St. Joseph Women's Society

Mary & Martha News

January 2018

Spiritual Growth Book Suggestion

Perfectly Yourself by Matthew Kelly

This life-changing book addresses the opportunities and obstacles we encounter when we decide to ask life's BIG questions: Who am I? What am I here for? Full of powerful and practical lessons, Kelly shows us how to find lasting happiness in a changing world.... *Perfectly Yourself* is for anyone who has failed at a diet, survived a collapse of a relationship, or wondered if he or she would ever find a fulfilling career..... (from Amazon.com)

In this revised edition Matthew Kelly asks you to discover God's Dream for you. I am always trying to look at myself with God's eye. What kind of grade would I get? Matthew offers insights to reflect on what it means to be perfectly ourselves while remaining imperfect. The many lessons in this book lead you to celebrate, live, love, act God's dream for you. You might want to pick this up to read during Lent. (comment from Gwen Skipper)

Our closet of warm men's clothing has taken a big hit lately with the cold weather! We're trying to get the word out that we need XL and 2XL long sleeve shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts, light jackets, and coats. Gently used or new items are welcomed. Donations can be brought to the back of the church and mark the bag for "Claire Wagner" or call Claire at 803-603-8419.

Columbía, SC

Parish Lenten Soup Supper

We are just a few weeks away from Ash Wednesday. St. Joseph parish will have Lenten devotions consisting of Mass, Stations of the Cross and a soup supper on Fridays of Lent. The Women's Society will host the soup supper on February 16.

Be looking for your best meatless soup recipes. Twelve to thirteen crock pots are needed. Help will also be needed with setting up and cleaning up after the supper. Our group is hosting the first week and we want to set a high bar for the other ministries to match.

January 21	SJWS Annual General Meeting	
Feb 14	Ash Wednesday	
Feb 14	Valentine's Day	
Feb 16	Lenten Souper – hosted by SJWS	
Feb 18	SJWS Monthly meeting	
Feb 24	Lenten Retreat	
March 9-11	1 SCCCW Convention –	
	North Charleston	
March 18	SJWS Monthly meeting	
April 1	Easter	
April 15	SJWS Monthly meeting	
May 20	SJWS Monthly meeting	
May	Columbia Deanery meeting	

Information about the Women's Society and copies of past newsletters can be found at http://www.stjosephcolumbia.org/

Message from President

The Saint Joseph Women's Society are friends in faith who share the Gospel; serve the parish, community, and world; and mold strong Catholic women leaders.

I hope you all had a very blessed Christmas season. Wishing all a New Year filled with prosperity, love, happiness and the best of health. Time seems to be flying by the last several months. I wish it would just go by a little slower. I ask that you keep in your prayers all your sisters in Christ, their family members, the unborn, and those sick or dying who have no one to pray for them.

I wish to share this prayer with you:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the precious gift of life. Help us to cherish and protect this gift, even in the midst of fear, pain, and suffering.

Give us love for all people, especially the most vulnerable, and help us bear witness to the truth that every life is worth living.

Grant us the humility to accept help when we are in need, and teach us to be merciful to all.

Through our words and actions, may others encounter the outstretched hands of Your mercy.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Thank you for all that you do for your parish and community. Each of you is an angel who touches many lives.

Blessings, Mary Sue Barnum

2017 Dues Reminder

Membership Dues for our organization (\$20) are collected at the beginning of each calendar year. Please make checks payable to Saint Joseph Women's Society and include a message providing your e-mail address. You may request that information be sent to you by US Mail, rather than email. You can pay dues at SJWS meetings, or drop your dues in the Sunday Collection or at the church office in an envelope labeled "Women's Society."

SCCCW State Convention

This year the State Convention will be held on March 9-11, 2018 at the North Charleston Marriott – 4770 Goer Drive, North Charleston, SC 29406.

If you are going to attend the 2018 SCCCW Convention – please let Mary Sue know. SJWS has 3 voting delegates and she must let SCCCW know who they are!

Room rates are \$139 plus tax & service charge. Go to WWW.scccw.org/convention and click "Accommodations" for online secure booking site. If you prefer reservations can be made by calling 888-747-1900 and reference "SC Council of Catholic Women."

The reservation deadline for rooms is Tuesday, February 20th. Convention Registration is \$125 - food choice is chicken, salmon, or veggie - must be postmarked by Feb 23 or a \$25 late fee will be charged.

This year's Fundraiser -50/50 tickets - for each day are \$5. There will be a drawing each day. There is a possibility the daily drawing could win up to \$2,500!!

