



St. Robert Bellarmine Women's Group

Who We Are

The Women's Group at St. Robert's started in 2010. It is open to all women in the parish, as well as friends from outside the parish.

Sometimes on our journey, we are touched by those around us. Sometimes it comes softly: a kind word that makes our day, a sympathetic ear that gives us hope, laughter that eases away the day's tensions. Sometimes an offhand comment leads to a revelation. We may not always engage in deliberate exercises in spiritual growth at our meetings, but growth occurs just the same.

Faith is at the center of our group. We start each meeting with a prayer, asking for the grace and guidance to help us live our lives in accordance to Jesus's teachings. We ask that strength and healing be given to those who need our prayers. There are amazing women in this group, spiritual mentors that enhance our conviction and devotion to our faith. Together we share our perceptions and our knowledge of scripture, learning from one another.

There is a sense of joy that comes when women gather together in faith. Here, there is no judgment or criticism, but a culture of warmth and acceptance.

What We Do

- ✠ Support members and ministries of our Parish.
 - * Homebound baskets – Each year we put together baskets of cheer for homebound parishioners who have difficulty attending Mass.
 - * Assist in church activities – We support the efforts of the other groups in our parish including the Knights of Columbus and the Community Outreach Committee. It is important to support those who serve.
- ✠ Host guest speakers who inspire and enlighten
- ✠ Have fun at various outings including:
 - * Girls Night Out at local restaurants
 - * Magic Paintbrush
 - * Movie Nights
 - * Bowling
 - * Performances at Stoneham Theater and Lowell Memorial Auditorium

Babcia loved her Christmas basket!



Girls Night Out!



‡ Support the community

- * Pregnancy Care Center – We have had several collections for the PCC and made them fun by holding a ‘baby shower’ complete with goodies and party games as we collect items for crisis babies and mothers.
- * Wish Project – In the past we have contributed to the Wish Project, an organization that helps families in need. With the donations from parish members, we have collected cleaning supplies, over 100 blankets, and over 130 coats for this charity.
- * Rosie’s Place – Organized the collection of toiletries and towels for Rosie’s Place, a homeless shelter for women.
- * Horizons for Homeless Children – located in Boston, HHC strives to improve the lives of young homeless children. We collected several bags of arts and craft supplies.
- * Lazarus House Soup Truck – Gathered to make soup for the soup truck that delivers soup to the homeless in Lawrence.

‡ Arts and Crafts

- * We made several craft decorations over the years-different items for different seasons.



‡ Deepen our faith

- * Stations of the Cross during Lent – a woman’s perspective
- * Praying the rosary in October, the month of the rosary – We reserve October’s meeting to honor Our Mother by reciting the rosary together.
- * Prayer labyrinth at Merrimack College – walking the labyrinth is like making a pilgrimage

‡ Prayer Shawl Ministry

Jan Fay leads our Prayer Shawl Ministry. A prayer shawl, or comfort shawl, is given to those in need of comfort from a physical or emotional hardship, or to someone celebrating a joyful event. The shawls can be knitted, crocheted, woven, or quilted. Prayers for the recipient are said before, during, and after the shawl construction. The hope is that when the recipient wraps the shawl around them, they will feel God’s loving arms enfold and comfort them and our prayers and caring thoughts surround them in peace. The shawls are blessed at the Communal Anointing of the Sick in the spring and fall before they are distributed.

We have received countless letters of thanks for these shawls describing the comfort they have brought to those who have received this beautiful gift from our group. If you are interested in making a prayer shawl please let us know. We have yarn, fabric and patterns.

We have also started making “pocket prayer quilts.” These tiny quilts are small enough to be kept in a pocket or purse to remind the recipient that they have been prayed for and are a tangible symbol of God’s love and our community’s support.



Upcoming Events

Usually, we meet the third Tuesday of each month, from 7:00-8:30 pm, in the Seton Room. Check the bulletin for information about upcoming meetings. For more information about the Women’s Group or to be added to the email list, please contact Jean Tornatore at jeantorn@verizon.net.