A purple and yellow logo

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**Issue 47 – January 2025**

18511 Klein Church Road, Spring, TX 77379

[www.catholicdaughters2731.com](http://www.catholicdaughters2731.com)



**Announcements**

*Next month we’ll meet on* ***Thurs., Feb. 6 at 6:30pm*** *for a rosary prior to mass at CGS. After mass, we’ll celebrate our CDA anniversary with a reception****.***

*\*Be women of faith*

*\*Encourage spiritual growth*

*\*Increase membership*

*\*Promote the motto of “Unity and Charity”*

**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 dignity for all.*

*\*Be women of faith*

*\*Encourage spiritual growth*

*\*Increase membership*

*\*Promote the motto of “Unity and Charity*

Patrice Hampton

**Regent**

[pa](mailto:patrice_hampton@hotmail.com)[trice\_hampton@hotmail.com](mailto:trice_hampton@hotmail.com) (662)352-4291

Lori Maldonado

**Vice Regent**

[lorilou6599@outlook.com](mailto:lorilou6599@outlook.com)

(281)413-9272

Kathy Kietur

**Recording Secretary** [bambini49@yahoo.com](mailto:bambini49@yahoo.com) (281)844-7919

Jean Philpot

**Financial Secretary** [je](mailto:jeanphilpot@hotmail.com)[anphilpot@hotmail.com](mailto:anphilpot@hotmail.com) (713)515-4334

Olivia Berger

**Treasurer**

[oberger@yahoo.com](mailto:oberger@yahoo.com)

(832)326-8536

Deacon Stacy Millsap

**Court Chaplain**

[smillsap@cgscc.church](mailto:smillsap@cgscc.church)

(346)236-6467

Christine Maniscalco

**District Deputy #54**

[Christinemaniscalco1@gmail.com](mailto:Christinemaniscalco1@gmail.com)

(713)515-6342

**Court Officers**



**Court Officer Message**

Lori Maldonado, Vice Regent

A person smiling for the camera

Description automatically generatedMy Dear Sisters in Christ,

When Mari asked if I would write a message for the next newsletter of course I said yes because my promise to all of you was to help in whatever capacity I was able to as your new Vice Regent. However, secretly I was panicking because I hadn’t a clue as to what I could or was supposed to write about. As such, I procrastinated and even forgot a few times since she asked until the deadline was near and knew that I needed to fulfill my promise.

After attending a couple wonderful events with some of you recently,

namely our CDA Christmas Social and the Golden Girls Birthday Social, my writing topic is suddenly so clear. The topic is YOU! ALL OF YOU! When I joined CDA a couple years ago I was searching for something more to add to my life, but I wasn’t sure what to call it or how to look for it. Boy, did I find it!! The pure positive energy that I have received from each of you in the form of hugs, laughs, new friendships and prayers is beyond anything I could have searched for. I didn’t know how much I needed all of you added to my life. Also, I have finally started to remember some of your names and faces!!

My intention was to slowly join CDA as I was unsure and a bit inexperienced at being involved in anything except my home and my job. As a working mom I was rarely involved in my kid’s school functions. I just made sure to show up for them the day of any event. You allowed me that time for a bit – until the day of officer nominations came around. I felt the pressure - LOL! I was wrong about slowly joining CDA. Only after I started signing up to participate in all our amazing services and activities did I truly get the opportunity to connect with you, build wonderful relationships and feel the joy of giving back to our community. Being exposed to all your amazing ways of praying is so inspirational. I have much to learn from each of you. Thank you for making me your current Vice Regent. I am truly having the time of my life with you all.

To anyone who may still be “slowly joining” our CDA court I say to you – “JUMP IN! There are zero regrets on this side!” You can really do as little or as much as you want. Most of the events require only the giving of your time and talents (i.e. It’s FREE!) Our court offers several activities at the same time every month making it easy to plan. Sure, we also have some last-minute service opportunities that come our way for these we all need to read those emails! Below are our common reoccurring events.

