

MARY & MARTHA NEWS

A Message from the President....



On August 15, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Holy Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Just this past May, we were celebrating the month of Mary, Our Mother. We now find ourselves looking forward to the Assumption. How glorious God is to take His Mother to Heaven and give us a foretaste of things to come!

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I hope that each of you has enjoyed some restful time during this hot, hot summer.

As we celebrate LIFE, with the Supreme Court overturning of Roe vs Wade, we are just days past our outreach work for Birthright of Columbia! I am so very proud of the work accomplished by Gwen Skipper and her committee of planners, cooks, and helpers! Shout out to Hilde Meisner for managing the Baby Shower! Terry Hodaly, Director of Birthright of Columbia, was delighted as well, for the results directly help their clients – the mothers and babies who so need some assistance. Please look forward to reading more within this issue!

Also, this issue of "Mary and Martha News", intends to gear us up for new beginnings with our next body of work in *Spirituality, Service and Leadership*, beginning with "Woman 2 Women, Last Call Before Fall". On August 4, we RELAX! We host an evening of fun, refreshment and fellowship. Led by Maria Carrero, the past two events have been very successful. Moving to this third time hosting, we look forward to seeing everyone! Look for details in the church bulletin, within this issue and online in social media.

In September brings us to our will kick-off meeting of the 2023-2024 cycle. The Board members are working to make this year both fruitful and enjoyable! Immediately following this meeting, we will host the Columbia Deanery for the quarterly meeting on September 25th. At this time, we will be with our Sisters from St. Martin de Porres, Corpus Christi, and Our Lady of the Lake, and those who are individual members. Look for more details!

Hoping to see you on August 4, and asking God's blessing on you and yours.

Julie

The Saint Joseph Women's Society

We are friends in faith who share the Gospel, serve the parish, community, and world; and mold strong Catholic women leaders. Celebrating 74 years of service to St. Joseph parish and the community (1948-2022)

Dear Sisters in Christ,

What a wonderfully busy summer we have had so far! Pretty soon we will begin our monthly meetings BUT before that we will celebrate the end of summer with.....

WOMAN2WOMAN

Last Call Before Fall!

OPEN TO ALL LADIES OF THE PARISH!

Thursday, August 4, 2022 from 5-7 pm at Donor Hall-MAB

JOIN US FOR Refreshments, Fellowship, and Fun!

Come visit with old friends and make new ones!

Looking forward to seeing you!

**Blessings to all,
Maria Carrero**

Legislation-Gwen Skipper

It was great news the day the Supreme Court overturned Roe vs Wade. The value of individual life was elevated. While this was great news, it was really only a first step. The many individuals that believe that abortion is necessary to women's healthcare need to have a change of heart to truly grasp that the life of the fetus is precious. The work of the Catholic Community as well as government agencies is to make these women and men know that their life is just as precious.

The Diocese has established **bornforthis.life (Charleston, SC)** to assist in this effort. Born For This Life is a central resource hub to empower and mobilize Catholics in South Carolina to love and serve others, as Christ first loved us. The vision is to build a culture of life that supports women, offers care for the unborn, and provides resources to build families. Check out the website for resources and action items.

A free Born for this conference is being sponsored by Family Life and Respect Life ministries on September 17th, from 9-12 at Cardinal Newman High School. A great way to begin taking action would be to attend this conference. For more information contact <https://charlestdiocese.org/family-life/>

On the government side the national House of Representative have passed HR8296. This bill virtually make abortion legal for any reason at any point in pregnancy. Please let your Senator know to vote no on this bill if it gets to the floor of the Senate.

In SC, the story is more positive. By a 9-3 bi-partisan vote, the SC House Ad Hoc Committee made its recommendation yesterday to limit abortion and protect the lives of the unborn and their mothers. The legislation provides that all unborn lives are to be protected, with a limited exception for situation where the life of the mother is at risk. In addition, criminal penalties for violation of this law are limited to the abortionists, and not the mother of the unborn child. Watch for information of this recommendation becoming a bill. Sign up to receive notices from SC Catholic Conference.

From your Treasurer: I hope you are all having a wonderful summer. I am still collecting dues for the 2022 year and if anyone is wondering if they have paid or not, please ask me and I will check on it for you.

