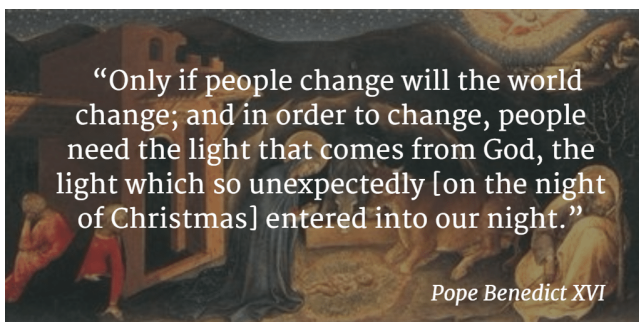


There's a point in every true friendship where you stop being friends and become sisters.



NATIVITY SCENE

Also known as a creche, this tradition dates back to Saint Francis of Assisi, who is credited with creating the first live nativity scene in 1223 as a way to make public worship of Jesus part of the Christmas season. The recreation of the birth of Christ, featuring people dressed as Mary, Joseph and the shepherds, was meant to bring the Bible to life for a population of believers who were not literate. The use of small figures and elaborate displays was perfected during the 1700s in Naples, Italy. These recreations are featured in churches and homes around the world to this day. Typically the manger is kept empty and only filled with the baby Jesus on Christmas Day.



How Many of These Christmas Traditions Have You Enjoyed?

1. Midnight Mass
2. Christmas cookies for Santa
3. Watched the Rockefeller tree lighting
4. Cookie exchange
5. Made hot chocolate with marshmallows
6. Advent calendar
7. Sent holiday photo card
8. Watched a Christmas Classic Movie
9. Christmas Caroling
10. Drove around to look at Christmas decorations
11. Built a Gingerbread House
12. Wore matching Christmas pajamas
13. Read "The Night Before Christmas"
14. Wore an ugly Christmas sweater
15. Picked out a real tree
16. Made a popcorn and/or cranberry garland

COMING SOON...

A Fashion Experience in the Enchanted Forest



Saturday, February 3

Wesley Center

715 W. Juniata St.

Doors open at 10:30 a.m.

Fashions & Demos by Dillard's

Lunch at noon

Raffles to follow

Fashions & merchandise available
for purchase from Dillard's

\$35

Tickets must be purchased
in advance.

For more information or to
purchase tickets,
call (908) 461-4477

Thank you for supporting our fashion show.

All proceeds will go to local charities.



Blessed Sacrament
COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC
WOMEN

Presents
fashions by

Dillard's
The Style of Your Life.

Life's troubles seem small in The Enchanted Forest

Our Fashion Show sold out in 8 days!

We are now hard at work putting together raffle baskets and finalizing decorations. Any donations for raffle baskets and/or door prizes will be happily accepted!



"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

- Luke 2:10

**Our bountiful and blessed
Thanksgiving luncheon/meeting**



Upcoming Events

CCW Masses - 8:30am - Blessed Sacrament Church
Fri 12/1

Handmaidens Circle - 1:00pm
Tue 12/5, 1/9 - Social Hall

CCW Board Meeting - 1:00pm
Tue 12/12, 1/16 - Adult Ministry Building

CCW General Meeting - 11:00am
Tue 12/19, 1/23 - Social Hall

Evening Circle - 6:30pm
Tue 1/25 - Social Hall

COMMISSION CORNER

Leadership - Linda Lauletta

To all BSCCW members, thank you for all that you do and have done for our council. May this Christmas season bring an abundance of happiness and peace to you and your loved ones. Have an enjoyable New Year, and may 2024 be filled with blessings for all.

Happy Birthday!

Suzette Chandler 12/1

Linda Strehle 12/4

Donna Antoniotti 12/6

Diane Owen 12/15

Geraldine Correa 12/18

Kathleen Holt 12/22

Marie Perry 12/22

Liz Hammert 12/23

Delia Schley 12/26

Geri Monatesti 12/28

Spirituality - Barbara Wessels, Kathy McGuinness

Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year in the Roman Catholic Church. It begins on Sunday, December 3 and ends on Christmas Eve. In Advent, we focus on our spiritual preparation for Christmas through fasting, prayer and almsgiving to purify our hearts and prepare us for the celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas, but also for the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the sacrament of Holy Communion, and finally for His Second Coming at the end of time.

Marian Feast Days in December

Dec 8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (a holy day of obligation)

Dec 10 Our Lady of Loreto

Dec 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

Dec 18 The Expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Our Blessed Lady, well advanced in pregnancy, is portrayed in the highest dignity of her Divine Motherhood. Dressed in royal apparel as daughter of David the King, she awaits with joy the arrival of her divine Son, the Prince of Peace.)

The People of Faith program will be held at BSCC on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 starting at 10am, followed by lunch.

“

Dear Father,
I treasure my wonderful friends so much. Thank you for their presence in my life. I ask that you would watch over them and lead them into hope and blessing. I trust that you will protect and hold them when life is hard. Lord, help me to be a good friend to them. Amen.”



Keep Praying

Loving God, We pray for the people of Ukraine, Palestine, Israel and for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for all the world.

Amen.

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Treasurer, Mary Alice Hernandez,

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Editor, Nilda Davila, ngdavila29@aol.com

We welcome your ideas and input for the next newsletter!

Legislative - Loretta Terrana

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery that subjects children, women, and men to force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of exploitation. This horrific practice can include prostitution, pornography, and sex tourism as well as domestic servitude, factory work, migrant farming and mining. Human trafficking is not the same as smuggling; it does not require movement across borders.

LEARN HOW TO SPOT THE SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING. COMMON WORK AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE INDIVIDUAL(S) IN QUESTION

- Not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- Under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts
- Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp/manager
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)

POOR MENTAL HEALTH OR ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement
- Avoids eye contact

POOR PHYSICAL HEALTH

- Lacks health care
- Appears malnourished
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture

LACK OF CONTROL

- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account
- Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

OTHER

- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or does not know what city he/she is in
- Loss of sense of time
- Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Catholic Church's vehement opposition to human trafficking is rooted in principles of Catholic social teaching, central to which is the sacredness and dignity of human life. In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#2414) which "forbids acts or enterprises that, for any reason, lead to the enslavement of human beings – to their being *bought*, sold, and exchanged like merchandise, in disregard for their personal dignity." The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) *Committee on Migration's Statement On Human Trafficking* clearly outlines the Church's teaching on human trafficking, noting:

"Human trafficking is a horrific crime against the basic dignity and rights of the human person. All efforts must be expended to end it."

For over a decade the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB.org) has been a leader in the U.S. in the fight against human trafficking.