



Women of St. Margaret Mary

Meeting Minutes from February 10, 2024

- I. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Miscellaneous announcements/discussion
 - Linda Reynolds and Celine Codd are not receiving emails relating to the Women's Group and need to be added to the email group.
 - Congratulations to Jennifer Tachenko and family who became Catholics on January 29, 2024!
 - Thanks to those responsible for providing food for the meeting.
 - March 10 is still available for signup for Father Cook's breakfast.
 - Kim Rovinski's cancer has returned and she will be starting treatment over again in Michigan. The Group agreed to have a Mass said for her and send a Mass card. The cost is approximately \$10.
 - Addresses for Kim Rovinski, Beverly Penland and Bea Madden will be sent out for those wishing to send them cards.
- III. Welcome Visitors and New Members – There were no visitors or new members at the meeting.
- IV. Birthdays in February – The following women of St. Margaret Mary will be celebrating their birthdays in February: Blanca Navidad on February 21 and Cecelia Meredith on February 27. Happy Birthday!!
- V. Treasurer's Report – Judy Clyne
 - The checking account balance as of February 9, 2024 is \$1437.91. We have no outstanding checks at this time.
 - Happy Dollars for January was \$36.
 - Dues for 2024 are due by the end of February. Any woman 18 years old and a parishioner are eligible to join. Dues are \$25 and checks should be made payable to Women of St. Margaret Mary. Cash is always accepted. Dues may be placed in the collection basket at the weekend Masses. Please mark the envelope to the attention of the Women of St. Margaret Mary. Scholarships are available. Anyone interested should see Judy Clyne.
 - Name badges are \$15.50. The Women's Group pays for shipping. It is preferable to order as many badges as possible at the same time.
- VI. Reflection – Jane Blanc

Jane shared information about the history of Lent:

- The word *Lent* is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words *lencten*, meaning "Spring," and *lenctentid*, which literally means not only "Springtide" but also was the word for "March," the month in which the majority of Lent falls.

- Since earliest times of the Church, there is evidence of some kind of Lenten preparation for Easter. St. Irenaeus, who died in 203, wrote to Pope St. Victor I, commenting on the celebration of Easter and the differences between practices in the East and West. The dispute was not only about the day, but also about the actual character about the fast.
- Lent became more regularized after the legalization of Christianity in A.D. 313. In his "Festal Letters", St. Athanasius implored his congregation to make a 40-day fast prior to the more intense fasting of Holy Week. By the end of the 4th century, the 40-day period of Easter preparation known as Lent existed, and prayer and fasting constituted its primary spiritual exercises.
- Once 40 days of Lent were established, the next development concerned how much fasting was to be done. Fasting was practiced in different ways but, eventually, the practice prevailed of fasting for six days a week over the course of six weeks, and Ash Wednesday was instituted to bring the number of fast days before Easter to 40.
- On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, the faithful fast and abstain from meat. On the other Fridays of Lent, the faithful abstain from meat. People are still encouraged "to give up something" for Lent as a sacrifice.
- Emphasis must also be placed on performing spiritual works, like attending the Stations of the Cross, attending Mass, making a weekly holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament, taking time for personal prayer and spiritual reading and especially making a good confession and receiving sacramental absolution.

VII. Lent and Easter Sunday Update

- The Lent schedule is in the bulletin and on the parish website or parish Facebook page. Also, Father Cook posts to the Facebook page.
- The Easter Egg hunt will take place on Easter Sunday, after the 8:30, 11:00 and 1:00 Masses. Two volunteers are needed to put out eggs and give out goodie bags at the end of the hunt for the 8:30 and 11:00 Masses. Children will hunt eggs and turn them in for a goodie bag so eggs may be re-used next year.
- The goodies bags will be assembled at the next Women's Group meeting on March 9.

VIII. 2024 Activities and Outreach – A handout was distributed which listed the ministries performed by the Women's Group and a description of what is involved in each ministry. Another handout was distributed, listing the ministries, giving the women the opportunity to indicate which ministries they may be interested in.

IX. Miscellaneous

- There will be no Vespers and soup this Lent. Father Cook wants emphasis placed on the Stations of the Cross. It may be re-considered next year. The possibility of coordinating it with the Knights of Columbus was discussed.
- Father Becker would like rosaries for Quo Vadis. He will let us know how many are needed.
- Please notify Jane or LeAnn of items of interest at the following email: StMargaretMary1936@gmail.com.
- Please notify the church office of anyone that needs to be placed on the prayer chain at office@saintmmc.com

X. St. Valentine's cards were signed for homebound as well as get well cards for Beverly Penland and Bea Madden

XI. Closing Prayer