



THE SPIRIT

Issue 17

Court Christ the Good Shepherd #2731

18511 Klein Church Rd, Spring TX 77379

Court Regent's Message

Priscilla Hargraves, Court Regent

Greetings CDA sisters!

I pray you had a blessed and joyful Thanksgiving! I am especially thankful for the shared time with my family and friends throughout the week. Hopefully, we all have memories that will stay with us for a long time. However we spent our week, we are called to be thankful for all the blessings we have received from our Beloved Lord.

I am also thankful for my CDA sisters and all you have done to help our Parish and local community during the month of November. During Community Weekend you sold Mass cards and rosaries. You helped the homeless with your contributions in time and needed items donated to the Hope Center. You also made sandwiches and Manna bags for the Hope Center. Finally, you helped insure that children would have a happy Christmas by handing out toy bags for the NAM Christmas toy program. Many of you took bags yourselves to purchase toys for the children.

As we move into the month of December, we are challenged to settle ourselves and focus on Advent and our preparation for the coming of the Christ child. Whatever your plans are for Advent, I encourage you to make it one of prayer and service to others through activities of the CDA or other parish or community organizations.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting/social on December 6th!

May God bless you!

For unto us a
Child
 is Born





Clergy Corner

Court Chaplain, Deacon Dub Hargraves

December – the month of Advent and Christmas

In the Catholic Church, Advent is a period of preparation, extending over four Sundays, before Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. This refers, first, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; but second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace (favor) and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to His second coming at the end of time. Our preparations, therefore, should have all three comings in mind. We need to prepare ourselves (body, mind, and soul) to receive Christ worthily at the feast of Christmas (*Christos Missio ... "Sending of the Anointed"*).

First We Fast, Then We Feast

Advent has traditionally been known as a "little Lent." As in Lent, Advent should be marked by increased prayer, fasting, and good works. While the Western Church no longer has a set requirement for fasting during Advent, the Eastern Church (both Catholic and Orthodox) continues to observe what is known as Philip's Fast, from November 15 until Christmas (named after the Apostle Philip, it runs through Christmas Eve, Dec. 24—a period of 40 days, mirroring Lent. Like most fasts in the Eastern Church, Philip's Fast is fairly strict and includes abstinence from meat, eggs, and dairy products on all weekdays, and fish, oil, and wine on most days. On Sundays and certain feast days, fish, oil, and wine are allowed; different Eastern Churches observe the fast more or less strictly.

Traditionally, all great feasts have been preceded by a time of fasting, which makes the feast itself more joyful. **Sadly**, Advent today has been replaced by "the Christmas shopping season," so that by Christmas Day, many people no longer enjoy the feast.

The Symbols of Advent

In its symbolism, the Church continues to stress the penitential and preparatory nature of Advent. As during Lent, purple (royal purple) vestments are worn, and the Gloria ("Glory to God") is omitted during Mass. The only exception is on the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday when priests can wear rose-colored vestments. As on Laetare Sunday during Lent, this exception is designed to encourage us to continue our prayer and fasting, because we can see that Advent is more than halfway over.

The Advent Wreath

Perhaps the best-known of all Advent symbols is the Advent wreath, a custom which originated among German Lutherans but was soon adopted by Catholics. Consisting of four candles (three purple and one pink) arranged in a circle with evergreen boughs (and often a fifth, white candle in the center), the Advent wreath corresponds to the four Sundays of Advent. The purple candles represent the penitential nature of the season, while the pink candle calls to mind the respite of Gaudete Sunday. (The white candle, when used, represents Christmas.)

Celebrating Advent

We can better enjoy Christmas—all 12 days of it, from Christmas Day to Epiphany—if we revive Advent as a period of preparation. Abstaining from meat on Fridays, or not eating at all between meals, is a good way to revive the Advent fast. (Not eating Christmas cookies or listening to Christmas music before Christmas is another, but it is understood today that is some people's method of preparation for the Christmas feast). We should incorporate such customs as the Advent wreath, the Saint Andrew Christmas Novena, or setting some time aside for special scripture readings for Advent, which remind us of the threefold coming of Christ.

Holding off on putting up the Christmas tree and other decorations is another way to remind ourselves that the feast is not here yet. Traditionally, such decorations were put up on Christmas Eve, but they would not be taken down until after Epiphany, in order to celebrate the Christmas season to its fullest. With proper preparation, Christmas truly becomes the beloved celebration of the incarnation of God into our humanity for the salvation of our souls.

