

✕ The

Volume 49 Issue 2

# SENIOR

# SAGE

Summer 2025 / Fall 2025



A publication of the Office of Aging Ministry  
for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



**PRAYER FOR THE FIFTH WORLD DAY  
FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY  
27 July 2025**

**'Blessed are those who have not lost hope'  
(Sir 14:2)**

How beautiful are these words of yours, Lord!  
Help us to continue our pilgrimage  
through time,  
animated by the hope that comes from You!  
Help us in this divisive world,  
to bring the hope of communion.  
Help us in this world, wounded by wars,  
to bring the hope of peace.  
Help us in this world, which is dehumanizing,  
to bring the beauty of an ancient smile.  
Help us to be, for our grandchildren,  
for our loved ones  
and for everyone we meet,  
the memory of your tenderness.  
Help us to bring,  
in a world distracted from You,  
the Hope of a new life that only You can give!

For in You, Lord, nothing is lost  
For in You, Lord, everything begins again!

Amen.



World Day  
for Grandparents  
and the Elderly  
2025



DICASTERIUM  
PRO LAICIS, FAMILIA ET VITA



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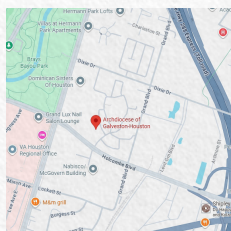
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# THE OFFICE OF AGING MINISTRY



2403 Holcombe Blvd.  
Houston,  
Texas 77021

Office Hours: (M-F) 8:30 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.  
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Fax: (713) 741-8775

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At the Office of Aging

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**We love our ministry!**



**NEXT DEADLINE:  
DEC 31ST, 2025**

Please limit  
articles to 125-150  
words.

All submissions are  
subject to editing  
based on space  
available.

Send Senior Sage articles to:

<https://forms.office.com/r/7BmS56u8Wk?origin=lprLink>

Or Scan this  
QR Code







# A Letter From the Director

## Kris Kerlin

Life has been rich and full at the Office of Aging Ministry this summer and heading into the fall. We feel truly blessed to share so many experiences with you and we enjoy our time getting to know you and having fun together too. We had a blast this summer at the Game days and Fun days celebrated by all three communities in the north, southwest and central. It's amazing how the game of bingo can bring together 498 "seasoned" adults. The food, fellowship and feeling of connection was wonderful! Our Spanish community is building a strong leadership team and heading into a season of events this autumn.

We began the fall, with the celebration of Grandparents and the Elderly observed in the United States on national grandparent day, Sunday, September 7 and celebrated worldwide on the feast of St. Anne and Joachim, on July 25.

We reached out to every pastor in the Archdiocese of Galveston Houston and encouraged them to celebrate Grandparents Day and World Elderly Day and we celebrated here in the Office of Aging Ministry with a Grandparents Day Celebration held on Friday, September 5. We created bookmarks, handouts and certificates in English and Spanish. This celebration was an opportunity for all of us to shine a light on YOU, our cherished elders and grandparents.



In the Message of the Holy Father, for the 5th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2025, Pope Leo XIV says,

"How often our grandparents have been for us examples of faith and devotion, civic virtue and social commitment, memory and perseverance amid trials! The precious legacy that they have handed down to us with hope and love will always be a source of gratitude and a summons to perseverance."







# A Letter From the Director

## Kris Kerlin

Continued...

**In the Office of Aging Ministry of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, we celebrate grandparents and the elderly all year long to ensure that ALL older adults, are seen and heard, valued and loved. We are here as a resource for you, your loved ones, your parish ministries and your community. Please reach out anytime – we're happy to hear from you and happy to answer your questions or provide support.**

We have a full calendar of events this fall and winter and we hope to see you at one or all of them!

The Office of Aging Ministry team,

Kris Kerlin, Olga Najar, Gina Pasket, Lily Marroquin



### QUOTES from Grandparents about what they like about being a grandparent:

"I love seeing life through their eyes – it brings a fresh perspective and so much wonder"

"The love and joy which exudes within the ever changing relationship of a young Holy Spirit filled soul and an older Holy Spirit filled soul, sharing love and wonderment of our loving and mysterious God"

"EVERYTHING!"

"The love and warmth in their hugs and kind words."

"Being called Grandma"

"Spoiling the kids and then sending them home"

"Spending time with them"





# SAINTS University – 2025 Calendar

## All Communities

### COMMUNITIES

#### Central

Monthly Meetings  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month

Most events are held at **St. Dominic Village** Auditorium, 2401 Holcombe Blvd. Houston, TX 77021

#### Northern

Monthly Meetings  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month

Most events are held at **Christ the Redeemer** Community Center 11507 Huffmeister Rd. Houston, TX 77065

#### Southwest

Quarterly meetings  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday

Most events are held at **St. Cyril of Alexandria** Room 121 10503 Westheimer Rd. Houston, TX 77042

#### Spanish

Quarterly Events

Most events are held at **St. Dominic Center** Chancery 2403 Holcombe Blvd. Houston, TX 77021

*“I will be your God throughout your lifetime – until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you.” Is. 46:4*

**October**  
**Trip to St. Mary’s Basilica – 8**  
**Conscious Eldering – 14**  
**Trip to Funeral Museum - 15**  
**Halloween – 31**

