

# WOMEN'S GUILD NEWSLETTER

February 2025

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE :**

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Women of Faith                 | 2 |
| Book Club                      | 3 |
| International Rescue Committee | 3 |
| Field Trip to Basicilla        | 3 |
| Birthdays                      | 4 |
| Guild Teams                    | 4 |
| Health & Healing               | 5 |

Next Meeting:

**February 10**

**Guild Officers**

**PRESIDENT:**

Margo McCaul

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Ellen Casale

**SECRETARY:**

Meg Hoover

**TREASURER:**

Michele Miller

## Guild Meeting

Our February meeting will be Monday, February 10. The regular recitation of the rosary in the church will be at 5:30 prior to our dinner and meeting. We will be welcoming fellow member, Becky Chidester, to speak about social ministry.

We are requesting donations of laundry detergent and diapers for the International Rescue Committee (IRC). The detergent should be small containers or laundry pods. Any size diapers are welcome with larger sizes (3-5) needed most. Laura Foussekis will deliver your generous donations. Please see page 3 for some information about the IRC.

Refreshments provided by ladies with the last name from **A** through **D**.

We hope to see you there.

## GUILD BAKE SALE - SUPER BOWL WEEKEND

**At St. Jude after Mass - Saturday, February 8 & Sunday, February 9**



Pies ~ Cakes ~ Breads ~ Cookies ~ Brownies ~ Sweet or Savory Treats

The Super Bowl is Sunday, February 9 and the date of the next Guild sponsored bake sale at St. Jude.

All donations are welcome. Please drop off your donations before either Mass (Saturday or Sunday). For questions or additional information, please contact Donna Gray at (H) 540-967-2173 or (M) 914-588-1654 or [dgray1984@gmail.com](mailto:dgray1984@gmail.com).

## LENTEN FISH DINNERS



Take Out only begins at 4:00 followed by Eat-In & Take Out from 4:30 – 7:00



SIX Dinners each Friday from March 7 to April 11

Help is always needed. Sign-ups will be available at the February Meeting.

Donations of baked desserts are needed each week. Please drop off any items at the parish hall beginning at 2:00 pm. The wonderful homemade desserts are the "icing on the cake" of a wonderful meal. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

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



**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 SCHOLASTICA

According to the 6th-century *Dialogues* of Gregory the Great, Scholastica was born c. 480 in Nursia, Umbria, of wealthy parents (Anicius Eupropius and his wife Claudia Abondantia Reguardati). While Gregory only states that Scholastica was Benedict's sister, a later tradition says she was his twin (whether this is meant biologically or spiritually, or both, is unclear). Gregory also says she was dedicated to God from a young age. She and her brother Benedict were brought up together until the time he left to pursue studies in Rome.

A young Roman woman of Scholastica's class and time would likely have remained in her father's house until marriage or entry into consecrated life. On occasion several consecrated virgins would live together in a household and form a community.

Benedictine history shows that Scholastica established a hermitage about five miles from Monte Cassino and that this was the first convent of Benedictine nuns. However, it is possible that Scholastica lived in a hermitage with one or two other consecrated virgins in a cluster of houses at the base of Mount Cassino where there is an ancient church under her patronage Monastero di Santa Scolastica. Ruth Clifford Engs notes that since *Dialogues* indicates that Scholastica was dedicated to God at an early age, perhaps she lived in her father's house with other religious women until his death and then moved nearer to Benedict.

The most commonly told story about her is that Scholastica would, once a year, go and visit her brother at a place near his abbey, and they would spend the day worshipping together and discussing sacred texts and issues.

One day they had supper and continued their conversation. When Benedict indicated it was time for him to leave, Scholastica, perhaps sensing that the time of her death was drawing near, asked him to stay with her for the evening so they could continue their discussions. Not wishing to break his own Rule, Benedict refused, insisting that he needed to return to his cell. At that point, Scholastica closed her hands in prayer, and after a moment, a wild storm started outside of the guest house in which they were staying. Benedict asked, "What have you done?", to which she replied, "I asked you and you would not listen; so I asked my God and he did listen. So now go off, if you can; leave me and return to your monastery." Benedict was unable to return to his monastery, and they spent the night in discussion.

Three days later, from his cell, he saw his sister's soul leaving the earth and ascending to heaven in the form of a shining white dove. Benedict had her body brought to his monastery, where he had it laid in the tomb which he had prepared for himself.

Scholastica is the patron saint of Benedictine nuns, education, and convulsive children, and is invoked against storms and rain. Her feast is celebrated on 10 February. Saint Scholastica's Day bears special importance in the Benedictine monastic calendar.

In iconography, Scholastica is represented in a Benedictine habit, often as an abbess, and holding the Rule of Saint Benedict, with a crucifix or an ascending dove.

Scholastica was selected as the main motif for a high-value commemorative coin: the Austria €50 'The Christian Religious Orders', issued 13 March 2002. On the obverse (head) side of the coin Scholastica is depicted alongside Benedict.



### **Guild Book Club - Next Meeting & Book**

**Wednesday, March 19 @ 2:00 pm @ St. Jude**

### ***Beautiful Eucharist* by Matthew Kelly**



The book is a collection of life-changing reflections about Jesus truly present in the Eucharist and wonderfully present in our lives.

