

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR SO FAR

- **Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Event**
- **Blue Santa with the Lenexa Police Department**
 - **Knights Coats for Kids Delivered**
 - **Breakfast With Santa**
 - **Knights Toy Drive**

What happened in December 2022? - Knights in Action

December 3 - Knights' Christmas Party - Approximately 80 Knights and their wives attended the party in the Quigley Center following the 4 PM mass. Since this was technically a regular meeting night, a motion to eat dinner was passed on the floor unanimously. The dinner consisted of chicken, ham, vegetables, mashed potatoes, and rolls. This was followed by dessert cake. After dinner, the Grand Knight introduced the council's current officers and acknowledged the Knights of the Month for the past year. Upon entering the hall, everyone was given a raffle ticket to receive a bottle of Geraldo's homemade wine. Additional raffle tickets were earned as the Grand Knight offered several trick holiday questions. Next, he explained the significant projects completed during the calendar year to highlight to the wives what was accomplished. Brother Pat Thomas led a special prayer for the Consecration of the Holy Family. We ended the night with each table playing the right, left, and center games.

December 3-4 – Toy Drive – Under the leadership of our Toy Drive Coordinator, Doug Leikam, this year, we collected \$6,100 in new and gently used toys and \$2,016 in cash. According to Doug, who has been associated with this event for the past 22 years, this was the most successful drive he has ever witnessed. Usually, we average collecting \$5000-\$6000 combined. This year the cash is going to Catholic Charities, and the toys were split between DCCCA and KVC, both organizations working with foster children.

December 8 – Blue Santa Event at the Quigley- The Lenexa Police Department, the Knights of Columbus, the Daughters of Isabella, the Trinity Threaders, and Holy Trinity church combined to bring Christmas early to nine lucky children from the Lenexa school district. The afternoon started with each child being picked up at school by an officer from the Lenexa Police Department in their police car. The police then gave each student a \$300 gift card for Walmart to spend the money on presents for their family. After completing their shopping, they were driven by their police partner back to the Quigley Center on the Holy Trinity campus. Upon arrival at the Quigley, the students were escorted to a table where a team of ladies, along with the help of an officer, wrapped their gifts. Three stations were provided to accommodate the nine students. After wrapping, games such as ladder toss, spike ball, and tan jam were made available to provide excitement for the children. Following this activity, pizza was served to all involved. Completing the meal was ice cream with all the toppings. The evening ended with the students being presented a box of items from the Holy Trinity family containing food items, a gift from the Holy Trinity Threaders, and a gift certificate for Hi-Vee from the Knights of Columbus as they were escorted back home by their police escorts. This completed a great family experience. A heartfelt thanks go to the three groups for making this a highly successful event. First is Lenexa's Police Chief and her team providing the money and valuable time to make this happen. Next, Ken Kleekamp, the Knights of Columbus Community Director, who spent hours organizing, coordinating, and assembling a team of knights to make this event happen. Finally, to Pastor Mike Koller for making the Quigley Center available for this fantastic event. His involvement made this a truly family-focused event bringing God and the community together. This event helped emphasize what Christmas is all about. Look for an article about this event in the December 23rd edition of the Leaven.

December 11 – Breakfast with Santa – A special thanks goes to our Brother Knights, who helped with our Breakfast with Santa. The number of volunteers who assisted during this breakfast far exceeded expectations. We had 283 attendees at breakfast (118 after the 7:30 a.m. mass and 165 after the 9:30 a.m. mass). Our total gross proceeds from the breakfast were \$1,433.89, and we also received several Venmo denotations that have yet to be counted. We also had an estimated 65 families visit and take 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. Brother Rich Boynton did a great job of taking pictures and was assisted by several of Santa's elves. The kitchen crew did a fabulous job preparing and serving our guests a great meal. One final note, with the help of Elf George White, we spoke with several of our guests about joining the Knights. As a result of these discussions, we could have several new Knights and one transfer joining our council. Again, thanks to everyone for your help and for making this a special day for our parish family.

A couple of days after our breakfast, Rich Boynton, who did a fabulous job taking pictures of Santa of the children and their families, distributed the photos to everyone. Here are a few of the comments he received back from those receiving their photos:

- Thank you for the great breakfast and wonderful picture. God bless.
- Thank you so much - our family had a wonderful time.
- Thank you for sending this. Please extend my family's thanks and my thanks to the Knights for doing this.
- Thank you for the pictures and for taking the time to take them and send them.
- Thank you! The kids had a blast!
- Thank you, Rich! And thanks to all the Knights for putting on such a fun breakfast for everyone.
- Thank you so much for the photos and the wonderful brunch! Merry Christmas!

These are only a tiny sample of the types of comments received and are a testament to the great work that the Knights do at Holy Trinity for the parish, school, and community. Thanks again to everyone for your help in making this a very special event and sharing some early Christmas cheer with our parish families.

December 15 - Coats for Kids delivered to The Don Bosco School of English Holiday Shop. The Don Bosco School of English and Literacy KC hosted a Holiday Shop on this date. All of their adult English as a Second Language (ESL) students had the opportunity to shop for their families and had the chance to choose from various tables, which included items such as blankets, household items, toiletries, clothes, toys, and other miscellaneous items. Nearly 1,000 students were allowed to take an allotted number of items from each table to share with their families. This year, our council provided more than 300 new and gently used boys' and girls' coats to these refugees to select from as part of the Knights Coat for Kids Program. These coats were purchased with generous donations from Holy Trinity parishioners and guests during our Knights Pancake Breakfast events in September and October.

December 14 – Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest Winner Announced - The Knights of Columbus has introduced the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest to encourage our youth to engage their creative talent and imagination while understanding the true spiritual meaning of Christmas. The contest was open to all youth between the ages of 5 and 14 and required entries in the contest to include a slogan reflecting the topic and an original visual image. This year 31 youths participated in the contest. Listed below are the winners in each age category.

