## Calendar

### March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 8, 15, 22, 29</td>
<td>Open for members 9:00 AM to NOON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, 14, 21, 28</td>
<td>Open for members 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Board Meeting - Desmond Conference Room 10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>In Memoriam Mass - Little Flower 8:30 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td><strong>Spring Mass &amp; Luncheon</strong>&lt;br&gt;11:00 St. Anthony’s/ 12:15 Morris Park Country Club</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Happy Easter!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, 11, 18, 25</td>
<td>Open for members 9:00 AM to NOON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5, 12, 19, 26</td>
<td>Open for members 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Board Meeting - Desmond Conference Room 10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>In Memoriam Mass - Little Flower 8:30 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td><strong>Diaper Drop, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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### May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2, 9, 16, 23, 30</td>
<td>Open for members 9:00 AM to NOON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, 10, 17, 24, 31</td>
<td>Open for members 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Informational Coffee</strong>&lt;br&gt;CCS Clothing Center 9:30 to 11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Board Meeting - Desmond Conference Room 10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Summer newsletter deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>In Memoriam Mass - Little Flower 8:30 AM</td>
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**Fourth Annual Diaper Drop Collection to Help Local Babies and Moms**

Sometimes the difference between making it and not making it can be as simple as a diaper. Parents experiencing diaper need who rely on childcare may miss work because they didn’t have diapers. Day care and early childhood learning centers require parents to provide diapers for their children. Parents can face impossible choices between buying food, paying rent, or purchasing diapers. Infants require up to ten diaper changes per day to stay dry and healthy.

Diaper need leads to a multitude of problems for both baby and caregiver. When parents do not have diapers for their children, they may resort to makeshift solutions. Parents may also be forced to keep their babies in soiled diapers for much longer than recommended, which can lead to diaper rash and more serious medical conditions.

As all parents know, a baby in a soiled diaper is not a happy baby. The stress of diaper rash and the experience of diaper need are associated with parental anxiety. It is hard enough trying to parent an infant; it is even harder when your baby is in pain or uncomfortable because you cannot fulfill their basic needs. Providing diapers to families lessens parental anxiety.

*The Indianapolis Star* recently noted, “Hoosier families who are on the Special Supplemental Foods Program for Women, Infants and Children, or WIC, in addition to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, are limited to food assistance, so they cannot purchase diapers under the programs.”

This is why Christ Child makes this yearly effort to collect as many diapers as possible to distribute to local organizations. In 2022, CCS collected over 50,000 diapers. Please help us to surpass this amount with a goal of 60,000 diapers in 2023.

On Wednesday, April 26 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, volunteers will collect diaper donations during a drive up and drop off in front of the Miracle Lane Clothing Center.

This is a meaningful and tangible way to celebrate motherhood and support the struggles of mothers in our community.

*Continued on page 3*
A Busy Spring Ahead

Greetings and welcome to a New Year!

As we begin 2023 and look forward to spring, our members and volunteers are putting in many hours preparing to serve clients for our August opening. Boxes are being delivered weekly while departments are checking in inventory and stocking shelves. In kind donations such as gently used clothes and shoes are arriving and being distributed to the hard working ladies in our Used Clothing Department as well as Mary’s Boutique. They are at the Center weekly sorting, tagging and placing the clothing on their shelves so we can give extra clothing to our clients.

CCS has a busy spring lined up, beginning with the Annual Spring Mass and Luncheon and the sale of Clothe a Child dolls at Martin’s Super Markets in March. April brings the Diaper Drop, a project that grows every year. In May, new members are welcomed to CCS at the Informational Coffee. Just as we catch our breaths, we begin to gear up for clothing distribution again.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank our members, volunteers and donors for their support of this amazing organization that I am blessed to be a part of! We could not do what we do without every one of you!

I wish everyone a Happy Spring & Easter season!

Introducing President Elect Melissa Baltz

Five years ago, after retiring from employment as a lawyer, Melissa Baltz moved to Mishawaka to be closer to family. Her sister has children and grandchildren in the area and she loves being with them, especially the littlest members of the family. She has one son Christopher who lives in Kansas City and she sees him often.

Melissa went to a Christ Child Informational Coffee in 2018, toured the St. Patrick’s Clothing Center and was impressed by the organization and the friendliness of the members. She became a member that same month.

She has been signing children up at the Christ Child Center for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library since that time. She is a member of the Board of Directors and served as Vice-President of Membership. She is a past co-chair of Let Love Shine (creating an online event during the pandemic!) and Community Volunteers. She has been the Parliamentarian for almost four years and this year also served as co-chair of National Day of Service and Day of Reflection.

