



ST. CHARLES CWL NEWSLETTER

September 2026

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

September – A New Season, A Renewed Mission

As summer gives way to fall, it feels as though we are beginning anew. September often marks the start of a busy season in parish life, bringing fresh opportunities to gather, serve, and grow together in faith. As we embark on another CWL year, I encourage each of us to keep our theme, Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission, close to our hearts and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in the months ahead.

September has already been a busy month for our council, with our General Meeting, Pumpkin Spice Membership Event, and the launch of Hospitality Sundays. Looking ahead, we have many more opportunities for fellowship, learning, and service planned this fall.

Hospitality Sundays will continue on October 25 and November 22 following the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses. These gatherings offer parishioners an opportunity to connect, visit, and build community over coffee or juice, and donuts. Note that we are still looking for volunteers to assist with setup, serving, and cleanup for both October and November. If you can help, please reach out to me. If our pilot project proves successful, we hope to continue Hospitality Sundays through the winter and spring (January through May) & may be looking for more volunteers for those upcoming events at a future date.



Our Speaker Series also continues this fall. We look forward to welcoming our seminarian, Marc Berube, as our guest speaker at the October 20 General Meeting, and we also have speakers confirmed for November and January. Watch for more information on these in the months ahead! If there is a topic, ministry, or organization you would like us to feature, please let me know.

We are also preparing for several important upcoming events, including our Annual Fall Bazaar and our Christmas Social (yes – already!!). Please review the details elsewhere in this newsletter and consider how you might lend your time and talents. As we begin another busy and exciting season together, may we remain open to wherever the Holy Spirit leads us. Through service, fellowship, and faith, may we continue to grow as women of purpose, supporting one another while sharing Christ's love with our parish and community.

With gratitude,
Beatrice Spatafora, President
bspat@shaw.ca or 780-399-9459

Past President's Message



I hope you all have had a great summer even through all the rain we had. As we prepare for the year ahead, the end of September brings us to our Diocesan CWL Fall Meeting, which was held on the 26th of September, in Drayton Valley. There we picked our new Seminarian who our own Marc Berube. His birthday is the 03rd of August.

Our Diocesan Convention will be **Saturday and Sunday the 24th and 25th of April 2027** hosted in Fort Saskatchewan. The Midwinter Meeting will be either the **30th of January 2027 or the 05th of February 2027**. The Provincial Convention is hosted in Yellowknife the **04th- 06th of June 2027**.

Zoom info sessions start again on the 1st Monday of the Month – any member can attend.

There is a Retreat planned at the Star of the North on **Saturday the 14th of November** - \$30.00 per person.

The first Wednesday of the month you can join in praying with Seminararians at 11:30 am at the Seminary. The 04th of October is an Open House at the Seminary. The Fall Book Project, there are 6 books selected. There were 106 Refugee Bags made up. IWIN is looking for volunteers.

We had two great speakers: Joanne Gutjrie – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG); there are 4,500 Grandparents looking after their Grandchildren in Alberta/Northwest Territories with no financial support. Please sign the petition and write letters to your MLA.

The second speaker was Peter vanKampen who is a career Youth Minister – A very energetic person who works out of Rocky Mountain House and Sylvan Lake. Speaks on “Go Make Disciples.” Put together 1) Games, 2) Food and 3) Friends and watch the youth group grow, was the formula he used and please pray for our youth and their ministers.

Carmelite Nuns of Western Canada are having their Craft Sale at the Monastery starting the 06th of December 2026.

God's Blessings to All,
Katherine Tarras
Past-President

Organization (Memberships)

Happy Fall, Y'All!

I hope everyone enjoyed the weird summer that we experienced. I would like to thank everyone who attended our September meeting—it was heartening to see nearly every chair filled with a member!

Although we did not have a speaker at the September meeting, we did hold an outdoor Red Sand Prayer service before the meeting, which will be further discussed in the newsletter by our Faith leader Teresa McGrath.

Gratitude to Bea Spatafora and Katherine Tarras for providing the snacks that accompanied our evening—everything was amazing!

If you missed September's meeting, don't worry—you're always welcome next month. Our speaker for October will be our seminarian, Mark Berube.



Save the Date!

