

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3956

Newsletter

St. Pius X, Southgate, Michigan Issue #21

JANUARY, 2021



HAPPY NEW YEAR BLESSINGS!!

Let's begin the New Year in prayer for hope and stronger faith. Pray for God's mercy and grace as we step into 2021. Gather in powerful prayers for the New Year with faith, hope, wisdom, and love. Let us walk by faith into the coming year, giving thanks to God for His compassion and righteousness. Enter 2021 focused on blessings and gratitude can help you draw closer to God and stay focused on His promises. No matter what the past year brought, God wants to use it to increase your faith. May these prayers truly inspire you in renewing of your heart and mind. christianity.com

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." ~ Philippians 4:6

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." ~ Mark 11:24

YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

On December 8, 2020, the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter entitled [*Patris corde*](#) ("With a Father's Heart"). In that beautiful letter, the Holy Father proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from December 8, 2020, to December 8, 2021

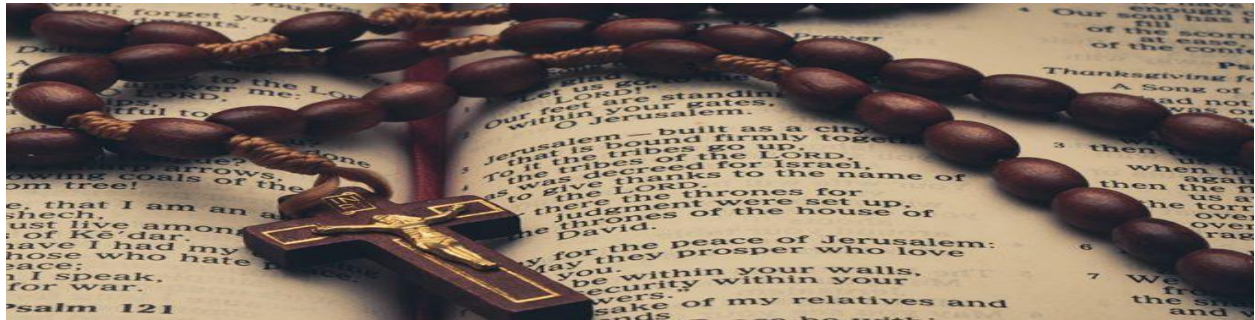


Prayer to Saint Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only
Son; in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and
courage and defend us from every
evil. Amen.

FIFTH SUNDAY ROSARY



The Knights of Columbus are conducting a Faith in Action Program called 5th Sunday Rosary. On January 31st beginning at 8:30 am and 10:30 am, before the 9:00 am and 11:00 am Sunday masses respectively, our Knights of Columbus council plan to support the Rosary Alter Confraternity and encourage individuals, families and young people to learn the power of prayer. Rosaries and Guides on "How to pray the Rosary" will be distributed before the Rosary prayer. Please join us. All are encouraged and welcome to participate!

In a letter to Saint Pius X Principal Michelle Seward, an invitation has been extended to formally invite the students of St. Pius X school to participate in this program. All who attend will be given a printed "How to pray the Rosary" Guide and a Rosary to keep. (<http://www.kofc.org/en/resources/cis/devotionals/1877.pdf>)

We will be setting up a table to provide information for those who attend to learn more about our Knights of Columbus for themselves or someone they know. We would like this to be a regular event on each Fifth Sunday throughout the year.

Regards,
Mark Garcellano, Lecturer
K of C Bernard P. O'Brien Council #3956

BUILDING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR ST. PIUS X SCHOOL

Our mention of the Spelling Bee in our December Newsletter prompted St. Pius Principal Michelle Seward to ask if we have more information concerning the next level of competition and who to contact. She suggested we reach out to teacher Jennifer Piechocki at jpiechocki@saintpius-x.org. Her office phone number is 734-284-6500 and her email address is mseward@saintpius-x.org. The Spelling Bee is just one of many projects that we can coordinate with the students and their families. In her message to us, Ms. Seward mentioned that many of the events listed in last month's newsletter were new ideas to the students. She is asking for a contact person and "we would be so happy to take part in these activities and others as they come up in the future. Thank you for your efforts and consideration of my request!"

Michelle Seward
Principal
St. Pius School

THIS JUST IN: FREE online membership promotion has been EXTENDED UNTIL June 30, 2021!!

