



**CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY**  
OF MONTEREY BAY  
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

## Service To Children, for Love of The Christ Child





Greetings!

*“She [Mary Virginia Merrick] gathered her friends to help meet the significant needs of children in the Washington area, formally establishing the Christ*

*Child Society in 1887. She dedicated the next 68 years--until her death on January 10, 1955, at the age of 88--to the leadership and expansion of the Society."* Source: <https://nationalchristchild.org/who-we-are/our-history-founder.html>

Happy New Year! The Christmas season brought many of us together to celebrate and to bring joy as you can see in the photos above and below. Yarns & Stitches brought its members together for a Mexican fiesta celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. And, as in previous years, we procured and delivered specially selected toys to 70 special needs children at the Monterey County Department of Education's Winter Festival--and even ran into Santa!

As we begin this new year, we remember the anniversary of our founder Mary Virginia Merrick's death on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Please join other members of the Christ Child Society across the nation in doing a novena starting on that day to pray for her canonization so that she may more broadly inspire others to selfless service, even in the face of much pain and many challenges. Download and print the [Novena Booklet](#) on the new Mary Virginia Merrick Canonization website and record your prayer experience over the nine days.

As I look back at 2025, I am grateful to the members, donors and volunteers who made it such a successful year for our chapter of the Christ Child Society. We worked in groups and individually and the end result was amazing. Some people were deeply involved in projects while some can volunteer only once or twice a year. All are appreciated and serve the mission of the Christ Child Society.

Looking toward 2026, every month there are many opportunities to gather in groups or individually. Check out the link in the newsletter each month to the Master Calendar. There you may find one or two activities that appeal to you. Whether it is a large activity or small you are always welcome to participate in a labor of Love to benefit children in need. You can join groups packing baby bundles, crafting activities for the Literacy Program at the Craft-o-Rama, knitting/crocheting at Yarns & Stitches, praying with the Prayer Group, sharing dinner with the Book Club or walking with the Walking Group.

**Also, if you are a new member in the last year or would like to introduce a potential new member to our group, put Sunday February 1, 2026 on your calendar.** Our New Member Welcome Reception will again be at Anne Kelley's house and will run from 2-4 p.m.

Today Christ Child Society Chapters have more than 5,000 members throughout the United States in 45 chapters. I am proud and grateful for each of our members who know that "Nothing is ever too much to do for a child." Together we make a difference when we "gather as friends".

**God's peace be with you,**  
Joanne Noto, Co-President



## Volunteering and Social Opportunities

**Yarns & Stitches**  
**Wednesday**  
**January 14 and 28**  
**10:30-noon**

As usual, we meet in St. Angela's Small Hall in Pacific Grove.

Contact Joan with any questions



**Literacy Craftorama**  
**Date TBD**  
**St. Angela's Small Hall**

We'll send an email with the next Craftorama date and time if it can occur in January; otherwise check out next month's newsletter.



**Christ Child Prayer Group**  
**Tuesday, January 13 at 5:45 pm**  
**The Marsh Building**  
**700 Camino El Estero, Monterey**

As usual, the evening will consist of one hour of praying together in one accord with gratitude, thanksgiving and intercessory prayer. We will end promptly at 7:00 p.m.

If you have prayer requests please send them to Mary and please RSVP if you plan to attend, using the button below.

Please enter the building on the backside off of Cortes St., which intersects the Marsh Building and the San Carlos Cathedral complex. The octagon-shaped front door is located between two Asian pillars; please

ring the doorbell, and you will be joyfully greeted.

**Let Mary know you're coming and/or your prayer intentions**



## **Walking Group Outing Saturday, January 17 9:30 a.m.**

We will meet at the parking lot at Carmel River Beach and walk Scenic through Carmel. Make sure to bring your water bottles!

**Let Lydia know if you're coming**



## **Help Pack Baby Bundles Wednesday, January 21 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

We will Pack bundles together on the second floor of the Victorian House at St. Angela Merici Church

**To pack or with questions, contact  
Dee**



**Book Club Dinner**  
**Wednesday January 28**  
**6:00 p.m. at Gusto's in Seaside**

This month we will discuss *"The Girl from Venice"* by Martin Cruz Smith.

Join us for a fun discussion and good meal. Remember to bring cash to pay your portion of the bill and to RSVP below.

**LET LINDA KNOW**

**Gentle reminder that 2026 dues are "overdue".**

**Pay your dues on the website or send a check to the P.O. Box listed below . . .**

**Membership  
Dues**



## Our January Birthdays!

Marilyn Morgadinho (1/6)  
Merritt Bruce (1/6)  
Zanaida Bactud (1/7)  
Ursula Soares (1/13)  
Linda Weber (1/17)  
Terri Kelley (1/17)  
Jennifer Bodner (1/20)  
Caroline Mitchel (1/22)  
Mary Nikssarian (1/23)  
Sheri Abramonte (1/28)  
Kathy Gibbs (1/31)

Check out our 2026 Calendar  
[HERE](#)



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