

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3956

Newsletter

St. Pius X, Southgate, Michigan Issue #45

JANUARY, 2023



**HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

**MAY 2023 BRING US PEACE, HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT OF PURPOSE  
WITH GOD'S ABUNDANT BLESSINGS**



## STATE OF THE ORDER, JANUARY, 2023 GRAND KNIGHT MARK GARCELLANO

My Fellow Brother Knights! In this month's article I would like to share with you the State of the Order.

The Bernard P. O'Brien Council #3956 serving St. Pius X Catholic Church is active and growing! In my July article I established this Fraternal Year's Initiatives (From July 1, 2022 until June 30, 2023):

1. Continued and strengthening of support of the St. Pius X Church, Father Suresh and Deacon Chuck.
2. Continued commitment of our council's support of St. Pius X School and Principal Kathleen England.
3. Expansion of our fraternity by means of religious events, charity events, recognition events, and social events.

With this address I would like to give you an update on where we stand with these initiatives.

Initiative #1. Continue and strengthening of support of the St. Pius X Church, Father Suresh and Deacon Chuck. Our council has made great strides on this initiative with 9 events that have been conducted in 2022 including Donut Sundays, Family Breakfasts, the John Troast Concert, SPX Weeding Day, SPX Festival and Tabernacle lock repaired. Ten more events are planned by June 30<sup>th</sup> including the Memorial Mass, Motorcycle Blessing, Desert Meal and Shroud of Turin Lecture. In addition, our Knights serve actively in the church ministry as ushers, Eucharistic Ministers and lectors. Lastly, the Knights have had the Tabernacle lock repaired.

Initiative #2 continued commitment to St. Pius X School and Principal Kathleen England. I am happy to report our council has expanded our events with St. Pius X School. Our council has conducted 6 events so far this Fraternal year including the Soccer Challenge, Trunk or Treat, & Breakfast with Santa. An additional 5 events are planned before the end of the year including an ice cream social, spelling bee and free throw contest. Additionally, the council will begin fundraising for the school at home games by selling SPX spirit wear.

Initiative #3, Expansion of our fraternity by means of religious events, charity events, recognition events and social events. Our small council has 113 members, however we are very active and we are growing. Last year, our council was recognized by Supreme KofC by being awarded the Star Council. "The Star Council Award recognizes outstanding achievement in membership, insurance and programming. In order to achieve the Star Council Award, a council must earn the Father McGivney, Founders', and Columbian Awards. The council must submit both [Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity](#) (#1728) and [Service Program Personnel Report](#) (#365).

In the United States and Canada councils must also be fully compliant with applicable safe environment requirements." This year our council is on track to receive this award again. In addition to initiative #3, our council has held 36 events out of 67 events planned for this Fraternal Year (more than 1 event per week). By the end of the year, our council is projected to donate 1,557 volunteer hours and raise over \$20,000.00 for charity.

In conclusion, after reviewing the data, I can confidently state that our small council does the work of council's much larger (in terms of membership) than our small council of 113 members. Furthermore, I believe we are making good progress with all 3 of our initiatives. Moreover, all of these events do not happen without the resources that our brother Knights provide. Therefore, I would like to again thank all our brother Knights and their families who support these events by volunteering their time and talents. ***You are who make these events happen!*** I feel truly blessed to have such giving and talented and dedicated brother Knights!

If you have family or friends that may be interested in joining us, please invite them to one of our events to check us out. We are always looking for more Catholic men to join us. Remember first year's dues are free! Please see me or Membership Director Robert Park to find out how.

Vivat Jesus!

Mark Garcellano, GK

734-968-6900 ([markgarcellano@yahoo.com](mailto:markgarcellano@yahoo.com))



## **JANUARY 4, 2023 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

**K of C Council 3956 Regular Business Meeting (St Pius Social Hall)  
Social Hours begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by one hour meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.  
Please bring a friend!**

### **On the Agenda:**

Football squares  
SPX Spirit wear membership initiative  
Breakfast with Santa wrap up  
Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest  
Essay contest  
Ice cream social as a reward for students for participating in the Coats for Kids drive  
Free throw contest  
Spelling bee  
Coffee and Donuts - January 15, 2023 after Sunday masses  
Fifth Sunday Rosary - January 29, 2023 half hour before masses  
Memorial wall/garden  
Desert Meal - February 19, 2023  
John Tibbs concert - March 5, 2023 at 6pm  
Membership Update  
Newsletter Update  
Fourth Degree Report  
Shroud of Turin Lecture Palm Sunday - April 2m 2023 at 3pm  
**Good of the Order**  
**Knight of the Month**  
**Family of the Month**

Please come share your thoughts and energy. A busy year is ahead of us, and we know we have brother knights that can be there for us. Don't leave it for others to carry the load.  
"Many hands make light work."

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS and ST. PIUS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT  
WELCOME SANTA CLAUS TO TOWN**

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, following 11:00 mass, Our First Annual Breakfast with Santa took place at the St. Pius School Gym, complete with a full breakfast that featured Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Fresh Fruit, Juice, and Coffee. Donations received will be going towards the St. Pius Scholarship fund.

