



Knights *focus*

St. Jude COUNCIL #7736
St. Jude Catholic Church, Mansfield, TX

Merry Christmas!.. *By Grand Knight Dave Tomlin*

December 2013

I hope this installment finds each of you reflecting on the gifts that you are thankful for and preparing for the joy of the Christmas Season to come. This month, I'd like to spend some time relaying some thoughts on Santa Claus. Ok, Ok not the Pere Noel that we see in stores, but the REAL St. Nicholas, whom our traditional Santa Claus was patterned after. Please enjoy this excerpt from the stnicholascenter.org-

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests, and deacons, there was no room for the real criminals—murderers, thieves and robbers. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church, where a unique relic, called manna, formed in his grave. This liquid substance, said to have healing powers, fostered the growth of devotion to

Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6th (December 19 on the Julian Calendar).

Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need. One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. In those days a young woman's father had to offer prospective husbands something of value—a dowry. The larger the dowry, the better the chance that a young woman would find a good husband. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. This poor man's daughters, without dowries, were therefore destined to be sold into slavery. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home-providing the needed dowries. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from Saint Nicholas. Sometimes the story is told with gold balls instead of bags of gold. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols for St. Nicholas. And so St. Nicholas is a gift-giver.

Vivat Jesus
Dave Tomlin
Grand Knight

Upcoming Events

- December 7&8 – Coat Drive
- December 8 - Corporate Communion
- December 10 – Council Meeting
- December 11 - Prolife Rosary
- December 14 –Coat Drive Handout
- December 17 - Council Christmas Party
- December 28 - Pray at Abortion Clinic
- December 28 - Knights Can Weekend

Council Christmas Party

Family Christmas Party will be held the evening of December 17th 6:30 pm in the Parish Center. Bring a side dish to share, main course , beer, wine and margarita's will be provided. Bring a gift valued at \$25 or less if you want to participate in the gift exchange.



Coats for KIDS

Coats for Kids program through December 13th. Please donate your gently used coats that your kids have outgrown to be distributed to the poor of our community. Just bring the coats to Mass and drop in the boxes by the doors. Coats will be distributed on December 14th.



Prolife Rosary & Prayer

We will be leading a Prolife Rosary before Mass on Wednesday December 11th at 6:30 P.M. We then will be going to pray at the Abortion Clinic at 8:15 A.M on December 28th. Please come out and help us pray.

Knights Can Weekend

Our next KNIGHTS CAN Weekend is December 28th. On this weekend, the Knights all make an effort to remember to bring in canned goods for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. This is the time of year Christmas charity plays out for many, so this is when we STEP UP!!!

Siver Rose at St. Jude



Ask a good Catholic man to join the Knights today! It'll make him a better Catholic – just like it did to you!!!

First Degrees

(all at 7:00 P.M. unless noted)

12/10 – Council 8157
Duncanville
12/19 – Council 6269
Arlington

Contact George Kimmel at
817-584-1798
or e-mail at
kimmel_george@yahoo.com
if you have a lead on a new member

Monthly Awards

Knight of the Month- Bill Tillotson

Even though Bill has taken on new responsibilities as our District Deputy, he still makes time to give back to his council. Bill was instrumental this month in pulling together the Coats for Kids drive. Bill, your work here has been and continues to be appreciated by our council.

Family of the Month- Jerry and Bonnie Rodriguez

It takes an awfully big lighter to smoke a turkey! Ha! All bad jokes aside...Jerry stepped up again this year and provided our council with the smoked turkeys that we sold during the Turkey Raffle. Thanks for all that you do for us Jrod!!



Find out everything going on with Council 7736 at
www.kofc7736.org

Council 7736 Upcoming Events

December 7 – Coats for KIDS each weekend after all Masses

December 8 @ 10:00 A.M. – Corporate Communion

December 10 @ 7:00 P.M – Council Business Meeting

December 14. – Coat Drive Handout

December 17 @ 6:30 P.M. – Family Christmas Party

December 28 @ 8:00 A.M – Pray at Abortion Clinic

December 28 – Knights Can Weekend

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