Since CCS moved to the new Center, you can find her up front checking referral papers, handing out numbers, directing clients to interview and in general trying to keep things moving up front. Melissa loves talking to all the clients and their children as they come in and wait.

Melissa feels it is a true blessing that she found Christ Child and is able to work with such a great group of members and volunteers to serve area families. Melissa was honored to be asked to be President-Elect and hopes to continue the wonderful work of past Presidents.

In her free time she likes to spend time with her family, travel, read, sew, knit and walk her dog, Daisy.
Diaper Drop...
How Can You Help?
Continued from page 1
Please help The Christ Child Society help local mothers by:

- Organizing a diaper drive at your church or business. Last year, five local congregations helped by collecting diapers during the month of April. If you can help us expand this project through your business or church, contact Diaper Drop Co-Chairs Lisa Smessaert at 574-340-5497 (cell) or Marie Burt at 574-271-5987 to discuss how you can request permission to place a collection box at your church or business.

- Telling friends, family and neighbors about the Diaper Drop and offering to deliver their donations. Ask family and friends to help you celebrate Mother’s Day or another occasion such as a birthday by foregoing a gift and gifting diapers instead. What a nice way to help a mother in need.

- Clipping coupons to alleviate soaring diaper prices and watching for sales. Begin buying and storing diapers now on your shopping trips. Share coupons with others at the Center if you can’t use them.

- Sending diapers directly to The Christ Child Society through an on-line purveyor such as Costco, Sam’s Club or Amazon.

- Helping with collection and/or delivery of diapers to the referral agencies on the day of the event, especially if you have an exceptionally large vehicle or a pick-up truck. Diaper Drop volunteering is a fun and satisfying experience!

Together, we can help families in a very practical way and honor Moms in our community.

Volunteer Opportunities: A Job for Every Talent!
Not everyone can volunteer at the Center on Wednesday morning or Sunday afternoon. Some members are busy parenting, working or even travelling. CCS still can use your time and talent! Look below for a variety of opportunities that might fit your talents and time.

Help the Communications/Marketing Committee
1. Write Parish Bulletins – When Chairs need to reach out to parishes, they convey the information which is edited and emailed to the parishes, typically 6-8 per year.
2. Write and/or present speeches to local civic, school and church groups. A fun chance to spread the CCS story. Power Points and visual aids are often used depending on the audience.
3. Press Releases are emailed to local TV, newspapers, Today’s Catholic and/or radio stations depending on the event being advertised. A good “stay at home” volunteer task. Typically 3-5 a year. Follow up with the media included.
4. Write articles or take photographs for the newsletter. The newsletter informs members and the community about what CCS does. Fresh ideas and new perspectives are welcome.
5. Plan PR for events and fundraisers. Work with chairs to create a message and visual elements.

Leadership Opportunity
President Elect is a board position that gives the incoming President an opportunity to learn the skills, duties and responsibilities needed to lead the Chapter successfully. The President Elect oversees several Chairs including Scholarship, SUCCESS, Client Referrals and Center Management.

After one year as President Elect, she becomes one of two Co-Presidents. Following that, she serves one year on the board in an advisory role as Past President.

The only prerequisite for this position is to be a member in good standing (current on dues).

Let Love Shine 2023 Needs You
Do you enjoy planning a gathering and decorating? Maybe you enjoy creating, have fundraising experience or have computer skills. If so, please consider sharing your talents with the planning of the largest CCS fundraising event of 2023. Let Love Shine committees need new volunteers who would like to join in this very worthwhile event. Most important, Co-Chairs are still needed for Let Love Shine for 2023.

Together, volunteers can grow solid teams and have fun planning Let Love Shine, making it an enjoyable and memorable dinner auction experience. At the same time, CCS accomplishes the goal of raising funds to make an enormous impact on the lives of many local children.

Consider joining a committee! Direct questions to past Co-Chairs Lisa Smessaert Cell 574-340-5497 OR Vickie Sleevi at Cell 269-908-0692. They are happy to help with any questions.

Student Coordinator
CCS has come to depend on a steady supply of students who help process inventory, direct clients through the Center and help with fundraising tasks. Suzanne Wiwi has created a solid network of contacts in the schools and did an excellent job of orienting the students when they came to the Center.

The search is on for a new Chair who can assume the role of Coordinator. While most of the contacting can be done from home, a member is also needed to direct the students when they come to volunteer. This might be a good job for partners to share.