**6 Topic:** What does the Bible have to say about seniors **Speaker:** Sara Beth Meyer

**13 Topic:** Preparing for heaven emotionally, mentally, spiritually and physically **Speaker:** Kris Kerlin

**Resource fair – SW** Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church in Katy

**November**  
All Saints Day - 1 All Souls Day – 2 **Trip to Co-Cathedral - 5**  
Thanksgiving – 27-28

**3 Topic:** Preparing for heaven emotionally, mentally, spiritually and physically **Speaker:** Kris Kerlin

**10 Memorial Mass for Deceased Members**

**15 Recognition Event**

**1 Dia de los Muertes Celebracion** All Saints Catholic Church

**December** Immaculate Conception – 8 Christmas – 24 PM – 26

**3 – Wednesday Recognition and Christmas Event**

**16 – Tuesday Recognition and Christmas event**

All events are part of the Office of Aging Ministry for the Archdiocese of Galveston Houston

**Office of Aging:**  
**T: 713-741-8712**  
**W: [www.archgh.org/aging](http://www.archgh.org/aging)**

**For English:**  
**Join our mailing list by texting “Aging” to 84576**

**Espanol:**  
**Envia un mensaje de texto con la palabra “Sabio” to 202-765-3441**

**ALL people 50+, Catholic or non-Catholic, are welcome to attend any of these events and activities.**  
**Planning is underway for 2026. To let us know what you’d like to attend in 2026 go to [www.archgh.org/aging](http://www.archgh.org/aging)**



# Community Leaders

The senior communities are groups for faith, fellowship and, fun for all seniors led by seniors.

## CENTRAL COMMUNITY

<b>Barbara Murray</b>	<b>CSS- President</b>
<b>Delois Semien</b>	<b>CSS- Vice President</b>
<b>Earline Castex</b>	<b>CSS- Treasurer</b>
<b>Barbara Nugent</b>	<b>CSS- Secretary</b>

Meeting: 1st Monday of each month  
St. Dominic Auditorium- 10 A.M.  
2403 Holcombe Blvd.- Houston, Tx 77021

## SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY

<b>John Johnson</b>	<b>SW- President</b>
<b>Margaret Fuller</b>	<b>SW- Vice President</b>
<b>Gwen Reinke</b>	<b>SW- Treasurer</b>
<b>Dennis O'Driscoll</b>	<b>SW- Secretary</b>

Meeting: Quarterly meetings  
St. Cyril of Alexandria Church- 10 A.M.  
10503 Westheimer Rd.- Houston, Tx 77042

## NORTHERN COMMUNITY

<b>Mary Jo Butler</b>	<b>NSS- President</b>
<b>Mary Loo Helminak</b>	<b>NSS- Vice President</b>
<b>Becky Keels</b>	<b>NSS- Treasurer</b>
<b>Cheryl Park</b>	<b>NSS- Secretary</b>

Meeting: 2nd Monday of each month  
Christ, The Redeemer- 10 A.M.  
11507 Huffmiester Rd.- Houston, Tx 77065

## MIEMBROS DE LIDERAZGO-2025

<b>Juan N Gomez</b>	<b>Alba Rubio</b>
<b>Erika Gonzalez</b>	<b>Cony Travera</b>
<b>Patricia Martinez</b>	<b>Linda Williams Hall</b>
<b>Benito Meza</b>	<b>Christina De La Rosa</b>
	<b>Miguel Pinon</b>

Proxima Reunion:  
St. Dominic Chancery RM. 133  
2403 Holcombe Blvd.- Houston, Tx 77021

## OFFICE OF AGING COMMUNITY



Text "aging" to 84576  
or  
Scan the QR Code

## COMUNIDAD DE ADULTOS MAYORES



Envía un mensaje de  
texto con la palabra  
"Sabio"  
a (202) 765-3441 o  
Escanear código QR



# Central Community

## Exciting Updates and Upcoming Events

### Summer Fun- Game Day



On June 2nd seniors in the Central Community came together for "Game Day"

77 people joined in the day of BINGO, fun, laughter, and food. All who attended said the food was awesome. It was an amazing day for everyone!

### Upcoming Events:

- ★ **Oct. 6th**- Scripture: What does the Bible have to say about seniors and aging.
- ★ **Nov. 3rd**- Preparing for heaven emotionally, mentally, spiritually, and physically.
- ★ **Dec. 3rd**- Recognition and Christmas event





# Northern Community

## Exciting Updates and Upcoming Events

### Fun Day 2025



On July 31st seniors in the Northern Community came together for "Fun Day"

253 seniors came together for the day of BINGO, fun facts, laughter, and food. We learned some fun about one another, connected with old friends and made new friends.

### Upcoming Events:

- ★ **Oct. 13th-** Preparing for heaven emotionally, mentally, spiritually, and physically.
- ★ **Nov. 10th-** Memorial Mass for deceased members
- ★ **Dec. 16th-** Recognition and Christmas event





# Southwest Community

## Exciting Updates and Upcoming Events

### Game Day 2025



On July 23rd  
Southwest came  
together for "Game  
Day"

168 people gathered  
to play BINGO, have  
fun, share laughter,  
and share food. It  
was a time for fun  
and community.