All About Mary: In the wake of the overturning of Roe vs. Wade, I thought I would do an article on Our Lady of Guadalupe as she is the patroness of pregnant women, but I came upon this article about a chapel in Brooklyn, NY dedicated to the unborn child. It was written several years ago but feel it is very appropriate today. May God Bless all the unborn babies.

Mother of the Unborn

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2011

The Chiaroscuro Foundation recently released New York City abortion data by zip code in the form of a [map](#). Since it took us a while to have the map developed, we have actually had the data for some time. As we thought about it and discussed it, it occurred to us that the zip codes with particularly low abortion rates were perhaps even more interesting than the zip codes with particularly high rates. We wondered why some zip codes, such as 11219 in Brooklyn, came in substantially lower than many other parts of the city. We decided to see if we could find anything interesting in some of these places.

So I searched for a Catholic church in 11219 and found Regina Pacis. I contacted the pastor, Msgr. Marino, and asked to meet. When I arrived the following Monday morning, I drove around the neighborhood a bit before going to the church. It isn't a terrible neighborhood, but it isn't a well-to-do neighborhood either. With such a low abortion rate, I had expected it to be somewhat more upscale. As I arrived at the church, I was even more curious than before about what Msgr. Marino might think of the low rate of abortion in his neighborhood.

And then I saw it: the Chapel of Mary Mother of the Unborn.

It all started in 1989, when Msgr. Marino was parochial vicar at Regina Pacis. He went to have dinner with a cousin upstate who had married a Jewish woman. The conversation turned to abortion, and things got so heated between Fr. Marino and his cousin's wife that she asked him to leave. On his way home, he was heartbroken to think that he, a Catholic priest, was unable to defend the Church's teaching on abortion adequately, even among family. He thought and prayed about it for days, and eventually came up with the idea of developing a response that would not be anti-abortion, but pro-life: a devotion to the Blessed Virgin, Mother of the Unborn.

After being treated a bit dismissively by his pastor and his bishop, Msgr. Marino got official recognition for the title of Mary Mother of the Unborn from Rome. He wrote a prayer and had it approved by his bishop, found a statue, and converted the old baptistery at Regina Pacis into the chapel of Mary Mother of the Unborn. And so it began.

Next to the statue, which is perched atop the baptismal font, is the Book of Life: prayers written for women who are expecting; couples who are having a hard time conceiving; couples mourning the loss of an unborn child through miscarriage; women mourning their abortions; parents wrestling with the anguish of an adverse prenatal diagnosis; mothers, fathers, grandmothers giving thanks for safe delivery. Nearly seventy large books have been filled with handwritten prayers since 1989. The walls are adorned with pictures of babies born in answer to prayer to Mary Mother of the Unborn. Every year, on the Feast of the Annunciation, Msgr. Marino brings the statue up to the church and blesses all the pregnant women of the parish, all the newborns, and all those mourning the loss of a child.

Occasionally women considering abortion come to Msgr. Marino, and he gives them his best counsel.



When he senses that he has done all he can, he often takes the woman to the chapel and leaves her there. He tells the story of a couple who discovered by ultrasound that their child had not developed any arms at all and who were considering aborting him for that reason. He feared he had been unable to persuade them to carry the child to term and left them at the chapel, dejected. Several months later, they returned to present to him a child – born with two fully developed arms.

There she was, Mary Mother of the Unborn, right in the middle of a zip code with one of the lowest abortion rates in the city, in the middle of a cluster of zip codes with relatively low abortion rates. After two years working in the pro-life movement in New York City, I had never even heard of her. I hope

some of you have and that many more will. Perhaps it is a devotion for our time, certainly for this city.

Mary, Mother of the Unborn, pray for us:

O Mary, Mother of the Unborn,
protect the gift of human life which your
Divine Son has allowed to be given.
Give strength and joy to all parents as
they await the birth of the precious
child they have conceived.
Give courage to those who are fearful,
calm those who are anxious and guide
all of us, with your motherly care, to
treasure and protect the miraculous gift
of human life.

