

## MARY & MARTHA NEWS

Dear Ladies,

*Spring is in the air!*

My sincere wishes for a blessed and happy Mother's Day to you and all the Moms in your lives!

Let's dedicate this issue of Mary and Martha News to *Our Blessed Mother*. Close to 100 of our members and Parishioners gathered with Monsignor Harris, Sister Mary Cecile and some of our First Communicants last Sunday to honor Her. 'Tis the month of our Mother! Look for photos from the May Crowning, sprinkled at the end of the newsletter.

We have completed our cycle of meetings for the period of September through May. It has been a pleasure, and I thank each of you for supporting me and the Board Members these past months. Special thanks to our Board Members who have stepped up so often.



Martha Faller Becht, SC Catholic Woman of the Year , crowned the statue image of Our Lady on Sunday, May 7.

As things gear up for the Spring Deanery Meeting and Retreat next Saturday, I've prepared my Affiliate report on our activities. Within this issue, I've shared that report, a little early, with you as well. **Your** time – talent – and treasure , for sure!

We are looking forward to the summer months, with the Birthright Baby Shower and the Birthright Tea Room Luncheon, both in July. Also, we are looking forward to some fun at the Women to Women gathering in August. Look for more details on these events.

Happy May! Happy Summer!  
In Christ, Julie

*The Saint Joseph Women's Society*

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# Prayer Requests

Our prayers are so important, and the needs are ongoing. Thank you for keeping family and friends and SJWS sisters close in your hearts.

- For the members of our St. Joseph Women's Society, for a blessed and happy Mother's Day!
- For "Miss Millie", Mother of Gwen Skipper, who just entered the Prisma Heart Hospital today, that she recovers soon.
- For Anne Marie Andrieski's son-in-law, who is undergoing treatment for prostate cancer.
- In thanksgiving for our "Food for the Bereaved" groups.
- For Leslie Michael, who has been very ill.
- For Mark Nix, our prayers in support of his battle with cancer.
- For Mitch Michaelis who is recovering from cardiac surgery.
- For John Rotureau, who is preparing for cardiac related surgery to eliminate atrial fibrillation.
- For Pat Atkins, who remains in Nursing Care.
- For Sister Mary Cecile, in appreciation for her friendship and example to each of us.
- For Maggie Witkoski. We just learned of her death on March 30.
- For Sheila Cooper who has recently had surgery.
- For all the families who have lost loved ones and for all the dear ones who have died. May eternal rest be granted unto each of them.
- For all intentions which remain unspoken.
- For the dignity of all human life. May we work together, despite our differences, to truly appreciate God's great gift of life, from conception to the grave.
- For the healing of individuals named in our weekly SJ bulletin, who are shut- in or sick.
- Specifically too, for Monsignor Harris and Father Frei, for all things good as they shepherd us.
- For the Seminarians of the Diocese of Charleston, for good grades, perseverance, and a growing love to serve and shepherd the Catholics in our Diocese.
- For the men preparing for the Diaconate, with special affection for Mr. Jerry White, of our Parish.
- For any and all sisters, and family, who need our prayers, or who may have been inadvertently omitted here.

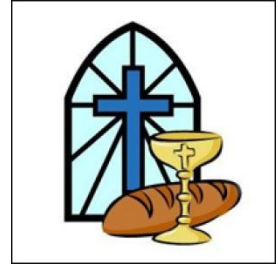
Add Your Prayers Here.....

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## MASS INTENTIONS

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- May 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 am Mass, for Ala Sledzinska, sister of Teresa Chmura
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:30 pm Mass, for Louise Cunningham, member and sister of  
Ann Funderburk (date was rescheduled)
- June 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 am Mass, for Monica DeHihns Rook, sister of Mary Lu Dalton

*May their soul and all the souls of our faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.  
If ever you notice a misprint or omission, please bring this to our attention.*

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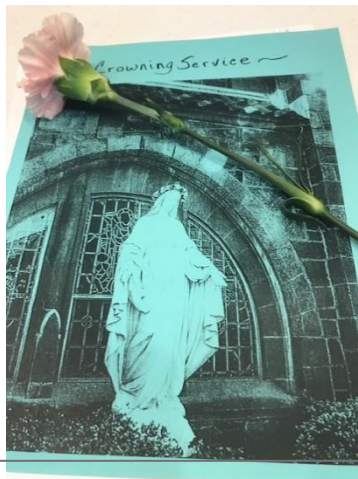
## Tea Time



Planning for the Birthright *Tea Room Lunch* hosted by St. Joseph Women's Society, has begun. Like most events, lots of input makes for a great outcome.

Everyone can help in some way. Be a part of the team and invite a friend. We began signing up at the May meeting. Contact me if you would like to help and/or offer a suggestion. Gwen Skipper 803-603-8419

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# Columbia Deanery Report

## St. Joseph Women's Society

January 1, 2023 – May 15, 2023

Submitted by Julie Rotureau, President, St. Joseph Women's Society

- Our members continue to participate in a number of ministries:
  - An outreach ministry called “Smile Kits”. Monthly, 20 members sent cards and or emails to other members who are not able to attend a meeting or recovering from illness, etc.
  - Many members continue to be signed up with Birthright Prayer Warriors. We receive we receive frequent emails from Birthright with specific prayer requests for mothers-to-be who are struggling physically or emotionally with their pregnancies or other circumstances. We pray for them for God to guide them through to solutions for their families.
  - Masses were requested for deceased family members and SJWS members who have died.
  - Our “Food for the Bereaved” continues. We have three groups of ladies who take turns providing for this ministry. Funerals are followed by a lunch or refreshment reception, in Donor Hall of our Ministries Building. In cooperation with Monsignor and staff, we provide, in many cases, the meal itself. We also set up, serve, and clean up, in order for the families to have that quality time with extended family. If preferred, the meal is delivered to the home of a family member instead. We have three groups of ladies who take turns providing for this ministry.

