



ST. CHARLES CWL NEWSLETTER

December 2025

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.

Faith

Service

Social
Justice

From The President's Desk



I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas, celebrating Jesus' birth with family and friends. Many thanks to the executive for all the work that went into preparing the great Christmas Social.

As we look forward to a new year, I encourage everyone to consider how their unique talents and gifts can help enrich our community. Each contribution, big or small, strengthens the bonds we share and furthers our mission to serve both our parish and the wider community.



As this maybe my last letter from the President , I would like to take this time to thank each and everyone of you for being part of this wonderful group of ladies at St. Charles. Without your help we would never be able to accomplish all we have over the years. May we continue to be strong and support our Parish in the many ways we do. Please take the time to pray for our new president and consider taking on a position to continue our great work for God and Canada, within our parish family. Currently we need a vice president and a few standing committee chairs. For most of us, the learning of a position was learned as we went along, we are all there to help you if you decide to take on a position. Being on the executive is a great way to get to know your fellow members and have fun at the same time. Please reflect, you can call me and we can talk it over.

Some dates coming up to remember: The Feast of the Holy Family, the 28th of December, on the 1st of Jan. we have the feast of Mary Mother of God, Epiphany of the Lord on the 6th and the Baptism of the Lord on the 11th.

Wishing you all a Very Happy New Year!! God Bless.

Please contact **Katherine Tarras** at (text) 780-916-9728 (res) 780-488-5521 or email kabtarras@gmail.com

Katherine Tarras, President



Message from The Past President

CWL sisters, I so appreciate your time, talent and generosity. I have been on Council since 2021. It is time for me to take a break from the duties of your Executive. I will still be available to assist with other activities.

Have a Happy New Year and I will see you around. Thank you for all your support,

Rita Pfefferle

Notice of 2026 Elections

CWL Ladies,

January 20th is our Elections. We would ask you to consider leaving your name to stand for a position. Your Executive leads our Council in disseminating CWL information, direction of tasks and informing you of upcoming events. This has allowed our Council to be very successful in supporting our Parish with the Boiler fundraiser, in adding spiritual articles for our building, like the Divine Mercy Painting, and build parish community.



We need your gifts and talents to keep us working well.

Nomination forms and the Nomination box will be available on the prayer shawl cabinet in the church lobby outside of the activity center. If you or someone you know would like to add your name to the list of nominees,, please complete a form and place it in the nominations box. Deadline for nominations is **January 16, 2026.**

Take this opportunity to let your name stand and make wonderful new friends, support our parish and learn more about CWL. Thank you for getting involved.

For more information, contact **Rita Pfefferle (780-916-2414)** or **Katherine Tarras (780-916-9728)**

Organization (Memberships)

December Social – Informal Action

I promised our dedicated and amazing Communications Coordinator I wouldn't have anything to add, to keep the workload down in December...but apologies, I have one piece of news I must share:

During the December Christmas social held on December 9th, with approximately 50 members present (a quorum was exceeded), our President, Katherine Tarras, invited me to the podium to address urgent business related to our Christmas project. I explained that our gift-card fundraiser for the St Charles Parish feeder schools was short nearly \$1,000 as of December 8, 2025, prior to the CWL Christmas social (where more donations were being collected on our Christmas Tree). The goal was to be able to gift each of the 43 families (identified by our feeder schools as needing help) \$100 in gift cards from either Walmart or Superstore, for Christmas.



I proposed an authorization, by the way of a motion, to authorize spending up to \$1,000 of our organization's funds, if necessary, for the Christmas Feeder School Project, in order to reach our \$4,300 goal.

The motion was seconded by member Julie Vizza and CWL members present at the social expressed unanimous support for this authorization. Note that no formal meeting was called to order, and therefore no official vote was recorded.

I am overjoyed to report that our Christmas Tree at the social was overflowing in generosity and **WE SURPASSED OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL OF \$4,300!!** As a result, no funds of St. Charles CWL were used to meet our fundraising goal. Note that any excess donations were donated to St. Vincent de Paul – St. Charles branch.

In January, we will add this item to the regular meeting agenda, with a motion to Ratify in Informal Action at our Christmas Social, even though no funds were subsequently used, just so the action is documented.

I thank each and every one of you for your generous support of our Christmas Fundraiser; our St. Charles Parish feeder schools were so very grateful for the donations to their communities.

May your Christmas be peaceful and your New Year filled with hope!

