

Advent

Gloria in excelsis Deo



Monsignor Edward T. Rabroker
Assembly 2784
Georgetown, Texas
Website: kofcassembly2784.org

PREPARE THE WAY

DECEMBER 2023



Next Assembly Meeting:

Tuesday, Jan 23

**Saint Helen
Catholic Church in
Frizelle Hall**

Rosary - 6:15 PM

Meal - 6:30 PM

Meeting – 7:00 PM

Faithful Navigator's Message

Dear Brother Knights! Since we don't have a meeting this month, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for everything you have done for the Assembly this year and to wish you and your families a blessed Advent Season, a wonderful Christmas, and a very happy New Year! Please keep the members of our Knights family in prayer who may be experiencing this holiday season for the first time without their beloved spouses.

Vivat Jesus,

Bill



Lord, as we enter the holiday season, help us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. May we be filled with joy and gratitude for the gift of your son, Jesus, and the love and grace that He brings into our lives. Help us to be a blessing to others, and to share Your love with others around us.

Amen



Faithful Friar's Letter

Dear Brother Knights,

May the peace and love of Christ be with you all. On Sunday, December 3, we celebrated the First Sunday of Advent. Advent is the time before Christmas in which we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christmas, the day in which we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As Catholic Gentlemen we are called to be an example to the other men of the parish on how we can properly prepare ourselves for this wonderful day. I would encourage all those who are able to go to daily Mass.

Also, we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Birth of the Lord by making a good confession during this season of Advent, seeking the Lord's love and forgiveness in your life. Please check the schedule in one of the upcoming parish bulletins for the dates and time for confession in your parish and in the neighboring parishes.

I would like to remind you that **Friday, December 8, is a Holy Day of Obligation** as we celebrate the feast of the **Immaculate Conception**. On this day we celebrate that moment when Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother, Anne, a name which means "grace." Mary was conceived without the stain of Original Sin, which we all inherit from Adam and Eve. She was kept sinless and spotless so that she could be the only worthy mother of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Let us all attend Mass on Friday, December 8, to give honor to the Blessed Mother and especially to God for the way in which He prepared Mary for this special mission in life.

Tuesday, December 12, is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Please try to attend Mass Tuesday, December 12, to celebrate this feast day of our Lady. Millions were converted to Christianity when Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego in 1531. We need Mary's message more than ever today to help convert the hearts of all those who have strayed away from the faith. May Our Lady of Guadalupe intercede for us and for our nation.

Monday, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a Holy Day, though not one of Obligation this year since it falls on a Monday. However, we still should attend Mass that day so please plan on attending Mass with your family as we celebrate this special Holy Day.

May all of you and your families have a very blessed Advent and Christmas Season.

Your Brother in Christ,

Fr. Stephen Nesrsta



Remembering Pearl Harbor **A Pearl Harbor Fact Sheet**

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese military launched a surprise attack on the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Since early 1941 the U.S. had been supplying Great Britain in its fight against the Nazis. It had also been

pressuring Japan to halt its military expansion in Asia and the Pacific. With the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. could no longer avoid an active fight. On December 8, U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt asked Congress for and received a declaration of war against Japan. On December 11, Germany and Italy, allied with Japan, declared war on the U.S. The United States had entered World War II.

Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto conceived the Pearl Harbor attack and Captain Minoru Genda planned it. Two things inspired Yamamoto's Pearl Harbor idea: a prophetic book and a historic attack. The book was *The Great Pacific War*, written in 1925 by Hector Bywater, a British naval authority. It was a realistic account of a clash between the United States and Japan that begins with the Japanese destruction of the U.S. fleet and proceeds to a Japanese attack on Guam and the Philippines. When Britain's Royal Air Force successfully attacked the Italian fleet at Taranto on November 11, 1940, Yamamoto was convinced that Bywater's fiction could become reality.