If you have questions, direct them to Suzanne.
Dolly Parton’s Books Going Strong

The Christ Child Society of South Bend likes to support children in many ways, including improving literacy. CCS gives a book to each child served through the Book for a Child Program. But, a child can never have too many books!

Families who come to the Clothing Center also have the opportunity to sign up for Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Under this popular program, children in St. Joseph County can get an age-appropriate book mailed to their house from birth until their fifth birthday thanks to the St. Joseph County Community Foundation’s support of Imagination Library.

In 2022, CCS signed up 193 children for the Imagination Library. Over the last five years they have signed up almost 1600 children. That is a lot of books!

Generous Donations to Book Program

Thank you to the members of the Sable Ridge Book Club for their generous holiday donation of $225 to buy books for the “A Book for a Child Program.”

The donation provided 62 new books, including Spanish language and bilingual picture books as well as popular series for our older readers which filled in gaps in inventory.

Many thanks to member Katy Gregg who introduced her book club friends to Christ Child and the mission.

Martin’s to Feature Clothe a Child Dolls

Martin’s Supermarkets will once again generously host the Clothe-A-Child campaign this Spring from March 27 through April 16.

Watch for the ‘mitten kids’ at the checkout lanes and be sure to ask the cashiers about purchasing one or two!

St. Joseph High School held a Dress Down Day to benefit the Clothe a Child program. The students raised over $700 for this event. Thank you to Mr. Reynolds and the Student Council for their continued support of the mission of The Christ Child Society.

ND Teddy Bear Toss Helps CCS

The Teddy Bear toss was Saturday, December 10, 2022 during halftime of the ND vs. Merrimack Women’s Basketball game.

Members helping to gather the stuffed animals as they rained down on the court were Sue Seall, Melissa Baltz, Kae Sobczyk, Jane Reed, Barb Mickow, and Anne Choinacky.

This year assistant coaches from Notre Dame delivered hundreds of bears to the Clothing Center the following week.

Toddlers served by the Clothing Program and children in the Foster Hope Program receive a stuffed animal along with clothing, coats, shoes and, through Foster Hope, personal hygiene items.

Collier Habitat Taps Fox as Board Leader

Habitat for Humanity of Collier County, FL announced the election of Kathleen Flynn Fox to Board Chair. This marks the first time a woman has been chosen to fill this role in the 44-year history of the organization.

A member of the Christ Child Society’s South Bend and Naples, Florida Chapters, Fox served as Naples co-president from 2015-16.

The Christ Child Society of Naples has been providing beds, bedding, and books to children moving into their new Habitat homes for decades.

The Christ Child Society depends on the generosity of this community. Sometimes, that generosity is overwhelming.

Recently, Kelly Harrison was stunned when the man behind her in line at Walmart paid for the $1,060 worth of clothing she was purchasing for CCS. He was impressed when she told him about the CCS story.
The Used Clothing Department volunteers are the unsung heroes of The Christ Child Society. The process begins at the loading dock where Carol Rolfs, with the help of Sue Mullett and Betsie Pendarvis, performs a massive triage of the many donations received from individuals, churches and schools. Many donations are not suitable for CCS use, so they are sorted out and shared with Fig Leaf or Goodwill. Some items are sent to Mary’s Boutique, a free ‘shop’ at the Clothing Center chaired by Sherry North, where clients can select a few household or adult clothing items. Items appropriate for the Foster Hope program or Layettes are sent to those departments.

Led by Mary Heller, Pat Corcoran and Marty Moriconi, the Used Clothing volunteers haul all of the suitable donations from the loading dock area to their sorting tables and begin the laborious task of sizing, tagging and shelving. Volunteers are often faced with clothing without size labels or items that need washing or minor repairs. Sometimes a missing button is all that keeps an item from being perfect for one of the children, so volunteers do needed repairs. If necessary, clothing is washed in the washer and dryer generously donated by Ace Maytag Home Appliance Center upon the move to Miracle Lane.

Each child served by CCS receives new clothing – underwear, socks, shirts, sweatshirts, pants and uniforms if needed – as well as coats and shoes. These are supplemented by gently used clothing. The careful scrutiny of the Used Clothing volunteers makes sure that no child will be embarrassed to wear these hand me downs!

