

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWSLETTER

December 2023

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Next Meeting:

**December 11
at St Jude**

Guild Officers

PRESIDENT:

Margo McCaul

VICE PRESIDENT:

Ellen Casale

SECRETARY:

Meg Hoover

TREASURER:

Michele Miller

DECEMBER MEETING - MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 6:00 (following the recitation of the rosary) IN THE HALL AT ST. JUDE

The December meeting will be our Christmas dinner. Reminder: if you will be participating in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift valued at approximately \$10 to place under the tree.

The dinner will be Honey Baked Ham and Turkey with sides, beverages, and a sheet cake for dessert.

THE FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 17 @ 4:00 pm at ST JUDE

PRESENTED BY ST. JUDE'S MUSIC MINISTRY

All are invited to attend this special Advent program. In this service there will be 9 Scripture lessons which recount the fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or supporting song and prayer.

After the program, light refreshments will be served in the hall. Please plan to attend this special event.

The Guild is also seeking donations of baked goods (cookies or brownies) for the refreshments.



CHURCH CLEANING

The pre-Christmas cleaning of St. Jude will be Tuesday, December 19 following the 9:00 am Mass (approximately 10:00 or shortly after). Please plan to help us make our space shine in preparation to celebrate our Savior's birth. Many hands make light work and it is a quick and easy time commitment.

Our mission is to unite all women of St. Jude and Immaculate Conception Parishes through Religious and Educational



SANTA MARIA CROCIFISSA DI ROSA
FONDATRICE DELLA CONGREGAZIONE
"ANCELLE DELLA CARITÀ DI BRESCIA"



No evil shall befall you, nor shall affliction come near your tent, for to His Angels God has given command about you, that they guard you in all your ways. Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

WOMEN OF FAITH—SAINT MARIA DI ROSA

The pounding on the barricaded door of the military hospital sent every heart thudding in terror. In the middle of the war in Brescia (Italy) in 1848, the wounded, sick, and those who cared for them knew what that pounding meant. The shouts from beyond the door came from soldiers, not obeying any command but their inner desire to destroy and plunder. Who could do anything to stop them? The only people here were some Sisters, the Handmaids of Charity, who devoted themselves to helping the sick. The doctors had not even wanted them there. The doctors wanted medical people who were secular and military, not nuns. And in the face of this new danger they were even more useless! Worse than useless -- because that Paula (as she was known) di Rosa was actually moving to open the door!

When the door swung wide, the soldiers saw their way blocked with a great crucifix held by Paula di Rosa and two candles held by two of the six sisters who stood by her. Suddenly their frenzy to destroy disappeared, and full of shame before this display of courage and faith, they slunk back into the shadows.

Throughout her life, Paula di Rosa was never afraid to open the door on a new opportunity to serve God, especially when she was unsure of what lay beyond. People who didn't know her well must have thought she was too frail and delicate for these ventures, but she came armed not only with her faith but boundless energy, intelligence, and hunger to serve.

Born in 1813, she had tackled enormous projects from the time she was seventeen, arranging retreats and special missions for her parish and setting up a women's guild. Because of all she accomplished, when she was only twenty-four she was asked to be supervisor of a workhouse for poor girls. After two years, she became concerned because there was no place for the girls to go at the end of the day. Night held special dangers for these girls and Paula wanted to give them a safe place to stay. The trustees refused to provide that place. For Paula the choice was easy -- she once said that she could never go to bed with a clear conscience if she had missed the chance to do some good. So she quit the workhouse to set up a boardinghouse for poor girls while helping her brother with a school for the deaf.

At 27 she stood before another door. She was appointed superior of the Handmaids of Charity, a religious society whose purpose was to dedicate all their time and attention to the suffering in hospitals. With her friends Gabriela Bornati and Monsignor Pinzoni, she won the respect of those who thought of these "handmaids" as intruders.

Then in 1848, her whole life seemed to fall apart. First she lost Gabriela and then Monsignor Pinzoni died, leaving her without the support and friendship she had come to depend on. War started in Europe and her homeland was invaded. Facing that kind of grief and turmoil, many others would have crawled into bed and pulled the covers over their head. But Paula had always seen opportunity in everything that came her way. War meant that many would be wounded and displaced by the war so she and her sisters went to work at a military hospital and even went out to the battlefield to give spiritual and physical comfort to the wounded and dying.

She died in 1855, going through the final door, unafraid and joyful to be joining her Lord forever. Her feastday is December 15.

In Her Footsteps: Mary di Rosa would go out at a moment's notice if she felt that someone needed her help. The next time someone you know needs your aid, don't put off helping and make excuses. Drop what you are doing and give them what they need.



Guild Book Club - Next Meeting & Book

Wednesday January 17 @ 2:00 pm @ St. Jude



A Catholic Christmas by Kathleen M. Carroll (the book highlights various feast days throughout the Advent and Christmas Season)

All ladies are invited to join

Everyone is invited to join the Women's Guild book club. We meet 5 times per year and read books with a Catholic/Christian/Religious theme. Usually we read a variety of fiction and non-fiction with a book concerning the Saints for our November discussion, a Christmas or Advent book for our January discussion, and a Lent or Easter book for our March discussion. Questions are sent out in advance (usually about 7 questions). We meet the third Wednesday of September, November, January, March and May at St Jude's at 2 p.m.

