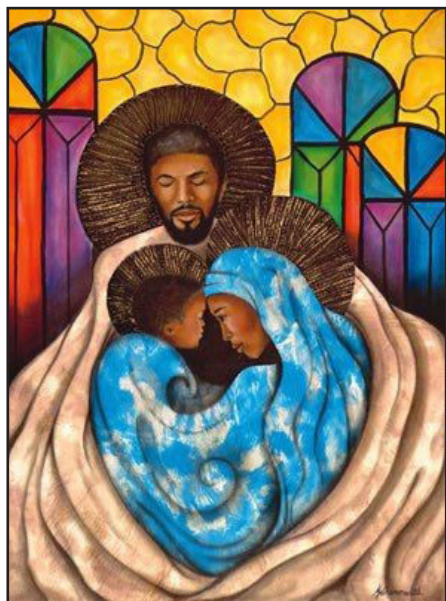


# Mary's Mantle

EVERY CHILD IS A GIFT, EVERY SOUL HAS A PURPOSE.

## ST. JOSEPH NOVENA



In his Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart), Pope Francis recalled the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father proclaimed a "Year of St. Joseph" from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.

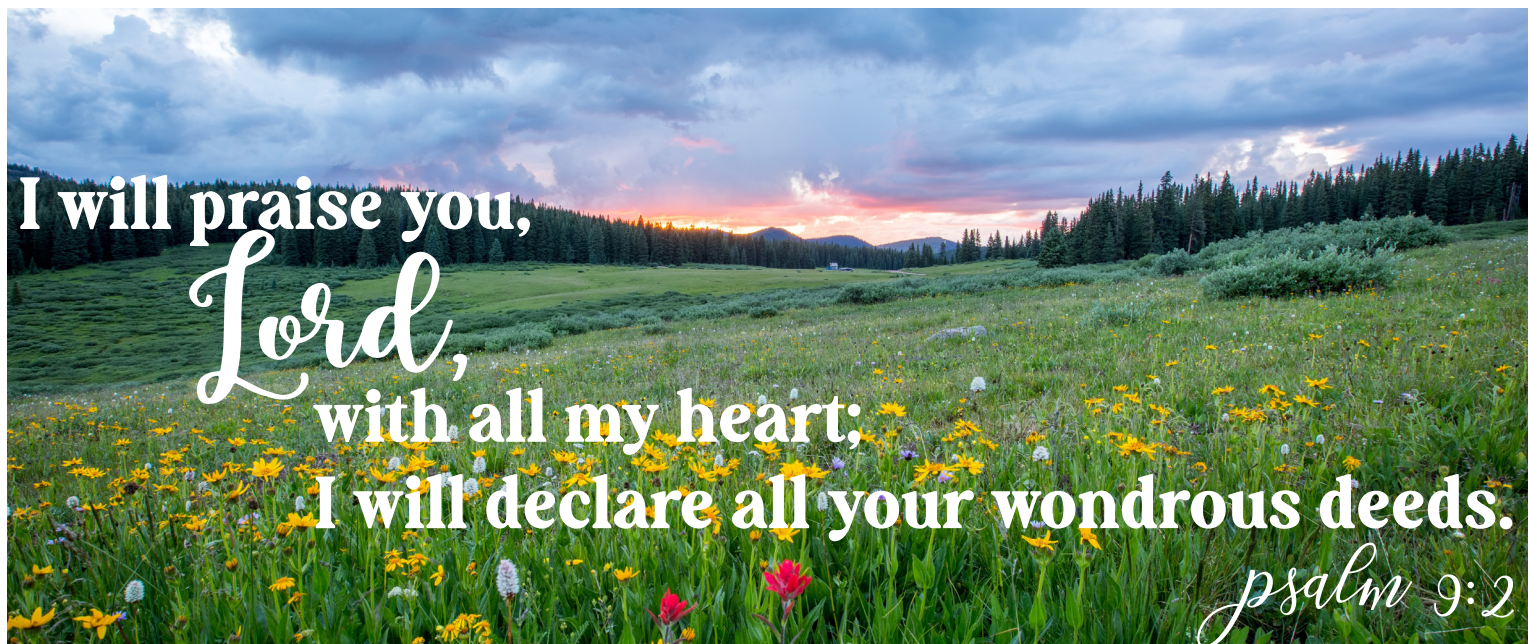
In late winter 2021, as the pandemic continued to present its challenges and our ministry encountered

remarkably unique hurdles, several of us heard distinct calls to pray with St. Joseph, and to especially include some specific needs within that prayer. We decided to pray a novena: nine days of prayer, modeled after the nine days the disciples spent praying (and singing, and wondering, and trusting, and waiting) in the Upper Room between the Ascension and Pentecost.

After our Board Vice President Deacon Dom Pastore organized the text, our spiritual coordinator Marian Bart asked if we could publish it to anyone interested in joining along. We advertised the opportunity and ended up with 53 prayer partners! Thank the Lord!

We emailed a set of prayers each day from April 23 to May 1 (the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker). Topics included mothers, children, fathers, respect for all life, endurance, staff, and any personal petitions.

Some of our supporters may still wonder why we pray with the saints; many Catholics do it without a second thought but aren't always able to explain the tradition when asked. Well, just as most Christians would ask a dear friend to pray for them - especially those awesome prayer warriors (James 5:16) - Catholics pretty regularly ask the saints to pray for them because the saints are our friends who have lived here and know what it's like, have prevailed in the struggle of faith, and are assuredly close to the mercy seat. Long practice has shown that the saints are effective and generous prayer partners, most particularly when we call on them for assistance with tasks or virtues for which they have a personal affinity. We thank St. Joseph for his constant aid, and especially for all the blessings attained through the novena. And we sincerely thank everyone who prayed with us; please continue to join us in prayer!





## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings Mary's Mantle Supporters!

As signs of spring are peeking out all around us, I am reminded of the beautiful gift of new life. At Mary's Mantle we are celebrating the birth of three babies this spring! While new babies are always something to celebrate, having three this close together is extra special. Not only is there three times the snuggles, but the moms get to experience the joys (and challenges) of new motherhood together. This bond is something that we pray will remain with them long after they leave the Mary's Mantle program.

I was recently speaking to a past mom who was in the program more than seven years ago. She told me that one of the best things to come out of her time at Mary's Mantle was the sisterhood she shared with the other moms in residence. She also said that, even if they aren't able to visit as often as they'd like, the connection the four of them share is something she will always treasure. What a beautiful gift to witness!

We have continued to stay busy here at Mary's Mantle since our last update. While COVID still impacts our day to day, we are looking forward to things continuing to "open back up". Staff have been busy continuing to expand our community partners – for we know that

the support our moms need for exceeds what we can offer. Having strong partnerships for housing support, education, and mental health services has been a priority for the ministry. We have made three new formal connections with new programs in the past six weeks. We are thankful to the other organizations that are doing such incredible work to help women in need.

Our After Care program continues to look different during COVID. We are excited to share that we have started a monthly support group for former residents of Mary's Mantle. These meetings are held once per month and are lead by a Mary's Mantle staff member and a volunteer. The meetings are a combination of fellowship, education, and support. We are looking forward to seeing this program's growth in the months to come so that we can continue to support the moms after they leave the residential program at Mary's Mantle.

Thank you very much for your continued support of the ministry, especially during this challenging past year. It has been difficult, but the ministry has been greatly blessed. We sincerely appreciate each one of you.

Blessings,

Katie Montes  
Executive Director



CHIZARA - FEB. 23



CHLOE - MARCH 30



NYEIM - APRIL 15

## THANK YOU RACHEL WILLIS!



Last April, in the early days of COVID-19, Rachel Willis joined Mary's Mantle to fill a large staffing void. We needed someone to stay at Mary's Mantle for the overnight shifts, just as the pandemic was starting – it was a tall order. Rachel faithfully said YES to this ask.

As with many things last April, we thought it would only be temporary - a few weeks, maybe a couple months, before things returned to "normal." We assumed Rachel would only be with us a short time. A few months turned into a year, and all the while she faithfully served the moms and babies.

We recently gathered (safely) to say farewell to Rachel as she moves on to her next adventure. Please join us in a prayer of thanksgiving for the many ways she blessed the ministry during these challenging times. Thank you Rachel!

## VOLUNTEER UPDATE



My name is Katy Conners and I am so excited to join the Mary's Mantle team!

My role is both Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager. I am taking over for Nancy, who leaves big shoes to fill! My family moved from Milwaukee to Michigan in August, and we are enjoying settling in and discovering new areas.

My husband Brad and I have six children, ages 13, 11, 10, 8, 7 and 5. We are parishioners at St. Regis in Bloomfield Hills, and our children are enrolled in school there. I have a background in nonprofit business and ministry, and worked at a crisis pregnancy center before having children. Now that the kids are in school full time, I thought it would be great to dive back into the nonprofit and prolife world. Mary's Mantle is such a bright light in this chaotic world, and I am thrilled to get to be a part of the great ministry that they provide. It will be my goal to welcome new volunteers and help find ways for our community to get involved with Mary's Mantle. I look forward to meeting you and helping you find your perfect fit with Mary's Mantle.

## Current needs at Mary's Mantle



Disposable Face Masks

Hand Soap

Tall Kitchen Trash Bags

Ziploc Bags  
(Gallon and Sandwich Size)



Handy Help

Sign up to be part of a team of people who help with odd jobs at Mary's Mantle as needs come up (minor repairs/maintenance, yard work, cleaning/organizing)

Meal Ministers

Sign up to be part of our new meal ministry and schedule to drop off a special meal for the Mary's Mantle moms

**Please contact Katy Conners at [katy.conners@marysmantle.net](mailto:katy.conners@marysmantle.net) if you are interested in any of these opportunities!**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Barry Doherty**  
President

**Deacon Dom Pastore**  
Vice President

**Toni Conley**  
Treasurer

**Mary Martin**  
Secretary

**Father John McKenzie**  
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**Father Phil Cooke**

**James Kempa**

### STAFF MEMBERS

**Katie Montes**  
Executive Director

**Joanna Willis**  
Program Manager

**Anna Ensley**  
Case Manager

**Marian Bart**  
Spiritual Coordinator

**Katy Conners**  
Volunteer Coordinator/  
Office Manager

**Breeanne Leneair**  
Support Staff

**Elexiea Stokes**  
Support Staff

**Rebecca Vogel**  
Support Staff

**Kristen Heintz**  
Controller



Mary's Mantle♡

P.O. BOX 115  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303  
248-376-5338



### 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)

# KEEPSAKES OF THE KINGDOM

## *Save the date*

*friday, october 8, 2021*

**We are pleased to offer an exciting new take on the  
Keepsakes of the Kingdom event this year!  
Stay tuned for more information on the hybrid  
version of this event!**