



Knightly Newsletter

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

Charity-Unity-Fraternity-Patriotism



Chaplain's Column

Worthy Brother Knights,

We celebrate the feast day of my namesake, St. Matthew, September 21st. In the church liturgical year (Year A) we are celebrating the gospel of Saint Matthew. So, I was thinking of throwing out a challenge to my KC brothers to consider trying to read a chapter a day from the Gospel of Matthew. There are 30 days in the month of September and there are 28 chapters in the Gospel of Saint Matthew. What do you think? Go ahead and try. Blessings will flow.

God bless you,
Fr. Matthew

Faith (Dea. Dan Paulus)

In September, the men's Bible study and breakfast will meet on **September 11th and September 26th, 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.

Community (Louie Rodriguez)

Thank God and all the volunteers, the last food distribution event was another day of blessings for the community. The next food distribution event will be September 25th, and we will need volunteers to be in the parking lot no later than 8:30 a.m., assuming that the parking lot construction project is complete. We may need volunteers earlier if the construction project is still underway. The distribution time will be 9:30-10:30. Also, there will be no *Date with the Word* this month.

Family (Robert Poncini)

Worthy Brothers,
Our Bishops of California are asking us to protect our children from online social media by supporting AB 1709 - limit social media to our children – by contacting our state legislators and urging them to support this important effort.

Grand Knight's Notations

Worthy Brother Knights,

September honors Our Lady of Sorrows, a title for Mary as she suffered alongside Christ during His Passion. This devotion is rooted in Luke 2:33–35, when Simeon prophesies to Mary after Jesus is presented in the Temple.

Simeon tells Mary her Son will be a sign for many—yet she herself will experience a piercing sorrow: “and you yourself a sword will pierce” (Luke 2:35). Her suffering reminds us of the strength of faith shared in the midst of pain.

As Knights of Columbus, may this month inspire us to serve with compassion and perseverance, trusting in God's love and mercy.

Vivat Jesus!

Gabriel Dela Riva

Grand Knight

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 7: Labor Day

September 9: Installation of officers and CUF

Exemplification, 6:00 pm, church

September 12: Men's Bible Study and Breakfast

September 25: Second Harvest food distribution

September 26: Men's Bible Study and Breakfast

September 27: Parish Festival

CHANCELLOR'S COLUMN

Continue to keep Daryl Toepfer, Brian Tacke, John Aguilar, George Santillanes, and Danny Costello in your prayers.

Also, please pray for the repose of the souls of Dominic Carmelich and Alexander Gervais, grandson of DD and SK Lou Gervais.

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

The proposed legislation would prohibit children under 16 from having social media accounts and establish an e-Safety Advisory Commission to assist the California Attorney General and Department of Justice in protecting minors online. Research has raised growing concerns about the effects of excessive social media use on young people, including increased risks of anxiety, depression, self-harm, body-image concerns, exposure to pornography and other harmful content, and unwanted contact from strangers. To TAKE [ACTION](#) and let your representative know how they should vote, and for more information, [click here](#).

Life (Robert Poncini)

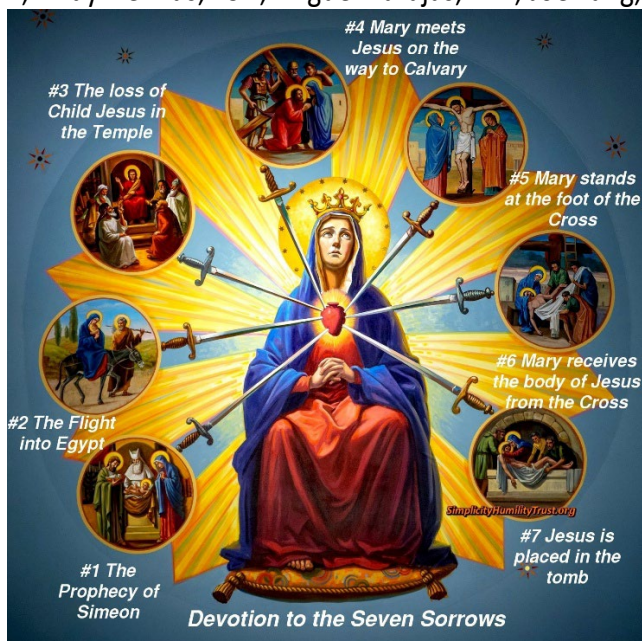
Worthy Brothers,

From now through the end of October, Respect Life Month, the USCCB Committee on Pro Life Activities is inviting Catholics to join a focused effort of prayer and action to stop the spread of abortion pills. In addition to invoking the intercession of St. Joseph, Defender of Life ([English/en](#) [Espanol](#)), participants can learn about the danger of abortion pills and can send messages to pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies that are involved. Sign up at [Respect Life Prayer and Action](#). Thank you for your prayers and actions to protect innocent children and their vulnerable mothers from the evil of abortion. St. Joseph, Defender of Life, pray for us!

