



**Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374**  
**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS**

**P.O. Box 125 EL CAMPO, TEXAS**

APRIL 2026



**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.”

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2024-2026**

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*District Deputy*

**REGENT’S MESSAGE**

BY LORI KOCUREK

The month of April is dedicated to The Holy Spirit. The first three days of the month fall during the season of Lent which is represented by the liturgical color purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart. The remainder of April falls during the Easter season which is represented by the liturgical color white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored).

At our March meeting we announced and presented Education Contest Winners, they are as follows:

**Essay Division 1:**

1st Place Reese Coffman; 2nd Place Barron Lutringer; 3rd Place Hannah Wigginton.

**Essay Division 2:**

1st Place Olivia Fitzgerald; 2nd Place Addison Koudela; 3rd Place Elizabeth Leopold.

**Poetry Division 1:**

1st Place Kaelyn Nguyen; 2nd Place Gunner Christopher; 3rd Place Blakley Staff.

**Poetry Division 2:**

1st Place Wyatt Prasek; 2nd place Galli Gadeke, 3rd Place Hayes Cranek.

**Art Division 1:**

1st Place Ryder Reck; 2nd Place Destin Litton; 3rd Place Knox Drapela.

**Art Division 2:**

1st Place Macy Ellis; 2nd Ansleigh Merta; 3rd Place Maysa Zapalac.

**Computer Art Division 1:**

1st Place Jamie Clark.

**Photography Division 2:**

1st Place Brynn Charbula; 2nd Place Carter Chandler; 3rd Place Louise Hoelscher.

**Photography Division 4:**

1st Place La Dell Janda.

**First place entries advanced to the state level competition.**

Our court audit will be held after the court meeting on April 20, 2026. We are asking if at least 4 members to please stay after the meeting so we can get this audit completed in a timely manner.

Election of Court officers will take place at the May court meeting. The tentative slate of officers for the 2026-2028 term is:

Regent – Susie Orsak  
 Vice Regent – Sandra Kachmar  
 Recording Secretary - Patricia Korenek  
 Financial Secretary – Stacy Amestoy  
 Treasurer – Amanda Leopold

Our next meeting will be on Monday April 20, 2026, in the Mikeska Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm following the praying of the rosary in the Mikeska Fellowship Hall at 6:00pm.

**"UNITY AND CHARITY"**



## MARCH MINUTES

The regular meeting of Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374 was called to order by Regent Lori Kocurek on Monday, March 16th at 6:30 pm. Silent roll call found all officers present.

Special guests attending were students who won the education contest. Regent Kocurek led the court in the blessing of the meal. After the meal, Regent Kocurek led the opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas flags.

The court presented awards to all education contest winners and students could show their art/photography or read their poems/essays to the court.

### Winners for the education contest are:

Essay Division 1 1st Reese Coffman, 2nd Barron Lutringer, 3rd Hannah Wigginton

Essay Division 2 1st Olivia Fitzgerald, 2nd Addison Koudela, 3rd Elizabeth Leopold

Poetry Division 1 1st Kaelyn Nguyen, 2nd Gunner Christopher, 3rd Blakely Staff

Poetry Division 2 1st Wyatt Prasek, 2nd Galli Gadeke, 3rd Hayes Cranek

Art Division 1 1st Ryder Reck, 2nd Destin Litton, 3rd Knox Drapela

Art Division 2 1st Macy Ellis, 2nd Ansleigh Merta, 3rd Maysa Zapalac

Computer Art Division 1 1st Jamie Clark

Photography Division 2 1st Brynn Charbula, 2nd Carter Chandler, 3rd Louise Hoelscher

Photography Division 4 1st La Dell Janda

First place entries advance to compete at state level.

After guests departed, the minutes for the February meeting were approved with no corrections.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

The court received a letter from the El Campo Branch Library for a donation to the 2026 Summer Reading Club, and a letter from Wharton County Youth Fair & Exposition for a sponsorship for Special Friends Day. Father Arron Padilla sent a thank you note for the ordination card and gift of prayer. Betty Parma sent a thank you card for the beautiful birthday wishes. No bills were presented for payment.

### TREASURER REPORT:

Beginning Balance	\$13,518.92
Convention Fund	4,000.00
Ending Balance	\$14,368.92

### FINANCIAL REPORT:

Total Members	382
Honorary	12
Dues Paid as of 3/16/26	\$7975.00
Bake Sale	\$4877.00
Donations	\$1045.00
Members Paid	351
Members Delinquent	31
Members Present	12

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Quality of Life: Susie Orsak - no report

Crafts/Games: Olivia McDonald – no report

Spiritual: Regent Kocurek reported for Nelda Schmidt the rosary leaders at Paradigm since last meeting were Nelda Schmidt and Sandra Kachmar.

Refreshments: Susie Orsak reported Pat Korenek and Jeraldine Socha helped in the kitchen. The court treated special guests and court members to pizza.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Perfect attendance award - Jeraldine Socha, Rose Ann Mitchell and Rose Mary Bain had perfect attendance along with Vice-Regent Susie Orsak and Financial Secretary Sandra Kachmar. Jeraldine Socha won the perfect attendance award.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Court Audit will be after the April meeting and need 4 members to help with it. At the April meeting a nomination committee is needed for the upcoming election. All offices are open for the 2026-2028 two-year term.