Beautiful, donated dresses and even suits for boys are eagerly snatched up by parents who are delighted to be able to dress their children well for church or holidays. Holiday clothing from Christmas outfits to Halloween costumes are also big hits. Children’s clothing is always welcome! Boys elementary school sizes always seem to be in short supply, perhaps because boys are tough on them. Also, larger sizes – even adult XXL – are needed because the age range for the Clothing Program was extended to 14, although it is important that they look age appropriate and not like grandpa’s old coat! If you clean your closets this spring, please remember to bring appropriate items to the Used Clothing Department!
The Christ Child Remembrance Card is a convenient way to send donations in any amount to the Christ Child Society to honor a memory or special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary or accomplishment. Deceased friends or relatives will be remembered in a perpetual monthly Mass. When requesting a Remembrance Card, please print legibly. The names will be printed in each newsletter with the donor’s name in parentheses. Extra cards are available in the office or from Joan Hardig (574.277.7787).

**Special Occasion**

Dick Anton – 90th Birthday (Marcia & Tom Blum)
Andrea Balconis, OP (Diane Quinn)
Pat & Mike Bellovich – 50th Wedding Anniv. (Nancy & Jack Pycik)
Esther Cyr – Christmas (Tom & Sue Cyr)
Mary Jane Danner-St. Pius – Thank you to Christ Child (Peggy Bolsteller, June Brandner, Tracy Plenzler, Eileen Dial)
Virginia Greve – Good health (Carol Bauer)
Joan Hardig – Love you, Mom (Peg Riggis)
Phil Hayes, Deacon, In Honor (Joe and Marie Burt)
Mary & Jim Hesburgh (Barbara Dillon)
Tom Labuzienski – Congratulations on Deacon ordination (Karen Mackowiak)
Nancy Meyer – Thanks (Peggy Gerstbauer)
Phyllis Miller (Joe and Marie Burt)
James & Wendy Summers (Marcia & Tom Blum)
Veronica ‘Ronnie’ Taylor, Health Concerns (Nancy and Del Meyer)
Kate Werda – Happy Birthday (Pat and John L.)
Jodi Wilson – Get well (Barbara Dillon)

**In Memoriam**

Sally Bannon (Ed & Joan Hardig)
Barbara Baumer (Esther Cyr, Maureen Jones, Joan Frances Hurley)
John Badey (B.J. O’Brien)
Barbara Baumer (Bette O’Malley)
Jackie Blue Bishop (Deb and Mike Low)
Peter Blum (Esther Cyr)
Father Walter Bly (Joan Hurley)
Julie Broski (Maureen Jones)
Joan Brown (JoAnn Axelbeg)
Alexis Buckley (Peg Riggis)
Mary Ann Cerny (Anna & Craig Weber, Suzanne Cierziak)
Robin Chappais (Patti & Lowell Paschke)
Margaret Christ (Marti and Frank Moriconi)
Tim Conyers (Greg and Jean Mee)
Betsy Cooke (Cynthia Cooke)
Ann Dean (Ed & Joan Hardig)
Mary Ellen DeLeonardis (Esther Cyr)
Helen Domnanovich (Kimberly Keultjes)
Marianne Doran (Heidi Lang, Anonymous)
Gabor Dross (Esther Cyr)
Robert Dunbar (C.M. Sergio)
Betty Ericson (Anonymous)
Mary Fennessy (Jane Horning)

**Deceased Members**

Barbara Baumer
Jean Kass - Edmonds

**Deceased Spouses**

Charles Sweeney
William Wilson

Juanita Freeman (Patti & Lowell Paschke)
Trenda Ragsdale-Fry (Peg Riggis)
Karen Gray (Greg & Jean Mee)
Steven Hollre (Steve and Louise Anella)
Emory Horvath (James and Kimberly Keultjes)
Frank Horvath (Marti and Frank Moriconi)
Andrea Incropera (Donna Dant)
Kevin Jarrell (Sue & John Shirrell, Jim & Pat Short)
Dean Johnson (Janice & Joe Goossens)
Arnold Joers (Ed & Joan Hardig)
Morris Jones (Melissa Baltz, Barb Reihl, Kathy & John Seidl, Barbara Dillon, Ann Finn, Montel Menting, Don & Judy Ruszkowski, Carol Bauer, Kristy Botich, Joe & Marie Burt, Monique Deguara, Tom & Mary Wisniewski, Carol Foldesi)
Jean Kass-Edmonds (Rolande Parent, Greg & Jean Mee, Tom & Peg Tobolski, Sheila Emge, Barbara Ostheimer)
Anne Butler Kloc (Joan Frances Hurley)
Frank Kopcsa (Neal & Linda Cason)
Dick Kruzsewski (Ed & Joan Hardig)
Mary Kuester (Kathy & John Seidl)
Alison Liddell (Neal & Linda Cason)
Lou Carrico Lonergan (Patrick Carrico)
Bob Lux (Carol & Jim Holt)
Jack McCasland (Marcia & Tom Blum)
Ken McCormick (Jim and Pat Short)
Jerry McMahen (Carol & Jim Holt)
Peggy Mahank (Teddi Murray)
Jim Makieliski (Tricia Shafer)
Tony Mersits II (Peg Riggis)
Michelle’s Parents (Janice & Joe Goossens)
Patricia Miller (Marti & Frank Moriconi)
Lisa Molenda (Fran Austin)
Tom Mueller (Chas & Rosemary Crowell)
John Murray (Carol Bauer, Esther Cyr)
Geoffrey Newman (Tom & Mary Wisniewski)
Thomas Oesterling (Marti & Frank Moriconi)
Janis A. Paluzzi (Peg Riggis)
Cynthia Pankiw (Judy Burmeister, Sue

