



THE SPIRIT

Issue 16

Court Christ the Good Shepherd #2731

18511 Klein Church Rd, Spring TX 77379



Court Regent's Message

Priscilla Hargraves, Court Regent

As you're planning for Thanksgiving, do you have any special memories from the past? What do you think about when you just let your mind wander? What gave you joy, laughter, or perhaps even sorrow? What have you been thankful for in the past? What are you thankful for now?

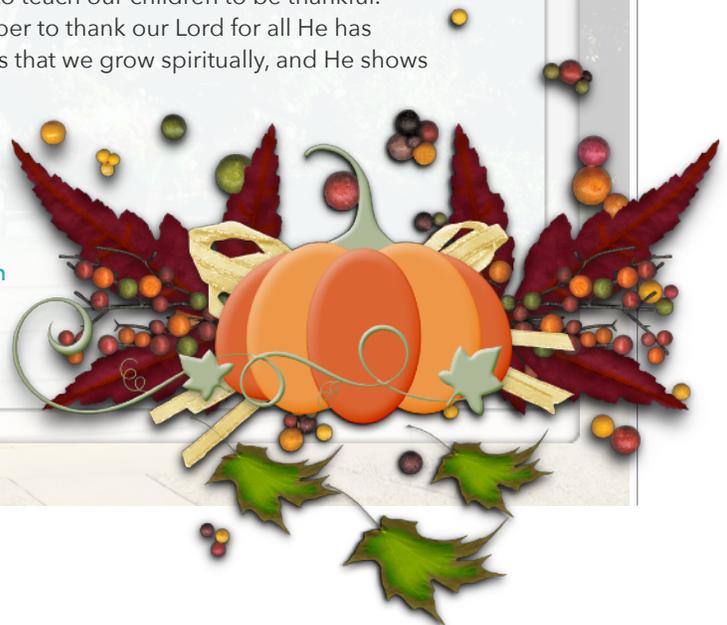
As a child, I remember having dinner with relatives, grandparents, aunts/uncles, and cousins. My Grandma's house would be abuzz with talking and lots of laughter. But, I also remember the Grace before meals being said thanking God for all we had. In those days, we didn't engage in "spontaneous" prayer, but we understood we were praying in thanksgiving for all the gifts we were given. There were sad times too, when grandparents passed away and the connectedness they provided was lost.

As an adult, I think back on similar experiences with my parents, spouse, children and grandchildren. Everyone laughs at the phenomenal number of "food" pictures taken at Thanksgiving and other holidays. I guess we took those pictures to show what plenty our Lord had given us. Not only plenty of food (of which there was certainly an abundance!) but the blessing of family and friends to share in the meal. There were also pictures of everyone enjoying that meal and each other's company! Many times, our prayer of thanksgiving was a personal prayer offered from the heart of the leader. Though no more meaningful than that simple blessing we all learned to say together, it reflected a more personal reality of love and thanksgiving to our Lord for all the gifts He had given us.

Regardless of how busy we are during this time of year, may we not forget to take some time to thank our Lord for all our blessings. Especially important is to teach our children to be thankful. Whether we are having good times or bad, may we remember to thank our Lord for all He has given us, even the adversities. It is often through those times that we grow spiritually, and He shows us His love in a very special way.

You are in my prayers of thanksgiving during this time as I thank the Lord for all of you. May you have a blessed and "thankful" Thanksgiving!

"To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything." - Thomas Merton





Clergy Corner

Court Chaplain, Deacon Dub Hargraves

Prayers for November - The Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory

As the weather grows cooler and the leaves turn colors and fall, and Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, it is natural that our thoughts turn to those whom we have loved who are no longer with us.

How appropriate, then, that Holy Mother Church offers us November, which begins with All Saints Day and All Souls Day, as the Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. November is the month of remembering our beloved dead and celebrating life as we remember and pray for those who have died in grace, yet who failed to make total recompense for all of their brokenness.

In recent years, perhaps no Catholic doctrine has been more misunderstood than the doctrine of Purgatory. Consequently, we tend to downplay it, even seem a little embarrassed by it, and it is the Holy Souls who suffer because of our discomfort with the doctrine.