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our next few general meetings:

Tuesday, October 20th & Tuesday November 17th

- 6:45 PM – Social
- 7:00 PM – Meeting



September Door Prize Winner – Joan Hejnar – Congratulations!

The spirit of welcome and community was evident at our recent Pumpkin Spice Membership Event. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it such a success. It was a wonderful opportunity for our members who attended to connect with some new faces/women of the parish and share a little of what makes our council so special. Congratulations as well to our lucky door prize winner of a \$25 Tim Horton's Gift Card, a lady by the name of Nkeng Tets!

**Lorette Bowers
Organization**

Faith

On a lovely evening on Tuesday, September 15th, CWL hosted a Red Sand Prayer Service led by Deacon Joe with readers assisting from the Executive. As we gathered around the CWL Angel garden at the front of the church we listened to scripture passages, accounts of survivors, and prayed for their healing, then we put red sand in the sidewalk cracks creating sidewalk art. The red sand symbolizes that we cannot walk over the most marginalized people in our communities - those who fall through the metaphoric cracks.



To IWIN, the red sand also represents Jesus' blood poured out for all of God's children. IWIN stands for I'm Worth it Now, a Calgary faith based agency that supports survivors of human trafficking by supplying backpacks as they enter a comprehensive education and assistance program. The statistics are alarming when we ponder that over 90% of survivors of human trafficking in Canada are Canadian born and female. One of the most common misconceptions about human trafficking is that trafficked people are most often socioeconomically disadvantaged...the reality is that the vulnerability to being trafficked knows no boundaries. Survivors of human trafficking come from a variety of incomes, backgrounds and ethnicities ...it happens to people from single parent homes, two parent homes, dual income homes, professional positions, persons battling substance abuse, etc. Enjoy the photos which appear in our Social Justice section of this newsletter!

May we remember those around us who may be vulnerable to this real threat in our community and share what the red sand means to all us as we encourage dialogue about human trafficking in Canada.

"Rescue the weak and needy: deliver them from the hands of the wicked" Psalm 82:4

**Teresa McGrath
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/82270928254?pwd=RDw8o3BLL7mlJ7saBCvI2gBUPaqFS1.1>

Meeting ID: 822 7092 8254.

Passcode: 972660

Hospitality Sunday a Great Success!

Our first Hospitality Sunday (Toonie Sunday) of the Fall Pilot Project took place on September 27 following the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses. Judging by the many positive comments, parishioners appreciated the opportunity to gather, visit, and connect.

Based on the number of cups used, approximately 130 people joined us throughout the morning, helping make this inaugural event a great success. A total of 120 donuts were ordered, and all but 14 were enjoyed, showing that both the sweet treats and the opportunity for fellowship were warmly welcomed.

While donations came within \$5 of covering the cost of the donuts, they did not fully cover additional expenses such as paper products, coffee, and juice. Some parishioners were unaware that this was a "Toonie Sunday" event and arrived without cash on hand. Of course, everyone was encouraged to stay, enjoy the refreshments, and participate in the fellowship regardless. As awareness grows and the event (hopefully) becomes a regular part of parish life, we hope more parishioners will remember to bring their toonies.

Overall, this was a successful pilot gathering and a promising start to the program. As we continue the Fall Pilot Project, we look forward to building on this enthusiasm and creating more opportunities for parishioners to strengthen the sense of community that makes our parish so special. Finally a huge thank you to Rose Hearn, Irene Midgley, Katherine Tarras, Teresa McGrath and Julie Vizza for all their help in getting this 'off the ground.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help with Hospitality Sundays on October 25 and November 22.

9:00 a.m. Mass

- Prepare coffee and juice before Mass
- Help distribute donuts after Mass

11:00 a.m. Mass

- Help distribute donuts after Mass
- Assist with cleanup, including washing coffee pots and jugs, tidying the area, and turning off lights

If you can lend a hand at either Mass, please contact Bea. Your support will help make these gatherings a welcoming experience for all parishioners.



Funeral Lunch Committee



Funeral lunch services were provided for 150 people on July 6th, 200 people on July 7th and 65 people on August 15th.

Thank you to all the phoners, volunteers, donators and K of C volunteers who make this important service possible.