* **Monthly Rosary**: 1st Thursday 6pm, in Church by Marian Windows. Now before our monthly meetings and lasts about 30 minutes.
* **Community Weekend**:2nd weekend after all masses. Help us raise funds and awareness for our charities. Maybe 30 minutes (or however long you want to stay).
* **Manna Bags**: Fill bags with food to give to clients at Hope Center. Usually, 2 opportunities each month and lasts 30-60 minutes. Led by Karen Doolittle.

I’m sure there is more that I could mention but let’s just start there. Sign up and show up with me to get the full experience of being a part of this wonderful court and make a new friend with a Karen, Cathy, Mary, or Jean!!!

Hugs & Prayers,

Lori

**Court Chaplain Message**

Deacon Stacy Millsap, Court Chaplain

The word “advent” comes from the Latin term *adventus*, literally meaning “coming to.” The four weeks of the season of Advent before Christmas create a unique season of hope-filled preparation for all of us in the Catholic Christian community. While it is true that Christ has come, and we should rejoice in his Incarnation every day of our lives, the season of Advent gives us all time for a prayerful “retelling” of the story of the “Hope of Israel.” We prepare ourselves for the commemoration of Christ’s coming in history in Bethlehem, his coming in mystery each day in the Church and the sacraments, and his coming in majesty at the end of time. The images of Isaiah, John the Baptist, and Mary figure so prominently in the Scriptures we read and hear during these few, fast weeks.

Perhaps we would find it helpful to reflect on the views of a few of the pillars of our faith regarding Advent:

* Advent is here. What a marvelous time in which to renew your desire, your nostalgia your real longing for Christ to come — for him to come every day to your soul in the Eucharist. The Church encourages us: ecce veniet — he is about to arrive.” (St. Josemaria Escriva)
* We do not preach only one coming of Christ but a second one as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom.” (St. Cyril of Jerusalem)
* The Church asks us to understand that Christ, who came once in the flesh, is prepared to come again. When we remove all obstacles to his presence he will come, at any hour and moment, to dwell spiritually in our hearts, bringing with him the riches of his grace.” (St. Charles Borromeo)
* Advent is synonymous with hope, not the vain waiting for a ‘faceless god’ but concrete and certain trust in the return of him who has already visited us.” (St. John Paul II)
* Advent is a journey toward Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.” (Pope Francis)
* Advent is a powerful liturgical season inviting us to pause in silence to understand a presence. It is an invitation to understand that the individual events of the day are hints that God is giving us, signs of the attention he has for each one of us.” (Pope Benedict XVI)

We need to let the Word sink deeply into our minds, hearts and souls. The hymns we have always sung and the Mass prayers we pray all fix our attention in faith upon the One who has come, is coming and is yet to come, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is all about him. Although we have heard and sung and prayed the Advent message many times before, a pause, some quiet time of prayer, the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation all go a long way to “make all things new” … again.



Be blessed!

---Deacon Stacy Millsap

**Court Happenings**

Fall Festival – October 19, 2024

The annual Fall Festival at CGS was blessed with gorgeous weather.

A table with purple cloths and signs

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A group of people at a table

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A group of women standing next to a cart with boxes

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Cereal Donations – October 21, 2024

Donations of cereal boxes were collected and taken to the Hope Center where food is served to the homeless. Thank you to Karen Doolittle for coordinating manna bag assembly and sharing the special needs/requests of the Hope Center with CDA!

A car with a trunk full of food

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Trunk or Treat – October 25, 2024

CDA members volunteered to distribute candy for the annual “Trunk or Treat” event at CGS. The Knights served over 400 hot dogs while CDA members volunteered by serving candy. Thank you for making a fun and safe event for the youth at CGS!

 Two women sitting in chairs with a trunk of a car

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Family Fun Night – November 15, 2024

The Knights of Columbus host Family Fun Nights at CGS to promote fellowship by offering food, drinks, and games for all ages. To support this effort, CDA members donate sweets and baked desserts. Thanks to all the volunteers who supported the last Family Fun Night! The next one is Friday, January 17 from 5-9pm in the social hall.

Prepare for Advent – November 23, 2024

On Saturday, November 23, CDA members gathered at a multi-district “Prepare for Advent” event held at Prince of Peace Catholic Church. CDA members enjoyed two guest speakers, mass, and a scriptural rosary. Way to go for having the largest turnout for the event!