Beatrice Spatafora
Organization Convener & Lead - St. Charles Parish
Feeder School Fundraising Project
bspat@shaw.ca or 780-399-9459

Faith

Alberta Mackenzie Prays the Rosary- Weekly

Members are invited to pray the Rosary weekly on Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm (MST) (visiting) and 7:30 pm (Rosary). Log in information is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633721663?pwd=Z9wPaKGjbTFERY9JrKptPLYsXpYHeY5.1>

Meeting ID: 896 3372 1663
Passcode: 064710

Service

Funeral Lunch Committee



Thank you to our phoners, all our volunteers and the Knights of Columbus who came out to help during 2025.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

Rachelle Pouliot & Bev Jensen
Funeral Lunch Coordinators

Carmelite Nuns Craft Sales Report

Our Council sold the crafts made by the Carmelite Nuns on the weekend of December 6th and 7th. Sales and donations exceeded \$1200.00 for which the Carmelites were grateful to receive.

Thank you to Katherine Tarras for coordinating this craft sale.



105th National Annual Meeting - Resolutions

2025.2 Amend the Canadian *Criminal Code* Section 223(1) Defining when a Child Becomes a Human Being

Resolved, that the National Council of The Catholic Women's Leque of Canada in 105th National Annual meeting of members assembled urges the Federal Government to amend Section 223(1) of the Canadian *Criminal Code* to align with 21st century scientific evidence of the embryonic and fetal stages of a human being's development from the moment of conception to birth therefore defining when a child becomes a human being.



Action Plan

1. Encourage members to raise awareness of the scientific inaccuracies in Criminal Code 223(1) by writing to the Federal Minister of Justice and Attorney General, urging the government to amend this section to reflect the scientific stages of human embryonic development.
2. Encourage councils to offer educational opportunities to members and parish communities to promote a culture of life e.g. pro-life speakers, participation in pro-life events).
3. Encourage councils and members to build relationships with and participate in local pro-life group activities and events, especially efforts to advance recognition of preborn babies as human beings.

Christmas Social Report – December 9, 2025



Our Christmas Social took place on **December 9th, 2025** in the Activity Centre. There were approximately 68 attendees. Thank you to all who came out on such a cold evening. An Italian-themed supper catered by Panani's was delicious and the entertainment provided by Jackson Mackenzie who entertained us with his voice and guitar was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to our CWL Executive who planned the event and to all the volunteers who helped with set-up and clean-up.

Laughter is Good for the Soul

Early New Year's morning, Daniel was in no shape to drive, so he sensibly left his van in the parking lot and walked home.

As he was wobbling along, he was stopped by a policeman. "What are you doing out here at four o'clock in the morning?" asked the police officer.

"I'm on my way to a lecture," answered Roger.

"And who on earth, in their right mind, is going to give a lecture at this time of the night?" inquired the constable sarcastically.

"My wife," slurred Daniel grimly.



Social Pics





Wasn't That A Party!



Important Dates

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| January 6 | Executive Meeting |
| January 20 | General Meeting |
| February 16 | Family Day Event |

Quick Links



| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| National Website: | www.cwl.ca |
| Provincial Council Website: | www.cwl.ab.ca |
| Diocesan Council: | www.edmontoncwl.org |
| Facebook Page: | Catholic Women's League, St. Charles, Edmonton https://www.facebook.com/groups/1017745547096618 |