### OTHER BUSINESS:

The court agreed to donate \$300 for the KC Spring Picnic, \$100 to Special Friends Day at the Wharton County Fair and \$100 to the 2026 Summer Reading Program at the EC Branch Library.

### BIRTHDAYS/ATTENDANCE

March Birthday: Sandra Kachmar

Attendance: Betty Konvicka

Traveling Rosary: Amanda Leopold

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm. The next meeting will be on April 20, 2026 at 6:30 pm, with the rosary prayed at 6:00 pm.

Closing prayer was led by Regent Kocurek.

Submitted by,  
*Janiece Holub*

<b>Newsletter Editor</b> ROBIN HENSLEY 979-541-9004	<b>Memorial Cards</b> ROSE ANN MITCHELL 979-541-7130	<b>Funeral Donations &amp; Cakes</b> JANE LADEWIG 979-541-3200	<b>Hospitality Cards</b> MARGIE SWOBODA 1602 Ave. F, EC 979-543-4734	<b>Funeral Chairman</b> JANE LADEWIG 979-541-3200	<b>Court Chaplain</b> Fr. Dalton Ervin 304 W. Church St. 979-543-3770	<b>Send \$25.00 Dues &amp; Correspondence to:</b> CDA #1374 P.O. Box 125 El Campo, TX 77437
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*Proverbs 3:5-6*

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”*

*Proverbs 31:27-29*

*“She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ‘Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.’”*

**CRAFTERS & QUILTERS**

OLIVIA McDONALD: 543-7587 • oliviamcdonald905@gmail.com

Olivia McDonald will bring some things to the April Meeting including a piece of cloth that was blessed by the Pope. And Olivia has safety pins, hundreds of buttons (new & used), wooden hoops, all kinds of directions for small crafts, cleaning rags and lots of other stuff that was given to me when we started the craft group.

If you need something, please give Olivia McDonald a call at 543-7587.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**April 20th, 2026**

(Rosary for Deceased Members @ 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall followed by Meeting & Meal in the Mikeska Fellowship Hall @ 6:30 p.m.)

A LIGHT MEAL WITH DESSERTS WILL BE SERVED.  
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!

Birthday ladies come for the monthly drawing!!

Don't forget to sign-in and put your quarter in the bowl. You may win the monthly door prize!!

**MARCH HOSPITALITY CARDS**Birthdays

Suzanne Freeman  
Margaret Anderson  
Barbara Rod  
Sally Huggins

Gladys Carlson  
Ann Arnold McDonald  
Linda Jaksch  
Monica Bubela

Get Well /Thinking of You

Paula Clark  
Irene Cerny  
Debbie Bubela

Sympathy

Barbara Socha - Brother  
Carol Ermis - Brother in Law  
Susan Radley - Mother in Law  
Leona G. Cunningham - Husband

Get well cards are sent to members who are ill. Sympathy cards are sent to members upon the death of a husband, child, father, mother, sister, brother, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, or grandchild. Congratulations are sent for the birth of a child, golden wedding anniversary, 60th anniversary, 65th anniversary, etc. Cards of encouragement will be sent to the seriously ill. Birthday cards will be sent to members age 75 and over...*from the standing rules; adopted in 1999*

If you know of any occasion which necessitates sending a hospitality card, please call me at 543-4734.

– Margie Swoboda

Catholic Daughters of the Americas #1374

P.O. Box 125

El Campo, TX 77437

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## NEWS from STATE

Respect Life Chairman Marissa Reyes

As we approach the end of our year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the importance of our mission. With the upcoming change in officer roles at the local court level, it's crucial that we remain committed to our Respect Life initiatives.

This Lenten season, I challenge every court to unite in prayer by praying the Rosary for 40 days. Let us come together to lift up in prayer not only the unborn but also those nearing the end of life, and especially the dedicated caregivers who provide compassion and support to the elderly.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the courts that submitted their Respect Life Contest Reports. Your commitment to this cause is truly inspiring, and we look forward to announcing the contest winners soon.

Let's make a meaningful impact with our monthly challenges:

**March:** Pray the Rosary daily throughout Lent.

**April:** Create Easter cards for residents in nursing homes.

**May:** In honor of Mother's Day, support your local pregnancy center by donating essential baby items.

Together, we can strengthen the message of Respect for Life and make a lasting difference in our communities.

Thank you for your dedication and enthusiasm!

## NEWS from NATIONAL



*Mark Your Calendar and Save the Date*

Ladies, have you heard the great news? All roads lead to Coralville Hyatt Regency Hotel and Conference Center,

300 East 9th Street, Coralville, Iowa,

**July 22-26, 2026.**

(Workshops and concerts on July 21st).

*This is an official invitation requesting your presence to attend the 61st Biennial National Convention.*

Your attendance will give us an opportunity to pray together, celebrate, and conduct business.

Do not miss the opportunity to fellowship with the CDA sisters from the great state of Iowa. Iowa State Regent and Convention Chair Brenda Vore, First Vice State Regent and Convention Co-Chair Julie Marlow and all members of the state of Iowa are anxiously awaiting your arrival in 2026.

✓ CDA State website: [www.texasda.org](http://www.texasda.org)

✓ CDA National website: [www.catholicdaughters.org](http://www.catholicdaughters.org)