Have a blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!!





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Court News!

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The weekend of November 17 and 18, a number of sisters (me included!) showed up after the masses to hand out NAM bags. It was a big success, as all the bags were passed out by the end of 10:45 mass on Sunday!



Mass Cards Committee:

The fee for Mass cards is \$2.50. This is your opportunity to give the gift of prayer, as well as contribute to the Memorial Scholarship Fund. 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.**



We had a very good turnout for Community Weekend passing out Mass Cards. Everyone is invited to signup and join us!

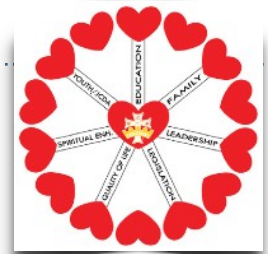
Opportunities! Needs a Chair and/or committee members:

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





Circle of Love:



1960 HOPE CENTER - Karen Doolittle

Congregation Jewish Community North joined CCGS Court #2731 with donations of food items beginning with the month of November. We are excited about our partnership and the staff at Hope Center was very pleased to hear of our Ecumenical partnership/project.

When requests for food items are sent to our membership, it reflects what we need in addition to what we will receive from CJCN! Our November

assembly brought five of us together for making sandwiches and assembling the manna bags.

Sign Up Genius was utilized to alert our members to our food items needed and volunteers needed. Even with the program indicating it sent messages to all of our members, I heard from some that they did not receive the Sign Up Genius email. Will try using SUG again in December and as a backup will also send an email as to our needs. December 20th is the date for sandwich making and manna bag assembly and it will take place upstairs in PLC, B 207-209 at 3 p.m., so mark your calendar if you are available and let Karen D know at tenfoldone@gmail.com or 520-419-3652.

A huge thank you to everyone for your support of this project! As one of the clients was removing the sandwiches from the car he smiled and said "yum, smells good"! He had a HUGE grin on his face showing his appreciation for our efforts. At this special time of year as we celebrate the birth of Christ and his first home in a stable, let us remember those at Hope Center who may have less than a stable for shelter each night.





Events:

Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary: If you have been preparing, please do come to the **8:30am Mass this Saturday, December 8th**. After Mass, we will say the rosary in the church as a group, and then we will consecrate ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so do **bring your books to read from**. After our 33 days of preparation, we will experience a beautiful short ceremony that takes us on a path leading us even closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. If you can, try to wear blue and white to honor our Blessed Mother on her Holy Day, the Immaculate Conception. If you have NOT been preparing for the consecration, please do join us for the rosary and you're welcome to stay for the consecration ceremony to support those being consecrated. If you have any questions, please contact: Mary Jane Brewster, travelpro.tx@earthlink.net or [832-647-3370](tel:832-647-3370)

From the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
Message...

