



ST. CHARLES CWL NEWSLETTER

November 2024

Mission Statement

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.



From The President's Desk

On the 25th of November, I attended an Advent Retreat at Holy Family Parish in St. Albert on the "Symbols of Christmas" given by Lynne De Zaeyer.

A very interesting four hour session, linking Christmas and Easter, a time of waiting to prepare for the baby Jesus and the second coming. The symbols Lynne referred to were the Nativity, the Wreath, Angels, the Journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, the Donkey (poor people at that time did not have a donkey, so Mary probably walked) Shepherds, Bells, Stars, Mary, Joseph, Christmas Tree, Wise Men, Gifts of Gold Frankincense and Myrrh and St. Nicholas - (6th of December is his Saints day.)

I have listed some of the Symbols on the attachment to this newsletter for your interest and enjoyment.

"That Holy night long ago, God filled the earth with Hope, so real, Joy so pure and Love so true, our hearts are still Rejoicing."

Wishing you all a Very Blessed Christmas!



If you need to get in touch with me, you can be reached **through text or email** at **780-916-9728** or kabtarras@gmail.com.

Katherine Tarras, President

Stories of Women Saints

As part of our spiritual reflection this month, we will be focusing on St. Barbara and Our Lady of Guadalupe who both have feast days in December and who are featured on our CWL quilt that will be on display at our Christmas Social this December. St Barbara is celebrated on December 4th whose patronage includes: armorers, architects, artillerymen, firemen, miners, lightning, prisoners; and Lebanon. She was born in the mid-third century, was executed by her own father, and is attributed to the palm, chalice, lightning, and a crown of martyrdom. Several miracles have been attributed to her intercessions, and she is thought to protect those who face danger or death at work, those who are in lightning storms or fires. The Royal Canadian Artillery celebrates her feast day annually and St Barbara is honored in the Commonwealth, United States, Europe, Latin America, and among Christians in Lebanon. Barbara refused to give up her faith. She stood firm in the face of persecution and opposition, and ultimately gave her life for her beliefs. This is a powerful reminder for us that as Christians, we are called to be courageous in the face of persecution and opposition. We are called to stand up for what is right, even when it is difficult.



Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on December 12th and she is the Empress of the Americas, Patroness of Latin America and Queen of Mexico. She appeared as a type of Marian apparition to Juan Diego Bernardino speaking his native language and asked him to build her a church on a hill. When Juan reported this to his local bishop, he was told to submit proof to convince the bishop that this was true. On December 12th, the lady appeared again to Juan, requesting him to gather some flowers at the top of the hill. He found an array of Castilian roses which he arranged in his cloak and returned to the bishop. Upon presenting the cloak, the flowers tumbled out and in its place a life-sized image of the Virgin Mary appeared on the inside of the cloak. This image is known as Our Lady of Guadalupe and she remains a powerful symbol of Mexican faith, associated with motherhood, feminism, and social justice. This cloak is on display at the Basilica on the top of Tepeyac Hill, Mexico and shows no fading of its colors after hundreds of years, as it is maintained in a consistent temperature of 98.6 F. In times of distress, do you turn to Our Lady to bring you closer to Christ?

Teresa McGrath
Spiritual Convenor

Alberta Mackenzie Prays the Rosary- Weekly

Members are invited to pray the Rosary weekly on Thursdays @ 7:00 pm (MST). Log in information is:

<https://us02web.zoomus/j/83965879451?pwd=dk00cmRBTkdrcmRieVixeW9Fek5wdz09>
Meeting ID 839 6587 9451 Passcode 963178

Mass of Remembrance – Thank You!

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Thank you to Rose Hearn, Rita Pfefferle and Katherine Tarras who provided hospitality (coffee, juice and cookies) after the Mass of Remembrance on November 8th. The ladies prepared for 80 people and those who attended enjoyed the sweets and the chance to gather after the Mass to remember their loved ones.