**New Guardian Angel**

Laverne Auger

In memoriam donations benefit local children served by The Christ Child Society. Thank you.
Christ Child Society Monthly Masses

Every month, The Christ Child Society of South Bend celebrates a Mass to pray for all those whose names are submitted to the In Memoriam list in memory of a deceased loved one, to commemorate a special occasion or to pray for a special intention. This tradition began in the organization’s earliest days and continues despite changes and tweaks along the way.

The Mass selected for this purpose is typically on the 25th of each month, a date chosen to coincide with the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, the day commemorating when Mary learned she was to be the mother of the Christ Child.

Over the years, the monthly Masses were celebrated at the parish of the President, the parish of a spiritual advisor, or, after CCS moved to St. Patrick’s School, at St. Patrick’s Church. Currently, the Masses are celebrated at St. Therese Little Flower Parish.

At first, people could enroll deceased loved ones as “In Memoriam Members,” a perpetual membership. Soon a Memorial Card was created to send to the family of the deceased and most funeral homes displayed them when asked. By 1970, the membership concept was discontinued, and members could request an In Memoriam card from CCS to send to families themselves.

In 1972, Remembrance Cards were added for special occasions such as anniversaries, birthdays and get well wishes.

Shortly after, the current system began in which a donor sends in payment and a form (or, more recently, donates through the website), paired with a lovely CCS card that can be personalized and mailed directly to the family by the donor. Card packets are available in the office at the Clothing Center.

Help CCS Membership Grow!

Each spring, The Christ Child Society welcomes new members and your help is needed to make the organization grow. Do you know someone who would be a good “fit” for The Christ Child Society? Have you shared the CCS story with your friends, neighbors - and your children?

Share not only the good CCS does for the community, but what CCS can do for its volunteers. It is a place to form new friendships and share new experiences. It is also an opportunity to use the skills from careers, volunteering or hobbies in a most generous way and perhaps to learn some new ones.

Although the Clothing Center is open for volunteers during the daytime year around for preparing clothing for distribution, the actual distribution times in the fall include evenings and Sunday afternoons, flexibility that should fit most schedules. Buyers work from home on their own schedules.

But the Clothing Program is not the only opportunity to volunteer. There are many tasks that can be done outside of the Center and from home. The Communications Committee spreads the word about CCS and is always in need of writing and marketing skills.

Sewing and needlework are skills needed in several different ways. Angel Layettes are hand sewn white dresses and bonnets given to parents whose infant does not survive birth. Layettes include a hand knit sweater set and blankets. Of course, the Coat Department can always use handmade scarves, hats and mittens of all sizes.

Computer skills are increasingly needed as CCS moves into the 21st Century. Everything from registering clients to organizing donor lists and event auction items requires knowledge of databases and Excel. Even a basic knowledge of common programs is helpful.

The SUCCESS program is a great spot for former teachers or people who just love working with children. In addition to tutoring children, the program staffs the library, supports teachers and helps with field trips for the children at St. Adalbert’s Catholic School.

Even if someone is not ready to volunteer actively yet, becoming a member helps support CCS financially and provides communication about the organization, its activities and fun events.

The New Member Information Coffee is May 10, but anyone interested in learning about CCS membership is also welcome to contact the office to schedule a visit.
Interested in learning more about becoming a member of The Christ Child Society of South Bend? Looking for fun volunteer opportunities?

Come to the
**Informational Coffee**
Wednesday, May 10
9:30 AM until 11:00 AM

The morning will begin with a tour of the Clothing Center followed by refreshments and informative presentations.

If you are interested in attending, please contact:
info@christchildsb.org or call 574-288-6028.