

There's a point in every true friendship where you stop being friends and become sisters.



February is dedicated to the Holy Family – Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This month serves as a time to reflect on the love, unity, and faith of the Holy Family and how we can incorporate those values into our own families. It is a time to seek the intercession of the Holy Family, asking for their guidance and protection.

BSCCW President's letter

- Linda Lauletta

Burr...Seems the Ground Hog will be staying underground for another six weeks.
Remember February 2 is also Candlemas Day, celebrating the presentation of our Lord's first entry into the temple and Mary's purification, 40 days after Christ's birth. I remember taking candles to church to have them blessed on this day. February 7-8 is our Baby Shower supporting JMJ Pregnancy Center. Thank you CCW sisters for your time setting up the crib, assisting parishioners with donations, and transporting donations to the Center. February 18, Ash Wednesday we begin 40 days of Lent. As part of our Lent devotions, we will pray Mary's Way of the Cross after morning Mass on Thursday, February 26. Again our Council is serving Christ and our community.

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Colossians 3:17

On Ash Wednesday, 2/18/26, you get your forehead blessed with ashes at Mass. These ashes are a reminder that we need to repent.

Repentance is a powerful invitation. When John the Baptist first appeared in the desert of Judea, this was his message: "Repent, prepare the way of the Lord" (Matthew 3:2). Later, when Jesus began his ministry, he led with this message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17).

But what does it mean for us to repent, here and now, more than two thousand years later? It means the same as it did to the people walking around the dusty pathways in their sandals, trying to inch closer to Jesus as he passed through their town or village. Repent means "to turn back to God."

We all find ourselves needing to turn back to God many times a day, in ways small and large. It is not a matter of guilt and it is not a shameful thing. It is simply that we are a better version of ourselves when we return to his side!

The Church requires Catholics from ages 14-59 to fast on Ash Wednesday. As long as you are in good health, this means you should only eat one full meal, plus two smaller meals that do not equal a full meal. Ash Wednesday is also a day where Catholics avoid eating meat.

There is great wisdom in the Christian practice of fasting—even though its benefits are largely forgotten! Fasting is a spiritual exercise, and as such is primarily an action of the inner life. Authentic fasting draws us nearer to God and opens our hearts to receive his many gifts.

February is a great time to remind people of the power of giving back and spreading love.



On The Move ...



Dorcas' Way is a community food pantry located in Mascotte with a mission to serve Lake and Sumter County residents in need ... "Hunger is not an option".

The fourth and fifth graders from Cypress Ridge Elementary School, a magnet school here in Clermont, were invited to participate in the workings of the pantry and serving their neighbors. Upon arrival, the students unpacked the food they had collected at their school and helped the volunteers pack food cartons. They designed and composed cards to include in each family's package. We wanted them to have something to take home reminding them of the kindness they extended to the pantry families, and just how good it felt. They were each given a small easel they could place by their bedside and asked to write a few words that would remind them about the importance of kindness when they wake up each morning. It was wonderful to see young children so eager to help others. Some sample easels ...

Be Kind

... Your guinea pig needs you!

... Make today the day you get closer to God

... Don't punch Jacob
(the student's younger brother!!!)

If you are interested in volunteering at Dorcas' Way, contact Kathy Halpin or Nilda Davila.

Anything is possible when you have the right people there to support you.

Let Your Light Shine

We are called to let our light shine by living out our faith through good works, compassion and virtue, effectively reflecting the light of Christ in a dark world. Based on [Matthew 5:16](#), this means taking actions that lead others to glorify God, such as serving those in need, being honest, and maintaining hope.

This is why Jesus says that it's no use for a lamp to be hidden under a basket. Under a basket, the light is muffled, easily overcome by darkness, and reaches no one. It has a weakened ability to bring glory to God.

So let's let our light shine and bring glory to God!

Surround yourself with only people who are going to lift you higher.

SISTER SPOTLIGHT

Start a gratitude jar.

Get a cute jar or decorate one. Then, start writing down one thing you're grateful for every day and throw them in your gratitude jar.

Bring your jar to the February General Membership meeting and we can share some of the things we are grateful for.





Upcoming Events

Mary's Handmaidens - 1-3pm
Feb 3 - Social Hall

Board Meeting - 1-3pm
Feb 10 - Adult Ministry Bldg

General Meeting - 11am
Feb 17 - Social Hall

CCW Mass - 8:30am second Thursday of every month

Dates to Remember

Capital Days at the Capital - 2/10-11/26

JMJ Shower - 2/7-8 - Blessed Sacrament Church

Mary's Way of the Cross - 2/26 - after 8:30am mass

Happy Birthday!

2/1 Shirley Velasco

2/2 Wanda Gisrane

2/7 Tillie Granucci

2/8 Deb Ducharme

2/16 Donna Kidder

2/18 Carol Kline

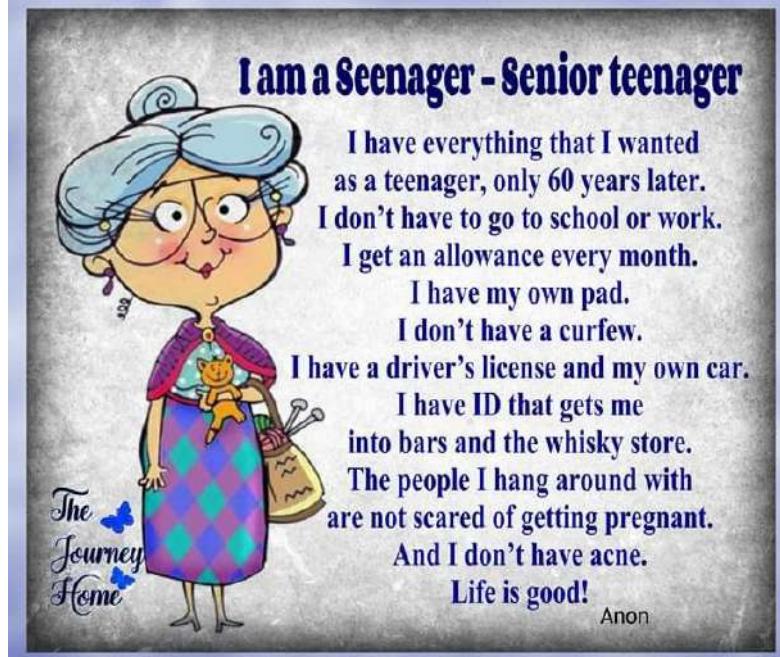
2/28 Bernadette Harwood

"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come without leaving happier."
—Mother Teresa

We pray for all our sisters and their families.



Heavenly Father, We lift up all those who are facing various illnesses and losses. Give them the hope and courage they need today and every day. Comfort their pain, calm their fears, and surround them with Your peace. Amen



Diane Owen,
Northern
Deanery



Sue Brown,
Parliamentarian



Ellie Clark,
Sunshine



Hope Williams,
Hospitality