



SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council

#14754

Website: www.koc14754.org

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

Theodore Roosevelt

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nineteen members of our council celebrate birthdays in the month of September. Some fun facts:

- Many of the council's leaders have September birthdays: including Grand Knight Mike Panos, Deputy Grand Knight Craig Holliday, Chancellor and Program Director Armando Martinez, former Financial Secretary and current Treasurer Chris Ziemer, and website/newsletter guru Ed Knudson.
- Our most senior Knights born this month are Grand Knight Michael Panos and Ed Knudson, both born in the second term of Harry Truman's presidency.
- Our youngest Knights born this month are Chancellor Armando Martinez, Michael Rosenberg, and Sir Knight Julian Nieto. All were born in the presidency of former Bakersfield resident, George H.W. Bush.
- September is a month for a lot of new Knights. More than half of the members born in September have been members of the Knights for three years or less.
- The closest birthdays to one another are Rocky Lacertoso and Jose Andrade. They were born in the same week. The number one song that week was “Via Con Dios” by Les Paul and Mary Ford. Try to figure out what week that was...
- A special happy birthday to our Sir Knights born this month: Armando Martinez, Dr. Clement Ogbuehi, Julian Nieto, GK Mike Panos, Gary Crawford, and Chris Ziemer.

Birthday, Knight, Years

- 1, SK Armando Martinez, 3
- 1, Michael Rosenberg, 1
- 4, Jesse Hathaway, 22
- 4, Rocky Lacertoso, 8
- 5, Ed Knudson, 3
- 7, William Funderburk, 1
- 7, Jorge Tena, 1
- 10, Jose Andrade, 1
- 10, David Fakrogha, 1
- 11, SK Dr. Clement Ogbuehi, 23
- 15, SK Julian Nieto, 1
- 16, Craig Holliday, 3
- 17, Greg Desme, 23
- 22, SK Mike Panos, 8
- 23, Robert Borda, 24
- 23, SK Gary Crawford, 12
- 25, Joel Lozano, 1
- 26, SK Chris Ziemer, 12
- 28, Matthew Rivera, 8

WHAT'S UP

- **All month of September Coats for Kids collections.**
- **Thursday, September 3:** Officer's Meeting
- **Monday, September 7.** Labor Day
- **Saturday September 12:** 7am Bible Study; 8:30 Men's Choir
- **Monday September 14:** 5:45pm General Council Meeting
- **Saturday, September 19:** COR 7am St. John Room
 - C4K Pulpit announcement and second collection
- **Sunday, September 20:** C4K pulpit announcement and second collection
- **Saturday, September 26:** 7am Bible Study, 8:30 am Men's Choir
 - C4K Pulpit announcement and second collection
- **Sunday, September 27:** C4K Pulpit announcement and second collection
- **Ongoing in October Coats for Kids and Thanksgiving collections.**
- **Thursday, October 1:** C4K Distribution
- **Monday, October 8:** 6:30 Officer's Meeting
- **Saturday October 10:** 7am Bible Study; 8:30 Men's Choir
- **Monday, October 12:** 5:45pm General Council Meeting
- **Saturday, October 17:** COR 7am St. John Room
- **Saturday, October 24:** 7am Bible Study, 8:30 am Men's Choir

Monsignor Perry, our Chaplain, will be traveling abroad for a couple of weeks in September please pray for his safety and that of his group.

GRAND KNIGHT MESSAGE

MIKE PANOS

We all survived another hot August summer. Kids are back in school, and we are extra careful when driving around the schools. Next, many will look forward to going to the Kern County Fair. As for Knight activity, it was a relatively slow month in August. Our Officer Installation and Dinner were a success. A special shout-out to the Pit Masters who did a wonderful job. I would also like to give recognition to all those who did the decorating and cleanup. Also, all the side dishes brought in by our members and their wives were greatly appreciated.

As we look ahead, the schedule for our council is busier. First, we have our Coats for Kids program. No sooner is the Coats for Kids done; we will start on our Thanksgiving Food Drive. As we catch our breath, we will work on the Christmas Food Drive. And of course, we look forward to the Fish Fry sales during Lent. I will look forward to partaking in those fish tacos again.

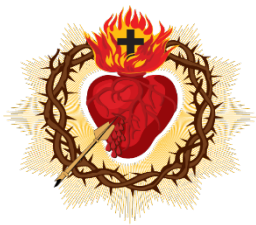
FAMILY OF THE MONTH

We have started a new Family program called Family of the Month. Nominations may be submitted through the Google Form below, which collects the information needed by the selection committee:

<https://forms.gle/CA57mUAJ8PbHs5rq8>

FAITH MESSAGE

BILL JEFFRIES



Cor

The world needs courageous men to witness to and for Jesus Christ.^[1] Cor exists to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, and fraternity.

Cor meetings of “Into the Breach” at SEAS for Catholic Men who are age 18 and older are scheduled on Saturday: Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov & Dec. from 7AM – 8:30AM at St John room. Video Series topics include Prayer, Suffering Sacramental Life, Spiritual Warfare. RSVP to attend. If you have any questions, contact Bill Jeffries, Faith Director at 661-706-6171 or email billjeffries1953@gmail.com. This fall SK Brother Elden Miller will present “Into the Breach” The Mission of the Family which covers “The Catholic Family in a Post-Christian World”, “Marriage: The Foundation of the Family” plus three other Episodes.

September 2026 Archbishop William E. Lori, Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

Then Peter approaching asked him, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.” (Gospel for Sept. 13, Mt 18:21-22)

To forgive others can be very difficult at times, especially when someone repeatedly offends us. Jesus tells us there is no magic number that limits our obligation — our desire to forgive and show mercy to others must be boundless, just as God’s mercy toward us is infinite. We pray in the Our Father, “Forgive us our trespasses *as we forgive those who trespass against us.*” Our very salvation depends on our willingness to forgive, for God will forgive us in the measure that we forgive others (cf. Mt 6:14-15).

The Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to make a list of the people in your life — past and present — whom you find or have found difficult to forgive, and to sincerely pray for them each day.

Questions for Reflection:

Are there people in your life whom you find difficult to forgive for past offenses? Do you sometimes find yourself saying the words “I forgive you,” but holding on to the hurt like a grudge? What steps can you take to move to true forgiveness?

Pray the Rosary, spend time at SEAS on Wednesdays for Eucharistic Adoration 7:30 AM -12:30 PM.

Faith Formation Resources go to:

<https://www.kofc.org/resources/faith-formation/faith-resources/>

<https://www.kofc.org/resources/faith-formation/mens-faith-formation/cor/>

May God Bless you!

Membership Update: Craig Holliday, Membership Director and Deputy Grand Knight

August was an amazing month for membership activity. We picked up four new members. Please welcome Jose Andrade, Jacob Dominguez, David Fakrogha, and Caleb Perez. Additionally, we reactivated Melvin Zavala Rodriguez, David Romero, and longtime Knight John Sheehan. We welcomed as a transfer Abel Serrano.

These additions brought our membership total to 43 insurance members and 160 associate members, for a total of 203 Knights. The Supreme Council has set our yearly quota at 13. We have already welcomed 8 new members. Thanks to everyone who has assisted in the process. As a reminder, there are applications for membership in the back of the church near the baskets. There are also applications on the bulletin board by the men's restroom. If you have anyone who has questions about membership, I would also be happy to be a resource (661-599-9219 or craig_holliday@kernhigh.org).

INSPIRING STORY: JESUS COMES TO DINNER

Submitted by Brother Christopher Ziemer

Inspirational Christian Story about being a blessing

Ruth looked at the envelope again. There was no stamp, no postmark, only her name and address. She read the letter one more time...

Dear Ruth,

I'm going to be in your neighborhood Saturday afternoon, and I'd like to stop by for a visit.

Love Always,

Jesus

Her hands were shaking as she placed the letter on the table. "Why would the Lord want to visit me? I'm nobody special. I don't have anything to offer."

With that thought, Ruth remembered her empty kitchen cabinets. "Oh, my goodness, I really don't have anything to offer. I'll have to run down to the store and buy something for dinner."

She reached for her purse and counted out its contents. Seven dollars and forty cents. "Well, I can get some bread and cold cuts, at least." She threw on her coat and hurried out the door.

A loaf of French bread, a half-pound of sliced turkey, and a carton of milk...leaving Ruth with a grand total of twelve cents to last her until Monday. Nonetheless, she felt satisfied as she headed home, her meager offerings tucked under her arm.

"Hey lady, can you help us, lady?" Ruth had been so absorbed in her dinner plans, she hadn't even noticed two figures huddled in the alleyway. A man and a woman, both of them dressed in little more than rags.

"Look lady, I ain't got a job, ya know, and my wife and I have been living out here on the street, and, well, now it's getting cold and we're getting kinda hungry and, well, if you could help us, lady, we'd really appreciate it."

Ruth looked at them both. They were dirty, they smelled bad and, frankly, she was certain that they could get some kind of work if they really wanted to. "Sir, I'd like to help you, but I'm a poor woman myself. All I have is a few cold cuts and some bread, and I'm having an important guest for dinner tonight and I was planning on serving that to Him."

"Yeah, well, OK lady, I understand. Thanks anyway." The man put his arm around the woman's shoulders, turned and headed back into the alley.

As she watched them leave, Ruth felt a familiar twinge in her heart. "Sir, wait!" The couple stopped and turned as she ran down the alley after them. "Look, why don't you take this food. I'll figure out something else to serve my guest." She handed the man her grocery bag.

"Thank you, lady. Thank you very much!" "Yes, thank you!" It was the man's wife, and Ruth could see now that she was shivering.

"You know, I've got another coat at home. Here, why don't you take this one." Ruth unbuttoned her jacket and slipped it over the woman's shoulders. Then smiling, she turned and walked back to the street . . . without her coat and with nothing to serve her guest. "Thank you, lady! Thank you very much!"

Ruth was chilled by the time she reached her front door and worried too. The Lord was coming to visit and she didn't have anything to offer Him. She fumbled through her purse for the door key. But as she did, she noticed another envelope in her mailbox. "That's odd. The mailman doesn't usually come twice in one day." She took the envelope out of the box and opened it.

Dear Ruth,

It was so good to see you again. Thank you for the lovely meal. And thank you too, for the beautiful coat.

Love Always, Jesus

The air was still cold, but even without her coat, Ruth no longer noticed.

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?"

The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:37-40

DO YOU LIKE TO SING IN THE SHOWER? HOW ABOUT IN CHURCH?

The men's choir is seeking additional voices. Our goal is to have at least 12 men who sing regularly; therefore, we would love to have as many join us as we can encourage. Please consider this great opportunity for fellowship and service. You don't have to be a good singer, just one who enjoys singing.

The choir sings for 5th Sunday Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Christmas with the Kern River Brass, and is always adding to the dates and repertoire. We even rehearsed some standard beer festival songs. If you would like to join us, we rehearse at 8:30am on the 2^d and 4th Saturdays of each month, immediately following men's bible study, and rehearse other dates as needed. Rehearsals upcoming on Saturday September 12 and 26, immediately following Men's Bible Study. If you are interested just show up at one of the rehearsals, or if you have questions, contact Ed Knudson at osuetk@bak.rr.com, 661-333-8279, or Susan Scaffidi at scaffidi@setoncatholicchurch.org or 661-587-3626.

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