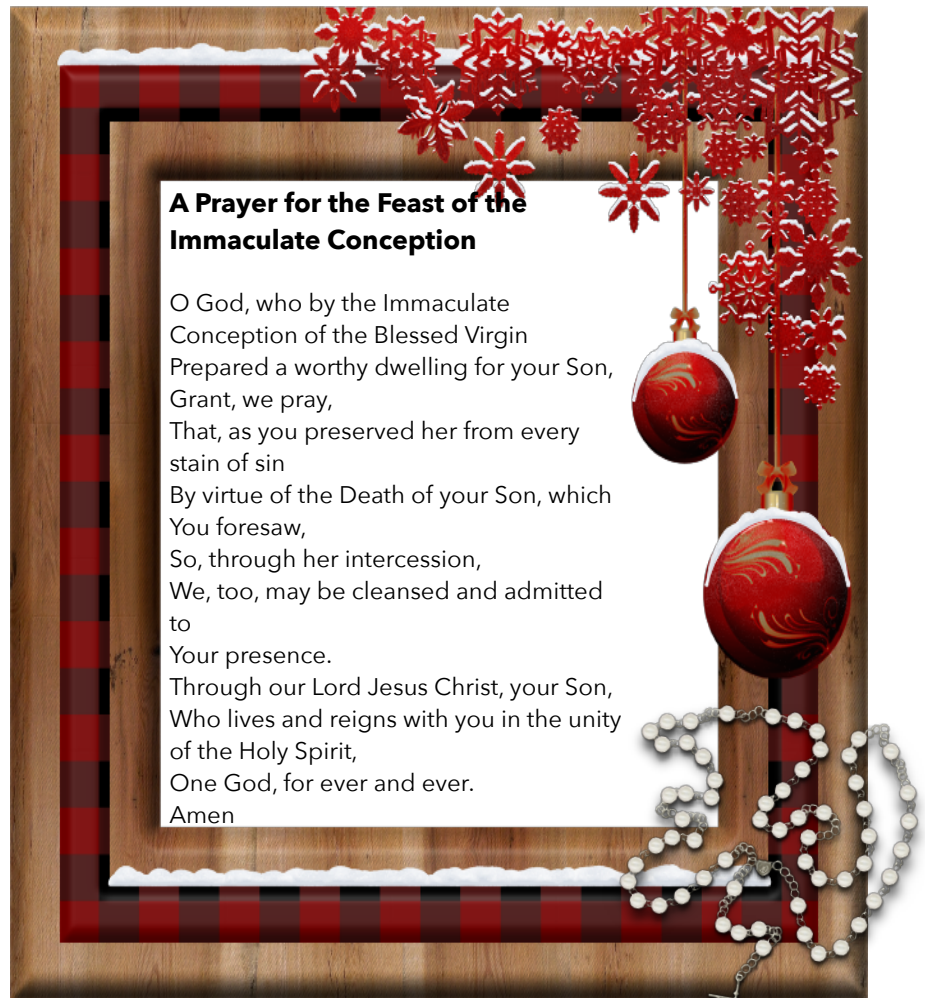
Dear Faith Sisters,

As we approach the holiday season, I challenge each of you to open your eyes and heart to find opportunities to experience your faith in a very real, hands-on way. There are many traditional opportunities to reach out to others, those in need, during the holidays, and I encourage you to continue to follow that path; however, if each of you dig a little deeper, there may be opportunities that will require more effort, and those are the opportunities that I challenge you to accept. The opportunities will be different for each person.

How can you apply the CDA mission statement to your holiday activities?

“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.”

Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas,
Deborah
DD#54



A Prayer for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, Grant, we pray, That, as you preserved her from every stain of sin By virtue of the Death of your Son, which You foresaw, So, through her intercession, We, too, may be cleansed and admitted to Your presence. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen



St. Gianna's Hope

Memorial Mass for Infant Loss

January 23, 2019 at 7 pm
Prince of Peace Mary Chapel

For families who have experienced the
loss of an infant from miscarriage
or early infant death

Reception to follow immediately after Mass

Please bring a stuffed animal which will be passed
on to children through our Outreach Ministry.

Hosted by: Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court of the Holy Family #2597



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www.pophouston.org

More info:
Mary Jane Albert
281-381-0309
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"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." - Revelation 21:4

November 16, 2018

Greetings, from our Court #2084 Hempstead, TX to yours. We would like to take this opportunity to invite your court to our Second Annual "Fish Fry" January 18, 2019.

This is our big fund raiser for the year to meet our budget For State, National & Local Projects and Scholarships.

We are so excited that the Knights are going to help Us with this task again. They have great **Chefs** that will Be frying the fish and our own CDA sisters will be doing all the cold slaw, potatoes & beans with delicious desserts.

This is a great time to get a jump on the Friday night Fish fry before lent, load up your car, tell your friends.

We would love to serve you and spread joy through out the evening. Check out the enclosed flyer, something for everyone, music & silent auction.

We'll be looking for you - Court #2084 Mary, Mother of God

Patsy Marburger
Chairman



2ND ANNUAL FISH FRY



Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Court Mary, Mother of God #2084
Hempstead, Texas 77445

Silent Auction & Live Music
Dine in or Plates to go available

Friday *January 18, 2019*
Knights of Columbus Hall
22892 Mack Washington Ln.
Hempstead, Texas 77445
Serving: 5pm-7pm

Plates are \$12
Includes: Desserts, Tea & Coffee

Proceeds go to Scholarships -
State, National & Local Projects

"And he said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." - Matthew 4:19



Mary Louise Roberts travelled to the UK and Ireland this holiday. Check out her awesome pics below!