Presently, we have a committee embarking on expansion of our Bereavement ‘program’. We hope to add parishioners who are not necessarily members of our Affiliate. We hope to establish a fourth group, and enlarge the existing three groups.
  - We followed Legislative activity through the email promptings from the Diocese of Charleston. Our Legislative Chairwoman keeps us abreast of time sensitive issues.
  - The SJWS continues to have members serving on the Affiliate, Deanery and State levels, fulfilling the duties in various offices or commissions.
  - Our members clean the church weekly and also wash and press the altar linens. We either replace worn altar linens, or one of our members, who sews, makes the new linens.
  - Several members participate in the parish rosary making ministry. At least annually, we make a monetary gift to help defray their cost of shipping and/or to replenish the guild's supplies. We attribute this to our international outreach.
  - Quite a few members volunteer at Clean of Heart. We support our Sisters and the staff at Clean of Heart with collection drives for their clients' needs. We just began collecting items needed especially due to the hot weather.
  - Other members also volunteer at Birthright, and the St Vincent de Paul Pantry. Some serve as Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors, and participate in Adoration.
  - Several members serve the Bereaved by assisting at funeral Masses. We are purchasing a new pall for the parish as soon as Monsignor makes the selection.

As a body, we were very active also:

- This past January, we held our Annual Meeting and Luncheon. We centered our focus on our Diocese of Charleston Seminarians, and invited Seminarian Daniel Perry to be our Guest

Speaker. We also invited our Youth to help us as greeters, table escorts and dessert servers. A part of the luncheon ticket fee was allocated as gift to the Diocesan Vocations Office, and given for use to fulfill Seminarians' needs. We were able to donate \$ 400.00

- Nine of our members attended the SCCCW Annual Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC. Our Affiliate's Catholic Woman of the Year, Martha Faller Becht, who went on to be named the Columbia Deanery CWOY, was named as the SCCCW Catholic Woman of the Year.
- We collected items for Catholic Charities – Clean of Heart at our February meeting, which was themed “Share the Love” A large quantity of much needed items was collected. As well, donations of gift cards were given.
- For Lent, we hosted a Retreat on a Sunday afternoon, and invited the women of the parish. The Retreat, led by Sr. Mary Cecile Swanton, was entitled "*Joy Comes with the Dawn (A Catholic Perspective on Suffering and Pain)*". It was well attended and enjoyed by all there.
- Also during Lent, we, we took our turn and hosted the “Soup Supper” for the Parish on March 31. Various meatless soups, breads and drinks were provided and served. Quite a few of our members cooked, set up, served and cleaned up.
- As is tradition, our members decorate the Church for Easter.
- On May 7, we honored our Blessed Mother. We attended Mass together, and then, led by Monsignor Harris, processed to the Rose Garden for a prayer service which included the Crowning of the Statue Image of Our Lady. Our SC Catholic Woman of the Year, Martha Becht, held the honor of crowning Her. We invited all members of the Parish. A total of approximately 100 attended, including several First Communicants.
- Two members hosted a reception for scholarship recipients and their families. These students attend St. Joseph School.
- We distributed funds raised this past year. The Outreach donations, totaling \$ 2,500, were made both locally, and internationally. We supported Mr. Jerry White, who is a Deaconate Candidate, and is a member of our Parish. Also we sent gifts to St. Clare's Home in Greenville, SC, Lighthouse for Life, in Columbia, SC, and to the late Msgr. J. Donald Gorski's longtime Mission in Zorritos, Peru.
- We are currently collecting specific items for Catholic Charities-Clean of Heart, dropping off at the Parish Office. This effort includes toiletries, small canned foods, and certain clothing.
- We've completed some “housekeeping items”, to include an inventory of our linens, an updating of our Telephone Tree.

We look forward to summer events and returning to a regular schedule in the fall.

**St Joseph Women's Society**  
***Interest Form and Membership Form***

For more information, please visit our website at [www.stjosephcolumbia.org](http://www.stjosephcolumbia.org)

To contact us, please send email to  
[womensociety@stjosephcolumbia.org](mailto:womensociety@stjosephcolumbia.org)

Or, simply fill out this information, drop it in the collection plate during Mass,  
or mail it to the parish office at *3512 Devine Street, Columbia, SC 29205*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How may we contact you?

Phone (cell no.): \_\_\_\_\_ Is receiving a text message OK? \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home no.): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address:  \_\_\_\_\_  
(we send info directly to you and/or to the SJWS Email Group on Flocknote)

Or:

Mail:  "Yes, I'd prefer receiving correspondence at the above address"

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 YES, I am ready to join the Women's Society now. I am including the 2023 DUES of \$25 (annually).

I'm already a member, renewing my membership for 2023. I am including the 2023 DUES of \$ 25 (annually).

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