### Upcoming Events:

- ★ **Sept. 24th**- Gathering with a spin. Gifts, talents, and games.
- ★ **Oct. 25th**- Resource Fair  
Location: Epiphany of the Lord
- ★ **Nov. 15th**- Recognition event







# Spanish Community

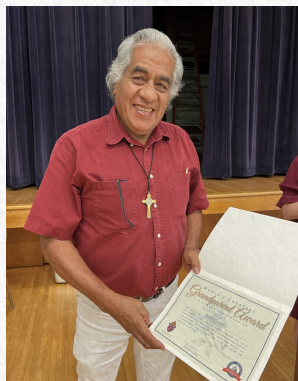
## Exciting Updates and Upcoming Events

### Summer 2025

#### Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It has been some time since our last update regarding the activities of the Leadership Committee serving the Spanish-speaking senior communities. We are pleased to share recent developments and ongoing initiatives.

Our **first in-person meeting** took place in May and was both fruitful and demanding. We studied Pope Francis's catechesis on old age and reflected on how to implement it within our faith communities. We also reviewed the Holy Father's message for the **5th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**, observed on **July 27, 2025**.



We held our **second in-person meeting** at the Chancery at St. Dominic's, where we were blessed to welcome three new members to our leadership team:

**Cristina De la Rosa – AMSIF-CANAS,  
St. Dominic Church**

**Deacon Benito Meza – St. Augustine Church**

**Miguel Piñón – Notre Dame Church**

During our **third in-person meeting**, we discussed new projects and updates:

- **Juan Gómez** introduced a new initiative to start a Spanish-language ministry at St. Bartholomew Parish to complement the existing "Happy Hearts" ministry. He will present a detailed report in the next meeting.
- **Miguel Piñón** will support the AMSIF-St. Dominic CANAS group with information on transportation and connections with local organizations.
- **Cony Tavera** shared that she earned her certification from the Interdisciplinary Family Program at the Pontifical University of Valparaíso. Congratulations, Cony!
- **Deacon Benito Meza** proposed organizing a Healing Mass as a future event for Spanish-speaking groups.

Several members recently participated in the Archdiocesan Training for Organizing Festivals and Bazaars, which provided valuable guidance on planning raffles, galas, and game days training in accordance with archdiocesan guidelines.







# Spanish Community

## Exciting Updates and Upcoming Events

Continued...

### Upcoming Events:

#### **Preparing for "End of Life" Seminar:**

Saturday, September 27 , at St. Bartholomew Church in Katy, TX. This free event is open to adults 55+ and their families. Pre-registration is required due to limited capacity. Committee members will have leadership roles during the seminar.

#### **Fall Resource Fair:**

Saturday, October 25 , at Epiphany of the Lord Church in Katy, TX. The event will feature 55+ sponsors offering resources in both English and Spanish for the region.

**Pilgrimage to St. Mary's Basilica** in Galveston, TX, is also in the works—marking the first integrated trip for our English and Spanish-speaking senior communities. We will have the opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence during this Jubilee year of Hope.

#### **Día de los Muertos Celebración:**

Hosted at All Saints Church in The Heights.

The committee will play an active role in representing our Hispanic traditions, including setting up an altar to honor loved ones. Check our website for a flyer and more information.

We remain united in prayer, asking that the fruits of this ministry continue to grow, reflecting the commitment of our committee and the Spanish-speaking communities we serve. May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for us, so that we may serve with humility and wisdom, building a culture of encounter, evangelizing through example and service, and ensuring that our elders are seen, valued, and loved.

We also pray for Pope Leo and his leadership as a model for our leaders and communities.

**Many Blessings,  
Olga Najar**





# Adultos Mayores Hispana

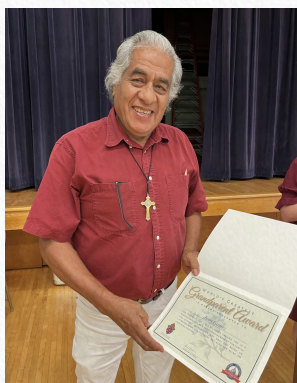
## Actualizaciones emocionantes y próximos eventos

### Verano 2025

#### Estimados hermanos y hermanas:

Ha pasado tiempo desde nuestra última actualización sobre las actividades del Comité de Liderazgo que atiende a las comunidades de adultos mayores de habla hispana. Nos complace compartir los últimos avances y las iniciativas en curso.

Nuestra **primera reunión** presencial tuvo lugar en mayo y fue fructífera y a la vez intensa. Estudiamos la catequesis del Papa Francisco sobre la vejez y reflexionamos sobre cómo implementarla en nuestras comunidades de fe. También revisamos el mensaje del Santo Padre para la V Jornada Mundial de los Abuelos y las Personas Mayores, que se celebrará el 27 de julio de 2025.



