



Catholic Women

*Published Quarterly by St. Philip Council
of Catholic Women*

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Inside this issue:	
Cover	1
President's letter	2
Upcoming Events	3
CCW Circles	4-5
St. Philip Group News	6
Final Thoughts	7
Back Page	8

April-June 2026 Issue

April 1, 2026

Hello Ladies,

I hope you all are enjoying a blessed Easter season! I'm reflecting back on so many things that we've accomplished since last August and thinking about upcoming events to round out our fiscal year.

Our annual Spring Fling is up next, on Monday, April 20th. All members will receive a personal phone call invitation, and we hope to reach everyone by April 10th. The invitation has been extended to the CCW's of St. Joseph and St. Jerome. This will be a salad potluck (both warm and cold). Please make a note in your calendar. We'll be discussing plans for the coming year and voting for officers. Following that, our membership drive begins. We've added opportunities to volunteer, and you'll see those on the membership form. A mailing will go out to all St. Philip women parishioners, and we're also thinking of ways to send the information and form electronically.

There are two areas within our council that need more attention. First is our membership. I'd like to work better at recruiting new members as well as keeping the dedicated and talented women that we already have. Second is our schools. Part of our mission is to be involved with all three of our Catholic schools and religious education programs. We'll be meeting with the principals and directors to ask about their needs and how we might meet those needs. Your ideas about how we can help and serve are encouraged and very welcome!

As always, thank you for your prayers and everything you do for our council and parish! I have so much gratitude for all of you,

Deb Lawver

ST. PHILIP COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN Events: April-June



St. Philip CCW

- Spring Fling Potluck, Monday, April 20, in the Parish Center. Doors open at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm. We'll have a brief meeting and voting for officers.
- Spring Flower Sale Fundraiser – taking orders in April with delivery early to mid-May.
- Hosting the First Holy Communion reception on Sunday, May 3.
- Only one monthly Board Meeting this quarter, Monday, May 18, at 4:00 pm in the Parish Office Board Room.
- Installation Banquet, Monday, June 15 in the Parish Center. Doors open at 5:30, dinner at 6:00 pm.
- Father's Day Breakfast, Sunday, June 21 in the Parish Center. 10:00 am – Noon.

*Please remember to send your
True Blue Hours to:*

Mary Vasquez at:
mmvasquez1151@gmail.com

Do you know about our Circles?!

St. Martha's Circle

St. Martha was the sister of Lazarus and Mary, all of whom were close friends of Jesus. Martha was always ready to serve Jesus and other guests when they came to their home. She is known for her maturity, strength, service, common sense, and concern for others. She is our model, and we pattern our circle after her. Her feast day is July 29.

Meeting dates: 2nd Tuesday of the month (Sept.-June) We meet at members' homes. We volunteer, it is not required by all members. It's a meeting and a fun social activity. We begin by praying the Divine Chaplet of Mercy and any special intentions. We discuss up-coming CCW events and share ideas on how to serve our church, community and beyond. Annual support: Catholic Relief Services: Clean Water Fund and the Altar Servers

fund. This year we are focused on projects within the Church and School. We've deep cleaned the Adoration Chapel, Father Fitzgerald Room and Library. We hope to tackle the Board room in April. At the last meeting, we put together Blessing Bags (items such as socks, Kleenex, water and snacks) to those we see standing around town standing on street corners. We found it is better to give than receive!

If you'd like to connect with our parish, meet new friends and give back to our community, come join us for a meeting. You will meet a unique group of friendly, loving and gifted women. We always have a little food, drink and fun catching up with one another. Come and see!

Contact: Marty Turner 269-986-1488 or Marcia McGrath 269-579-3960

St. Monica's Circle

St. Monica's Circle began in the Fall of 2015. It is named after the mother of St. Augustine who prayed and kept praying for more than 25 years that her son (and husband) would find God. God finally answered her prayers and her son became a great saint.

This Circle is devoted to praying for our children and grandchildren who might be having spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, or financial problems. The Circle also prays for other family members and friends, as well as our church and nation which both need our prayers in this time of crisis. We make a list of intentions at each meeting that we pray for during the rest of the month.

Mothers/grandmothers of all ages are invited to join St. Monica's Circle. Single women are also invited to come and pray for their godchildren, nieces, nephews, or other family members. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month in the Adoration Chapel at 3:00 pm (Nov-Apr) and 6:30 pm (May-Oct). Our group has developed a prayer booklet of more than 80 pages. At each meeting, we pray the Chaplet of St. Monica and the Litany of St. Monica and then choose other prayers from the booklet to recite together. Our prayer time lasts about 45 minutes and then we meet for fellowship and food afterwards.

