



St. Katharine Drexel Council of Catholic Women March 2026

The St. Katharine Drexel Council of Catholic Women is an affiliate of the Diocese of Venice Council of Catholic Women (VDCCW) and the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW). The NCCW is a member of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) and is an affiliate of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).



St. Katharine Drexel
Council of Catholic Women
General Membership Meeting

General Membership Meeting
Thursday, March 5, 2026
Meets the 1st Thursday of the Month

Place: Parish Hall
Mass: 9:00 am
Time: 10:00 am – 12 pm
Lunch: 12 pm – 1 pm

Potluck! Bring a Dish!

Speaker: **Katie Morris**
President of VDCCW



Bunco: Parish Hall 11 am – 2 pm
Meets every third Thursday of the month.
Thursday, March 19, 2026

SKD CCW Board Meeting: 10 am – 12 pm
Faith Formation Building West
Meets 4th Thursday of each month
Thursday, March 26, 2026



Stations of the Cross:
SKD Church, 6 pm – 7 pm
March 6, 13, 20, & 27



Charity Feature – Laces of Love - <https://lacesoflove.org/>

Laces of Love provides new sneakers to children in need throughout Collier and Lee Counties. They serve students from kindergarten through high school, prioritizing school-age sizes 1 through adult size 9. Shoes are distributed through public schools and partner non-profits and are privately fitted to preserve each child's dignity. In addition to everyday sneakers, Laces of Love also provides sports shoes and cleats to student athletes.

For 20 years, Laces of Love has helped more than 300,000 children in Southwest Florida step forward with confidence. Donations of new sneakers or monetary support are always welcome. Children who live in Collier or Lee Counties are chosen for Laces of Love shoes by school staff or non-profit representatives who measure their feet for a proper fit and provide age, gender, and shoe size to Laces of Love. If suitable shoes aren't on hand, Laces of Love procures and delivers them to the referring adult.

"Where True Charity and Love Dwell, God himself is there." – Servant Song/St. Williams Church



Membership

Roxana Nicholson

Roxana encourages all members to invite other parishioners into the Council.

There is definitely interest, so ask those women at Mass or at other events. You can ask Roxana for a membership packet, or you can pick one up in the Narthex. Speaking of new members, Pat Crowder has been busy making new nametags for new and even old members. Please remember to place your name tag in the box as you leave meetings. We'll keep them safe for you.

RESPECT LIFE



Maria Maddalena

239-540-7096

Our mission is to respect all human life from conception to natural death.

Prayer, Planned Parenthood, Ft. Myers
March 5, 12, 19, 26 – 12 Noon
Every Thursday starting at Noon.

Rosary for Life – Friday, March 13, 2026
SKD Chapel - @Noon

Diaper Drive (size 4, 5 + 6) + wipes +
shampoo
Weekend of March 14,15, 2026



Dress for Love – SKD CCW Fashion Show

Dear CCW Sisters: Wow, what an incredible event we all shared!
Chairwoman Eileen Sadlo, Co-

Chairwoman Rowena Suarez and President Mary Ann Bedell as well as all of the SKD CCW Board Members want to personally thank each and every one of you for coming together to make our Dress For Love Fashion Show a huge success.

They say it takes a village and it truly did! Our heartfelt thanks go to the many dedicated volunteers who worked behind the scenes organizing, gathering donations, preparing baskets and favors, selling tickets, modeling, setting up, and giving of themselves in countless ways to ensure the Fashion Show was such a success. To all who helped, your time, energy, and generosity made this beautiful day possible. Because of your passion, generosity, and hard work, we raised a pleasing amount this year. Details will be shared at our March General Membership Meeting. These funds will allow us to provide scholarships for our SKD students and support many other important needs, directly impacting those who need it most.

Seeing our community of women - parishioners and friends alike - come together with such dedication is truly inspiring. You are the hands and feet of Jesus, and we are so grateful for each and every one of you.