Desde entonces, celebramos nuestra **segunda reunión** presencial en la Cancillería de Santo Domingo, donde tuvimos la bendición de dar la bienvenida a tres nuevos miembros a nuestro equipo de liderazgo:

**Cristina De la Rosa** – AMSIF-CANAS, Iglesia de Santo Domingo

**Diácono Benito Meza** – Iglesia de San Agustín

**Miguel Piñón** – Iglesia de Notre Dame

Durante nuestra **tercera reunión** presencial, discutimos nuevos proyectos y actualizaciones:

- **Juan Gómez** presentó una nueva iniciativa para iniciar un ministerio en español en la Parroquia de San Bartolomé para complementar el ministerio existente "Corazones Felices". Presentará un informe detallado en la próxima reunión.
- **Miguel Piñón** apoyará al grupo CANAS de AMSIF-St. Dominic con información sobre transporte y conexiones con organizaciones locales.
- **Cony Tavera** compartió que obtuvo su certificación del Programa Familiar Interdisciplinario de la Universidad Pontificia de Valparaíso. ¡Felicitaciones, Cony!
- **Diácono Benito Meza** propuso organizar una Misa de Sanación como un evento futuro para grupos hispanohablantes.

Varios miembros participaron recientemente en la Capacitación Arquidiocesana para la Organización de Festivales y Bazares, que brindó una valiosa orientación para la planificación de rifas, galas y días de diversión, la capacitación de acuerdo con las directrices arquidiocesanas.







# Adultos Mayores Hispana

## Actualizaciones emocionantes y próximos eventos

Continuado...

### Próximos eventos:

**Seminario "Preparándose para el Fin de la Vida":** Sábado 27 de septiembre en la Iglesia de San Bartolomé en Katy, Texas. Este evento gratuito está abierto a adultos mayores de 55 años y sus familias. Se requiere preinscripción debido al aforo limitado. Los miembros del comité desempeñarán roles de liderazgo durante el seminario.

#### **Feria de Recursos de Otoño:**

Sábado 25 de octubre, en la Iglesia Epifanía del Señor en Katy, Texas. El evento contará con la participación de más de 55 y más patrocinadores que ofrecerán recursos en inglés y español para la región.

También se está organizando un viaje de excursión a la **Basílica de Santa María** en Galveston, Texas, la primera actividad integrada para nuestras comunidades de adultos mayores de habla inglesa y española. Tendremos la oportunidad de recibir la indulgencia plenaria en este año del Jubileo por la Esperanza.

#### **Celebración del Día de los Muertos:**

Se celebrará en la Iglesia de Todos los Santos en The Heights.

El comité participará activamente en la representación de nuestras tradiciones culturales, incluyendo la instalación de un altar para honrar a nuestros seres queridos. Los detalles estarán disponibles en nuestro sitio web y en un volante de promoción.

Nos mantenemos unidos en oración, pidiendo que los frutos de este ministerio sigan creciendo, reflejando el compromiso de nuestro comité y de las comunidades de habla hispana a las que servimos. Que la Santísima Virgen María interceda por nosotros, para que sirvamos con humildad y sabiduría, construyendo una cultura de encuentro, evangelizando con el ejemplo y el servicio, y asegurando que nuestros mayores sean vistos, valorados y amados.

También oramos por el Papa León y su liderazgo como modelo para nuestros líderes y comunidades.

**Muchas Bendiciones,  
Olga Najar**



# C A N A S

Corazones  
Alcanzando  
Nuevas  
Alegrias y  
Sonrisas



**CANAS** es un club creado especialmente para adultos mayores de 60 años de edad, donde la experiencia, la amistad y la alegría de vivir se encuentran en cada sesión.

De igual forma ofrecemos temas de evangelización, salud y bienestar. Está ubicado en la parroquia de St Dominic, en la ciudad de Houston Texas. Este club tiene como objetivo ser un espacio de encuentro y recreación para los adultos mayores, en donde puedan reunirse y compartir junto a otros, desarrollando actividades que ayuden a su bienestar y mejoramiento de su calidad de vida, acompañados de temas de evangelización y relaciones familiares.

Cabe mencionar que este servicio es brindado por la primera generación de egresadas de AMSIF, quienes son las encargadas de llevar a cabo este programa.

Los días de reunión son los martes de cada semana con un horario de 11:00 a.m. a 13:00 p.m.

En **CANAS** promovemos la actividad física, trabajando el cuerpo y la motricidad a través de ejercicios de relajación, estiramiento, dinámicas de grupo: bailes dirigidos y bailes libres.

Fomentamos la socialización mediante el compartir experiencias de vida, lectura de relatos, cuentos o historias de personajes bíblicos y religiosos.

En canas llevamos a cabo actividades de recreación física e intelectual, cantos y bailes apropiados a su edad, juegos de mesa.

Una motivación extra para nuestros adultos mayores son los convivios que realizamos en fechas como acción de gracias, Navidad, cinco de mayo, mes de la herencia hispana, etc. así como la celebración de sus cumpleaños (al final de cada mes celebramos a quienes cumplieron años).





# CANAS

Corazones (Hearts)  
Alcanzando (Reaching)  
Nuevas (New)  
Alegrías y (Joys and)  
Sonrisas (Smiles)



**CANAS** is a club created especially for adults over 60 years of age, where experience, friendship and joy of life are found in each session.

We also offer topics of evangelization, health and well-being. It is located in the parish of St Dominic, in the city of Houston, Texas. This club aims to be a meeting and recreation space for older adults, where they can meet and share with others, developing activities that help their well-being and improve their quality of life, accompanied by issues of evangelization and family relationships.