We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Upcoming Important Dates for Your Calendar:

- August 4 Women2Women, Last Call Before Fall
 - Open Invitation to the Ladies of the Parish
 - 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM, Ministries and Admin Bldg, Donor Hall
- August 27 Funeral Reception for Parishioner Maria Suarez.
 - Therese Dionne's Bereavement Group to host
- September 18 Monthly Meeting
 - Open Invitation to the Ladies of the Parish
 - Starts promptly at 1:30 PM, Ministries and Admin Bldg, with a light lunch; advance thanks to Shawn Giese's Hospitality Group
- September 25 Meeting of the Columbia Deanery of Catholic Women
 - SJWS hosting the site and the lunch
 - Starts promptly at 1:30 PM, Ministries and Admin Bldg,
 - Gwen Skipper, Deanery President, is presiding
 - Sign Up for Lunch coming out soon

Congratulations!



To Ann Sakara and Family

Ann is a Great Grandmother! Ezra McDaniel was born May 30, 2022, He weighed 10 lb and measured 22 ½". His Grandparents, Michael and Debbie, just celebrated their 29th Wedding Anniversary. Ann's other son, James, is in California. He does civilian work for the Nave, and was recently sent to Australia to work on launching systems for missiles on ships!

Mass Intentions - Dates for Your Calendar

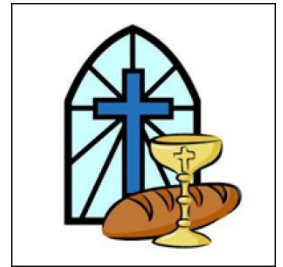
August

24th @7:30 am –for **Betty Procko**, member of SJWS

September

11th @ 8 am – for **Harold Stephens**, brother of **Barbara Williams**

25th @ 12:15 pm–for **Margaret Cecilia Schum** (Mother of **Mary Ann Powell**)



May their souls 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.

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 Mary Jo Cavanaugh for an easy recovery from right reverse shoulder replacement surgery (June 28); and for her sister, Barbara, in Buffalo, who has been diagnosed with ALS-Lou Gehrig's Disease.

For Teresa Chmura. for comfort during medical treatment for breast cancer.

For Gwen Skipper, who underwent shoulder surgery just a few days ago.

For Beverly Stricklin, who has been dealing with health issues.

For Maria Carter, who is in Nursing Care, that she know we are praying for her.

For Maria Carrero's brother Gerardo, for Gwen Skipper's sister, Phyllis, for Pat Wgernowski's sister, who are dealing with cancer, and who all continue to need our prayers.

For "Aunt Pat" Atkins, who is improving, and who has move to rehab.

For Allison Corbett who is in hospice, suffering from a rare brain cancer. Please include Allison's husband, Jim, and their two children in your prayers as well.

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 sick or shut in.

For any and all sisters who need our prayers, or who may have been inadvertently omitted here.

From June, Sip 'n Paint

Great fun was had by all at the Sip 'n Paint Event, on the 8th! Many thanks to our hosts, Pat and John Wegrzynowski, to our Teacher, Wanda Williams, and to our Coordinator, Maria Carrero! (not pictured, Pat and John, and Maria)



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Happy 59th Anniversary to Deacon Malcolm and Gwen Skipper, who just celebrated on Wednesday July 27, 2022



A Chat with Terry Hodaly About Birthright of Columbia

Contributed by Nicole K. Christopher

As the Angel Gabriel told Mary ‘Do not be afraid,’ Birthright of Columbia has been reassuring women for over 40 years that there is hope for an unplanned pregnancy.

When a woman enters Birthright of Columbia, she is welcomed by a friendly staff, including a former client, who is trained to assist with a crisis pregnancy. A prospective client is allowed to take a free pregnancy test, a unique service that many local clinics do not provide and one that Birthright proudly stands by.

Photos of former clients and their newborn babies are adoringly featured on the historic walls. Beautifully organized, is a room for clients to choose clothing, handmade blankets, books and toys, etc.

“All of our services are free to our clients— pregnancy tests, Parenting classes, maternity and baby clothes, just to name a few.” Terry Hodaly, Executive Director of Birthright of Columbia said.

According to the Columbia chapter’s website, a financial donation of \$100 covers the cost of nearly 40 pregnancy tests or pays for a client to complete their GED.