~~ With deep love and gratitude, SKD CCW 2026 Fashion Show Committee and Board members.





Respect Life: Maria Maddalena,
239-540-7096
Prayer, Planned Parenthood, Ft. Myers
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – 12 Noon

Bunco: Parish Hall 11 am – 2 pm
Thursday, April 16, 2026

SKD CCW Board Meeting:
Faith Formation Building West
Thursday, April 30, 2026



Bootstraps Collection

The Bootstraps team will have a collection bin in the Parish Hall during our March General Membership Meeting and again in April. Throughout March, please continue collecting small, practical items such as socks, razors, shampoo, bar soap, canned meat, granola bars, deodorant, toothpaste, peanut butter, AA/AAA batteries, and plastic bags. Bring any items you've already gathered and place them in the Bootstraps Collection bin. Thank you for your generosity—your donations make a real difference for those served by this ministry!



Mother Mary Elizabeth

250 Years: Women of Faith and Courage

Mary Elizabeth Lange (c. 1789–1882) was a visionary educator and religious leader whose work shaped our nation. She founded the first religious order in the U. S. for African American women in 1829 - the *Oblate Sisters of Providence* in Baltimore, Maryland. At a time when systemic racism limited opportunities, Mother Mary provided education, vocational training, and spiritual guidance to African American children and women. Through her leadership, she created a model of faith, service, and social empowerment. Mother Mary showed that education and moral formation are tools not only for personal growth but for societal change, inspiring generations of leaders and institutions nationwide. Her legacy reminds us that shaping a nation often begins with transforming the lives of its most marginalized citizens. *Eternal Father, help our CCW to follow Mother Mary's example by opening doors, lifting hearts, and building a more just and compassionate world.*



Hospitality

Judy Curtis, Ann Young

Thanks to you and your generosity, Hospitality is doing great! At our meetings, the Pot Luck so many dishes are being brought in with such variety and total deliciousness. Thank you to everyone for all the wonderful items. We will continue the Pot Luck dishes for March and April. But in May, we will have a catered lunch of pizza!



Leadership

Vicky Parker

We all do it. We learn that one of our sisters is having surgery, or has been diagnosed with a condition. We pray for them silently, but Vicky is asking us to also let her know. As the leader of our Leadership team, she would like to send them a card to assure them that we are with them in prayer. Please ask permission for those delicate conditions that they may not want anyone to know. But in most cases, please call: Vicky Parker – 239-219-4573 or email at Parker0496@yahoo.com



Understanding Mental Health

This month begins the availability of the Bootstraps Collection Bin at our CCW general membership meetings. As we support the homeless through Bootstraps, we are reminded that there are also people in our parish and community who live with depression, anxiety, trauma, or other mental health challenges. Did you know that 1 in 5 adults experience mental illness, and 1 in 20 adults experience a serious mental illness? Additionally, 1 in 7 youth (ages 6–17) experience a mental health disorder?⁽¹⁾ Often, they struggle in silence due to the stigma surrounding mental health. As the Body of Christ, we are called to offer hope by welcoming and accepting all members, by listening with compassion, and by walking alongside those who suffer. Even small acts of kindness and understanding can make a real difference. We are each silent first responders, looking for ways to support and include our brothers and sisters in pain. Listen with your heart and respond with God’s love and endless mercy. My prayer for all: *Gentle Jesus, open our hearts to see the humanity in each person we meet. Help us to look beyond symptoms and see the person before us. Give us the grace to listen with compassion, to speak with gentleness that uplifts, and to walk alongside one another in prayer. Amen.*

NAMI – (1) [Mental Health by the Numbers](#)



Kathy Giardina sent this message to us, and I wanted to repeat it here. We all strive to sacrifice something for Lent. How about doing this?

Pope Leo XIV’s Lenten Message to all Christians

“I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.”

[Full Message of Pope Leo XIV](#)



**Diocese of Venice
Gold Rose Award
Recipients
Venice, FL
2026**