It is worth mentioning that this service is provided by the first generation of AMSIF graduates, who are in charge of carrying out this program.

Meeting days are Tuesdays of each week from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

At **CANAS** we promote physical activity, working on the body and motor skills through relaxation exercises, stretching, group dynamics: directed dances and free dances.

We encourage socialization by sharing life experiences, reading stories, tales or stories of biblical and religious characters.

In **CANAS** we carry out physical and intellectual recreation activities, age-appropriate singing, dancing, and board games.

An extra motivation for our seniors are the gatherings we hold on dates such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Cinco de Mayo, Hispanic Heritage Month, etc. as well as the celebration of their birthdays (at the end of each month we celebrate those who have had their birthdays).





# UPCOMING ★EVENTS★

Hosted by the Office of Aging

SEPT  
**27**  
09.30am



End of Life Preparation  
Seminar  
*Spanish*  
Preparandose para el  
final de la vida

OCT  
**14**  
11.00am



Conscious Eldering  
Webinar  
There's a big difference  
between growing old whole  
and growing old

OCT  
**25**  
09.00am



Resource Fair  
For seniors and people  
who love them

To Find More Information Go To:

<https://archgh.org/aging>

Or Scan This QR Code





# UPCOMING ★ TRIPS ★

Trips Hosted by the Office of Aging

OCT  
**08**  
09.00am



## St. Mary Basilica Tour

Join us for a tour of  
the Basilica and mass.

OCT  
**15**  
10.00am



## The National Funeral Museum

Join us for a tour of the  
National Funeral  
Museum

NOV  
**05**  
11.00am



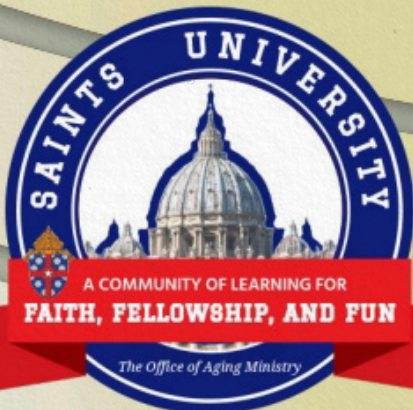
## Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

Join us for a tour of the  
Co-Cathedral and mass.

To Find More Information  
about the Trips and to Register  
Scan this QR Code





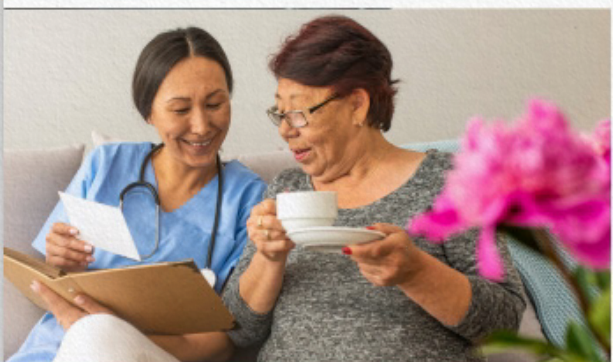


THE ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON PRESENTS

# RESOURCE FAIR



FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEM



OCTOBER 25, 2025  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Visit us at:  
[www.archgh.org/aging](http://www.archgh.org/aging)



Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church  
1530 Norwalk Dr.  
Katy, TX 77450



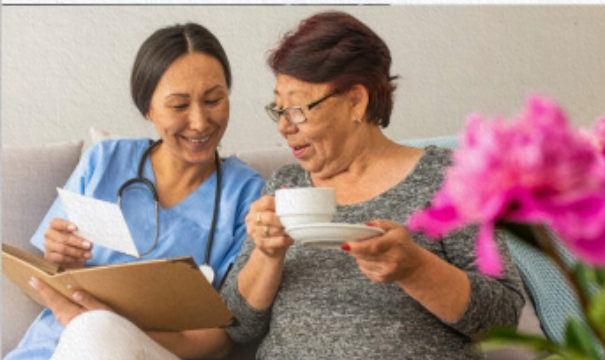


LA ARQUIDIÓCESIS DE GALVESTON-HOUSTON PRESENTA

# FERIA DE RECURSOS



**PARA PERSONAS MAYORES Y PERSONAS QUE LOS AMAN**



**25 DE OCTUBRE DE 2025  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Visítanos en:  
[www.archgh.org/aging](http://www.archgh.org/aging)



**Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church  
1530 Norwalk Dr.  
Katy, TX 77450**



# Articles from Parish Ministries

Faith, Fun and Fellowship in our Parishes

## Christ the Good Shepherd

Our 55+ group is enjoying our regular monthly activities – Fun Day, Bridge Night and Game Day.

Our Spring bus trips included the 1940 Air Terminal Museum and Houston Museum of Natural Science. In July we enjoyed \$1 hot dogs and a Win with the Astros. Our socials included a potluck lunch and celebrations of wedding anniversaries. There were pictures of the brides and grooms then and now. The food was good, but the pictures stole the day! July screamed Ice Cream Social. Add bingo and white elephant gifts to put the cherry on top! Can't wait to share what fall will bring. For sure mark your calendars for the Fall Bake sale Oct. 18. There will be plenty to eat and take home too.