Click here for the August [Chapter Newsletter](#)
Council website: <https://www.kofcchap6ca.org/5303-2/>

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Tony Traini, 2nd; Mike Kuppens, 3rd; Pedro Gutierrez, 5th; Andrew Cazares, 12th; Ramon Arevello and George Santillanes, 13th; Andy Liekhus, 19th; Miguel Barajas, 21st; Joe Lang, 25th



From the Financial Secretary

Worthy Brothers,

With the beginning of the school year, it's scholarship time, or at least it will be sometime in April 2027. Our council distributes 3 scholarships in the amount of \$500 each to high school seniors moving on to post-secondary education: college, trade school and so on. I have just received and submitted the package from Oakdale High School, and I have asked if they can include our application packet as well. This year the high school has sent out a calendar of action items and deadlines. We will receive a list of names from the high school in February and then be asked to submit our recipient's name no later than March 22, 2027. I have asked that the schedule be added to the newsletter in case anyone is interested in representing us at the high school during outreach and ceremony night (see page 3 of this newsletter). Please let me know and I will confirm your attendance.

We will choose the recipient the same way we did last year, at the Wine & Cheese/ Donut event and, if it doesn't line up, by email.

Our two internal, St Mary's Parish, scholarships are open to high school seniors that are members of our parish, regardless of where they are enrolled. It's my goal to have it put in the bulletin sometime at the beginning of March. I understand that some people would like to have a committee meeting, so I'll probably call one in January, if not sooner. When I brought up the topic at an earlier regular meeting, the consensus agreed to conduct the process as we did last year. I personally favor everyone having an opportunity to choose our recipients instead of by committee, and several of you shared that you liked the process. Regardless, we will have a committee meeting for input on the process.

Let there be no misunderstanding: the committee will be for input on the process only. As chair, the final decision will lie with me, so if you are truly passionate about change, I suggest attending the next several regularly scheduled meetings, or volunteering to chair the process going forward.

God bless you and your families.

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.

**Oakdale High School
Scholarship Program 2026-2027 •**

739 West "G" Street

Oakdale, CA 95361

•Office: {209} 848-7197 • Fax: {209} 848-5849 • Email: lisajones@ojusd.org

August 17, 2026

Dear OHS Donor,

As we begin our 59th year of offering local scholarships, we want to graciously thank you for your past generosity. It is truly an honor to partner with you to support the future of Oakdale High School students. To help us prepare for the upcoming school year, please review the important updates, deadlines, and event dates below. 💎

Action Items & Deadlines

- September 17, 2026 - Information & Email Update: Please return the enclosed form by this date and provide a current email address, as email will be our primary form of communication.
 - o Special Requirements: If your scholarship requires specific student essays or letters of recommendation, please include those detailed requirements with your returned form.
- January 22, 2026 - Program Biography: If you would like a short biography or history of your scholarship included in our ceremony program, please email it to lisajones@ojusd.org by this date.
- February 21, 2027 - Funding Deadline: Donor funds housed at the district office are due by this date.
- March 22, 2026 (3:00 PM) - Recipient Names: If you choose your own recipients, please email their names to Lisa Jones by this deadline.
- April 13, 2027 - Selection Committee Meeting: The OHS Community Committee will hold its selection meeting on this date. If your scholarship funds are housed at the DO, please plan ahead and send a representative from your club or group. All scholarships must be fully timed prior to this meeting.
- April 22, 2027 - Final Submission of Names: Any names received after this date will not be recognized at our Senior Scholarship Night; however, students will receive docs at senior check-out and will be placed in the Oakdale Leader Ad. 💎

Upcoming Events Scholarship Education Night

- Date & Time: October 15, 2026 at 5:30 PM (Donors arrive at 5:00 PM to set up)
- Location: OHS Library
- Details: This is a great opportunity to promote your scholarship directly to students and families. Due to space constraints (we are sharing the library with an online parent workshop), we ask that only one representative attend per scholarship.
- RSVP: Space is limited! Please RSVP to lisajones@ojusd.org.

OHS Scholarship Ceremony & Reception

- Date & Time: Wednesday, May 5, 2027 at 6:00 PM
- Location: OHS Gymnasium
- Details: We hope you will join us. The admin and staff will distribute the award documentation. We have adjusted our post-awards reception this year to ensure you have dedicated time to meet and celebrate with your student recipients. On behalf of our students and the entire Oakdale community, thank you for your continued dedication, time, and financial commitment.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jones

Scholarship Coordinator