



NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council #14754

Website: www.koc14754.org

Deadline for monthly submission is the first Wednesday of each month.: December 3.

Prayers to consider:

Opening Prayer, Sunday October 12. 28th Week in Ordinary Time

“Father in heaven,
the hand of your loving kindness
powerfully yet gently guides all the moments of our day.
Go before us in our pilgrimage of life,
anticipate our needs and prevent our falling.
Send your Spirit to unite us in faith,
that sharing in your service,
we may rejoice in your presence.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.”

Tuesday, November 4 Daily Reading

1 [Romans 12:5-16ab](#)

Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

We, though many, are one Body in Christ
and individually parts of one another.
Since we have gifts that differ according to the
grace given to us,
let us exercise them:
if prophecy, in proportion to the faith;
if ministry, in ministering;
if one is a teacher, in teaching;
if one exhorts, in exhortation;
if one contributes, in generosity;
if one is over others, with diligence;
if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be sincere;
hate what is evil,
hold on to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
anticipate one another in showing honor.
Do not grow slack in zeal,
be fervent in spirit,
serve the Lord.
Rejoice in hope,
endure in affliction,
persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the holy ones,
exercise hospitality.
Bless those who persecute you,
bless and do not curse them.
Rejoice with those who rejoice,
weep with those who weep.
Have the same regard for one another;
do not be haughty but associate with the lowly.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- What's Up (New Short Calendar of upcoming events)
- Chaplain Message: Monsignor Perry Kavookjian
- Grand Knight Message
- Faith Message
- Membership Update
- On Injun Summer
- Appeal for Assistance
- Men's Retreat Flyer and Registration Information

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

This November we give thanks for the 14 members of our council who celebrate birthdays this month. They range in age from Al Sandrini (born in the 2nd term of Franklin D. Roosevelt) to some of our youngest Knights: Jeffrey K Dahlstrom, Israel Stuebbe, and Sir Knight Luke Puncer, all born in the George W. Bush years. The average age of Knights born this month is 56.6 years. Two Knights, Sir Knight Tim Escalante and Sir Knight Chukie Okunzua are nearly birthday twins. They were born one day apart. I won't say what year, but the number one song in America that week was Bobby Darren's "Mack the Knife" (which went on to win Song of the Year).

This month's longest serving birthday Knight is Phil Frailey, with 43 years. A host of other Knights have 10 or more years of service, including: the aforementioned Tim and Chukie, James Angel, Frank Gonzalez, Louis Rodriguez, Sir Knight Christian Jaramillo, Victor Nunez, Bill Wonderly, and Bona Nweze. In fact, the average years of service of November born Knights is 11.2 years. Congrats to all of our November birthday Knights!

Day, Knight, Yrs service

2, Sir Knight Tim Escalante, 14
3, Sir Knight Chukie Okunzua, 19
4, James Angell, 14
4, Brian Carmody, 9
9, Jeffrey K. Dahlstrom, 2
12, Frank Gonzales, 10
12, Louis Rodriguez, 10
12, Israel Stuebbe, 2

Day, Knight, Yrs service

13, Sir Knight Christian Jaramillo, 12
15, Victor Nunez, 10
20, Bill Wonderley, 15
25, Bona Nweze, 14
26, Phil Frailey, 43
26, Craig Jackson, 1
27, Al Sandrini, 2
29, Sir Knight Luke Puncer, 3

WHAT'S UP

- Council meeting on November 10
- December Council meeting Monday December 8: Christmas Potluck
- Thanksgiving Food Drive Nov. 15/16
- Fifth Sunday Rosary Nov. 30
- St. Vincent de Paul Breakfast Dec 13

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

MONSIGNOR PERRY KAVOOKJIAN

Dear Brother Knights and Friends:

It's usually thought that men don't demonstrate their faith or religiosity in a public way. Women seem much more comfortable expressing their faith. Just look at who's involved in our Catholic parishes. The great majority of volunteers and those who participate in spiritual activities are women. Yet, I think our parish comes pretty close to shattering that generalization. Our Knights of Columbus are one example of how men can get involved in their faith and live it out through good works. I might also boast of our Men's Bible Study which has been meeting for about 10 years. Many are members of the Knights but not all. I think our parish is pretty healthy when it comes to the numbers of men who are actively involved as volunteers and who attend Mass faithfully.

The real test (in my opinion) of a man's willingness to "exercise" his faith happens at our annual Men's Retreat. We shouldn't be too surprised by those men who are a little fearful of attending a retreat with other men. Many have preconceived notions of a "retreat" where those in attendance might be asked to speak publicly or pray aloud. No worries! Our Men's Retreat is a friendly and positive spiritual experience balancing spiritual learning and fellowship. I can give you the names of several men in our parish who might have been reluctant to participate in the retreat and who have found it to be the highlight of their spiritual lives each year.