Purgatory is not, as many people think, one last trial; all of those who make it to Purgatory will one day be in Heaven. Purgatory is where those who have lived in grace, finish their atonement before entering Heaven. A soul in Purgatory has the assurance that they will ultimately enter Heaven when their purification is complete. As Catholics we believe Purgatory is an expression of God's love, God's desire to cleanse our souls of all that might keep us from experiencing the fullness of joy in Heaven.

As Christians, we don't travel through this world alone. Our salvation is wrapped up with the salvation of others, and charity requires us to come to their aid. The same is true of the Holy Souls. In their time in Purgatory, they can pray for us, and we should pray for the faithful departed that they may be freed from the sufferings of their sins and enter into Heaven.

We should pray for the dead throughout the year, but especially in this Month of the Holy Souls. It is our privilege, as the Royal Priesthood, to devote some time every day to prayer for the dead. We should start with those closest to us—our mother and father, for instance—but we should also offer prayers for all the souls, and especially for those most forsaken.

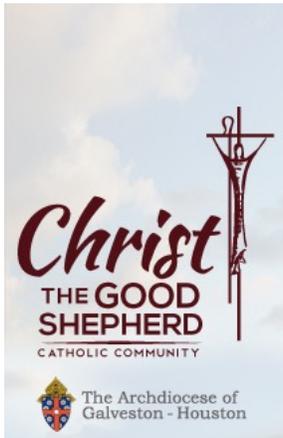
We believe that those Holy Souls for whom we pray will continue to pray for us after they have been released from Purgatory. If we live Christian lives, we too might find ourselves in Purgatory someday, and our acts of charity toward the Holy Souls there now will ensure that they remember us before the throne of God when we are most in need of prayers. It's a comforting thought, and one that should encourage us, especially in this month of November, to offer our prayers for the Holy Souls.

Christ the Good Shepherd come to our aid.



"The devotion to the memory of the dead is one of the most beautiful expressions of the Catholic spirit."

- Pope St. John XXIII



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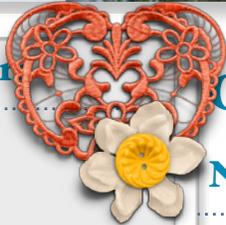
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Court News!

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Let's talk turkey!

The author of 'Mary had a Little Lamb', Sarah Josepha Hale, convinced President Abraham Lincoln, by bombarding him with letters, to declare Thanksgiving a reoccurring national holiday in 1863.

President Thomas Jefferson refused to declare Thanksgiving a holiday, as he was strongly opposed to mixing church and state. Since Thanksgiving involved prayer, he believed as a holiday it would violate the First Amendment.

The 1st Macy's parade, in 1924, did not feature balloons, but animals from the Central Park Zoo. Floats and balloons were introduced in 1927.

About 46 million turkeys are cooked each year for Thanksgiving! And an estimated 50 million pumpkin pies are consumed on Thanksgiving Day!

Male turkeys gobble, while female turkeys 'cackle'.

Black Friday is the busiest day of the year for plumbers! Due to all the food consumption, Roto-Rooter reports that kitchen drains, garbage disposals and even toilets require more attention than any other day of the year!

The Butterball Turkey Talk Line receives around 100,000 calls each season, for 'cooking crises'!



Mass Cards Committee:

The fee for Mass cards is \$5.00. This is your opportunity to give the gift of prayer, as well as contribute to the Memorial Scholarship Fund and a charity approved by our court. Please contact Peggy O'neil, 281-440-0286, or email at cda2731masscards@gmail.com, with mass card requests and/or questions.

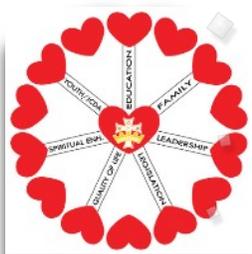
Mass cards are always available at the meetings.



Opportunities! Needs a Chair and/or committee members:

- ✦ **PUBLICITY** - Chairperson, plus 1-2 members
- ✦ **CIRCLE OF LOVE** - Chairperson, plus members
- ✦ **SCRAPBOOK** - Chairperson, plus members

Circle of Love:



1960 HOPE CENTER - Karen Doolittle

On October 18th, four CDA members made 100 Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches and assembled 50 Manna Bags. A huge thank you to everyone who donated food items for the Manna Bags and your time to assemble and deliver to Hope Center.