Remaining books for the 2023/2024 Guild Year:

March 20, 2024: *What Jesus Saw from the Cross* by Antonin Sertillanges

May 15, 2024: *The Rapture Trap, A Catholic Response to End Times Fever* by Paul Thigpen

If you have questions, please contact Laura Foussekis (lfoussekis@comcast.net) or Judy Kavanagh (momkavanagh@hotmail.com).

IC Yard, Bake, & Brunswick Stew Sale

and

St. Jude Bazaar & Bake Sale



Both events were a success. Many thanks to all who gave their time, talent, and donated items.

IC Results:

Yard Sale - \$2,968

Bake Sale - \$541

Brunswick Stew - \$2,913

Total - \$6,422

St. Jude Results:

Guild Crafts - \$943.75

Silent Auction - \$682

Kitchen - \$342

Raffles (Vendor & Quilt) - \$269

Bake Sale - \$690.50

JANUARY MEETING COLLECTION

We will be collecting donations of diapers and laundry detergent for the International Rescue Committee in Charlottesville at our January meeting on Monday, January 8. This will be our 11th year collecting items for the IRC. Most of the refugees in Charlottesville being helped by the IRC are family members of individuals who assisted our military in Iraq and Afghanistan. Larger sized diapers and small containers of laundry detergent or pods are preferred. Thank you in advance for helping to welcome these refugees as they adjust to living in their new home.

Birthdays of the Month

- 7 - Becky Thompson
- 13 - Ro Ayres
- 15 - Susan Coulter
- 19 - Bernadette Witham
- 29 - Judy Kavanagh



TEAM LEADERS

Team	Chair	Co-Chair
Advertising	Melissa King	
Bake Sale	Melissa King	Donna Gray
Banquet	Julie Phelps	Amber Harman
Book Club	Laura Foussekis	Judy Kavanagh
Christmas Bazaar	Connie Fuller	Donna Gray/Wendy Smith Shirley Willis—Silent Auction
Church Beautification	Kathleen Cunningham	Meg Hoover
Lenten Fish Dinners	Michele Miller	Julie Phelps
Martha & Mary Ministry	Jennifer Grimm	Lil Connor
Newsletter	Meg Hoover	
Refreshments	Connie Fuller	
Scholarship	Wendy Smith	
Sunshine/Guild Mass Cards	Mikee Thompson	
Yard Sale	Donna Gray	Sally Cool

For Guild Members Health & Healing:

Lavonne Simmons, Maria Mader, Mary Carole Weiner, Alona Wiedel; Sue Morlino; Sue Handrahan; Virginia Whitehurst; Lorraine Costello; Helen Winston; Cathy Austin

For Family & Friends Health & Healing:

Dawson Dholen, nephew of Billie Markowitz; Vern Balery, close friend of Billie Markowitz; Bess Haile, cousin-in-law of Jane Bono; Carson Ayres, Grandson of Ro Ayres; James Austin, father of Ann Moore and grandfather of Veronica and Victoria Moore; Jonathan Grimm, Husband of Jennifer Grimm; Judy Stenglein, friend of Sue Handrahan; Joyce Holley, friend of Sue Handrahan; Candy Ricketts, friend of Shelly Bocci; Cathleen Morgan, sister-in-law of Ellen Casale; Laura McCaul, mother-in-law of Margo McCaul

Repose of the Soul:

Sr. Vita M. Pierce IHM, friend of Sr. Carrine; Jennie Breeden, Mother of Jennifer Grimm; Rosalie Austin, mother of Ann Moore and grandmother of Veronica and Victoria Moore; Albert Anick, cousin of Karen Donnelly; Erni Heimberg

For additions or deletions to the listing; please send an email message to either:

megger1025@yahoo.com or lcladiesguild@gmail.com

12
Christmas
PRAYERS

Joy
May the joy of Christ be felt through us. **Luke 1:44**

FAITH
Increase our faith so we fully trust in Your promises. **Matthew 1:24**

LIGHT
May the light of Christ shine from within us. **Isaiah 9:2**

PROMISE
Thank you for the promise of eternal life through Jesus. **John 3:16**

SIMPLICITY
You came as a baby in a manger, help us find value in the simple things. **Luke 2:7**

GENEROSITY
Show us what gifts we have to offer and help us give them generously. **Matthew 2:11**

TOGETHERNESS
Thank you that the gift of Jesus makes us one family together in Christ. **John 1:12**

Love
Help us see ways to turn love into action this Christmas. **Matthew 25:40**

PEACE
May the peace of Christ cover the busyness of this season. **Isaiah 9:6**

GRATITUDE
Thank you for all of our blessings, not just the gifts under the tree. **Luke 1:49**

OBEDIENCE
Help us to be obedient to You even when we don't fully understand. **Luke 1:38**

HOPEFULNESS
Fill us with hope for the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ. **Daniel 2:44**

AMEN!

