St. Paul VI Women's Society News

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ST. PAUL VI PARISH
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Women's Society: Cozy up with friends at Harvest Tea

As summer days dwindle down, it is time to embrace the vibrant colors and comfy coziness of autumn! Join us Wed., Sept. 2, for our first monthly gathering since June: a Harvest Tea.

We will enjoy teas, herbal teas, apple cider, and other beverages, accompanied by an assortment of sweets and savories (provided by your officers) and play a special "get to know you" bingo.
Chris Alfred will have our prototype Women's Society polo shirts and T-shirts along with order forms! Annual dues are still only $20 and will be gratefully accepted that evening.

Members of the Women's Society and women interested in joining are welcome! Come to the Marian Room of Mater Christi Church by 7:00 for split-the-pot tickets, business, refreshments, bingo, and socializing. The rosary will precede the meeting at 6:30 in church.

Supporting Appalachia

The Women's Society donated $100 again this year to support sending four groups from St. Paul VI on the Appalachian Service Project in late June. Our parish youth ministry was accompanied by Father Tim and several other adult volunteers to help families in Leslie County, Kentucky, by refurbishing homes damaged by devastating storms.

In remembrance

Elizabeth “Betty” Dvorak, 91, of North Riverside died July 22. Betty was a member of our Women's Society. Her cheerful, resonant voice was a welcome sound when she appeared at gatherings.
Betty's close-knit family included her seven children, among them our Society's Carol Dvorak and Janet Dorrance, along with 21 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Her career included working as a journalist for the Chicago Daily News and for more than 30 years, as an accountant for Ernest D. Dimonte Accounting.
As an active member of Mater Christi for 60 years, Betty worked with the PADS shelter and Housing Forward. She held offices in the former Women's Guild, which named her its 2004 Woman of the Year. Betty's friend Gloria Pennacchio, in an online tribute, fondly remembered Guild times and Betty serving as her 2nd vice president in 1975-76 during Gloria's presidency. Betty signed her cards with the sentiment "Do good and avoid evil with love and courage."
Betty loved feeding a crowd around her kitchen table and feeding the homeless. Memorial donations to the Housing Forward Shelter, 1851 S. 9th Ave., Maywood, IL 60153 would be appreciated. Our Society's Mass for Betty will be on September 27, 2026.

Newsletter editor and designer: Chris Alfred * Writer: Sue Kahler

Special occasion snapshots

In May and June our Society celebrated several special occasions, notably the parish May Crowning at Mater Christi, which we coordinated, led by Theresa Mendez; our Society's May Crowning and Candlelight Rosary; and our Appreciation Dinner honoring our Woman of the Year, Rosemary Kufta, arranged by Carol Dvorak.

Rosemary Kufta: St. Paul VI Woman of the Year 2026

Our St. Paul VI Woman of the Year is Rosemary Kufta! A Catholic school educator and a leader, she has been integral in our transition to a unified Women's Society. She said, "I am thrilled that we are keeping the Women's Society going. I love seeing the ladies every month. We melded the best of all three women's groups into an awesome group!"

Rosemary helped adapt traditions from the Society of Catholic Women at former St. Hugh Parish and create new ones for our Women's Society. She has been a member of the Parish Pastoral Council since St. Paul VI was founded in 2021 and is a lector. Rosemary is our Women's Society vice president, our Spring Luncheon co-chair, our bunco chair, raffle basket wizard, and co-organizer and a star seller at our bake sales!

Rosemary was president of the St. Hugh SCW from 2014-18. Her most valued achievement was reaching out to young women and creating a junior SCW. She was a Eucharistic minister and taught Religious Ed there for eight years.

Her clear, expressive voice comes from 37 years of teaching, 35 of them at St. Giles Catholic School in Oak Park. Her new role on the St. Giles faculty is as a math resource teacher, providing enrichment and support for third- to eighth grades. Prior to the past academic year, Rosemary taught science. She continues to help as a judge for school, regional, and state science fairs. Rosemary is also a lector and St. Giles' liturgy coordinator, planning all the school Masses and several Sunday family Masses.

Rosemary's own Catholic education culminated in a degree in math education from St. Xavier University and a master's in reading specialist at Dominican University.

Rosemary and her husband, Bob, married in 1993 and made their home in Lyons. They adopted their daughter, Allison, from China in 2000. In May, she received a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Illinois. Currently she is doing her ophthalmology residency at Indiana University.

Wherever she sees a need in her parish or beyond, Rosemary reaches out to help, without fanfare. One of her outreaches is volunteering with the Hinsdale Humane Society, working with cats and at special events. Rosemary is the consummate volunteer, a true servant leader, a joyful soul and trusted confidante, and a source of inspiration to friends and students alike!

Rosemary with daughter Allison, husband Bob, and sisters Judy Falesch (left) and Renee Sheeran and Maryann Lukis.

Calendar

Sept. 2: Monthly gathering, 7pm, MCC/Marian Room
Sept. 6: Society Mass; 11am, MCC
Sept. 12: Father Larry Basbas' Installation Mass, 4:30pm, SM, followed by reception at Parish Center
Oct 7: Monthly gathering, 7pm, MCC/Marian Room
Oct. 10: Society Mass, 4pm, SMC
Oct. 10: Sisters, Soda, Scripture, 1pm, SMC/Oak Room
Oct. 11: Trunk or Treat, 4pm, MCC
Oct. 24: Halloween Bunco, 12:30pm, MCC/Marian Room

Happy Birthday!

September

Berni Austin
Mary Beth Brokenshire
Julie Keehn
Haley Mendez
Debbie Orth
Patti Vallez

Seeking sweet treats

Bakers are invited to create sweet treats for Father Larry Basbas' pastoral installation reception Saturday, Sept. 12, in the Parish Center after 4:30 Mass at St. Mary Church. See Teresa Hall at our Society's gathering Sept. 2 or contact her at (708) 525-3082, bakinggrandma3@gmail.com.

Luncheon was a Grand Slam

North Side fans and South Side fans came together in the "friendly confines" of Mater Christi's Marian Room, June 27, for the Women's Society's Grand Slam Luncheon, many of them dressed in Cubs or Sox colors. A baseball trivia game and escape room challenge kept teams engaged.

Tickets procured by Chris Alfred were raffled from the Chicago White Sox, Kane County Cougars, Chicago Wolves, Schaumburg Boomers, Rockford IceHogs, Joliet Slammers, and Second City, along with a stage full of theme baskets. Winner Ann Baikie Split-the-Pot of $270.

Ballpark favorites grilled by Bryant Rouleau and the Society's homemade salad buffet drew appreciative comments. Rosemary Kufta chaired the event, and Chris Alfred devised the immersive games. An equally exciting theme has been chosen for next year's luncheon!

In remembrance

James A. Rocotello Sr., 74, of Lyons, formerly of Cicero, died May 23. James was the father of Chris Alfred and grandfather of Veronica and Jackie Alfred. He had three children and five grandchildren.

Jim loved his family, the Chicago White Sox, and his car. He was a quiet man who showed his love not in an overtly affectionate way, but in how he supported the people he loved. He often found himself driving his family, especially his grandchildren, to where they needed to go. They were his joy; he attended their many choral, band, and orchestra concerts; football games to watch the marching band; and soccer, softball, and basketball games. Jackie ended her colorful eulogy at his funeral Mass with his credo “Real Italians don’t put wine in the fridge!”