A group of people sitting at a table

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May the Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace! –Numbers 6:24-26

Community Weekend – December 14 & 15, 2024

CGS routinely schedules Community Weekend after all the masses to foster a sense of community among parishoners through sharing breakfast. CDA members routinely host a table at Community Weekend to provide membership information collect mass cards or sell fundraiser items. Thanks to the volunteers who supported our last Community Weekend on Saturday, Dec. 14 and Sunday, Dec. 15.

Food for CGS Staff – December 23, 2024

Because the CGS staff work so hard and continuously on Christmas Eve and Christmas, CDA members played the role of Santa by delivering food for the clergy, choir and liturgists.

Thank you to all of you who toiled in your own kitchen to serve the hungry hard at work with liturgical duties for the Christmas masses.

Manna Bag Assembly – Fall 2024

Hope Center is a local center for the homeless. Twice monthly CDA members gather to assemble food items and make “manna bags” which are donated to the center for distribution. The Hope Center is back in full swing following the recent holidays. They were closed for Christmas and New Years. As the guests left on Christmas Eve, they were offered as many double manna bags as they wanted to have food over the long holiday break. Most guests took two (2) double manna bags because that was all the weight they could carry! On New Year’s Eve they were offered one (1) double manna bag to cover the one-day closure. Here's a little history: CDA began Thursday afternoon ‘double’ manna bag assembly in March 2018. We prepared and delivered manna bags each month during COVID as our work is considered an essential service by the Parish Business Manager. In October 2023, we expanded the program and added another manna bag day (Monday evening) to accommodate our working CDA Sisters. Initial manna bag contents have grown to the content list presently used:

MANNA BAG BASIC CONTENTS—Monday evening and Thursday afternoon:

* 2 16 oz bottles of water
* 1 4.6 oz can Vienna Sausage
* 1 1.0 oz box of plain raisins
* 1 1.0 oz box of yogurt raisins
* 1 1.42 oz Nature Valley Protein Bar
* 1 2.5 oz Tuna pouch
* 1 2.6 oz Chicken pouch
* 1 4.0 oz fruit cup
* 1 3.25 oz pudding cup
* 2 packages of cheese or peanut butter crackers
* 2 packages of Nabisco cookies
* 2 1.0 oz bags assorted chips
* 1 Service Set consisting of: 1 set plastic cutlery, napkin, 2 wet wipes

MANNA BAG EXTRA’S – Thursday afternoon

* 1 12.0 oz can of SPAM
* 1 1.5 oz bag of pistachio nuts
* 1 1.5 or 1.75 oz bag of peanuts/cashews
* 1 1.62 oz Chef Robert’s Fit Crunch protein bar

For manna bag assembly, we open with a prayer for the homeless and other prayers to cover requested intentions. Then, we begin to sort, remove packaging and count items in quantities of either 50 or 100. Once completed, we begin the bagging which is basically an assembly line. Bags are double tied and placed in one half of a banana box holding either 5 or 8/9 bags depending on the vehicle used for delivery. From start to finish the entire production is less than an hour!

How does this help? Hope Center guests have non-perishable food and water to get them through the weekend. As a bonus, CDA sisters have the fellowship with other sisters plus performing a work of charity filled with love while supporting our Court’s charity project!

Upcoming manna bag assembly dates are below.

* Mondays at 7pm – 1/6, 2/10, 3/3, 4/7, 5/5, and 6/2
* A white bird in a blue circle with black text

  Description automatically generatedThursdays at 3pm – 1/16, 2/20, 3/20, 4/24, 5/15, and 6/12

Mass Cards

On an ongoing basis, CDA offers mass cards which provide scholarships for relatives of CDA members. Scholarships can be used for attendance at college or a catholic high school. Mass cards can be purchased at any CDA meeting or at Houston Catholic Books & Gifts located at 7902 Louetta Road. Last year, over $60,000 was raised. Thanks to everyone who purchased mass cards!