BECOME AN ONLINE MEMBER FOR FREE!*

Now through June 30th, enter Promo Code **MCGIVNEY2020** for 12 months of free online membership

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We are proud to announce that we met our membership goal for 2020 and are on track to again receive the honor of being a star council. It’s not the recognition we seek; knowing that we are continuing to grow as a council, not just in membership, but in the good works reaffirms we are doing God’s work successfully. Following the lead of Grand Knight Bill Robert, our established members along with an outstanding group of new members, we are built to provide great services to our community. Special thanks to Dave Sadjak, our membership chairman who has done an incredible job of recruitment. In this environment of social distancing in more ways than one, that is nothing short of amazing. Thank you Dave!

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3rd GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Our next membership meeting will be on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 either via zoom or optimistically in the Social Hall at 7:00 pm. We are pleased that even though our recent meetings have been restricted to zoom, more members are joining in the discussion. The light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter. We expect to be resuming in person gatherings if not at this next meeting, then soon after. We joined to make a difference in our community. Let’s together support each other, our council and our parish to fulfill the necessities of our community. “An atmosphere of fellowship is exactly what we need right now”.

LEAVE NO NEIGHBOR BEHIND MASK



The K of C Leave No Neighbor Behind Masks have been so well received; a new order has been placed. These face masks are made of a high quality washable cloth displaying the K of C logo and “Leave No Neighbor Behind”. The masks are \$10.00 each and include three washable filters. To obtain a mask or masks, contact Ray Bilyk at raybilyk@kofc3956.org

GRAND KNIGHTS COMMENTS:

I will be out of town January 31st through February 14th. Deputy Grand Knight Bob Schooner will fill in during all activities including our General membership meeting on February 3rd.

The “Leave no neighbor behind phone tree” is working out very well. Once we can have in person meetings, we should get a greater turn out. This is a great opportunity to call our fellow Brothers and parishioners to see how they are doing. For those who did not receive a copy of the membership roster, please contact Ray Bilyk at raybilyk@kofc3956.org for a list of phone numbers and email addresses.

I am asking again if anyone is willing to take on a small project to re block the existing wall behind our former building, currently rented to a Tuxedo Shop. Over time, the blocks have fallen and some have crumbled. It should not take more than a few hours and we can compensate you for your time. Please contact me at billrobert218@gmail.com or Tony Chirco at ajc@tm.net. Your services will be greatly appreciated.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

The Doughnut Sunday carry out on Sunday, January 10th was once again well received by our parishioners. Plans for the Charity Family Breakfasts are on hold until we can get back to normal activities as we get closer to the end of this pandemic.

The Free Throw competition is scheduled for February 7th; Super bowl Sunday, tentatively between 12:00 and 1:30 pm. We need help counting baskets and collecting balls. Many hands make light work. We will be done in plenty of time for the big game!

A Financial Audit of our council is to be conducted by our Trustees in February. It would be great to have all our dues paid by the end of January. If you have not had the opportunity to pay your dues, please contact me to make arrangements at raybilyk@kofc3956.org.

COMMUNITY REPORT

Brian Batko reports that the Desert Meal for Seminarians has been postponed until next year. The Motorcycle Blessing is planned for some time in May. If necessary, Father McCabe has offered to participate since Father Suresh will be out of town visiting family in India.

The next level of the Spelling Bee is planned for April according to the District Deputy. We will inform Ms. Seward, St. Pius Principal when more information is passed on to us. These types of events are opportunities for recruitment.

GOLF OUTING UPDATE

Co-Chairman and Worthy Lecturer, Mark Garcellano advised the officers that plans are moving along to have our first annual Golf scramble in August or September this year at the South Winds Golf Course and Grill on Dix-Toledo Road in Southgate. We are seeking sponsors and volunteers to make this event successful. Plans will include a lunch or dinner after the event for all who participate and their guests who may not have golfed. Carts are available for up to 60 golfers and awards will be given for best shots in a number of categories. Cost per person to golf with a cart is currently \$26.00 per person. The cost to have a meal catered may be as much. We are considering, if we can get the volunteers, to have our own brother knights do the cooking. A cook out on St. Pius grounds has been suggested. That could save us substantially on the meals.

FOURTH DEGREE REPORT

The Fourth Degree is reestablishing the Color Guard with hopes to have the unit together in time for the March for Life later this month in Wyandotte. All Brother Knights are encouraged to reach out to Mark Garcellano at markgarcellano@yahoo.com to join him in the Color Guard. The Fourth Degree will be working with the new “Family of Parishes” introduced by the Archdiocese of Detroit. St. Pius will be joining with Our Lady of the Scapular and Christ the Good Shepard in a new formation of faith among parishes.

