December 2025 Vol. 69

Knightly Newsletter

Dr Thomas A Dooley, Council 5303 St Mary's Catholic Church Oakdale, CA

Charity-Unity-Fraternity-Patriotism

Chaplain's Column

Brothers in Christ,

Time to get the car washed and detailed. That means inside and out. We, too, need some detail work. Advent is a time to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. Brother Knights, please avail yourselves to the beautiful Sacrament of Confession. God's great mercy awaits us all. Do not let sin weigh you down but be free and rejoice in Christ's victory over sin and death. Now is the time to cast off the deeds of darkness and to put on the armor of light, says Saint Paul. No more excuses. Fr. Saul and I are here at St. Mary's for you. If the times don't work here, check out the churches around us. Christmas will be so much better with the cleansing Sacrament of Reconciliation!

A blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas to all of you!

Fr. Matthew

Faith (Dea. Dan Paulus)

In December, the men's Bible study and breakfast will meet on December 13th, at 7:30 AM in the Parish Center to engage in a study of the Catholic *Catechism* and its relationship to Holy Scripture. All men are welcome. There will not be a second Bible study and breakfast this month.

Community (Louie Rodriguez & Anthony Martinez)

Thank God and all the volunteers it was another day of blessings for the community this last food distribution event. We will be having a Toy and Coat drive on December 6th and are asking volunteers to be there by 8:00 am to help set up. The next food distribution event will be December 22nd, and we will need volunteers to be in the parking lot no later than 8:30 a.m. Also, the Couple's Bible study (*Date with the Word*) will resume on January 18, 2026, from 12:00

Grand Knight's Notations

Worthy Brother Knights,

As we begin the season of Advent, let us focus on preparation, prayer, and acts of mercy. This is a special time to deepen our faith, strengthen our fraternal bonds, and serve our parish and community with Christ-like charity. Also, as we close out the old year, I want to give you all a heartfelt thank you for your time, talents, and treasures. Merry Christmas to all of you and your families. God bless.

Vivat Jesus!

Gabriel Dela Riva

Grand Knight

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 6: Distribution of coats & toys to needy children and breakfast burritos to all present, 8:00 am arrival for volunteers

Dec 9: Monthly council meeting. Rosary at 6:00 pm followed by dinner; meeting at 7:00 pm

Dec 13: Men's Bible Study and Breakfast, 7:30 am

Dec 22: Second Harvest food distribution to needy

Dec 25: Christmas Day

Jan 1: Happy New Year!

Jan 3: New Year's Bingo, 6:00 pm, FLC

Note: there will only be one Men's Bible Study and Breakfast in December, as shown above. Also, due to the Christmas holiday schedule, there will be no wine/cheese/donut distribution in December.

CHANCELLOR'S COLUMN

Continue to keep Ralph Goeken, Deacon Dan Paulus, Steve Gervais, Dominic Carmelich, Darryl Toepfer, Scott Lucas, and Danny Costello in your prayers.

For additions, deletions, corrections, or updating status, please contact our Chancellor, Robert Poncini.

noon to 1:00pm. Babysitting will be provided. For more information about the Couple's Bible study, ask Grand Knight Gabriel or Deacon Dan. And Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to you and yours.

Family (Robert Poncini)

Pope Benedict XVI, who said, "May the Child Jesus not find us distracted or merely busy. ... Rather, let us deck our soul and make our families a worthy dwelling place where He feels welcomed with faith and love."

Here are some ways you can live Advent more intentionally with your Catholic family:

1. Do the Jesse Tree tradition together. It is a wonderful devotion to travel through the story of salvation history throughout Advent with the family, leading up to Christ's birth.
2. Read liturgically seasonal books. The Advent season is the perfect time to slow down and cozy up with good Advent-themed literature, both for children and adults.
3. Celebrate feast days! There are so many special feast days throughout the Advent season. Celebrate St. Nicholas' Day, the Immaculate Conception (holy day of obligation!), Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Lucy and more…
4. Use the "Giving Manger" or another practice to increase works of charity.
5. Bless, display and pray around an Advent wreath. Make the Advent wreath the focal point of your table or mantle during the Advent season.
6. Display your Nativity scenes. Read together the Nativity account from the Gospels. Pray in front of the Nativity, pray your St. Andrew Novena, and the O Antiphons.

Bonus tip: Decorate slowly. While the secular world is skipping Advent, consider how you can prayerfully embrace the holy season by waiting to jump into Christmas.

Life (Robert Poncini)

During this season of Advent, just as the Blessed Mother was expecting Jesus, we remember expectant mothers who are preparing for the birth of their children. This Advent season, consider highlighting the article "10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting."

Also, on December 8th, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this feast, we celebrate Mary's conception free from the stain of Original Sin, and we recognize that Mary's life began the moment she was conceived in the womb of St. Anne. So, too, does every human life begin at the moment of fertilization. On this solemnity, consider praying Pope Francis' Prayer for the Immaculate Conception: "We are in need of your immaculate gaze, to rediscover the ability to look upon persons and things with respect and awareness."

From the Financial Secretary

Yearly dues notices will be mailed out mid-December. As a reminder, dues are now $40 per year and can be paid online. Please pay them in a timely manner so we don't have to send out second notices, as stamps are expensive. Additionally, please **see the attached budget** for 26/27 for review. We will be voting to adopt the budget at our next meeting. Our budget is based on local Parish needs. Should anyone approach you for a donation, the proper procedure is to remit the request for discussion by the Executive Committee for approval. If the Executive Board deems the donation feasible in light of the budget, it will be presented to the body for approval. Any donation request sent to the body before it receives Executive Committee approval will be considered a **recommendation only, and not a commitment of payment.**

Anyone who needs a new badge should email Augie Beltran at Augb67@gmail.com or call or text him at 209-493-9100.

Please also contact Augie if your address or your financial situation has changed. Your information will be kept confidential.

KNIGHTS CORNER

Here is a link to our diocesan Prayer for Vocations: https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/flocknote-files/prayerforvocationsenglish3.pdf

We ask that you recite this prayer as often as you can.

Click here for the Chapter Newsletter

Council website: https://www.kofcchap6ca.org/5303-2/

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Constantine Scoto, 3rd; Rick Garner, 12th;
Father Matthew O'Donnell, 13th;
Josh Blahnick, 14th; John Morrisette, 25th;
Sean Gibson, 26th

Budget and Expenses for 2026

Yearly Income

Dues (2026 will be $40 x 81)	$3,240
Dues, Honorary Members (10 x $10)	100
Bingo (Average for 4 games)	12,000
Super Bowl Event	0
Other dinner (August)	0
Total Estimated Income	**$15,340**

Expenses

Scholarships	$ 1,500
RTL bus	1,000
Coats (donation)	500
School supplies (donation)	250
Keep Christ in Christmas Contest	200
New badges (average 5 per year)	140
Dues Postage	150
Chapter dues	300
State dues	1,346
Locton Insurance	500
St. Mary's Golf Tournament (sponsorship)	500
Wine & Cheese/donuts	7,200
Donations	3,600
Exemplification dinner	250
Parish Picnic/Festival	500
Men's Group	400
Father Matthew Requests	500
Dinners	1,800
Sub-total	**$13,936**
Discretionary	1,404
Total Expenses	**$15,340**