Praying the Rosary

On the second Thursday of the month, CDA joins together

at 6pm by the Marian windows to pray the rosary. *Please note*

*the change in time for February noted on page 1.*

**Legislative Updates**

Issues & Action

Are you interested in any of the topics listed in the screenshot below? To learn more about these issues in relation to church teachings, visit the USCCB website: <https://www.usccb.org/topics>

A screenshot of a computer

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CDA National Legislative Link:

<https://catholicdaughters.org/circle-of-love#tabContent_2505669>

**Local, State, & National CDA News**

Local Events

* **St. Gianna’s Hope Memorial Mass for Infant Loss** on Wed., Jan. 29 at 7pm at Prince of Peace.Donations of diapers, pullups, wipes, or formula accepted for Mercy Ministry.
* **Ladies of Faith Breakfast** on Sat., Feb. 8 after the 8:30am mass at CGS on the second floor of the administrative building. Speaker on conversion/Lent. Cost: $15. Open to all women of the parish.
* **CDA District #54 New Member Reception** on Sat., Feb. 15 from 10am to 12pm at CGS Social Hall. RSVP by January 20th to [christinemaniscalco1@gmail.com](mailto:christinemaniscalco1@gmail.com)
* **Pastoral Visitors** are needed. To learn more or register for training, contact CDA member Amanda Quiroz at [aquiroz@archgh.org](mailto:aquiroz@archgh.org)

State News

* **Texas Rally for Life** on Sat., Jan. 25 from 1-4pm in Austin. To join the bus ride from CGS to Austin for $20, call Ivette Estrada at (281)787-7941 or Deacon Villafranco at (281)376-6831. <https://www.texasallianceforlife.org/events/2025-tx-rally-for-life/>
* **Memorial Scholarship Fund** deadline on Jan. 31, 2025 – CDA relatives (i.e., son/daughter, grandchild, niece/nephew, brother/sister) are eligible to apply for the scholarship for attendance at a college or catholic high school. To access the application, [click here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pHCLZkRONHl23wyDZn3kYYmdbMKnBCz7/view)
* **Biennial Texas State Convention** on April 23-27 at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel. Visit the Texas CDA website for more information:

<https://texascda.org/2025-convention-home>

* **CDA State fundraiser** is open. To enter your chance to win $30, $100, $250, or $1,000, send $20 to CDA at P.O. Box 61145, Raleigh, NC 27661

National & International News

* **Pray for Leaders –** As always, pray for our elected officials and leaders.
* **Pilgrimages –** Pope Francis declared 2025 a jubilee year; take a pilgrimage!
  + **Florida State Pilgrimage to Italy** – May 23 through June 3, 2025

<https://www.lpjp.org/trips/12-day-italy-pilgrimage---florida-cda-%26--holy-spirit-catholic-church>

* + **Pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey** – October 2025

Call (833)944-8242 or email [booking@lpjp.org](mailto:booking@lpjp.org)

* + **New York Pilgrimage to Italy** – November 3 through 14, 2025

<https://www.lpjp.org/trips/12-day-italy-pilgrimage-the-jubilee-of-rome-2025-cda-ny>

* **Charities & Ongoing Projects -** CDA supports several national charities and projects such as Habitat for Humanity, Apostleship of the Sea, Catholic Relief Services, Disaster Relief Fund, Human Life International, and Missionaries of Charity. For a full list visit the website: <https://catholicdaughters.org/national-projects-and-charities>



***January***

Melody Barr 1/10 Sheryl Bihler-Lopez 1/1

Catherine Peplau 1/23

Magdalena Barrera 1/28

***February***

Elsa Hernandez 2/7 Norina Fisher 2/14

Margaret Medina 2/12 Cathy Miller 2/15

Candice Tyrrell 2/14 Priscilla Hargraves 2/22

Charlotte Prieve 2/19

Mary Lou Roberts 2/21

Mari Castaño 2/21

Kathy Kietur 2/27

***March***

Margaret Williamson 3/2 Elisa Rocha-Sanchez 3/5

Jennifer Windsor 3/12 Sade Effiong 3/24

Carol Cason 3/16

Mary Ellen Crawford 3/16

Veronica Arnold 3/21

Jackie Vail 3/22



Newsletter Editor: Marinela Castano [mari.castano@comcast.net](mailto:mari.castano@comcast.net)