

Council of Palms #6673

We are a Catholic family who loves, grows, and lives in faith through Jesus Christ

www.htknights.org

"A Knight is someone who steps into the breach with actions that exemplify charity, unity, fraternity, and the hope that comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ, our King."

SUPREME KNIGHT PATRICK KELLY

**Council 6673 Earned Fraternal Year 2022-2023
Star Council Award!**

Knights in Action in December 2023

Coats for Kids – On December 1, 2023, members of our council assisted with the distribution of Coats for Kids at Catholic Charities locations at two locations in Wyandotte County. In addition, on December 14, 2023, our council also provided several cases of coats to Literacy KC in Kansas City, Mo. We also provided additional coats for kids and adult coats to the Don Bosco organization in Kansas City for distribution during their annual Christmas Shop.

Toy Drive Results – Thanks to everyone for supporting our annual toy drive on December 2-3. As a result of your generous donations, we collected an estimated \$4,200 in new and gently used toys and \$1,861 in cash. This year the cash donations will go to Catholic Charities, and the toys were split between DCCCA and KVC; both organizations work with foster children. Your support of the Knights' toy drive program is greatly appreciated.

Breakfast with Santa – A special thanks goes to our Brother John Lorg who was responsible for planning and organizing this event and all the Brother Knights, who helped with our Breakfast with Santa and making it a highly successful family event. The number of volunteers who assisted during this breakfast far exceeded expectations. An estimated 200-plus children visited and had pictures with Santa. Speaking of Santa, we would especially like to thank “The Big Guy” for taking time out of his busy schedule and making the long trip to Kansas to be our special guest. Brothers Rich Boynton and Kevin McNamara did a great job of taking pictures and were assisted by several of Santa’s elves. And our kitchen crew did a fabulous job preparing and serving our guests a great meal. Again, thanks to everyone for your help and for making this a special day for our parish family.

December 2023 Food Drive Results – Our monthly food drives were held before and after all the Masses on December 16-17. This drive resulted in the Knights collecting a combined total of 3,808 pounds of food and \$ 2,978.89 in cash donations for Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas.

Blue Santa – Blue Santa is a charitable initiative by the Lenexa Police Department intended to provide select underprivileged students from Lenexa schools with the financial means to purchase holiday gifts for their families. This year the Lenexa school resource officers worked together with the nine Lenexa elementary schools to select students to participate. In total, nine students in either 5th or 6th grade were selected.

This year's Blue Santa event was held on December 7, 2023, in the Quigley Center. The Daughters of Isabella, Trinity Threaders, Youth Group, and others helped with wrapping presents, food preparations, distributing coats for kids, music, and games. Thanks to everyone for your help in making this a highly successful event and especially to Ken Kleekamp for coordinating and managing this event again this year.

Shortly after the event, we received the following note from the Lenexa Police Department: *"Thank you for once again showing tremendous support of our Blue Santa event in 2023. The time, effort, and expense you all sacrifice is not lost on us. From the bottom of our hearts, we are very grateful for you."*

Wreaths Across America – The National Wreaths Across America’s mission is to Remember, Honor, and Teach. This mission is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at more than 4,000+ locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad. Wreaths

Across America believes the tradition represents a living memorial that honors veterans, active-duty military, and their families. Every year since 2008, Congress proclaims a Saturday in December as National Wreaths Across America Day. **This year's Wreaths Across America Day took place on December 16, 2023.** On this day, more than three million Veterans' Wreaths were placed at local, national, and military cemeteries as well as Veterans' Memorials and historic sites.

This year our Council and the St. John's Assembly combined efforts to participate in the National Wreaths Across America Day event on December 16, 2023, at Resurrection Catholic Cemetery and St. John's Cemetery in Lenexa. Despite challenging weather conditions, approximately 300-350 participants attended the ceremony and placed approximately 900 wreaths on veterans' graves which demonstrated strong community support by honoring and remembering our veterans.

The following is a thank you note we received following this event from Karen Worcester, Executive Director of Wreaths Across America:

"On behalf of the Wreaths Across America organization and our family of volunteers and supporters across the country, I want to personally thank YOU for your support of the mission to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom."

During this year's National Wreaths Across America observance, more than three million dedicated volunteers – a third of whom are children – placed THREE million veterans' wreaths at 4,225 participating locations across the country. That is more than 500 new locations added to the program since last year! Specifically, at Arlington National Cemetery where this all began, 260,000 veterans' wreaths were placed by more than 30,000 volunteers on a truly gorgeous day.