A huge thank you to Katherine Lee for suggesting a partnership with Congregation Jewish Community North regarding donations of food items for the Manna Bags. Their Rabbi approved the project and Kylie Danielson who is our contact has announced it to the students and parents and each month they will provide food item donations which will reduce the amounts we provide. This is a wonderful Ecumenical partnership for CCGS #2731 CDA.



Let's watch it grow and blossom!!!





Events:

ALL ARE INVITED, (Men, Women, Husbands and Wives, Spanish, English), to join us for the Rosary and the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary after the 8:30am Mass on Saturday, December 8th, which is the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Preparation includes a period of 33 days of meditation and prayer before the day of consecration. This can be done in your own home, at church, or wherever you can take some time for prayer. Preparation should begin by November 5th to be ready for consecration by December 8th. The book "In the End My Immaculate Heart Will Triumph" may be purchased at a Catholic book store or through various websites.

Our Blessed Mother has instructed us to pray for her intercession to combat the evils in our world today. We encourage all to join us in devoting ourselves to our Blessed Mother and praying daily in reparation for sin and for peace in our world.

Our Blessed Mother promises us peace within our hearts, peace in our families, peace in our homelands, and peace on earth. She leads us directly to Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

In the book, it reads, ***"You shall be my precious child"***, and each consecrated soul ***"is endowed with all merits of my heavenly grace."*** ***"For through my heart they shall find His in a most profound way!"***

We sometimes ask, "What can I do about the evils in our world"? **This IS something WE can do NOW.** Join us, and **please let us know when you do**, so we can be ready for **YOUR consecration** on December 8th. It would be nice if we could all wear white and blue on the 8th to honor Mary.

Contacts: **Email subject line, please put "Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary".**

Priscilla Hargraves, cdacourt2731@gmail.com , 512-376-1488 (Text Only)

Mary Jane Brewster, travelpro.tx@earthlink.net 832-647-3370 (Before Nov. 5th)

Pat Kocan, pac1pat@aol.com , 832-660-6480 (Text Only)

Patty Sukala-McCollum, 832-515-7845

Spanish: Ophelia Govea, 832-889-1354

If you see this after November 5th, no worries, you can still get your book and catch up.



New Members!



Cathy Peplau, Marla Clancy, and Shuri Rodriguez
Congratulations!!





Fall Festival:



The Fall Festival was great fun! The music was fantastic! At the CDA's booth, we had the opportunity to visit with a lot of women and sold mass cards and our purple rosaries. Thank you to everyone who made it a wonderful event for CGS and all who attended.

"What a great favor God does to those He places in the company of good people!" - St Teresa of Avila



CDA Corporate Rosary:

Our CDA court led the rosary after the 9:00 am mass, October 7th. We appreciate all who joined us in prayer, during the Month of the Rosary.



State News

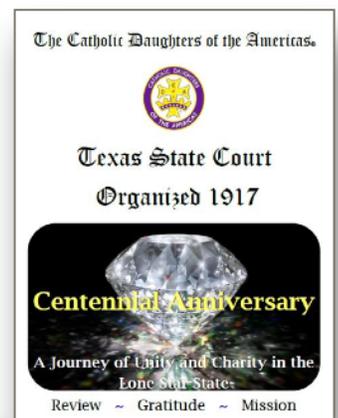
The **Lone Star Messenger** has published a Fall 2018 Edition. Check out the link to read it: <http://www.texasda.org/Newsletter/2018/Fall%202018%20CDA%20Newsletter.pdf>

Please note on page 24, our newsletter, The Spirit, is recognized for the National Newsletter Contest 2018, in Division II, Category I. Thank you all for making The Spirit such a great success!

Texas CDA website: <http://www.texasda.org/#loaded>

Texas CDA Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/texasda/>

Please consider purchasing *The Diamond Anniversary Texas CDA History Book, "A Journey of Unity and Charity in the Lone Star State"*, compiled by T. Vacek, April 2017, for \$15. This 145-page book contains the legacy of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Texas from 1903 through the next eleven decades.



The 51st Biennial CDA Texas State Convention will be on May 2 - 5, 2019, in McAllen. 'Call to Convention' will be sent in December by mail and electronically. Hotels will start accepting reservations December 1. On the docket are business session and workshops, spiritual renewal encounter, mass and great food!