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

1st – Madelyn Richardson

2nd - Aurielle Roe

3rd – Adeline Hogan

3rd – 5th Grade

1st – Marianna Briimitzakis

2nd – Elise Gansen

3rd – Lola Applebee

6th -8th Grade

1st – Isabel Galmarini

2nd – James Douglas

3rd – Genevieve King

December 17-18 – Food Drive – Our council received the following thank you note from Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, “Thank you so much for working so hard to advertise and organize a food drive at your parish this past weekend; we are so grateful! I apologize for getting this to you later than I typically do. This past weekend Holy Trinity donated **3,808 lbs.** of food to help stock our eight different food pantries and our resource bus for our rural communities. Thank you! I hope you are all having a blessed Advent Season as we prepare our hearts for Christmas!” Brother Dennis Green has also noted that “... *this is the largest food donation we have ever had.*” Additionally, we received \$2,888.23 in donations during our food drive.

December 21 – The Knights set up a temporary alter, unloaded and arranged more than 500 chairs in the St. Thomas Aquinas gym in preparation for the Christmas Eve Mass.

December 24 – Several council members assisted with traffic control and parking during the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at Holy Trinity.

December 27 – More than a dozen Knights from our council removed and stacked more than 500 rental chairs in preparation for loading onto a truck at St. Thomas Aquinas and helped clean up the area used for the Christmas Eve overflow mass.

2023 - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 7 – Holy Trinity’s Winter Tailgate (Knights lay carpet squares in the gym – 3-5 p.m.)

January 8 - Holy Trinity’s Winter Tailgate (Knights remove carpet squares/store/cleanup)

January 10 – Knights Monthly Council Meeting in the Gast Social Room

January 20 – Blood Drive at Holy Trinity

January 21 – Knights Quarterly Mass -8:00 a.m. followed by an Exemplification Ceremony

January 21-22 – Food Drive

January 29 – Knights Free Throw Contest – Holy Trinity School Gym

February 11 – Knights/Daughters of Isabella Spaghetti Dinner at the Quigley

February 18-19 – Food Drive

February 19 – Knights Free Throw District Contest - – Holy Trinity School Gym

February 24 – Knights Fish Fry (Tentative)

[Knight of the Month –December](#)

Our Knight of the Month for December 2022 is Brother Doug Leikam. Doug has been a Knight since 1999 and has served as the Parish Facility Manager for many years. As such, he has been involved in almost every parish improvement or addition. He serves as the Parish's Snow Team Removal Coordinator, which has led to many "up-all-night" events over the years. During COVID, he served as an Usher at nearly every weekend Mass and regularly participates in the Adoration hour. He was also engaged in the pew restoration project in the Adoration Chapel and regularly coordinates campus clean-up weekends with parish scouting groups and various volunteers. He knows Santa Claus and has coordinated the big guy's visits and participation in many parish and community events. For more than 20 years, he has served as the Knight's Toy Drive Coordinator. Under his leadership, the Knights collected \$6,100 in new and gently used toys and \$2,016 in cash this year. According to Doug, this was the most successful drive he has ever witnessed. Bottom line: Doug Leikam is regularly involved in just about everything that gets done around Holy Trinity. No words describe Doug's love and devotion to Holy Trinity Parish.

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!"

[Insurance Agent](#)

"Life insurance offers many products to fulfill different needs or desires. Term life (temporary protection), Guaranteed Universal Life (low-cost permanent plan), Whole Life (a permanent plan that builds cash value and has a growing death benefit due to annual dividends), and Guaranteed Survivorship Universal Life (1 policy, 2 insured creating most income tax-free death benefit for those that are legacy minded for kids, grandkids, church or charity)". Please call Ray if you have any questions regarding the best plan for you and your family.

[Membership](#)

Our council has a membership quota of 15 for the fraternal year. So far, we have added **12 new members** to our council since the beginning of the fraternal year on July 1st. During the next month, I challenge you to speak with at least one potential applicant about the benefits of joining the Knights of Columbus. Joining the Knights is easy by using the following link - <https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-kofc.html> . Please contact Doug Feist at dougfeist@yahoo.com if you have any questions about the application process or need assistance.

Regarding membership, our Grand Knight received a letter along with a check from the Kansas State Council's State Deputy, Michael J. Grothhoff,. The letter read as follows: "Congratulations to you and your council for earning the state council incentive for councils who earned the Founder's Award by the December 1st deadline. Enclosed, please find a check in the amount of \$500 to reward your efforts..."

[Fourth Degree News](#) - There will be no Fourth Degree Assembly meetings in January 2023.

Special Intentions

Let's all pray for our Brother Knights that have fallen since the pandemic's beginning. Let's also pray for those who have contracted the disease. Finally, let's pray for those who have contracted other diseases while this pandemic continues.

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	Father Travis Mecum	(913) 888-2770
Financial Secretary	Steve Jackson	(913) 788-0867
Treasurer	Roger Lawrence	(913) 894-5524
Chancellor	John Smith	(913) 563-9974
Recorder	Pat Thomas	(913) 288-3252
Advocate	Calvin Todd	(913) 207-3794
Warden	Vacant	
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 Yer	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 Stomploy	(913) 302-2909
Community Director	Ken Kleekamp	(913) 748-6321
Life Director	Jeff Slavin	(913) 897-8074
Family Director	Stan Nill	(913) 486-4153
Youth Director	Vacant	
Communications Director	George White	(586) 329-9757
Lecturer	Wayne Zetsman	(913) 541-9648
Health Services	C.J. Hare	(913) 909-9069
Insurance Agent	Ray Garretson	(541) 360-8386