Rachelle Pouliot & Bev Jensen
Funeral Lunch Coordinators

Social Justice

Photos of the Red Sand Ceremony Held September 15, 2026





TOONIE SUNDAYS

Community-Wellness-Laughter

New this Fall, 2026
Coffee/Juice & Donuts*
HOSPITALITY SUNDAYS



...on the 4th Sunday of the Month



September 27th

October 25th

November 22nd



***Enjoy with a minimum \$2 Donation per Person
(\$10/Family)**



**Sponsored by your St. Charles
Catholic Women's League**



CWL FALL BAZAAR
Saturday, October 24, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
St. Charles Activity Centre

VOLUNTEERS needed to make this fundraising event a **SUCCESS!!**

CWL RAFFLE TICKET PRE-SALES:

We need 2 volunteers for each Mass on
Sunday, October 11, 11am (Thanksgiving)

Sunday, October 18, 11 am

Contact Bea Spatafora 780-399-9459 to sign up

HELPERS FOR THE DAY OF THE BAZAAR

Kitchen, Craft Table, Bake Table, Ticket Sales, Etc.

Contact Kathy Martel 780-456-0760 to sign up for a Shift

COOKING WORKSHOPS:

We need volunteers at 9am

Friday, October 2, Carrot Ginger Soup

Wednesday, October 7, Saskatoon Pies

Wednesday, October 14, Hamburger Soup

Friday, October 23, Food Prep & Decorating

Contact Rachelle Pouliot 475-6500

BAKING TABLE ITEMS

We are looking for for homemade pies, crisps, cookies,
squares (anything chocolate!), preserves, jams, salsa, etc.

Drop off Fri. October 23 or Sat. Oct. 24, 9am

Please include an ingredient list with your donation!

CWL CRAFT TABLE

Put your Etsy talents to work on donations of unique craft table items!

**Encourage your friends and family
and parishioners who have never been to come out
for lunch (\$15.00 for the Full Meal Deal)
and support our Bazaar!
God Bless & see you on October 24th!**

**For more information, contact:
Mary Leuwer, Bazaar Convenor 780-721-1247**

Convenors Needed for Our Christmas Social



Our annual CWL Christmas Social is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 8**, and we are looking for a convenor, or a team of co-convenors, to help bring this special evening together.

Our socials have always provided a wonderful opportunity for members to gather, celebrate, and enjoy fellowship together. However, without someone willing to coordinate the evening, we may be forced to make the unfortunate decision to forgo the dinner and hold a simple gathering instead.

Last Christmas we celebrated Italy, and at our June Year-End Celebration we travelled to Mexico, with food and activities inspired by each destination. **Ukraine** has been suggested as the theme for this year's Christmas Social, but the event's direction is entirely flexible and can be shaped by those willing to organize it.

If you would be interested in convening this event, either on your own or with a friend, please contact Bea Spatafora. We would love to see this cherished CWL tradition continue.

Many hands make light work, and this is a wonderful opportunity to help create a memorable evening for your CWL sisters. 🌲 ✨

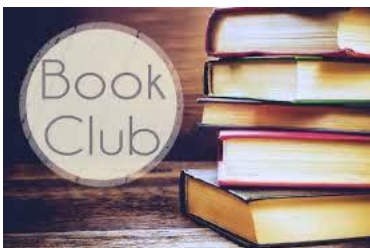
Laughter is Good for the Soul

A pastor I know has a standard liturgy for funerals. To personalize each service, he uses the Find and Replace command on his computer to replace the name of the deceased from the previous funeral with the new name.



The next morning, the funeral was going smoothly until the Apostle's Creed. "Jesus Christ," the congregation read from the program, "born of the Virgin Edna..."

CWL Virtual BYOB Book Club



May Reads

1. ***Britt-Marie Was Here*** – Frederik Backman. Britt-Marie can't stand mess. But hidden inside the socially awkward, fussy busybody is a woman who has more imagination, bigger dreams, and a warmer heart that anyone around her realizes.
2. ***Lady Tan's Circle of Women*** – Lisa See. A historical novel inspired by the true story of Tan Yunxian, a woman physician from 15th century China.
3. ***Home Seeking*** – Karissa Chen. A tale of one couple across sixty years as world events pull them together and apart, illuminating the Chinese diaspora and exploring what it means to find home far from your homeland.
4. ***Pick a Color*** – Souvankham Thammavongsa. The story of a nail salon owner as she toils away for the privileged clients who don't even know her true name.

