

# ST. LAURENCE LADIES GUILD

"Here to serve, not to be served." Matthew 20:28

December 2025

**Take a few minutes to read this classic, true Christmas story about a little girl name Virginia who writes to the newspaper to ask if Santa Claus is real.**

## Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus (1897)

In 1897, Dr. Philip O'Hanlon, a coroner's assistant on Manhattan's Upper West Side, was asked a question by his then eight-year-old daughter, Virginia, which many a parent has been asked before: whether Santa Claus really exists. O'Hanlon deferred. He suggested Virginia wrote asking the question to one of New York's most prominent newspapers at the time, *The Sun*, assuring her that "If you see it in The Sun, it's so."

**Dear Editor: I am 8 years old.  
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.  
Papa says, 'If you see it in The Sun it's so.'  
Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?**



Ladies Guild Praying Hands is one powerful prayer chain. Send prayer requests to [sllgprayers@gmail.com](mailto:sllgprayers@gmail.com)

The response to Virginia's letter by one of the paper's editors, Francis P. Church, remains the most reprinted editorial ever to run in any newspaper in the English language and found itself the subject of books, a film and television series. In his response Church goes beyond a simple "yes of course" to explore the philosophical issues behind Virginia's request to tell her "the truth" and in the process lampoon a certain skepticism which he had found rife in American society since the suffering of the Civil War. His message in short - there is a reality beyond the visible.



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## Ladies Guild Calendar

Dec 3rd — Annunciation Church Tour  
Dec 12th — Sole Loved Bingo — TX Biergarten  
Dec 14th — Angela House Bunco  
Dec 18th — Christmas Party—Ave Maria  
Jan 8th — Sole Loved Bingo —TX Biergarten  
Jan 15th — LG Meeting—Parish Hall  
Jan 18th — Angela House Bunco

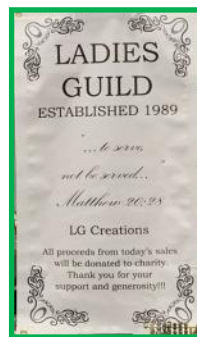




Thank you to all of our volunteers!









by Teresa Humphreys



6725 Reed Rd.  
Houston, TX 77087

<https://angelahouse.org>

Shawna Callaghan, **Carol Giardina**, **Tina Greenfield**, **Teresa Humphreys**, **Dixe Jesco**, **Joan O'Daniel**, Bonnie Pollan, Elizabeth and **Judy Schockling**, Pam Smolen, and Pat Winfree met for

our monthly Angela House Sunday Bunco

games on November 16. Our snacks were provided by **Magdalene Bryant**, Shawna Callaghan, **Carol Giardina**, **Tina Greenfield**, **Dixe Jesco**, Bonnie Pollan, **Judy Schockling**, and Pam Smolen.

We enjoyed playing and visiting with Angela House ladies Amanda, Regina, Kimberly, Erica, Amanda, Denise, Stephanie, Kim and new resident Sarah with house manager Tracy for 17 very lively and loud games. Ladies Guild member **Carol Giardina** was our star player winning 8 games in a row.



Teresa with Sarah,  
celebrating her birthday

The ladies received pocket hearts donated by Miche Broussard and a wide assortment of personal care items donated from our many contributors. Our visits to Angela House are truly a group effort. Please consider contributing your time and getting to know these remarkable women.

A special shout out to our drivers **Carol Giardina** and **Joan O'Daniel**.



Bunco Winners, Sarah,  
Addisha, & Denise



**Our special  
Christmas Bunco is  
scheduled for  
December 14.**

**Please join us by  
contributing gifts and  
playing Bunco.**

**Watch for the sign up  
genius coming soon.**

November 2025 Bunco



All honor to you, Mary! From  
you arose the Son of Justice,  
Christ our God.

## PRAYER CORNER

By Maureen Ambrocik

The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. The first 24 days of December fall during the liturgical season known as Advent and are represented by the liturgical color purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart. The remaining days of December mark the beginning of the Christmas season. The liturgical color changes to white or gold — a symbol of joy, purity and innocence.