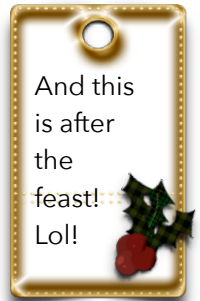


"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page." - Saint Augustine





I, Gizelle, was fortunate to be able to drive home to Spring for the Thanksgiving week. We had a FEAST.



And this is after the feast! Lol!

\$100 million donated to AmazonSmile charities!

To celebrate, we're donating 10 times our usual rate through Nov 2.

Terms apply

Dear Charlotte Prieve,

Did you know that AmazonSmile will donate to your favorite charity when you shop at smile.amazon.com? It's the same Amazon - same prices, product selection, and shipping options - and there's no extra cost. Thanks to customers shopping at smile.amazon.com, AmazonSmile has donated over \$100 million to charities across the country. Through Nov 2, we're increasing the donation rate ten times the usual rate when you shop at smile.amazon.com. [Learn more](#).

There are over a million charities you can support including schools and PTAs, pet shelters, religious and cultural organizations, hospitals and medical research organizations, and more. You can [select a new charity](#) at any time.

Thank you for choosing to make a difference by shopping at smile.amazon.com.

[Learn more](#)

"Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing." - St Mother Teresa





State News

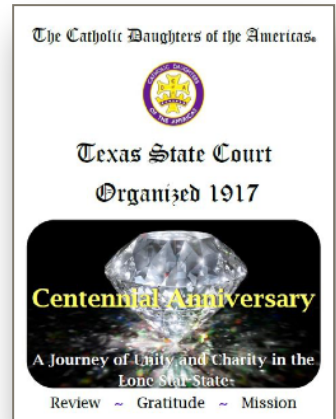
The **Lone Star Messenger** has published a Fall 2018 Edition. Check out the link to read it: <http://www.texasda.org/Newsletter/2018/Fall%202018%20CDA%20Newsletter.pdf>

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/>

To purchase: *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 started taking reservations on December 1. On the docket are business session and workshops, spiritual renewal encounter, mass and great food!



"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." - Psalms 51:10



National News

Please see flyer for:

12 day France Pilgrimage: https://www.catholicdaughters.org/events/Pilgrimage/2019_CDA_Pilgrimage_flyer.pdf



Legislation:

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/>

Update: US Bishops met in Baltimore, November 12 - 14, to discuss the abuse crisis and action items. The assembly was 'live streamed' and 'live tweeted'. Action items from the outcome of this assembly:

- A process for investigating complaints against bishops reported through a third-party compliance hotline. We will complete a proposal for a single national lay commission and a proposal for a national network relying upon the established diocesan review boards, with their lay expertise, to be overseen by the metropolitan or senior suffragan.
- Finalizing the Standards of Accountability for Bishops.
- Finalizing the Protocol for Removed Bishops.
- Studying national guidelines for the publication of lists of names of those clerics facing substantiated claims of abuse.
- Supporting the fair and timely completion of the various investigations into the situation surrounding Archbishop McCarrick and publication of their results. We are grateful for the Holy See's Statement of October 6 in this regard.

<http://www.usccb.org/>



In the News!

Starbucks has announced it will begin blocking pornography and illegal content on its free WI-FI networks thought out US stores, beginning in 2019.

19 States and numerous pro-life and disability groups have petitioned the US Supreme Court to uphold an Indiana law prohibiting abortions based on race, sex or disability. <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pro-life-disability-groups-support-indiana-abortion-law-at-scotus-42185>

"Lord, I believe. I believe in Your love. I believe that Your love has saved me. I believe that Your love has given me a dignity that I did not have. I believe that Your love gives me hope." - Pope Francis

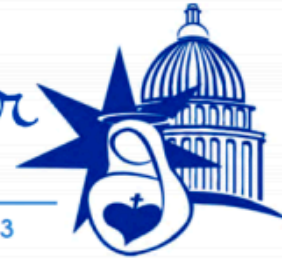


Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

Operation Morningstar

Volume X, No. 2 December 2018

National Headquarters 10 West 71st Street New York, NY 10023



Health and Human Services stops buying aborted baby body parts for research

Human Life Action, an affiliate of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), reported that in September Health and Human Services (HHS) ended a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) contract to purchase aborted baby body parts for research. The contract was with [Advanced Bioscience Resources](#), ABR, a fetal tissue procurement company that had [contracted with multiple Planned Parenthood abortion facilities](#) to harvest aborted fetal body parts and then sell them to researchers. Congress referred ABR for criminal prosecution after a thorough investigation into illegal fetal tissue trafficking in the United States.

