

# Mary's Mantle

December 2022  
MarysMantle.net



The advent wreath is lit. We smell cinnamon and pine. Hints of carols drift past. Christmas is coming. The Christ, Himself, is coming! And if we've somehow achieved

**The Christ, Himself, is coming!** some stillness in this season, perhaps we can at least briefly begin to ponder the reality that God became man for us. He didn't become

less God or un-God, nor a partial human, like some kind of centaur or faun. And in His humanness, He didn't come as a fancy warlord, a decorated dictator, or even a charming prince - though He could have. No; our God, out of love for you and me, chose to take on the flesh of an unexpected, unborn baby. Vulnerable. Poor. Powerless.

What a rough and tender truth, that choice! And what a beautiful grace it is to be amazed by the incarnation anew as we tickle tiny toes, inhale the fragrance of

lavender baby wash, sing ancient lullabies, and swaddle moms and babies alike in the protection and love of Mary's holy mantle.

If you'd like to contribute to the wonder, please send your good wishes in a lovely (or funny!) Christmas card. We will hang each one where everyone can see them, spreading inspiration with the joy, hope, and peace that baby Jesus brings. If you'd like to send a donation, we are always open to those as well!

Our mailing address is:

Mary's Mantle  
P.O. Box 365  
Southfield, MI 48037

## KEEPSAKES OF THE KINGDOM



As our Executive Director, Katie Montes, mentioned during her comments at the event, this year's Keepsakes of the Kingdom gala was planned well before we were thinking of proposal 3, or even thinking much about votes of any kind. And yet, our 2022 gathering landed on the calendar just a few days after a new amendment was voted into the Michigan constitution. We dressed up and put on our sparkly smiles, bringing along spirits that were

wounded, questioning, and sad.

But!

Father Drew Mabee (Board Member), Father Jeff Dorr (Gesu Pastor), and Father J.J. Mech (Mary's Mantle co-founder) concelebrated the beautiful Keepsakes Mass close on the heels of a Gesu parish event: the renewal of wedding vows of a couple celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Their family members dressed to the nines and serenaded the couple with a stunning acapella melody. It was a blessed prelude. Father Drew's homily reminded us that God is on His throne. He is not now, nor has He ever been, worried - not even about this law. And because we have a Lord who loves us and thereby grants us dignity, our job is to continue to recognize that dignity in each and every person we meet. To love them, no matter what. Especially when it's the hardest thing to do.

After Mass, the evening transitioned into another kind of celebration - a feast of joy, generosity, laughs, and togetherness in the University of Detroit Student Union. The room was spacious, the decorations lovely, the food delightful, and the auction items bountiful!

Our theme this year was "All things are possible," especially inspired by the lyrics of the Katy Nichole song In Jesus' Name:

*I pray for your healing, that circumstances would change.  
I pray that the fear inside would flee in Jesus' name.  
I pray that a breakthrough would happen today.  
I pray miracles over your life in Jesus' name....  
I speak the name of all authority, declaring blessings.  
Every promise He is faithful to keep.  
I speak the name no grave could ever hold.  
He is greater; He is stronger.  
He's the God of possible.*

At Mary's Mantle, we are convinced that the most urgent and sacred task we have is prayer. Residents, Board members, staff, supporters, and friends make an eternal impact each and every time they approach God's heart. With that truth in mind, we asked folks at the gala to stop by a special 'prayer wall' to claim a specific prayer request from a Mary's Mantle mom, and to pray for that request at least until Christmas. "Deal?" we asked. The room answered, "Deal!"



And so, as one season of giving thanks winds down and an even bigger season to give thanks approaches, we thank you. We thank those who planned and those who sponsored. We thank the visionaries and doers. We thank the speakers, our auctioneer, our bidders, and our friends. We thank each giver who helped us exceed our fundraising goal. We thank the priests, religious, and seminarians who joined us. We thank the Board, the staff, the prayer warriors, and - yes - the doubters. We thank each of you. May the great, strong, God of Possible bless you.

## ANIMA CHRISTI FUND IN ACTION

Because of generous supporters, Mary's Mantle has been able to provide over \$17,000 in support to past moms so far in 2022 through the Anima Christi Fund. This donor-directed fund is 100% routed toward helping Mary's Mantle moms, both current and past. Hear from these two moms on how the fund recently helped them.



Thanks to the Anima Christi Fund I was able to purchase a safe, reliable car so I could get to and from work. After much research, with the help of Mary's Mantle, I learned the car I had been driving became unsafe and too expensive to fix. Mary's Mantle helped me do more research so I could make a smart car purchase. I feel so much better knowing my daughter and I are safe when driving.

Words can't explain how thankful I

am to have reliable transportation once again so I can keep my job. Knowing I did not have to figure this out on my own meant everything for me.



My Mary's Mantle baby is now 9 years old. To be able to say that I've had this amazing community behind me the past 10 years is the greatest blessing. I may not

know all the current staff, or make it to all the events, but they are there for me no matter what. Unfortunately, since the beginning of the year my family has experienced a lot of bad luck and hardships, we even almost lost our home. Thanks to the Anima Christi Fund, we have been blessed by help from Mary's Mantle to pay our rent. We are forever grateful to the Board, the staff, donors, and the prayer warriors.



## WELCOME FR. DREW MABEE, NEW BOARD MEMBER AT MARY'S MANTLE



Fr Drew shares:

I grew up passionate about the sport of motocross, which ultimately led to Jesus breaking into my life in college. After I graduated, He brought me into full communion with His Church, where I experienced Him more clearly call me to "throw all my cards in" and come follow Him as His priest!

The Lord has placed within my heart a desire to see and reverence the dignity of every human person, most especially those who are not seen or revered. This eventually led to the blessed opportunity to serve with Mary's Mantle to honor, reverence, and care for every life in the womb, as well as the lives of mothers.

I love Jesus, family, friends, dining, good coffee, cooking, being human, CrossFit, cycling, golf, live music, the arts, and much more!

## 100 WOMEN WHO CARE

We are deeply grateful to 100 Women Who Care – Greater Rochester - not only for the generous donation, but also for the opportunity to speak to the group in August. We treasure support from our community partners, and sincerely appreciate the opportunity to share about our ministry.



## MARY'S MANTLE BIRTHDAY PARTY

In August we gathered on a perfect summer evening to host the Mary's Mantle Birthday Party - a favorite event every year! We come together to celebrate ALL the Mary's Mantle children with dinner, presents, and of course cake. This year we were blessed to have several families join us to play games, blow bubbles, and even do some relay races. The smiles said it all that evening – we are blessed to do this work.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Support Staff

Mary's Mantle 

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### Mission Statement

Mary's Mantle is a Catholic residential program for homeless expectant women. We witness the love of Christ by promoting the dignity of life. We provide a safe, faith-based, and caring environment that supports the transition into motherhood, including extended aftercare for continued personal growth and integration into the community. We focus on the spiritual, emotional, physical, educational, and vocational well-being of mother and child.

[WWW.MARYSMANTLE.NET](http://WWW.MARYSMANTLE.NET) • [INFO@MARYSMANTLE.NET](mailto:INFO@MARYSMANTLE.NET)

## SAVE *the* DATES



TOP GOLF  
03.19.23



*True Beauty  
Breakfast*

05.13.23

New this year!  
Same great event,  
choose from two locations!  
Breakfast in Bloomfield Hills  
Lunch in Plymouth