Fr Jim Nisbet has been the facilitator for several years now. He is a down-to-earth, insightful priest who knows how to speak the language of faith in a non-intimidating way. I am not aware of any man who has attended the retreat who didn't have some kind of positive experience.

The Men's Retreat is scheduled for the weekend of January 23-25, 2026. Do your spiritual life a favor and seriously consider attending. You won't regret it.

Msgr Perry

GRAND KNIGHT

ANDY SILVESTRO'S MESSAGE

I've been spending a lot of time with my Father lately. He is 94 years old and is finally in need of some help in his older years. He is used to riding his bicycle every day and swimming at the gym. Unfortunately, he is unable to get out of the house much because of his illness. While spending time with him, he can tell some of the greatest stories I've heard; even though, I may have heard them a few times over. Luckily, he wrote a book of short stories that he has shared with all his family members. I would like to share just one of those short stories with all of you.

MY TWO SIGNS, BY BROTHER ANTHONY F. SILVESTRO

One night feeling myself lacking in faith, I decided to ask God for a sign to help me. The next morning at the gym a stranger walked up to me and held out his arms indicating he wanted to pray with me. I acknowledged this invitation and realized this was the sign I had asked God for. Never in my life had this ever happened before, it was no coincidence.

I was feeling good about this sign and decided to push my luck and ask God for a second sign. We are always hearing about how much God loves us but I just didn't actually feel God's love. The morning after my first sign I was getting gas at the gas station and the line was moving very slowly. I found out why when I reached the front of the line. A woman had locked her keys in the car and was asking

everyone going around her if they had a wire to help get in her car. I didn't know if I had anything in the car so after I went around her I looked in my car and found the that helps a person retrieve something in a inaccessible place. I had no other tools in my car.

After I had helped this lady get in her car I was overwhelmed by her gratitude. She kept hugging me and saying God bless you, God bless. I considered this incident God's answer to my second sign in feeling God's love through others.

I realize there are skeptics out there but how else is God supposed to get through to us? God is not in some faraway place but is here and now. He made us and wants only the best for us even though we might not know at the time what the best might be.

In a few months, on January 23-25, 2026, We have the Men's Retreat and it's all about listening to God with Father Jim Nisbet. This is a great opportunity to connect with God fully and to learn the best ways to listen to God. God is always talking to us in many different ways, we just need to know how to listen. It's always good to bring a family member or friend with you to the retreat center. My Father has gone with me on a couple of retreats over the years and it has greatly benefitted us both. He also became Knight of the Month for asking good questions up at the retreat center.

Vivat Jesus!

WGK Andy

FAITH MESSAGE

BILL JEFFERIES

Greetings Brother Knights, Excited to have you first paste below this link to watch:

<https://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/our-faith/cor.html> and paste the second link to watch at <https://www.kofc.org/en/campaigns/into-the-breach.html> Both are short videos.

The Heart of Our Mission

Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus with a keen understanding of every man's call to holiness and a fatherly vocation. *Cor* (Latin for "heart") continues this mission by centering men's hearts on Jesus so they can be transformed by an authentic relationship with Him and each other. Everything flows from the heart. If you get the heart right, you get the man right — a man of faith who will courageously live out the mission God calls him to.

Christ is the heart of *Cor*. Inviting all SEAS Knights along with your adult sons and grandsons Into the Breach, Apostolic Exhortation to Catholic Men" available for those who promise to read the book so we can plan on having some group discussions beginning in January 2026. If demand for books is higher, I can order more copies. Call or text me for a copy at 661-706-6171.

November 2025 Archbishop William E. Lori, Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

The Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge is ideally suited for *Cor*, but can also be done in other group settings or individually.

“You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives.” (Gospel for Nov. 16, Lk 21:17-19)

Jesus promised His faithful disciples many things — that He will always be with us, that we will receive if we ask, and that He would give us rest. He also promised that we would be hated and that we would be persecuted for the sake of His name. We must persevere and remain faithful despite the hardships we suffer for our faith. May we always put into action St. Paul's admonition: “Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer” (Rom 12:12).

This month, I challenge you to learn more about the lives of the saints by selecting one or more martyrs to read about and then reflecting on how you can imitate his or her perseverance and hope.

Questions for Reflection:

Have you ever struggled with hope when life has brought challenges? Have you ever experienced bigotry, rejection, hostility or hatred on account of your Catholic faith? What are some concrete ways you can seek to grow in perseverance to face life's difficulties?

November 2025 Saint Feast Days Check your calendar..... Happy Thanksgiving!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

CRAIG HOLLIDAY

Membership and Dues Update: Craig Holliday, Membership Director

October was another great month for membership. We added three new members to our Council. Jeffrey Graham and Deacon Anthony Mendez transferred in. We also added a new member, Eliseo Tafoya. We welcome all three to 14754! This brings our total number of members to 205. Our quota for the current fraternal year is 12 new members--we have added eight thus far. As you continue to meet outstanding men of the parish, please send them my way if they are interested in becoming Knights.