In addition, HHS began a comprehensive review of all research involving fetal tissue to determine whether alternatives exist to the use of human fetal tissue in research.

In response to this announcement, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued a [statement](#) applauding "Secretary Azar and the Administration for cutting off ties to a company whose business is to procure aborted baby parts for research."

Cardinal Dolan urged the Administration to "act quickly to cease all funding for research involving body parts from aborted babies."

Cardinal Dolan said, "For the federal government to create a demand for abortion and use these

children's body parts for research is wrong. ...Under a pro-life Administration, there is simply no room for callously using aborted children to further a research goal."

Human Life Action urges citizens to email Secretary Azar (secretary@HHS.gov) **thanking him for these initial actions and urging him to act quickly to cease all funding for research involving body parts from aborted babies. Taxpayer dollars should only be used for ethical research.** Here is the suggested email wording:

Stop funding research that uses aborted baby body parts. Thank you for terminating the contract between the FDA and Advanced Bioscience Resources to purchase tissues and body parts from babies killed by induced abortions. That, and the other actions you announced, are a good first step toward ending this unethical collaboration with the abortion industry. But you must do more by immediately ending the use of my tax dollars for research that callously exploits aborted children. Especially under a pro-life Administration, I expect and urge the Department of Health and Human Services to use our tax dollars only for funding ethical research that respects all human life from conception to natural death.

World Medical Association members reject euthanasia resolution

According to an article by Michael Cook in [MercatorNet](#), the Dutch and Canadian Medical Associations prepared a pro-euthanasia resolution for this year's World Medical Association (WMA) meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, but withdrew it for lack of support.

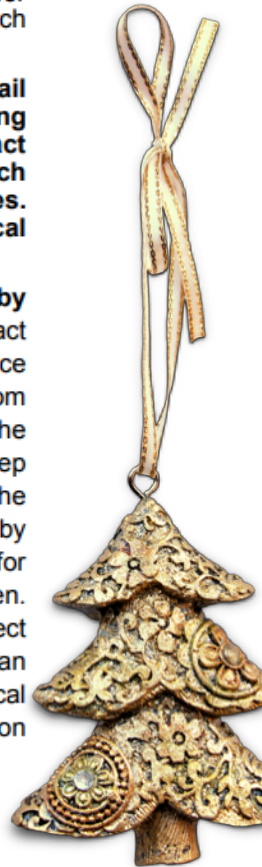
The August issue of the [WMA's World Medical Journal](#) contained reports from several regions where doctors had debated end-of-life care. In Brazil the local association declared that "if the doctor is prepared not only to cure but also to kill, the ethics of medical practice and the trust that the patient must have in his doctor will be very battered."

All of the medical associations in the Asia-Pacific and

Israel (including Australia and New Zealand, Japan and China) were opposed to euthanasia. African medical associations were "unanimously opposed to euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide in any form."

The German Medical Association, the WMA and the Vatican also organized a symposium at which a majority of participants rejected euthanasia "as being diametrically opposed to the ethical principles of medicine and expressed concern that they could lead to misuse or abuse."

Approved: Olga Samaniego, National Regent





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 December 2018 Newsletter:

https://www.catholicdaughters.org/Qtr_Newsletter/2018_12/QuarterlyNewsletter_December2018.pdf

National CDA Website:

www.catholicdaughters.org



"You pay God a compliment by asking great things of Him." - Sometimes we may feel like we will never see peace in the World. We must persevere in prayer for peace. Nothing is impossible with God." - St Teresa of Avila

Christmas Blessings

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."



"Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord..." - Nehemiah 8:10

Birthdays

Sue Ann Denning	24th
Maria E. Vitucci	26th

Anniversaries

Patricia A. Kocan	2nd
Mary Giles	7th
Katherine Lee	15th
Kathryn Kietur	28th



Dates to Remember

CDA Calendar for December 2018

- 6th - 7:00 Short Gen. meeting, with social 'white elephant' gift exchange, Rm. B207-209
- 8th - 8:30 AM Mass, Rosary, Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 8-9th - Community weekend, sell Mass cards/rosaries
- 20th - 3:00 Hope Center ministry, Rm. A207
- 21st - Newsletter submission deadline (early due to the holidays)
- 25th - Merry Christmas!