## Community Senior Friends- St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic

The speaker for our April meeting was, Ingrid Patino, a representative from the Holocaust Museum of Houston. The history inside this museum is to remind us of how hatred destroys lives and history does repeat itself.

Day Trips included a visit to the Port of Houston, Museum of Fine Arts, and a Houston Astros game (of course the Astros won!). The highlight of our trips, "Jubilee Pilgrimage" to St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica in Galveston. Mass was celebrated by our very own Fr. Norbert. Everyone had a great time on the trips.

At our final meeting of the season, we honored Mary Rosser as "Senior of the Year". Mary takes care of registration at all our meetings. Luncheon was catered by "The Original Rib Tickler" and was delicious.

We hope everyone continues to enjoy the summer sunshine. Pray for all Seniors, those serving in the Military, peace in the Ukraine. Prayers for Pope Leo and all our world leaders to bring peace.



# Articles from Parish Ministries

Faith, Fun and Fellowship in our Parishes

Continued...

## Harvest Years Seniors- Assumption Catholic Church

The Harvest Years Seniors kicked off the New Year 2025 with the installation of officers. Fr. Osas, pastor of Assumption installed the new officers followed by potluck luncheon.

Our February meeting focused on the beginning of Lent. Fr. Raju was our Guest Presenter speaking on Lent in Old/New Testament. A potluck luncheon followed. Members participated in a cake sale for Valentine's Day. Seniors traveled to Navasota to see a play at the Navasota Theater Alliance-"Four Old Broads" followed by a Fish Fry Buffet.

March blew in with a trip to the HLSSR Rodeo. Our monthly meeting reviewed/discussed our groups' Mission Statement followed by a delicious Gumbo Feast. Members attended the Parish Lenten Retreat-The Joy of Giving.

Glorious April was a busy month with a presentation at our monthly meeting. A representative from Lone Star College shared information on the ALL Program (Academy of Lifelong Learners). We took a trip to the Funeral Museum followed by lunch at House of Pies. Members participated in a cake sale. We lost a longtime member in April-Catherine Pivonka.

May saw the end of our meetings for the year with a game day along with tailgate fare. We visited the Buffalo Soldiers Museum and the Czech Center Museum followed by lunch at Treebeard's at the Cloister.

No formal meetings for the summer. Stay safe and cool.



# Articles from Parish Ministries

Faith, Fun and Fellowship in our Parishes

Continued...

## Wisdom Club

Wisdom Club Kicks Off at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Memorial Park. Young adults and our more experienced parishioners came together for the inaugural Wisdom Club gathering, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. This first meeting served as an introduction, giving participants prompts to spark conversation about faith, family, relationships, and professional backgrounds.

What began as a simple meeting has already blossomed into a growing community. Now, both generations come together after Mass, sharing stories and building a family in faith. We are excited to announce that Wisdom Club will now be a quarterly event



## J.O.Y. Club (Just Older Youth)

St. Laurence JOY Club members kept busy this fall with a road trip, a service project, and table games, among other activities. Members took off for a bus trip to Nashville, Tennessee early September. Travelers saw the Grand Ole Opry (celebrating 100 years), toured the 1862 Dominican Sisters Motherhouse, took a winery tour, and much more! October was reserved for donating our time and effort to assisting our Social Concerns Office with their many needs. In November our new Parochial Vicar, Fr. Wayne Ly, was our special guest speaker. It was an opportunity to get to know each other. We learned Fr. Wayne likes to play board games like we do. It was a great opportunity to get to know each other. Plans were put into place to celebrate Christmas with our annual Pot Luck and White Elephant gift exchange. Love the cooler weather!



# Articles from Parish Ministries

Faith, Fun and Fellowship in our Parishes

Continued...

## Senior Saints- Saint Edwards

January we traveled to Buffalo Bayou Park to tour the Cistern. One of Houston's early underground reservoirs. It has been restored and holds tours and events. Lunch at J Bar M BBQ in downtown Houston. The owner and his son welcomed us all and the women were given each a beautiful long stem white rose. We then traveled to the Magic Show Theater. What great day.

February off to Beaumont to the Fire Museum of Texas and the Edison Museum. Ending the day with a meal at J Wilson Restaurant.

March took us to Huntsville for a Jimmy Buffet tribute concert and dinner.

April we toured the Hemi Hideout in Brookshire. Antique cars, tractors, motorcycles, gas pumps and over 600 different signs. We enjoyed a burger lunch in the 1950 style dinner there.

May we traveled to Navasota for dinner at Western Steakhouse and after we enjoyed the play "Crimes of the Heart" at the Navasota Theater Alliance.

June took us to Moody Gardens in Galveston and Lunch at their buffet.

July we enjoyed a hot dog and hamburger meal during our meeting. We also cheered for the Astros at Daikin Park.

We ended July by attending the NSS Fun Day with Bingo and Jason's Deli. We did have a few bingo winners. But its all about the gathering with friends and enjoying the day.



# Articles from Parish Ministries

Faith, Fun and Fellowship in our Parishes

Continued...

## Sociable Seniors- St. Michael's

Our Seniors, who range in age from 50's to 90's, like being able to choose from our extensive range of activities.

