many resources NCCW offers. Check out all platforms of social media FB, Instagram, twitter. Especially the most valuable <http://www.NCCW.org>. The website is a wealth of resources for personal growth and group programs, including spiritual and service projects.

Connecting women across the USA is done by first creating Provinces. A province director serves on the National Board and network's information to the Archdioceses/Dioceses throughout the country. We are United as Catholic women.

That brings us to

AACCW

In 1957 Atlanta was a diocese and Bishop Francis Hyland formally established the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

In 1962 Atlanta was elevated to an Archdiocese and was known as AACCW

(Atlanta Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women).

In 2005 Archbishop (now Cardinal) Wilton Gregory proclaimed that ALL women of the Archdiocese of Atlanta are members of Council of Catholic Women.

AACCW shares information received from the Province regarding programs, service projects and spiritual events.

AACCW follows the mission statement, bylaws and structure of NCCW.

The Archdiocese is sectioned into DISTRICTS, very similar to how parishes are divided. There are approx 125 parishes in the Atlanta Archdiocese. There are four districts that meet twice a year. Each district has approximately 25 parishes. SMMCCW is in The Southwest District There are numerous projects AACCW sponsors. Most recognizable is Women of the Year and Youth of the Year. Box of Joy is another project sponsored by AACCW. These projects are extended to the parishes. Some parishes choose not to participate.

In 2011 St Mary Magdalene's Women's Guild voted and chose to identify with Catholic Women around the archdiocese/nation thus becoming SMMCCW. We are proud to be a Council of Catholic Women affiliate and members of the NCCW. It has been through the efforts of several dedicated women of SMMCCW to keep an active group affiliated with the Archdiocese. They attend district meetings to learn of new programs and ideas to share with the women of the parish

At the same time, SMMCCW Circles were formed to give a choice of meeting times, to be inclusive of all women of the parish. Circles are named after saints chosen by the women in the circle. They meet once a month in fellowship with spirituality and service in mind. The circles are small groups of 8-12 women of diverse age coming together to share their friendship and faith. If you are not in a circle and would like to be, contact any board member listed in this newsletter and they will help you. Remember: Where two or more are gathered in my name, there am I. Mathew 18:20.

There is so much more information to add to these different levels of Council. It is most difficult to be concise in sharing my passion for Council of Catholic Women. I welcome any questions. call/text 706-473-8156

Email: [Jwilli5041@aol.com](mailto:Jwilli5041@aol.com)

I remain your sister in Council. Blessings to all.

Judy Williams.



## Nominations for “Woman of the Year 2025”

The Atlanta Archdiocese Council of Catholic Women invites each parish to select one OUTSTANDING woman to be recognized for their work in the parish and community.

During the months of December and January we are asking our members to submit their nomination(s) to the Council. This person should possess the qualities of dedication and commitment throughout their time registered at St. Mary Magdalene. Looking back, here is a list of the last decades recipients:

2024- Lois Bruning	2023- Kathy Holcomb	2022- Bev Darcy
2021- Laura Rodgers	2020- Diane Neely	2019- Phyllis Craig
2018- Mary Sprague	2017- Judy Crane	2016- Kathy Kelly-Huey
2015- Judy Maurer	2014- Marie Adams	2013- Marilyn Kemeza



Could you be St. Mary Magdalene’s next Woman of the Year? This special woman will be honored at the AACCW Annual Recognition Day Mass in the spring. Find out in February if it is you!

Please submit your nominations to [suzettebinek@gmail.com](mailto:suzettebinek@gmail.com) before January 31, 2025.

## SMM Service Opportunities

### Bridging the Gap, December 14th, 8 AM - 11 AM

19 First Avenue, Newnan, GA 30263

SMM will be helping to assemble food boxes and loading cars under the supervision of BTG team. Please wear closed toe shoes. Families are welcome. However, the minimum age is 10 years, and all children must be supervised by a responsible adult. Please signup using the link below if interested in volunteering.

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449ADA82DA20-48198774-bridging#/  
/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449ADA82DA20-48198774-bridging#/)



# Prayer Circles

## St. Agnes' Prayer Circle

St. Agnes Circle met Tuesday, November 19th at 10 a.m. at SMM in rooms 101/102. We had a pre-Christmas brunch celebration with yummy food, socializing and we did a Christmas craft. The room was decorated with festive decor. We thank Regina Walls for sharing the Saint of the month when she talked about Saint "Mother" Cabrini.

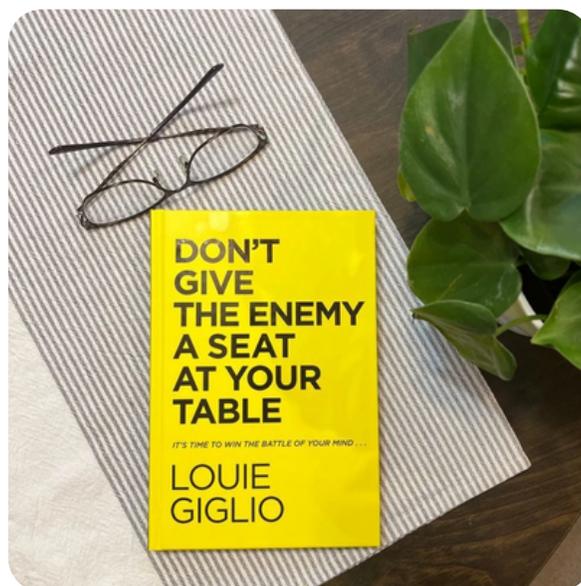
Our next meeting will be a lunch outing on Tuesday, December 3rd at 11 a.m. at Crosstown Grille located at 620 Crosstown Drive, Peachtree City.

If you have any questions, please contact Dee Heegan at 678-662-0071.

## St. Margaret's Prayer Circle

St. Margaret's Circle met at Anne Benson's house for November's meeting. We had lunch catered from Chipotle then talked about the first two chapters from our book *Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table* by Louie Giglio. In it he refers to Psalm 23:5-6, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies...surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Louie wrote that God will not only guide us and shepherd us through life, but will also protect and provide for us along the way. He speaks of having an "Even though/I will" faith because God is there with us through every hardship. He goes on to say the enemy wants to crush you. And to steal everything you value and everything that's good in your life. But we don't have to give the devil a foothold. We have been invited to an intimate relationship with the Almighty, and the enemy has not been invited to join.

Next month's meeting/luncheon will be held at Jamie Bowne's home at 11am. Please reach out to Anne Benson (669-864-3440) if you're interested in joining our group.



**SMM COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN**

# Made with Love

**Women's Day of Service**  
**January 25, 2025, 10 AM - 3PM**  
**SMM Parish Hall**

Please join us for a women's day of service as we handcraft thoughtful gifts for the First Communicants, RCIA students, Confirmation students, and our homebound parishioners.

Lunch will be provided.

Cost is \$15 per participant. Please register using the link or QR code below. Registration closes on January 21, 2025.

<https://www.osvhub.com/st-mary-magdalene-cath-church-1/forms/ccw-day-of-service-2025>



# We Are Blessed

It's been a busy fall. We hope you enjoy these few pictures from the Special Olympics, the 25th Anniversary Picnic, our CCW Pumpkin Pie Bake, and the Parish Donut Social.

Thankful  
&  
Blessed





## More Memories







## Pumpkin Pie Bake & Donut Social