DOWNRIVER FOOD BANK

Hi All. I hope all of you and your respective loved ones are doing well. Our combined food drive resulted in an additional 100 lbs. of quality food and needed toiletries to the pantry (not including this week's delivery). Our community outreach also includes not only the donated food from our parish, but frequent pick-ups from Cabrini. Food donations are increasing. In one week alone, we delivered in excess of 600 lbs. to the pantry! Thanks so much to my Brother Knights, Ushers, and especially to Fr. Suresh for his tremendous leadership during these challenging times. I will post updates in the Ushers room on items needed at the pantry. Thanks and God Bless to all.

Dennis Hamilton

SOUP SALE COMING UP

Never to be short of new ideas; worthy brother knights Ray Bilyk and Brian Batko have proposed a soup sale in the fall. We invite other brother knights to share their thoughts and recipes as we firm up plans. This will be part of our calendar of events which, with God's grace, will be better than ever. All of us are anxious to get back to normal and get reacquainted with each other and our community of faith.

Soup puts the heart at ease, calms down the violence of hunger, eliminates the tension of the day, and awakens and refines the appetite. Auguste Escoffier

NEWSLETTER PREPARED TO EXPAND ITS REACH

At our recent officers meeting we proposed a plan to begin sending our monthly newsletter to the broader community. We would like to send issues to members of the Southgate city council and administrators, local businesses, other K of C councils, our parish council, directors and individual members of our St. Pius X family. Each of us should seek permission from all individuals and business people with whom we have a relationship with to provide their email address to receive this newsletter. These email addresses can then be sent to our editor's mail box or to my email address at ajc@tm.net

By broadening our reach, we connect on a more personal level with people. This will go a long way to establish relationships that will help our community to promote our message, bring more people to our events, provide purpose for fund raising efforts and of course recruitment. We invite all brother knights to participate in this effort



DOWNRIVER RIGHT TO LIFE

Sanctity of Life Sunday

January 24, 2021

"We mourn the babies killed by abortion."

Please join us at one or all of the following events. We will commemorate the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion in the entire U.S. for all nine months of pregnancy. We pray that that decision will be overturned and that life will be respected and protected from conception to natural death.

- 11 a.m. **Mass** - intention To End Abortion - at Our Lady of the Scapular, Tenth Street and Superior Blvd., Wyandotte
- 12:15 pm - **Rosary Procession*** from Our Lady of the Scapular to Mt. Carmel Cemetery (Northline and Ninth Street, Wyandotte) with **Knights of Columbus Honor Guard**
- 12:45 pm - **Prayer Service** at indoor chapel*, Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Wyandotte presided by **Deacon Richard Bloomfield** from Our Lady of the Scapular
- 1:30 - 3:30 pm **OPEN HOUSE*** - Right to Life of Michigan Resource Center, 2010 Eureka, Wyandotte; 734-282-610

Light Luminary Candles outdoors on the evening of **January 21** to remember the victims of abortion. Luminary Candles are available at the Right to Life of Michigan Resource Center.

Please copy and share



MESSAGE BOARD



- We continue to receive donations for our highly successful Coats for Kids program. An additional \$200.00 was received after the event
- The Bernard P. O'Brien Council is celebrating our Chapter Anniversary on Saturday, February 27, 2021. Established in 1955, we remain faithful to our core principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.
- We hope to receive permission from Southgate City Council for our Tootsie Roll Drive to occur, scheduled tentatively for March 26th - March 28th.
- The K of C State Convention is May 22 - May 23, 2021 at the Grand Hotel. GK Bill Robert and FGK/FS Ray Bilyk were selected to attend. Brian Batko and Mark Garcellano are alternates. Expenses were approved by council at our last meeting.
- Congratulations to all the St. Pius Spelling Bee participants and our winners
Grade 4-6 Champ Jeremy and Grade 7-8 Grade Champ Luke!!
- Thank you to all our Officers who participated in the Region 5 Leadership meeting on Saturday, January 16th from Noon to 2 pm. The program included presentation with the State Deputy, State Program Director, State Membership Director, Archdiocesan Membership and Program Directors for the Region, Supreme Insurance Representative, Master of the 4th Degree Michigan District 1, Right to Life Talk and SDRR5 Paul Thorn.
- Quarterly Socials have been discussed to get re-acquainted with our current, newer and future brother knights. Parlor games have been suggested.
- Church Crawl is another idea mentioned by Program Director Brain Batko to learn more about the other parishes in our surrounding communities. Not only could this support our faith, but we may gain some insight and learn new ideas.
- We highly recommend all members keep informed by visiting our council's website at <https://www.kofc3956.org/>.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