Funeral Lunch Committee

Rachelle reported that there were no funeral lunches provided in November. A total of \$3300.00 in donations to the CWL were received (2,825.18 after expenses). Thank you to all who volunteered and donated to the October funeral lunches.

Anyone interested in becoming involved with the Funeral Lunch Committee, either as a coordinator, volunteer or to provide sweets or sandwich fixings, please contact **Rachelle Pouliot at 780-475-6500**.



Purdy's 2024 Christmas Campaign

This year's Purdy's Christmas Campaign had 34 orders for total sales of \$4,419.00 resulting in \$1,159.00 profit to our Council. Thank you to Katherine Tarras for heading this fundraiser and thank you to everyone who made purchases.

CWL CHRISTMAS SOCIAL – DECEMBER 10TH

St. Charles CWL Christmas Social tickets are now on sale. You can purchase your tickets after all 4:30pm, 9am & 11 am masses till December 1st,

Cost is \$25 for members & \$30 non-members (Gentlemen welcome).

Ticket price includes dinner, concert*, non-alcoholic drinks and door prizes (toonie bar for wine).

Social begins at 5:30 pm (in the Activity Centre), with dinner & concert* commencing at 6pm.

Our charity this year is supporting the St. Charles Parish feeder schools less-fortunate families. Please bring a Walmart or Superstore gift-card to help fill our tree.(any denomination would be greatly appreciated). Note all gift-cards received will be shared with school admin to distributed to their families in need this Christmas.



Carmelite Nuns – Christmas Craft Sale Reminder

Please support the Carmelite Nuns by stopping by the craft sale after the Masses on December 8th, 2024. Katherine Tarras will be coordinating the sale and is looking for a few volunteers to help her with set-up, take down and sales.

If you are able to help out, please contact Katherine **through text** at **780-916-9728** or **email** kabtarras@gmail.com



Volunteer(s) Needed

If you are interested in social justice issues such as poverty, climate change, food insecurity, the refugee crisis, to name a few, and are interested in volunteering to join our CWL Executive, please contact Katherine Tarras **through text or email** at **780-916-9728** or kabtarras@gmail.com.



Fall Bazaar – Final Results

The Bazaar Committee reported at the November General Meeting that the profit for the Fall Bazaar was **\$5663.88** which similar to the 2023 profit. Breakdown of the results are:

Bake Table	-	\$1,673.30
Multi-Raffle	-	\$1,284.00
Crafts	-	\$ 550.00
Quilt Raffle	-	\$ 328.00
Kitchen (Lunch)	-	\$1,220.91
Vendor Tables (19)	-	\$ 665.00

Thank you to everyone who helped out and supported this year’s Fall Bazaar.



Organization - Membership

Thank you everyone! We’ve had an amazing start to our 2025 fiscal year. Over 70% of our members have already paid their fees for our new fiscal year, which really helps CWL National, as our fees help support the

many initiatives they take-on. I'm also happy to report we have another new member, Carol Andrews. If you know Carol, please welcome her to our council the next time you see her.

For the 70 members who'd paid their fees by our October 20th deadline and were entered into our membership draw (held at the November 5th executive meeting), we have our winners:

- 1) CWL Teddy Bear = Lorette Fairfield
- 2) French Press & Coffee = Linda Boire
- 3) Rosary = Bev Jensen

Congratulations ladies and thank you all who paid their fees by the end of our bazaar weekend & were entered to win.

Our November meeting included a lovely celebration, remembering all our sisters who have passed over the years. It was a beautiful tribute to them, as well as any other loved ones we wished to include on the tribute wall. A huge thank you to Teresa McGrath & Rita Pfefferle for putting the celebration together for us all.

If you missed November, but would still like to come out to a future meeting, we'll be gathering on December 10th for our Christmas social (tickets now on sale) and getting together in person for our next general meeting on January 21st at 6:45pm – we would love to see our members come to both!!