CWL Virtual BYOB Book Club November Reads

1. ***The Paris Library***, Janet Skeslien Charles. Based on the true World War II story of the heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris, this is an unforgettable story of romance, friendship, family, and the power of literature to bring us together.
2. ***Fatima in Lucia's Own words***, Sister Lucia. *Fatima in Lucia's Own Words* is a collection of memoirs and letters written by Sister Lúcia de Jesus Rosa dos Santos, the last surviving seer of the apparitions Our Lady of Fátima in 1917. This book describes the life of Sister Lúcia, as well as the characters, lives and deaths of the other two children, Francisco and Jacinta Marto.
3. ***Death in Holy Orders***, P.D. James. Dalglish visits Saint Anselm's to follow up the death of a student as the student's father was not satisfied with the verdict. Whilst there, a visiting archdeacon is murdered. Initial suspicion falls on one of the priests who run the college and teach there, as the archdeacon was known to be recommending the closure of the college and disposal of its art treasures. Another murder follows and, after all present have been questioned, several secrets become known.
4. ***Wild Dark Shore***, Charlotte McConaghy. Dominic Salt and his three children are caretakers of Shearwater, a tiny island not far from Antarctica. Home to the world's largest seed bank, Shearwater was once full of researchers, but with sea levels rising, the Salts are now its final inhabitants. Until, during the worst storm the island has ever seen, a woman mysteriously washes ashore.
5. ***A Dublin Student Doctor***, Patrick Taylor. In the 1930s, fresh from a stint in the Royal Navy Reserve, and against the wishes of his disapproving father, Fingal O'Reilly goes to Dublin to study medicine. Fingal and his fellow aspiring doctors face the arduous demands of Trinity College and Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital. The hours are long and the cases challenging, but Fingal manages to find time to box and play rugby—and to romance a fetching, gray-eyed nurse named Kitty O'Hallorhan.
6. ***The Paris Apartment***, Lucy Foley. Jess needs a fresh start. She's broke and alone, and she's just left her job under less-than-ideal circumstances. Her half-brother Ben didn't sound thrilled when she asked if she could crash with him for a bit, but he didn't say no, and surely everything will look better from Paris. Only when she shows up – to find a very nice apartment, could Ben really have afforded this? – he's not there.
- 7.

NEXT BOOK CLUB MEETING: January 29, 2026

ST. CHARLES CWL PRAYER LIST

December 2025

Please pray for our CWL members and our Council. Prayers for peace in the Ukraine & the Middle East
Please pray for seminarian Matthew Gensorek 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
Rafael Martel (Kathy Martel's grandson)
Evelyn Radostits
Sharon Roshko
Bea and Joe Spatafora
Lily Webb
Celine deVries-Stadleer (Marie-Paul Petersen's daughter)
Stella Kachmar
Bert Trompetter (Cora's husband)
David Meier (Shirley's husband)
Melissa Cuerrier (daughter of Jacqueline Cuerrier)
Eileen Kavanagh (Monique Gauthier's daughter-in-law)
Sybil Ledi
Marie-Paul Petersen
Father Marc Cramer
Jeanne Richelhoff (Louise Despins' sister)
Marie Phillips
Theresa Amuzu
Myrla Fitzpatrick
Rita Oplanich (Tina Casella's mother)
Sheila Wright (friend of Hilda Daubner)
Dianne Dyer
Shane Castiday (son of Genny Castiday)
Lillian Wawzonek
Richard Cloutier (brother of Cecile Dufresne)
Suzanne Wowk
Therese Swityk

For those who have died and all who mourn them:


Francis Huber (son of Vera Huber)
Steve Wawzonek (Lillian Wawzonek's husband)
Ann Jubinville (Margaret Bernard's sister)
Berto Oplanich (Tina Casella's father)
Vera Huber
Mary Miller (Irene Midgley's mother)
Linda Holsted (Teresa McGrath's mother)
Rick Hoekstra (Stella Hoekstra's husband)
Mary Ziska
Baby Callahan

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



January 2026



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|   | | | | 1 PRAY THE ROSARY New Year's Day | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Linda Bramhill | Paula Braumberger | Lidia Buske |
| Natalie Carley | Teresa Cartmell | Tina Casella | Genevieve Castiday | Elisabetta Chiodo | Connie Comeault | Crystal Cordeiro |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 PRAY THE ROSARY | 16 | 17 |
| Lynn Cristini | Jacqueline Cuerrier | Yvette d'Entremont | Phyllis da Costa | Hilda Daubner | Maria De Benedetto | Estrela De Sousa |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 PRAY THE ROSARY | 23 Formal Installation Day | 24 Midwinter mtg for St. Albert/Lloyd |
| Louise Despins | Betty Dixon | Debbie Dixon | Marjolaine Dubuc | Cecile Dufresne | The Most Reverend Stephen A. Hero | Dora Dumont |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 PRAY THE ROSARY | 30 | 31 |
| Pat Duncan | Dianne Dyer | Rhoda Estoque | Lorette Fairfield | Odell Fahn | Rose Febrowski | Tina Fernandes |

Notes

Print / Post this page on your fridge.

Pray for your CWL Sisters on the day they are tagged.

Each Wednesday you can pray the Rosary online. The address can be found on the Provincial Website at <https://www.cwlabmk.ca/>

****The new national theme, (& logo see above) Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission, will begin in January 2026****



| December '25 | | | | | | |
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| February '26 | | | | | | |
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