As I think of those numbers, each of those headstones representing a LIFE of service, and each of those volunteers saying each servicemember's name out loud and sharing a small gesture of gratitude for the freedoms Americans enjoy, I am immensely humbled. I am also truly overwhelmed with pride for the people of this great nation where so many individuals and communities can come together in unity and support for those who have protected our freedom. And most important to me, so many children were

taken by the hand and introduced to these men and women and taught about the cost of freedom..."

Knights Volunteer Hours Report - Every year in January, the Supreme Council asks us to report all our donated time and money so that they can combine all Council reports to help promote the Knights. This year we have a "Hours and Charitable Donations Sheet with individual activity explanations for each category to help you decide where your time and donations fit in. This form was sent out earlier this month via the Council's email account. This should make it a lot easier to report. If you did not receive this email and form and/or have questions on how to complete the form, please contact Brother John Lorg at Hours6673@gmail.com

The hours you spend in adoration, ushering, lecturing, working on the church campus, and TMIY are the hours we are looking for to be reported. Any donations to Catholic Charities, pregnancy centers, or other charities would be reported on the monies sheet.

Please submit your completed Knights Volunteer Hours Report via email to John Lorg at Hours6673@gmail.com **no later than January 20th, 2024.**

2023 - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Jan 20	Knights Volunteer Hours Report Due
Jan 20-21	Monthly Food Drive
Jan 21	Knights Free Throw Contest- HT Gym
Jan 23	Assembly Meeting
Jan 27	Chili Festival at the Quigley
Jan 29	Council Meeting (rescheduled from Jan 9, 2024)
Feb 4	Knights District Free Throw Contest – HT Gym
Feb 13	Council Meeting
Feb 17	Exemplification Ceremony
Feb 17	Knights/Daughters of Isabella Spaghetti Dinner at the Quigley
Feb 17-18	Monthly Food Drive
Feb 27	Assembly Meeting

Knight of the Month for December 2023 - Brother Doug Leikam

Our Knight of the Month for December 2023 is Brother Doug Leikam. For more than 20 years, he has also volunteered to serve as the Knight's Toy Drive Coordinator. This year, under his leadership, the Knights collected an estimated \$4,200 in new and gently used toys and \$1,861 in cash. He knows Santa Claus very well and has coordinated the big guy's visits to Holy Trinity and his participation in many parish and community events. This year Santa had a hectic schedule working with Knights. He participated in the Lenexa Police Department Blue Santa event, attended the Knights Breakfast with Santa where he met with over 200 children and their families, and also took the time to meet and distribute toys to children at DCCCA and KVA.

The Knight of the Month Award is given each month to recognize a member whose contribution to the Church, council, school, and community has gone above and beyond the norm. Doug, this award is our council's way of saying, "Thank you for your efforts!"

Fraternal Year 2023-2024 Knights of Columbus Council #6673 Officers and Directors

Position	Officer/Director	Phone
Grand Knight	J.D. Call	(913) 961-1450
Deputy Grand Knight	Jeff Adams	(913) 638-8025
Chaplain	Fr. Keith Chadwick	(913) 888-2770
Financial Secretary	Steve Jackson	(913) 788-0867
Treasurer	Roger Lawrence	(913) 894-5524
Chancellor	Dave Leiker	(913) 957-9262
Recorder	Pat Thomas	(913) 288-3252
Advocate	Calvin Todd	(913) 207-3794
Warden	Chris Cecil	(783) 371-6150
Inside Guard	Don Goertzen	(913) 894-6519
Outside Guard	Joe Crostarosa	(913) 492-4934
Trustee 1st Year	Ken Kleekamp	(913) 748-6321
Trustee 2nd Year	Mike Crosthwait	(913) 645-5203
Trustee 3rd Year	Kim Bienhoff	(913) 302-5677
Membership Director	Doug Feist	(913) 768-1755

Program Director	John Lorg	(913) 257-8133
Vocations Director	Mike Huerter	(913) 599-5974
Faith Director	Mike Stompoly	(913) 302-2909
Community Director	Ken Kleekamp	(913) 748-6321
Life Director	Jeff Slaven	(913) 897-8074
Family Director	Stan Nill	(913) 486-4153
Communications Director	George White	(586) 329-9757
Lecturer	Wayne Zetzman	(913) 541-9648
Health Services	C.J. Hare	(913) 909-9069
Insurance Agent	Ray Garretson	(541) 360-8386