And **for** those who still need to renew, **our fees remain unchanged at \$40**. There are a number of ways to renew (or join if you are encouraging friends/family!!):

- 1) You can drop your cheque* (preferred, but cash is also accepted) into the offertory basket
- 2) You can drop your cheque* off at the Parish Office during office hours
- 3) You can mail your cheque* to the church (no cash in the mail please)
- 4) You can mail your cheque* to Bea Spatafora 14407 130 Street NW Edmonton, AB T6V 1E2
- 5) You can e-Transfer** Bea Spatafora at bspat@shaw.ca
- 6) You can bring your payment to a general meeting or our Christmas social.

***Cheque should be made payable to St. Charles CWL**

Please be sure to include your contact information, particularly any updates to your address, email or phone number with your payment

Finally, I'd like to congratulate our door-prize winner from November's general meeting:



Therese Swityk (Tim Horton's Gift Card). Hey!! This could be **YOU** if you come to our next general meeting on **January 21st at 6:45**.

Bea Spatafora, Vice-President/Organization
Bspat@shaw.ca or 780-399-9459

CWL Virtual BYOB Book Club



November Reads will be published in the December newsletter.

NEXT BOOK CLUB MEETING: November 28 at 7 pm

Sharing the Words From Our National Sisterhood Map

POWER

- 35** Power is the ability to influence the course of events. Catholic Women's League resolutions have changed lives. By joining us you will be part of the power of resolutions.

PRIDE

- 36** We in the Catholic Women's League take pride in our accomplishments. We are a sisterhood of women dedicated to service to God and Canada. Join our sisterhood today!

Laughter is Good for the Soul

The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from house to house knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them. As they continued to get "no room" answers a little voice called from the back "YOU SHOULD HAVE BOOKED!" bringing the house down.



QUICK LINKS

National Website: www.cwl.ca
Provincial Council Website: www.cwl.ab.ca
Diocesan Council: www.edmontoncwl.org

Important Dates

November 19
November 28
December 8
December 10

General Meeting
Virtual Book Club
Carmelite Nuns Craft Sale (following Masses)
CWL Christmas Social



Merry Christmas from your CWL Executive!
The next Newsletter will be published after Christmas.

ST. CHARLES CWL PRAYER LIST

November 2024

*Please pray for our CWL members and our Council
Prayers for peace in the Ukraine & the Middle East
Please pray for seminarian **Ben Wilkins** on his journey to respond to God's call*

For those who are sick and all who look after them:

Larry Belanger (husband of Norma Belanger)
Margaret Bernard
Jacqueline Cuerrier
Annet Maitwe and AIM school
Hope Maitwe (Annet Maitwe's daughter)
Rafael Martel (Kathy Martel's grandson)
Evelyn Radostits
Sharon Roshko
Marlene & George Schmidt
Bea Spatafora
Lily Webb
Mary Ziska
Celine deVries-Stadleer (Marie-Paul Petersen's daughter)
Stella Kachmar
Ann Jubinville (Irene Midgley's mother)
Bert Trompetter (Cora's husband)
David Meier (Shirley's husband)
Melissa Cuerrier (daughter of Jacqueline Cuerrier)
Colleen O'Donnell (Maureen O'Donnell's sister)
Eileen Kavanagh (Monique Gauthier's daughter-in-law)
Sybil Ledi
Marie-Paul Petersen
Father Marc Cramer

For those who have died and all who mourn them:

Marie Strauss (Kathleen Oswald's sister)
Brian Black (Pat Black's husband)
Gene Kerns (Kathy Martel's brother)
Kathleen Leuwer (Deacon Joe's mother)
Marie Margurite d'Entremont (Yvette d'Entremont's mother)
Stella Byer (sister of Olive Byer)
Roland Cramer (father of Father Marc Cramer)
Sandy Bergin (wife of John Bergin)
Maryanne Beaulieu (wife of Charles Beaulieu)
Madeline Van Brabant (Dianne Nolette's mother)
Evelyn Hardwick (Connie McBride's mother-in-law)

*Please contact **Kathy Martel** at 780-456-0760 or Kmartel780@gmail.com to add names.*