Our monthly trips have included:

- The "Architectural Wonder" built by a local baker, NEWMANS CASTLE in Belleville.
- Our favorite pianist Rob Landes at the GRAND 1894 OPERA HOUSE in Galveston.
- The very colorful classic muscle cars and antiques of the HEMI HIDEOUT in Brookshire.
- A local fun lunch with a personal chef and entertainers at BENI HANA.
- Going aboard a legendary submarine, USS Cavella SS 244, that avenged Pearl Harbor now in Galveston's NAVAL MUSEUM.
- Celebrating 2025 Jubilee Year at our local Cathedral of OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM.
- Taking an underwater adventure at the DOWNTOWN AQUARIUM



Our meetings and other "pop up" events are never dull and continue to grow. We had Mike McCoy, a former star player for ND, give us the highlight of his many motivational speeches he gives around the country. We have had Irish Music, the Liederkrantz German Choir, Malia's Hulu Hut Polynesian dancers, Cinco de Mayo, surveys of world travel, BINGO, etc. etc. Community contributions have expanded to many other parish ministries: Vacation Bible School, Mardi Gras, Fish Fry, CCSC, Gabriel Project, etc. etc. And we still find time for frequent games: Mah Jongg, Mexican Train, and many others combined into a special game day.



# Articles from Senior Clubs

See what senior clubs have been up to and what they have coming up

Continued...

## The Golden Friendship Group

We have continued to enjoy bingo games at all of our meetings. We have enjoyed lunches of chicken salad sandwiches on croissants, hot dogs, fried chicken, hamburgers, barbecue sandwiches, and pizza with members bringing side dishes and desserts. Many of us have also been enjoying attending the monthly Missouri City bingos. We had 23 members who attended the SW Senior Senate's Game Day in July.

We also enjoy our monthly outings to nearby restaurants. Some of the restaurants we have visited are Fajita Grill, El Regio, King's Barbecue, Super 6 Chinese, and Willie's. We are looking forward to attending the annual Senior Citizens' Day at the Fort Bend County Fair in September. Everyone who attended last year had a really good time.



## St. Philip Neri - Senior Friends

During our summer break some of our Senior Friends gathered at The Ensemble Theatre for The Piano Lesson Play.

On August 10, 2025, the St. Philip Neri - Senior Friends, hosted a Fun Day with lots of fun and food. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves and/or ready for another Fun Day. Thanks to all who attended! We were HONORED that you all shared this day with us.

**ST. PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC CHURCH FALL BAZAAR**

10960 MARTIN LUTHIER KING BLVD., HOUSTON, TX 77048

713-734-0320

*Saturday, September 27 and Sunday, September 28, 2025.*

**FROM: NOON until 8PM**



# Day Of The Dead and All Saints' Day

## A Catholic Reflection on Life, Death, and Communion

Every year, from October 31st to November 2nd, many cultures around the world observe a period of remembrance for the deceased. In Catholic tradition, this period includes All Saints' Day (November 1st) and All Souls' Day (November 2nd)—two significant celebrations rooted in faith, memory, and the hope of eternal life. In Latin American cultures, especially in Mexico, this period is also marked by the colorful and heartfelt observance known as Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead).

Though some may view Day of the Dead as a purely cultural or even pre-Christian tradition, its deeper meanings align closely with Catholic teachings on the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body, and the ongoing spiritual connection between the living and the dead.



### All Saints' Day: Honoring the Church Triumphant

On November 1st, Catholics celebrate All Saints' Day, a solemn holy day dedicated to all saints—known and unknown—who now enjoy the fullness of eternal life in Heaven. These are the faithful who have fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7). The Church calls them the "Church Triumphant", and their lives are models of holiness, courage, and faithfulness. All Saints' Day reminds us that sainthood is not reserved for the famous or canonized; it is a universal call. Every baptized person is called to be holy, to live in friendship with God, and to enter into eternal communion with Him.

### All Souls' Day: Praying for the Church Suffering

Following All Saints' Day, on November 2nd, Catholics observe All Souls' Day—a day dedicated to praying for the faithful departed who are still undergoing purification in Purgatory. This is the "Church Suffering", those who have died in God's grace but are not yet fully purified.

Catholics believe in the power of prayer, especially the Mass, to aid the souls in Purgatory in their journey toward Heaven. This practice is rooted in Scripture and tradition, reflecting the deep bond between the living and the dead.



# Day Of The Dead and All Saints' Day

A Catholic Reflection on Life, Death, and Communion

Continued...



## Día de los Muertos: A Cultural Expression of Catholic Hope

Día de los Muertos, celebrated from October 31 to November 2, reflects the same core beliefs. Families build ofrendas (altars), light candles, place photos of loved ones, and offer food, flowers (especially marigolds), and prayers. These are not acts of worship of the dead, but acts of love, remembrance, and spiritual solidarity.

Though it incorporates elements of pre-Hispanic customs, Día de los Muertos has been deeply shaped by Catholicism over the centuries. It is, at its heart, a celebration of life beyond death, the resurrection, and the hope of Heaven. It expresses the Catholic understanding that death is not the end, but a transition to a new life in Christ.