***All ladies are invited to join - light refreshments will be served***

The book club meets on odd months from September through May. The club reads books with a Catholic/Christian/Religious theme. A variety of fiction and non-fiction books are selected. Questions are sent out in advance (usually about 7 questions). Meetings will be the third Wednesday of September, November, January, March and May at St. Jude's at 2 p.m.

The last book club meeting of this Guild year will be on Wednesday, May 21 at St. Jude. The book is *Tobit's Dog* by Michael Richard.

If you have questions, please contact Laura Foussekis (lfoussekis@comcast.net) or Bobbie Dorr (bobbiedorr1@gmail.com)

### **The Internation Rescue Committee (IRC)**

The IRC works in more than 40 countries and in 28 US cities to help people affected by humanitarian crises to survive, recover, and rebuild their lives. One city is Charlottesville, VA. Some statistics about the refugees who were settled in Charlottesville between November 2023 and October 2024 is that there were 69 cases (families) of 224 individuals. 53% were adults and 47% minors. Of the children, 73 are of school age and 33 are under the age of 5. 70% of the individuals are from Afghanistan. There were also several from Syria, Iraq and Congo. 84% of these families are self-sufficient within 240 days of settlement. The goal is for these families to integrate into American life and become citizens after 5 years. 53% of the individuals are here under the SIV program which means that they either assisted the American military as interpreters in Afghanistan or Iraq. Others are here as legal refugees which involves a multi-year application process.

### **Field Trip to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception**

**Saturday ~ February 22, 2025 via Bus from St. Jude**



The United States has long been considered the great melting pot, where people from many diverse lands have come to dwell. The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is proud to reflect this rich heritage of America.

Home to more than 80 chapels and oratories honoring the Mother of God and representing peoples from every corner of the globe, the National Shrine reflects the ethnic and cultural diversity of the United States and the unity and universality of the Catholic Church.

Built by generations of faithful American Catholics to honor the patroness of our nation—the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception — the National Shrine is affectionately referred to as America's Catholic Church.

Among the nationalities and ethnicities represented throughout the Basilica are African, Austrian, Chinese, Cuban, Czech, Filipino, French, German, Guamanian, Hungarian, Indian, Irish, Italian, Korean, Latin American, Lebanese, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Slovak, Slovenian, and Vietnamese.

Religious communities from around the world are also represented, including the Augustinians, Carmelites, Claretians, Dominicans, Franciscans, Jesuits, Montfort Missionaries, Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Redemptorists, Salesians, Sisters of Charity, Sisters of Providence, and Vincentians.

**Birthdays of the Month**

- 6 - JoAnn Emmel
- 12 - Marijane Lazzaro
- 18 - Laurie Kane
- 19 - Connie Fuller
- 20 - Lillian Conner
- 27 - Sue Hennegan



**TEAM LEADERS**

| Team                      | Chair           | Co-Chair  |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Advertising               | Laura Foussekis |   |
| Bake Sale                 | Donna Gray      | Sally Cool  |
| Banquet                   | Julie Phelps    | Amber Harman  |
| Book Club                 | Laura Foussekis | Bobbie Dorr   |
| Christmas Bazaar          | Connie Fuller   | Donna Gray/Wendy Smith<br>Shirley Willis—Silent Auction |
| Church Beautification     | Joan Kelly      | Kathleen Cunningham                                     |
| Lenten Fish Dinners       | Michele Miller  | Julie Phelps  |
| Martha & Mary Ministry    | 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; Ellen Casale; Cathy Austin; Laurie Kane; Mary Ann Ptasznik; Marilyn Gutekenst; Ro Ayres; Diana Rivera; Sr. Carrine Etheridge; Shirley Willis; Joan Kelly

For Family & Friends Health & Healing:

Patrick Noto, husband of Karen Muelhauser; Greg Tynes, friend of Becky Chidester; Margit Mertiny, sister of Ursula Canada; Bruno Noto, father-in-law of Karen Muelhauser; Alene Arvin, sister of Mikee Thompson; Debbie Brassard, sister-in-law of Sandy Brassard; Joe Starkey, friend of Becky Chidester; Linda Phelps, sister-in-law of Julie Phelps; Alice Hensley, Mary Adams, & Nancy Lloyd, cousins of Karen Donnelly; Cathleen Morgan, sister-in-law of Ellen Casale; Marian Green, sister of Judy Kavanagh; Dan Russell, husband of Jane Russell; Lizzie Gregor, daughter of Robin Edwards and granddaughter of Wendy Smith; Sigrid Gastoukian, mother-in-law of Ann Gastoukian; Ethan, a friend of Billie Markowitz; Janine Broadhurst, sister of Shelly Bocci; Chip Broadhurst, brother-in-law of Shelly Bocci; Candy Ricketts, family friend of Shelly Bocci; Grace Kopf, daughter-in-law of Maureen Kopf a member of the choir; Rita Schalk, sister of Ellen Casale; Ron Brassard, husband of Sandy Brassard

Repose of the Soul:

Kathie Fridley; Grant Adkins, brother-in-law of Ro Ayres and Julie Phelps; Ann Marie Worosz; Patricia Martin, the daughter of a friend of Ursula Canada; Kris Horton, cousin of Laura Foussekis; Vicki Ashwell, friend of Michele Miller

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

[megger1025@yahoo.com](mailto:megger1025@yahoo.com) OR [lcladiesguild@gmail.com](mailto:lcladiesguild@gmail.com)