Dues collections are also off to a great start for the fraternal year. Thus far we've collected dues from 49 members. Total money taken in is \$2352 in regular dues and \$2388 in optional dues. The 32 Knights who have contributed optional dues have averaged nearly \$75 apiece. Extraordinary generosity all the way around! If you have not yet paid your dues you can do so at our next Council meeting, or online through our website <https://www.koc14754.org> or by mailing checks to our financial secretary Chris Ziemer (11704 Copernicus Ave., Bakersfield CA, 93312).

If you have questions or concerns about either membership or dues, please feel free to contact me at 661-599-9219 or craig_holliday@kernhigh.org.

ON INJUN SUMMER

JIM PATTEN, PGK

Here is the famous “Injun Summer” cartoon by cartoonist John McCutcheon. The Chicago Tribune originally printed it on September 30, 1907, along with the 450-word description that McCutcheon wrote to accompany it. It was so popular that the Tribune reran it between 1912 and 1992 when wokeness caught up with it. I still have fond memories of it because I was probably about the size and age of the boy depicted in the cartoon (circa 1948) when my dad sat me down and read the Injun Summer story to me and, more importantly to my dad, told me all about the great art involved in Injun Summer. You see, my dad was a commercial artist himself, and Norman Rockwell was his idol, but he respected the art work anyone who was even close to Rockwell and McCutcheon was one of them. It is an easy online search to find all the complete Injun Summer text and information about John McCutcheon who was born in 1870 and died in 1949. My dad was born in 1911 and died in 1980, and Norman Rockwell was born in 1894 and died in 1978, so McCutcheon, my dad, and Rockwell were all contemporaries. Here is a part of the old man’s narrative to the boy for the transition from the top cartoon to the bottom cartoon. “See off yonder; see them tepees? They kind o’ look like corn shocks from here, but thoem’s Injun tents, sure as you’re a foot tall.”



The Tribune always printed its reruns of Injun Summer in October, because in the Midwest that is the month of Indian Summer. For me as a kid the Tribune reprints of “Injun Summer” was the kick start of the holiday season. When I moved from Chicago to Bakersfield in 1982, I soon discovered that here Indian Summer runs between October and December in Bakersfield, so this article will be timely for our council newsletter in any of those months.

I hope that this little article will inspire more members to share some of their own personal stories in our council newsletter.

APPEAL FOR DONATION

On behalf of Brothers Andy Silvestro and Michael Dhanens, Council 14754 would like to begin collecting items, monthly, for distribution St. Vincent DePaul Center and/or the Bakersfield Pregnancy Center.

For St. Vincent DePaul Center:

New men's and women's socks and underwear

Gently used men's and women's clothing that can be used directly by the homeless

Heavy duty re-usable plastic grocery bags

For the Bakersfield Pregnancy Center:

Diapers (all sizes)

Gently used baby clothes for both boys and girls

Baby blankets

New bottles, pacifiers, teething toys

Deacon Marco receiving 3d degree Knight's membership kit from DGK Mike



2026 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Men's Retreat

Listening to God: the Next Step

January 23-25, 2026

OPEN TO ALL MEN OF THE PARISH

RETREAT PROGRAM

Father Jim Nisbet will again lead our 2026 Men's Retreat at the St. Anthony's Retreat Center; located on twenty-five acres at the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains near Sequoia National Park. St. Anthony's Retreat Center provides a comfortable, peaceful, and a naturally beautiful setting. The retreat center's accommodations are dorm style rooms with private bathrooms. Meals are included and will be served in the center's dining room at scheduled times.

RETREAT SCHEDULE

The program begins Friday at 5:30PM with Mass, followed by dinner.

- The first, one hour, session begins at 7:30PM, followed by hospitality and fellowship.
- Saturday begins with an optional mass followed by a hearty breakfast
 - Second and Third sessions before lunch, and Fourth session following lunch.
 - This year Monsignor Perry will join Father Jim for a session as they share their experiences in "listening to God."
 - An enlightening outdoor Stations of the Cross, led by Father Jim Nisbet, is an optional Saturday afternoon activity.
 - The evening is yours to enjoy, but optional events include, a relevant movie, hospitality, fellowship, and sharing, or individual reflection.
 - Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation may be available throughout the day.
- Sunday morning begins with mass, breakfast and the fifth and final session. The retreat concludes with lunch at 12PM.

COST AND REGISTRATION

The cost of the retreat is **\$370 for a shared room**; cost includes meals for the entire weekend. Full payment is due by January 15th. Scholarship opportunities are available for those needing financial assistance. Transportation is not included, but we can help arrange carpools as needed.

SPECIAL: First time retreat participants only \$320 for a shared room!

Register and pay for the Retreat online www.setoncatholicchurch.org.

For more information, please contact Ed Knudson at (661) 333-8279 or osuetk@bak.rr.com, Dennis Shaw at (661) 479-1727 or dennisshaw7@gmail.com, Vince Pagano at (661) 717-9923 or cdrvap66@gmail.com