Donated items are not required to be new. Gently used items are acceptable. Due to liability, car seats are not provided, however, Hodaly explained how financial donations, such as those received from the St. Joseph baby shower events, can provide much needed items to our expectant moms. Those clients who complete our video training series receive a \$100 gift card to a baby store. This helps offset the cost of higher ticket items such as car seats and cribs.

The 2022 Tea Room Luncheon fundraiser hosted by St. Joseph Women’s Society raised nearly \$2,700 for Birthright of Columbia, plus another \$ 535 from in-kind donations for food and recipe book favors.

Birthright, an international organization, has four chapters in the state of South Carolina. Staff members evaluate the needs of their clients with an intake assessment process. Birth parents may attend regular appointments at the Columbia branch. Birthright does not discriminate against any pregnant woman because of her financial or marital status or religious beliefs.

Hodaly said Birthright’s Ministry is to strengthen individuals so they are better equipped to take care of their baby during and after pregnancy with local resources and referrals.

“Our purpose is to offer hope and help to women who are facing a crisis pregnancy,” she said.

Virtual parenting classes, free of charge, are one of the newly added services that Birthright provides. GED completion assistance is available to not only expecting mothers, but also the birth father. Birth fathers are also able to receive services from Birthright, such as resources and referrals for job assistance, and legal and financial services. The staff will also assist clients with completing a Medicaid application and referrals to a physician’s care.

St. Joseph Women’s Society and its parish members have supported Birthright of Columbia with the Birthright Baby Shower since 2013. This donation project has blossomed into an annual luncheon, becoming a tradition among many patrons in the Columbia community. Most importantly, every item and dollar donated during the campaign is given back to Birthright of Columbia.

“I think the Tea Room is a great fundraiser, because not only does it allow the ladies to get out and socialize, but then all proceeds come to us and that cash really goes a long way for us since all of our services are free.” the executive director of Birthright of Columbia said.

Birthright of Columbia also has an Amazon Wishlist link. There is even a direct link to provide a financial contribution via Paypal, credit, or debit card.

For more information on Birthright please contact Hodaly at 803-765-0165 or visit www.birthrightofcolumbia.org to make a donation or offer your time to volunteer.



From Behind the Scenes of our Tea Room



Hope everyone is enjoying your summer, resting, traveling, staying cool. I am writing today to bring you up to date on a number of things going on in the Columbia Deanery. Please share the information with your members

1. The way has been cleared regarding our organization having the liability insurance required by the diocese for use of their facilities. Yvonne Pygatt has secured October 22 for us to hold a retreat day at the conference center in Charleston. Yvonne and Julie Rotureau will be working out the details for the day. More information will be provided at the fall deanery meeting.
2. The fall deanery meeting will take place September 25 at by St Joseph Women's Society. The official meeting invitation will be sent out by the end of August.
3. We are still hoping to have a tour of the Big Red Barn this fall. No date has been identified at this time.
4. The Columbia Deanery is responsible of the Market Place for the 2023 SCCCW Convention to be held in Myrtle Beach March 3-5. We have the option to choose how funds will be raised via the Market Place. We could ask the deaneries to prepare baskets or provide other items to be auctioned during convention. Another option would be to have a 50/50 raffle where the deaneries sell raffle tickets prior to the convention and the winning ticket drawn at convention. Half of the proceeds go to the person whose ticket is drawn. Both options require work and leadership from our deanery. I would like to propose the 50/50 raffle because I feel it has the potential to raise more funds. **Please give me your feedback of the fund raising option for the market place.**

Thank you for your feedback. I continue to be interested in ideas for programs at our upcoming meeting. Please contact me if there is any way I can be of assistance to you.

Gwen Skipper
President, Columbia Deanery of Catholic Women

“A successful woman is one who can build a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at her.”

~Anonymous

St Joseph Women's Society
Interest Form and Membership Form

For more information, please visit our website at www.stjosephcolumbia.org

To contact us, please send email to
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"

.....
 YES, I am ready to join the Women's Society now. I am including the 2022 DUES of \$25 (annually).

I'm already a member, renewing my membership for 2022. I am including the 2022 DUES of \$ 25 (annually).

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