National News

Please see flyer for the **12 day France Pilgrimage**: https://www.catholicdaughters.org/events/Pilgrimage/2019_CDA_Pilgrimage_flyer.pdf



Legislation:

Operation Morning Star Legislative Program mission statement: "The empowerment of Catholic Womanhood to develop a Catholic Policy Agenda to reach out and speak out in the legislative arena for the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all mankind, in accordance of justice and peace".

The Texas Legislature starts their session in January 2019, please contact your representatives...

To find your Legislator go to <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>, you can search by zip code. Members are encouraged to contact their legislators. Although CDA does not support political activities, this is an outlet for you to share our common beliefs and make a difference.

Texas Legislature Online: <https://capitol.texas.gov/>

Two really good sources, to keep up to date on human rights and human dignity for ALL: <https://www.humanlifeaction.org/> and <https://www.humanlife.org/>

US Bishops are set to meet in Baltimore, November 12 - 14, to discuss the abuse crisis and action items. The assembly will be 'live streamed' and 'live tweeted'. Search for it if you would like to watch the address live.

Cardinal DiNardo issued a statement following the tragic shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh (at the time it was written, there were 8 victims, sadly the number increased to 11):

"This morning violence, once again, struck one of our communities, this time in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It is apparent at least eight souls lost their lives in a shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue. To our brothers and sisters of the Jewish community, we stand with you. We condemn all acts of violence and hate and yet again, call on our nation and public officials to confront the plague of gun violence. Violence as a response to political, racial, or religious differences must be confronted with all possible effort. God asks nothing less of us. He begs us back to our common humanity as His sons and daughters.

I commend to our Lord the victims, including first responders, and for the consolation of their families. May Almighty God be with them and bring them comfort at this tragic time."

If you are not familiar with these websites, they have great information/news about the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and the US Conference of Catholic Bishop: <https://www.archgh.org/> and <http://www.usccb.org/>

This is a good site too, but requires an annual subscription: <http://www.catholicnews.com/>

"Remember, vote for LIFE. It may be your own!" - Mother Angelica



Click link below to see the Fall issue of SHARE, if you did not receive a hard copy in the mail:
<http://books.midstatesgroup.com/books/pgxs/>

(NOTE: you must have 'flash' to view)

Share is published in Midstates Group now. This is a sight for books to be posted. There are multiple reading options on this sight.



National September 2018 Newsletter:

https://www.catholicdaughters.org/Qtr_Newsletter/2018_09/Sept_2018_CDA_Quarterly_Newsletter.pdf

National CDA Website:
www.catholicdaughters.org

"Blessed are those who wash their robes, and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city." - Revelations 7:14, 22/14



"A good tree, that is, a good heart as well as a soul on fire with charity can do nothing but good and holy works." - St. Angela Merici

Mission Statement

Catholic Daughters of the Americas strives to embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality and the Advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.

- ✦ *Be women of Faith*
- ✦ *Encourage Spiritual Growth*
- ✦ *Increase membership*
- ✦ *Promote the motto of "Unity and Charity"*

The theme for the 2017 - 2019 term is:

"Be Not Afraid:" -

St John Paul the Great



The Texas State Court was organized January 25, 1917. Our Mission Statement is a reflection of the CDA motto of Unity and Charity; "The members of the Texas State and Local Courts love Christ and His Church. We are dedicated to leading others to Christ and to His service through active participation in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas."



Birthdays

Sheryl Andrew	4th
Yolanda Cadena	5th
Oge Rita Egbuna	12th
Dorothy Ann Clark Mullinax	13th

Anniversaries

Janet Beall	17th
Shirley Var	25th
Gizelle Williams	22nd
Oge Rita Egbuna	15th

"No one is too young or too old to be used by God. You are always the perfect age." - Unknown

"ME has become US, so together we can live for HIM" - Unknown

Dates to Remember



CDA Calendar for November 2018

- 1st - All Saints Day
- 5th - Begin prep. for Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 8th - 7:00 Gen. meeting, Rm. B207-209
- 10-11th - Community weekend, sell Mass cards/rosaries
- 15th - 3:00 Hope Center ministry, Rm. A207
- 17-18th - Pass out NAM bags after Masses

State and National dues payable

Red
Pumpkins
Apples Cinnamon
Yellow Autumn Warm
Leaves Cozy
Thanksgiving Season
Brown Fall
Cider
Honey