## The Communion of Saints: One Family in Christ

These three observances—All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day, and Day of the Dead—embody the Catholic doctrine of the Communion of Saints, which unites:

- The Church Triumphant (saints in Heaven),
- The Church Suffering (souls in Purgatory),
- And the Church Militant (us, the faithful on Earth).

## Conclusion: Faith, Memory, and Eternal Hope

The Catholic Church offers profound wisdom in its approach to death—not as something to fear, but as a passage toward the fulfillment of our deepest longing: union with God. All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, together with cultural expressions like Día de los Muertos, help us keep that hope alive.

They invite us not only to remember our loved ones but also to renew our own journey toward holiness. In doing so, we honor the past, embrace the present, and look forward to the eternal joy promised by Christ.

**The Office of Aging invites you and your communities to visit our altar for the Day of the Dead celebration at All Saints' Church.**

Additional details and an information flyer will be provided soon. If you need more information, please contact Olga Najjar at 713-391-2615 or email [onajar@archgh.org](mailto:onajar@archgh.org)





# Día de Muertos y Día de Todos los Santos

Una reflexión católica sobre la vida, la muerte y la esperanza eterna

Cada año, del 31 de octubre al 2 de noviembre, muchas culturas alrededor del mundo se detienen para recordar a sus difuntos. En la tradición católica, este tiempo incluye dos celebraciones muy importantes: el Día de Todos los Santos (1 de noviembre) y el Día de los Fieles Difuntos (2 de noviembre). En muchos países de América Latina, especialmente en México, también se celebra con mucha devoción y colorido el Día de Muertos.

Aunque algunas personas ven el Día de Muertos como una tradición puramente cultural o incluso pagana, en realidad comparte significados muy profundos con la fe católica: la comunión de los santos, la resurrección de los muertos y el vínculo espiritual que permanece entre los vivos y los difuntos.



## Día de Todos los Santos: Honrando a la Iglesia Triunfante

El 1 de noviembre, la Iglesia celebra a todos los santos, conocidos y desconocidos, que ya gozan de la presencia eterna de Dios en el cielo. A ellos se les llama la Iglesia Triunfante, porque han alcanzado la meta final: la santidad.

Esta solemnidad nos recuerda que todos los bautizados estamos llamados a la santidad, no solo los que han sido canonizados. Ser santo no es algo lejano: es vivir en amistad con Dios, ser fiel en el amor, y perseverar hasta el fin.

## Día de los Fieles Difuntos: Orando por la Iglesia Purgante

El 2 de noviembre, la Iglesia conmemora a todos los fieles difuntos, especialmente a aquellos que están en el Purgatorio, en proceso de purificación antes de entrar al cielo. A esta parte del Pueblo de Dios se le llama la Iglesia Purgante o Sufriente.

Como católicos, creemos que nuestras oraciones —especialmente la Santa Misa— pueden ayudar a estas almas en su camino hacia la gloria eterna. Esta práctica está fundamentada en la Sagrada Escritura y en la tradición, y expresa nuestro amor y responsabilidad mutua como familia espiritual.



# Día de Muertos y Día de Todos los Santos

Una reflexión católica sobre la vida, la muerte y la esperanza eterna

Continuado...



## Día de Muertos: Una expresión cultural de esperanza cristiana

El Día de Muertos, celebrado del 31 de octubre al 2 de noviembre, es una hermosa tradición que une la fe católica con elementos culturales ancestrales. Las familias preparan altares u ofrendas, colocan fotos, velas, flores (como el cempasúchil), comida y objetos que recuerdan a sus seres queridos. También se reza por ellos.

Estas acciones no son actos de adoración a los muertos, sino gestos de amor, de recuerdo, y de comunión espiritual. Aunque tiene raíces indígenas, el Día de Muertos ha sido profundamente influenciado por el cristianismo, y refleja la creencia en la vida después de la muerte, la resurrección, y la esperanza en la vida eterna.

## La comunión de los santos: Una sola familia en Cristo

Estas tres celebraciones —Día de Todos los Santos, Día de los Fieles Difuntos y Día de Muertos— expresan la doctrina católica de la comunión de los santos, que une:

- La Iglesia Triunfante (los santos en el cielo),
- La Iglesia Purgante (las almas en purificación),
- Y la Iglesia Militante (nosotros, los fieles en la tierra).

## Conclusión: Fe, memoria y esperanza eterna

La Iglesia Católica nos enseña a mirar la muerte no como el final, sino como el paso hacia la vida plena con Dios. Estas celebraciones nos ayudan a recordar con amor a nuestros difuntos, a rezar por ellos, y a renovar nuestra propia fe en la resurrección.

El Día de Todos los Santos, el Día de los Fieles Difuntos y el Día de Muertos nos invitan a vivir con esperanza, a buscar la santidad, y a mantener viva la llama del amor que ni siquiera la muerte puede apagar.

**La Oficina de Adultos Mayores invita a todos ustedes y sus comunidades a visitar nuestro altar en la celebración del Día de los Muertos en la Iglesia de Todos los Santos.**

Detalles y volante de información más adelante. Si usted necesita más información favor de contactar a Olga Najar al 713-391-2615 o enviar un correo electrónico: [onajar@archgh.org](mailto:onajar@archgh.org)





