

*These minutes can also be found on the Women's Club page on the parish website (<https://www.stmarysl.org/womens-club.html>).*

ST. MARY'S WOMEN'S CLUB  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Trish welcomed everyone and Mary Pat Dubuc led us in the opening prayer. We recognized anniversaries, birthdays, and special events. We had 1 visitor, Carol Lauer. About 30 ladies were in attendance.

Our guest speaker was parishioner Kathy Struve who talked about her trip to Medjugorje in Bosnia. In brief, here is a statement from [www.medjugorje.com](http://www.medjugorje.com):

*"Since 1981, in a small village called Medjugorje, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Blessed Virgin Mary has been appearing and giving messages to the world. And that these years She is spending with us are a time of special Grace granted by God. In Her own words She tells us, *"I have come to tell the world that God exists. He is the fullness of life, and to enjoy this fullness and peace, you must return to God."**

Kathy said that the town is small, about the size of Spring Lake, and is very spiritual. The local church is completely full every day with people attending the recitation of the rosary and mass. Kathy also traveled to beautiful Zadar, a walled city in Croatia situated on the Adriatic Sea.

Everyone enjoyed Kathy's presentation, and we thanked her very much for giving us "peace rosaries" from Medjugorje.

Recap of February 8<sup>th</sup> outing to the Tri-Cities Museum – About 20 members attended. A staff member narrated their special exhibit called "Ship Shape Sisters: The Women of the Coast Guard SPARS." SPARS was the authorized nickname for the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Women's Reserve. The nickname is an acronym fashioned from the USCG's motto, "Semper Paratus"—"Always Ready." Everyone enjoyed the visit and lunch at the Kirby House.

Summary of Start-Stop-Continue exercise – Trish summarized the feedback. Some (not all) of the comments were as follows: stop the Christmas gift exchange or at least stop the stealing gifts game; stop side conversations during meetings; stop Bunco; choose a new venue for the Christmas luncheon; start meetings on time; add a time during meetings for members to announce special intentions; visit Meijer Gardens; continue the Christmas luncheons; continue the rosary recitation, greeting cards, membership rosters and meeting minutes. Trish thanked everyone for their input and said the board will attempt to keep these things in mind for future meetings.

Altar Needs – Trish received a note from Father Bill listing altar needs. It was determined that candles and incense were too expensive for our club to cover. Although our quilt group had offered to make altar purificators (small cloths used at the altar), they bought some at a cost of \$350. Cynthia Caufield moved that the club cover the cost; Ann Fortenbacher seconded; motion carried. Our club also will continue to cover the costs of altar wine and hosts as much as possible.

Treasurer's Report – Deb Taetsch reported for Lynn Rigoli who was not in attendance. Our checking account balance is \$11,032. Our diocese balance is still \$8,375.

Trish stated that she was able to purchase St. Mary's Women's Club pins at a cost of \$255 for 50 pins. Linda Doublestein moved that the club cover this cost; Jackie Koehler-Berry seconded; motion carried.

Programs – Bonnie Glavich announced that we will be going to Meijer Gardens on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up sheets were passed around. Attendees should meet in the church parking lot at 10:30 a.m. to carpool. Admission is \$22/\$17 for seniors. We'll eat lunch at the café then tour the gardens. The butterfly exhibit will be there, and a tram (\$8) is available for those wanting to ride. Each person is responsible for the costs, and we'll be able to tour the grounds as we like.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, an Ottawa County Sherriff will speak to our club about avoiding scams. On June 11<sup>th</sup>, there will be a potluck lunch at Mueril Tuggle's home.

Board Member Nominations – Trish announced that there are 2 openings on the board – Vice President and Secretary. Cynthia Caulfield volunteered to take Bonnie's position as VP. It was agreed that she will have a committee to help with programming. Anyone interested in nominating herself or someone else for Secretary, can do so at our May meeting.

Cards sent from the club – Gloria Price sent mass cards to Father Bill for his father's passing and to the family of Peggie Williams. Several other people received get well cards.

#### Other business

Joanne Rupar shared a very nice prayer called "A Prayer for 2025" that came from the Joliet Franciscans.

There was a question about a women's club directory that includes members' photos. As far as we know, that project has stalled. Perhaps the soon-to-be-published parish directory will be helpful.

Deb Taetsch reported the quilt group has one quilt finished and another is almost done. They are both queen-size and quite beautiful. They plan to make a lap quilt also. All three quilts will be raffled off as a fundraiser for our club. Help will be needed to sell the quilt raffle tickets this summer.

Thank you to those who provided the delicious refreshments: Jackie Koehler-Berry, Trish Ostberg, and Cynthia Caulfield. [Note: The ladies who signed up to bring refreshments in May are Lynne Palarz, Kay Johnson, Dorothy Zajechowski, and Joan Morse.]

Thank you to those who donated toiletries for the food pantry.

Submitted by  
Marilyn Wheeler, Secretary  
St. Mary's Women's Club