5. ***Mother Mary Comes to Me*** -Arundhati Roy. How the author became the person and writer she is, shaped by circumstances.
6. ***Where I Belong*** – Alan Doyle. A narrative journey about small-town life, curiosity and creative fulfillment, and finally, about leaving everything you know behind only to learn that no matter where you go, home will always be with you.
7. ***The Pilot's Wife*** – Anita Shreve. Jack Lyons, a commercial pilot, is flying a plane when it explodes. The book follows the grieving process of his widow trying to find out what happened.
8. ***The Distant Hours*** – Kate Morton. A long-lost letter arrives in the post and Edie Burchill finds herself on a journey to Milderhurst Castle, a great but moldering old house, where the Blythe spinsters live and where her mother was billeted 50 years before as a 13-year-old child during WWII.
9. ***The Emperor's Children*** – Claire Messud. A novel about the intersections in the lives of three friends, now on the cusp of their thirties, making their way in New York City.

Next Book Club Meeting

October 29 @ 7 pm

Important Dates



Oct. 2 (9:00 am)	Carrot Soup Making Bee
Oct. 7 (9:00 am)	Saskatoon Pie Making Bee
Oct. 14 (9:00 am)	Hamburger Soup Making Bee
October 20	General Meeting
October 23	Bazaar Set up Day
October 24	Fall Bazaar
October 27	Hospitality Sunday (Serve Donuts/Drinks) after 9:00 & 11:00 Masses
April 24 & 25	Diocesan Convention, Fort Saskatchewan
June 4 – 6	Provincial Convention, Yellowknife



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

ST. CHARLES CWL PRAYER LIST

September 2026

Please pray for our CWL members and our Council. Prayers for peace in the Ukraine & the Middle East
Please pray for seminarian Marc Berube 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
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
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
Lillian Wawzonek
Suzanne Wowk
Anthony (Tony) Hauck (Katherine Tarras' brother-in-law)
Michelle Armstrong
Joann Limoges
Faye Tkachuk
Dulcie Webb (Lily Webb's daughter-in-law)
Kathleen Oswald

For those who have died and all who mourn them:

Shane Castiday (son of Genny Castiday and brother of Debbie Dixon)
Elaine Young (Betty Storoschuk's sister)
Frank Spatafora (Bea Spatafora's father-in-law)
Marie-Paul Petersen (CWL member)
Filomena St. Jean (Estrela De Sousa's sister)
Heather Jeffries (former custodian of St. Charles Parish)
Colette Cramer (Father Marc's mother)
Richard Cloutier (Cecile Dufresne's brother)
Mary Malloy (V.P. of the Alberta/Mackenzie Provincial CWL)
Georgie Alexander (Kathy Martel's sister)
Merv Swityk (Therese's husband)

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



October 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Mary Leuwer	2 CWL Cooking Bee - Carrot soup making 9AM Sharon MacCormac	3 Kathy Martel
4 Connie McBride	5 Teresa McGrath	6 Shirley Meier	7 PRAY THE ROSARY	8 Evelyn Michaels	9 Irene Midgley	10 Monika Murnane
11 Corey Nahayowski	12 THANKSGIVING 	13 Dianne Nolette	14 PRAY THE ROSARY CWL Cooking Bee - Hamburger soup make 9AM Cecylia Novak	15 Kathleen Oswald	16 Sandra Palazzo	17 Anne-Marie Paquin
18 Rita Pfefferle	19 Marie Phillips	20 Linda Platzner	21 PRAY THE ROSARY CWL 6:45pm Rachelle Pouliot	22 Evelyn Radostits	23 Lynette Reynolds	24 CWL BAZAAR Sharon Roshko
25 Barb Roth	26 Judy Roy	27 Marlene Schmidt	28 PRAY THE ROSARY Sherrie Schumacker	29 Claire Kawulok	30 Janice Stalker	31 HALLOWEEN  Betty Storoschuk

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 link changes every 3 months. To ensure you have the most updated link, please visit our Provincial website: <https://www.cwlabmk.ca/>. Scroll down the home page for the newest link to this week's rosary. Site opens 7 pm & the Rosary starts at 7:30



September '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

November '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			