- Ray Bilyk (January 1)
- Ronald C. Cassette (January 3)
- Dr Okechukwu Unogu (January 7)
- James L. Guyette (January 8)
- William R. Mc Laury (January 9)
- Randy S. Champagne (January 10)
- Norman W. LeMay (January 14)
- Robert C. Munroe (January 15)
- Daniel B. McGuire (January 20)
- Robert G. Bailey (January 29)
- Jennifer Bilyk (January 11)
(Ray's Wife)



YEARS OF SERVICE

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| • Paul J. Pauline | (January 1) | 64 Years of Service |
| • James M. Higgins | (January 1) | 50 Years of Service |
| • Richard C. Myers | (January 1) | 31 Years of Service |
| • Walter F. Kabalka | (January 20) | 13 Years of Service |
| • Mark J. Sirois | (January 20) | 13 Years of Service |
| • Robert G. Bailey | (January 12) | 7 Years of Service |
| • Brian Batko | (January 12) | 7 Years of Service |
| • Anthony M. Da Pra | (January 12) | 7 Years of Service |
| • Kevin G. Pelkey | (January 20) | 6 Years of Service |
| • Sam S. Lamb | (January 14) | 3 Years of Service |
| • Michael C. Lewis | (January 24) | 3 Years of Service |

IN OUR PRAYERS



Please pray for the return of good health to:
Past Grand Knight Bob LaForest
Past Grand Knight Frank Racano,
Deputy Grand Knight Robert Schooner
Trustee Dave Hughes
John Husar

Pray for healing of Family Members:

Kathyrne Robert, 26 Year old fighting cancer, Niece of Grand Knight Bill Robert
John Husar Sr., Father of John Husar Jr, going into surgery at this writing
Mothers of Dan McGuire and Frank Racano
Jennifer Bilyk, wife of Ray

Past Council Trustee and Brother Knight Ken Wagner passed away on December 27, 2020 at the age of 78. His wife, Jill Ann Wagner, passed away on May 18, 2020 at the age of 76.

Please remember in prayer, all those suffering from the Corona virus. We continue to pray for brother knights, parishioners, family and friends in need of God's mercy for whatever challenges they face, particularly those in poor health and in crisis.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 18, 2021

Martin Luther King Day

Sunday, January 31, 2021

5th Sunday Rosary at 8:30 am and 10:30 am at St. Pius Church before each Sunday Mass

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

K of C O'Brien Council General Membership Meeting (*Meeting likely via Zoom*)

7:00 pm. Meeting begins

Sunday, February 14, 2021

Valentine's Day

Monday, February 15, 2021

President's Day

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday)

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday (First Day of Lent)

Sunday, February 21, 2021

Doughnut Sunday (After each Sunday Mass)

Sunday, February 28, 2021

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm. District 105 Free Throw Contest

REFLECTION

One of my New Year's Resolutions is to THINK BEFORE I SPEAK. To be mindful of someone else's feelings. To be careful not to offend others by what I say. It's another take on "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything". Freedom of expression is a gift from God and should be treated as such. What we say may often unintentionally offend the other person. It may be easier to lose weight or exercise more than it does to only say what lifts people up rather than bring them down.

Several months ago, we began announcing our Brother of the Month and Family of the Month. Since then, we have recognized the contributions these men and their families have given to this council. This month I am humbled to declare yours truly as the Knight of the Month and more deserving, the center of my universe, as the Family of the Month. What I contribute to this council is only possible by the sacrifices of my wife Angela and our children.



There are so many Brother Knights that for as long as I have been among them, have been Knights of every month. I am blessed to be in your company. I thank God to be among the finest men and their families that I may ever know. I encourage each member of this council to offer to other men you know the privilege we have; to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. To join us in what I believe to be the among the finest fraternities that exist, your Knights of Columbus

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

A Prayer to Keep God First This New Year

Dear God, Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day. We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else...

We ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that others would be drawn to you. We pray that you'd keep us far from the snares and traps of temptations. We pray for your protection over our families and friends...to hear your voice, and know your ways. We ask that you would keep our footsteps firm, on solid ground, helping us to be consistent and faithful...Amen

www.crosswalk.com/blogs/debbie-mcdaniel/a-prayer-to-keep-god-first-this-new-year

Vivat Jesus

Anthony J. (Tony) Chirco,
Brother Knight and Editor