The Women's Society is happy to be providing insulating bed rolls for the homeless through Catholic Charities. We have several devoted women crocheting the mats.

The homeless use these mats to sleep on. They provide an insulating layer between them and the ground. The mats are made from recycled plastic grocery store bags. The plastic bags are cut up and connected to make a plastic yarn called " plarn" which is then crotched into a bed roll.

If you are interested in crocheting mats for the homeless please contact Mary Reeves at 353-9954 or mreeves1416@yahoo.com.

Mary Reeves SJWS Fall 2017 Sale Gwen Skipper-

Chairperson-Ways & Means Committee

You did it again! You exceeded expectations. Over \$4000 was raised for gifts to the parish and outreach ministries. You created 122 casseroles and soups and 87 cakes, pies, jams, dozens of cookies and brownies. You came together and cooked together at the "Make, Take, Donate" sessions.

Funds were also generated from the sale of craft items, cookbooks, keepsake ornaments and "new" this year note cards. It takes a fully involved team effort to be truly successful and you did that.

I would be amiss if I did not recognize the ladies that were key in organizing this sale. Special thanks to Theresa Sowers, Maria Carrero and Julie Rotureu for sharing their special talents.

It's nice to take a rest from our labors; but not too long. Be thinking: do you have a craft idea we can work on? Will you share your special recipe that we can prepare in a M-T-D session? Will you step up and serve as a committee chair: casseroles, crafts, baked goods, auction, communication, M-T-D sessions?

In 2018 St. Joseph Women's Society is celebrating 70 years of active service in the parish, community and Diocese. Let's spend 2018 reflecting on our history and let the Fall Sale be a nostalgic reflection on St. Joseph Women's Society.

Lenten Retreat

Mark your Calendar. Saturday, February 24. Beginning with morning Mass and led by **Sister Mary Cecile.**

Help Wanted Scrap Book Committee

We invite everyone to contribute to The 2017 SJWS Scrapbook. How can you help? Let the committee know what activities you are participating in at the church and the community. Examples of community service are Catholic Charities Clothes Closet, the International Lunch, Birthright Tea, and Providence Hospital Volunteer.

Pictures and items related to our Society's Activities are needed. Please send any items or pictures you have to Regina Spell rspell909@gmail.com. or place them in the Women Society's mailbox in the church office.

The committee will be meeting to begin assembling the scrapbook. Please consider helping put together the book. All are welcome, and **No** previous experience is needed.

Work meetings are scheduled: January 11, 2018 1pm January 25, 2018 1 pm February 1, 2018 1pm. February 8, 2018 1pm. All meetings will be held in the Women's Society Room on the second floor of the Ministries and Administration Building.

The committee members will meet once each week in February, until the conference which is March 9-11. The times are subject to change. And will be adjusted according to the needs of the committee.

Please contact Regina Spell at 803-776-9575 or you may send her an email rspell909@gmail.com

Letters

From Peg Brandon Hello ladies of Women's Society This is to thank you for the very attractive prayer shawl. It's warm around the shoulders and was brought to me in the hospital by Mike Padua. Cheers!!

From Carol Mercer

I can't thank you enough for the brunch you and your group provided on the day of my husband's funeral.. It was truly amazing. I am enclosing a check to the Women's Society. I hope it will be a way to show our appreciation.

From Sister Mary Cecile

Thank you so much for your card and generous gift to me this Christmas. I am very grateful to you for your kindness. Most of all thank you for your selfless service to our Parish especially through the outreach program. Each of you is included In my prayers of thanksgiving. Thank you dearly for the beautiful handmade crocheted blankets. We were certainly in need of warm blankets for our babies. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is truly appreciated. God's special blessing for each of you and yours.

Christmas Card

From Micaela Ixchel – Project San Pedro

Christmas is a time of love, solidarity that can lift the mood of the poorest and sadden the rich. I want to share with you my best Christmas wishes of love, peace and friendship.

The bereavement group also received a donation from the Greiner Family.

2017 Membership Registration Form Saint Joseph Catholic Church-Women's Society

Please F			
Name			-
- Phone _		Cell	
Email Ac	ldress :		
Ch	eck if you do not use e-mail and want	t M& M to be mailed to	you.
Dues \$2	0.00 for year		
Parish O	nake checks to Saint Joseph Women's S office. efer you can mail it to the Church Office	Society and drop in the co	ollection or at the
-	n Church Women's Society vine Street		

Columbia, SC 29205