On December 6, 1941, the U.S. intercepted a Japanese message that inquired about ship movements and berthing positions at Pearl Harbor. The cryptologist gave the message to her superior who said he would get back to her on Monday, December 8. On Sunday, December 7, a radar operator on Oahu saw a large group of airplanes on his screen heading toward the island. He called his superior who told him it was probably a group of U.S. B-17 bombers and not to worry about it.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor began at 7:55 that morning. The entire attack took only one hour and 15 minutes. Captain Mitsuo Fuchida sent the code message, "Tora, Tora, Tora," to the Japanese fleet after flying over Oahu to indicate the Americans had been caught by surprise. The Japanese planned to give the U.S. a declaration of war before the attack began so they would not violate the first article of the Hague Convention of 1907, but the message was delayed and not relayed to U.S. officials in Washington until the attack was already in progress.

The Japanese strike force consisted of 353 aircraft launched from four heavy carriers. These included 40 torpedo planes, 103 level bombers, 131 dive-bombers, and 79 fighters. The attack also consisted of two heavy cruisers, 35 submarines, two light cruisers, nine oilers, two battleships, and 11 destroyers.

The attack killed 2,403 U.S. personnel, including 68 civilians, and destroyed or damaged 19 U.S. Navy ships, including 8 battleships. The three aircraft carriers of the U.S. Pacific Fleet were out to sea on maneuvers. The Japanese were unable to locate them and were forced to return home with the U.S. carrier fleet intact.

The battleship USS Arizona remains sunken in Pearl Harbor with its crew onboard. Half of the dead at Pearl Harbor were on the Arizona. A United States flag flies above the sunken battleship, which serves as a memorial to all Americans who died in the attack.

Dorie Miller, a steward on the USS West Virginia, distinguished himself by courageous conduct and devotion to duty during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He first assisted his mortally wounded captain and then manned a machine gun, which he was not accustomed to operating, successfully destroying two Japanese aircraft. He was the first African American awarded the Navy Cross, the service's highest award, for his actions during the attack.

The Japanese lost 29 aircraft and 5 midget submarines in the attack. One Japanese soldier was taken prisoner and 129 Japanese soldiers were killed. Out of all the Japanese ships that participated in the attack on Pearl Harbor only one, the Ushio, survived until the end of the war. It was surrendered to the U.S. at Yokosuka Naval Base. When Admiral Yamamoto learned that his forces had not destroyed the U.S. aircraft carriers or completely destroyed the U.S. fleet, he feared that the United States, with its enormous industrial potential, would soon recover and fight back.

The United States did recover—and quicker than Yamamoto could have imagined. After only six months, the U.S. carrier fleet dealt a decisive blow to Yamamoto's navy in June 1942 at the Battle of Midway, sinking four Japanese aircraft carriers. After this U.S. victory came the start of the U.S. island-hopping campaign and the eventual defeat of the Japanese Empire in August 1945.

Color Corps Commander's Report

There is one fallout to report:

Present on November 18 at the **75th Anniversary of the Diocese of Austin Mass of Thanksgiving** were:

- FN William Fejeran - PFN Larry Deal



PFN Larry Deal and Color Corps members from throughout the Austin Diocese stand at present sword during the 75th Anniversary of the Diocese of Austin Mass of Thanksgiving.



CCC Bill Adams presents the US Flag dedicated to SK Bob White at the 2023 Field of Honor to his widow Mary White. Also present were PFN Larry Deal and SK Philip Bauer.

No upcoming fallouts are currently planned for December

2024 – DUES

It's that time of year again. We don't meet until the end of January, but dues invoices will be sent out via email later in December. **Regular** dues are **\$20** per year. To help our Faithful Comptroller and save on costs, please considering paying your dues in advance by one of the following methods:

- Mail a check to Paul Chomka, 107 Piedmont Ln, Georgetown, 78633
- *Make checks payable to KofC Assembly 2784*
- Click the following link to pay by credit card:

<https://square.link/u/u83r1oPU>

- Scan the following QR code to pay on your mobile device



If you are an Honorary or Honorary Life member, please wait until you receive an invoice. Your dues are either \$10 or complimentary, so please don't pay in advance.