For more information, please contact Cathy Hirzel at 968-4639 or chirzel@aol.com. New members are always welcome to join us in prayer!

Circles Continued

St. Elizabeth Circle

St. Elizabeth Circle began in 1981 with 20 members, including Carol Heisler, Cathy Hirzel, and Mary Jo McPeake, who are all still active members today. We still have a total of 20 members, although many have been replaced over time.

Would you like to make new friends? Would you like to have lots of fun? If you have about an hour a month, we would like to invite you to join the St. Elizabeth Circle. We are group of Catholic women that meet once a month to organize, plan and execute fun activities. It is an opportunity to share important values of our Catholic Christian faith. These include feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting and praying for the sick, visiting the imprisoned and burying the dead. Some of these are covered by our support of the Food pantry, Charitable union, In-as-much House, funeral luncheons, and many receptions throughout the year. Many

members also do their own works of mercy either on their own or with other charitable groups. In that same vein, it is also a St. Elizabeth tradition to adopt a needy family at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We help with the many service projects conducted by the Council of Catholic Women (CCW). During our year, we also do fundraising, which enables us to donate money to the parish in June. This money will be used in any area of need in the church that the Priest decides.

St. Elizabeth meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month from August through May at homes of members. We always have a short business meeting followed by something fun, then treats!! We also have social outings and guest speakers at many of the meetings. We need you, and your ideas and your friendship! Give it a try, you won't want to miss a meeting! Casual, fun and purposeful. **If you are interested in joining or want more information, call Mary Vasquez at 269-968-6449.**





St Philip Garden News

Winter days are numbered and spring is on it's way! Our St. Philip Garden Club is looking forward to beginning again soon! If gardening is your thing, come join us! For information, call 269-579-3960 or 269-986-1488



Our Priests need our Prayers!

Seven Sister Apostolate

Would you like to be a part of a group praying for Father James and Father Patrick?

The Seven Sisters Apostolate is a National organization that prays for Priests. For one year each of the Seven Sisters commits to taking a designated day of the week and promises to pray in front of a tabernacle for one hour during the day. Our St. Philip group has been praying since October 2023. We would love to have more women involved so that each day we would have two women praying or, if the need arises, would be able to cover for each other. Your one hour prayer time can be done at any church or chapel. (If you are homebound and would like to be a part of the Apostolate, you would be able to pray at home.)

If you are interested in being a part of this Apostolate or would like more information, please call Cathy Hirzel at 968-4639.



"The Priest is not a Priest for himself...he is for you. After God, the Priest is everything."

-St. John Vianney



Ladies!

Thank you for the responses! Below is a list of Podcasts and Books...I will leave this question open for next time as well!

Podcasts

- All Things Catholic with Dr. Edward Sri
- After Mass with Ana Munley
- The Jeff Cavins Show (Your Catholic Bible Study Podcast)
- Catholic Café-EWTN

Books

- The Power of the Rosary-Gabriel Castillo
- Rethinking Mary-Edward Sri
- Mother Angelica-The Remarkable Story of a Nun, Her Nerve & a Network of Miracles-Raymond Arroyo
- The Story of a Soul-Saint Therese of Lisieux
- Secrets of the Sacred Heart-12 ways to claim Jesus' promises in your life
- Emily Jaminet

***What are your go to Catholic Podcasts or
Inspirational books that were hard to put down?***

Please share: sbcobb11@gmail.com

***We will include another list in the next newsletter...
pulling us closer to the Lord in 2026!***

Circle Chairs:

St Elizabeth Circle: Mary Vasquez-968-6449

St. Martha Circle: Marty Turner-986-1488

St. Monica Circle: Cathy Hirzel-968-4639

Mission Statement

The purpose of St. Philip Council of Catholic Women is to unite women of the parish through spiritual, service, and social activities and to assist the pastor in meeting the material needs of the parish through our gifts of time, and money. It is also our intent to respond with Gospel values to the needs of our youth in the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools and the St. Philip Parish Religious Education programs as well as various outreach programs in our local community and the world through works of charity or financial assistance.

“Friend” CCW on Facebook



The Council of Catholic Women has started a Facebook page. If you would like to become a “friend” of CCW please go to the website below <https://www.facebook.com/stphilipccw/>

The Council of Catholic Women Publishes *Catholic Women* quarterly.

Please send information for the July-September Newsletter by:

June 20, 2026.

Send submissions or Newsletter Suggestions to: Sheri Robotham

Sbcobb11@gmail.com