Source: catholicculture.org

For Prayer Requests:  
[sllgprayers@gmail.com](mailto:sllgprayers@gmail.com)



**Winnie Waltzer-Hackett, Joanie O'Daniel, Gail Anawaty, Judy Schockling, Carol McDonough, Julianne Salverson, Allyson Morrison, Maureen Ambrocik, Linda Juge, Elize West & Carol Giardina**

### ***The Flock Project***

Many more need to be made!  
Interested in learning how to knit  
or crochet? Contact Gail Anawaty  
[ganawaty@gmail.com](mailto:ganawaty@gmail.com)

## **Pocket Prayer Shawl November 12th**

**Carol Giardina** hosted the November 12th meeting at her house. The next meeting will be at **Judy Schockling's** on Wednesday, December 17th from 10-12. The January meeting will be on Wednesday, January 14th at **Julianne Salverson's**. Mark your calendars.





# Funeral Receptions Ministry

by Carol Giardina, Judy  
Schockling, & Joanie O'Daniel



A big thanks to the following ladies who served at 2 funeral receptions during the month of November: **Gail Anawaty, Barbara Bolling, Magna Cayll, Jeannie Dobrava, Carol Giardina, Teresa Humphreys, Sandra Mendez, Joanie O'Daniel, Pat Rega, Julianne Salverson, Judy Schockling & Sandra Surginer**

The following contributed food for the November receptions:

**Venetia Boneno**  
Carmen Deneen  
Kathryn Green  
**Janet Hill**  
**Sue Jordan**  
Margie Koenig  
Rosemary Mascarenhas  
Mai-Vy Nguyen  
**Sandra Surginer**

Lynne Daus  
Daisy Fernandes  
Kathy Heinemann  
Carol Inamdar  
Carole Kanusky  
Melissa Lange  
Theresa Neal  
Becky Pascual  
**Reji Thomas**

**Inez Dauterive**  
**Sue Garcia**  
Leslye Henderson  
**Cammy Janik**  
**Norma Knoebel**  
Mary Lewis  
Rosemary Newlin  
Toni Slusser



6 meals were provided in November to Maggie Tillman

by **Jeannette Freeman, Gail Anawaty, Judy Schockling, Andi Maceo, Carol Inamdar and Norma Knoebel.**

by Jeannette Freeman

The Meals That Heal Ministry provides meals to parishioners of St. Laurence who are in need of a little extra help during times of illness, after surgery or the birth of a baby. This ministry is a part of St. Laurence Ladies Guild, but membership is not a requirement for volunteering to help provide meals. Participating in Meals That Heal is a wonderful way to serve others! If you or a parishioner you know is in need of meals, or if you are interested in providing a meal to those in need, please contact:

Jeannette Freeman at [ladiesguildmth@gmail.com](mailto:ladiesguildmth@gmail.com)

# Membership

Fill out your membership application for 2025-2026 in an online format. Indicate your method of payment (check or cash) to drop off at the Parish Office (the box is checked weekly), bring to the meeting, or give to Judy Schockling. [judyschock@aol.com](mailto:judychock@aol.com)

Scan the QR code or use this hyperlink: [Membership Form](#)



Need help filling out the online form? Call, text or email Andi Maceo: [andimaceo@gmail.com](mailto:andimaceo@gmail.com), 713-823-0216



## BIRTHDAYS

Dixe Jesko	December 3
Jody Tancred	December 11
Reji Thomas	December 15
Susan Papalexandris	December 16
Rosa Duque	December 17
Arlene Kluepfel	December 17
Rose Marie Fuller	December 19
Lupe Cantu	December 26

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**VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.**



**Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished. Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.**

**You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.**

**No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.**

## Board 2025-2026

### President

Josie Vranish

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### President-Elect

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[jblue-eyes@hotmail.com](mailto:jblue-eyes@hotmail.com)

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### Funeral Receptions

Carol Giardina & Judy Schockling

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

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### Meals That Heal

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### Membership

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### Inside Programs

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### Newsletter

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### Fundraising/Shop 'til U Drop

Josie Vranish

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### Special Events

Gail Anawaty, Joan O'Daniel

[ganawaty@gmail.com](mailto:ganawaty@gmail.com),

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### Spirituality/Prayer Request

Maureen Ambrocik

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

**Do you have suggestions for  
outside activities? Contact:**

Jeannie Dobrava [jdobrava1@gmail.com](mailto:jdobrava1@gmail.com)



**Check out the St. Laurence Ladies  
Guild page on the St. Laurence  
Catholic Church website:**

**Click Here:**

