



**St. Joseph's Church – Cyclone
St. Mary's Altar Society (Women's Ministry)**

PresidentPat Balz (254-718-9660)
Vice PresidentPatricia Pechal
SecretaryPauline Marek
TreasurerCarla Kacir

Monthly meetings on 2nd Sundays after Mass

St. Joseph's Catholic Church was established in 1902 to meet the needs of the Catholic faith community of Cyclone. The charter members of the parish consisted of approximately 50 Czech and German families. The Altar Society was organized out of necessity very soon after the dedication of the church to care for altar linens, priest and mass server vestments, cleaning of the church and taking care of church and altar décor. In the beginning, every married woman and all girls over the age of 14 were encouraged to become members. Early by-laws state that each member is expected to *pray daily ~ for herself, her family and the other members of the Society.*

Today, St. Mary's Altar Society consists of all the women of the parish. Dues have been suspended and all women are members of the Society actively involved in the liturgical mission of St. Joseph's parish. Membership dues to DCCW are paid by the Society for all ladies of the parish.

The Society participates in the DCCW on the Deanery and Diocesan levels and several women have represented St. Joseph's parish as officers at each of the different levels.

At the local level, the Altar Society hosts the annual Spring Dinner. Proceeds from this key fundraiser are used to:

- Purchase altar linens, vestments, cleaning supplies and equipment for the church,
- Purchase cooking equipment and supplies for the parish hall,
- Provide bereavement meals for families of parish members,
- Provide refreshments for children’s annual Christmas party and other related youth activities,
- Provide fresh flowers and plants for the altars for the holy seasons and special events such as First Communion and Confirmation,
- Provide “care” packages for away-from-home college students of the parish at the end of each semester,
- Provide scholarships –High School Seniors applications are accepted annually and other members of the parish can also apply for their continued education, and
- Make donations to various other charities.

Activities sponsored by the Altar Society include:

- Leading the Holy Rosary before Mass on the second Sunday of the month,
- Managing the Christian books and articles sales.

Bereavement meals – Chair Person Barbara Brenek.....254-721-0159

Clerical Endowment Fund Cards are available for \$2, \$5, & \$25 each (depending on type of enrollment). Please contact Carla Kacir (254-721-2980) if you would like to enroll a family member or friend. The proceeds from the Clerical Endowment Fund (CEF) aid in the education of seminarians for the Austin Diocese and provide loans to parishes in the diocese for building programs. Clerical Endowment enrollments are available all year and make great gifts for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, get well, thank you and many more events.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Patroness of the National Council of Catholic Women



*God of heavenly wisdom, you have given us Mary,
Mother of Jesus, to be our guide and counselor.
Grant that we may always seek her motherly help in this life
and so enjoy her blessed presence in the life to come.
O Mother of Good Counsel,
Patroness of the National Council of Catholic Women, intercede for us,
that we may be wise, courageous and loving leaders of the Church.
Help us, dear Mother, to know the mind of Jesus, your son.
May the Holy Spirit fill us with reverence for God’s creation, and
compassion for all God’s children.
May our labors of love on earth enhance the reign of God
and may God’s gifts of faith and living hope prepare us
for the fullness of the world to come. Amen*