Fourth Degree Shirt Orders

The following members have ordered Assembly shirts, which are awaiting pickup. Please contact Faithful Admiral Chris Kolb, if you forgot how much you owe. Otherwise, Chris will have your shirts at the January business meeting. If you need alternative arrangements for pick-up, you can contact Chris Kolb at cjkolb07@gmail.com

Shirts are ready for pick-up for:

Darrick McGill Oscar Delgado Mark House Chuck Hartley

Additionally, shirts have been ordered and should be ready for pick-up

Phil Bauer Greg Ice

PRO-LIFE CORNER

SAVE THE DATE

The Texas Rally for Life is scheduled for Saturday, January 27, 2024 at the Capitol in Austin. Please consider joining us and show the world your commitment to protecting the unborn.

Prayer to End Abortion

Lord God, I thank you today
for the gift of my life,
And for the lives of all my
brothers and sisters.
I know there is nothing that
destroys more life than abortion,
Yet I rejoice that you have conquered death
by the Resurrection of Your Son.
I am ready to do my part in ending abortion.
Today I commit myself
Never to be silent,
Never to be passive,
Never to be forgetful of the unborn.
I commit myself to be active
in the pro-life movement,
And never to stop defending life
Until all my brothers and
sisters are protected,
And our nation once
again becomes
A nation with liberty and justice
Not just for some, but for all,
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen!



Veterans were celebrated on Veterans Day at Santa Rosa de Lima Parish with a delicious meal, live music, and a US Flag lapel pin.

FLY YOUR FLAG

4 US Code Sec. 6 (U.S. Flag Code) indicates that our nation's flag should be flown, weather permitting, from sunrise to sunset. "However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness."

Flag Holidays and Remembrance Days in December

December 7	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (Half Staff)
December 20	Space Force Birthday
December 25	Christmas



Because laughter is important too!



2023 – 2024 Assembly Officers

- Faithful Friar.....Father Stephen Nesrsta
- Faithful Navigator.....William Fejeran
- Faithful Admiral.....Chris Kolb
- Faithful Captain.....David Richardson
- Faithful Pilot.....Anthony Lanni
- Faithful Scribe.....Harry Larkin
- Faithful Purser.....Larry Deal
- Faithful Comptroller.....Paul Chomka
- Faithful Inner Sentinel.....Robert Miller
- Faithful Outer Sentinel...Don Ladolcetta
- Faithful Trustee 3 Yr.....John Day
- Faithful Trustee 2 Yr.....Doug Harman
- Faithful Trustee 1 Yr..Jim VonDerVellen



2023-2024 Meeting Schedule

St Helen meetings are at Frizelle Hall unless noted otherwise. **Santa Rosa** meetings are at Carr Hall **Holy Trinity** meetings are in the Holy Family Room in the PAC building.

These are the planned 2023 and 2024 dates for our meetings:

- July 25 – Holy Trinity
- August 22 – Santa Rosa
- September 26 – Saint Helen – **Frizelle Hall**
- October 24 – Holy Trinity – **Memorial Mass & Social**
- November 28 – Santa Rosa
- December – NO MEETING**
- January 23 – Saint Helen – **Frizelle Hall**
- February 27 – Holy Trinity
- March 26 – Santa Rosa
- April 23 – Saint Helen – **Frizelle Hall**
- May 28 – Santa Rosa
- June 25 – Holy Trinity

We will lead off with a religious activity then gather for social time and, whenever possible, a meal and beverages.

Please check the website, newsletters, and emails for the upcoming schedule.

www.kofcassembly2784.org

MEETING PROTOCOLS Regular Schedule

St Helen		Santa Rosa	Holy Trinity
Setup	6:00	Setup time depends on meal preparation. 5:30 If brought from outside... As required for on site preparation.	
Rosary	6:15	6:00	
Mass			6:00
Meal	6:30	6:30	6:30
Meeting	7:00	7:00	7:00