Santa arrived to a very excited crowd of staff, students, and parents. Santa was helped by a great group of helpers, dressed in full elf gear. Thanks to Athletic Director and her staff. Without their preparation, advance promotion and decorating, this event would not have been possible. The cooks did a tremendous job and the food was delicious and plentiful. Thanks to Chuck, Mark, Ray, Bill, Dave, Brian, Phyllis and all the others, and family members that helped.

Special Thanks to the man of the hour. Ole' Saint Nick was gracious and showed why we love him so much. We really appreciate the time he took from his busy schedule to be with us. Plans are underway for a return next year and maybe a visit from the Easter Bunny before then.



## MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT DEPUTY RAY BILYK



We are a short time into 2023. I reflect on us as a District, and I AM PROUD! We have done GREAT THINGS for our Faith, our Parishes, our communities and had a lot of fun (yes, hard work can be fun) while doing it! You all make it easy for me as a District Deputy, and I LOVE SERVING ALL OF YOU!

What I see happening in 2023 is A LOT MORE OF WHAT WE'RE DOING! I also see us all working on bringing EVEN MORE Catholic families and gentlemen into our Councils so we can ALL SERVE THE LORD by being the Church's STRONG RIGHT ARM!

I ask that you all join my family and me in praying for the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI as he has come to his Eternal Reward. We as Catholics by his knowledge of Catholic doctrine, his wisdom, and his strong passion for our Church. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

As we begin 2023, we all begin busy! From January 4<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>, I will be out of town on a business trip. Besides our normal Officers Planning and Business Meetings, we have an Archdiocesan Meeting (being called the Archbishop's Town Hall with his Knights) on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. We also have a Quad-District Meeting (with Districts 102, 130 and 131) on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at Monroe Council. In between those two dates, I'll be hosting an ONLINE DISTRICT 105 MEETING on Zoom to discuss our District and provide some online training.

Hopefully you have all been selling your State and Council Charities Raffle Tickets. Make sure you sell them fast to get in on the Early Bird Raffles! If you need more tickets, let me know, or contact the State Office to get more. We have some reports that are due in January, like the Annual Fraternal Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) and the Special Olympics Partnership Form (#10784). For Councils participating, the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest, the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, and the Free Throw Championship are worthy of your reports.

The next Downriver Knights of Columbus Seminarian Desert Meal (Break Bread with the Seminarians) is scheduled for Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at Crystal Gardens. Program Director and Chairman Brian Batko will be contacting each of your Councils about purchasing tickets not only for yourselves, but to resell to your Parishes!!! Don't let your parishioners be left out of attending this event! Where else can you go to literally 'break bread' with the largest collection of seminarians each year!!!

I look forward to attending as many Delta and Church Drives as possible over the next 2 months. Make sure you've had a chance to check out how easy it is to get a member signed up on your mobile device. (IT'S ALL ON ONE PAGE NOW!) Help candidates sign up by doing it for them on YOUR device... don't wait for them to do it on their phones. All they will need to do then is open their email on THEIR devices and accept membership in an email they'll get from Supreme!

If you are interested in bowling in the Michigan K of C State Bowling Tournament, but don't have enough people for a team, let me know. Maybe we can fill out a District 105 team or two!!! More information can be found at <https://www.michigankofcathletics.com/>.

On behalf of my wife, Jennifer, my children and the BEST DISTRICT WARDEN IN MICHIGAN Sean Roland, I want to wish all of you the best for 2023. May God bless us all with health and happiness!

We are getting a good start as well as we welcome the new year. Three new members are in the process of exemplification and a fourth member is expected to join soon. At the Santa Breakfast event, we did see some fathers there and we recruited one member.

Fifth Sunday Rosary is January 29, 2023. Similar to last time, the Ushers from each of the masses can help distribute rosaries. We should try to organize a team to go and say the rosary when a member of our council passes away. Supreme has a process in place for this. We'll start to organize members of the team. We should have a primary and backup team.

**Live Exemplification:** We can do one any time. We will schedule one in December for our new member Chris.

**Bottle and Cans for Seminarians:** We are still collecting Cans and bottles for seminarians. Can hold at Robert Jones, or hand to myself, District Dep Ray Bilyk.

Ray J. Bilyk - District Deputy 105, Archdiocese of Detroit - Michigan Region 5  
Cell/Text: 313-247-2110 - [DD105@mikofc.org](mailto:DD105@mikofc.org)

#### MESSAGE FROM PAST GRAND KNIGHT AND ADVOCATE BILL ROBERT



##### LEGACY

As I approach the twilight of my life I begin to wonder, what did I accomplish or what will be my legacy? This issue arose when I heard that Pope Benedict was quite ill and our present Pope Francis was asking for prayer for him. While praying to God to be delivered into his hands, I suspect Pope Benedict has reflected on his life journey and prayed he attained all that God wanted him to accomplish.

Likewise, each of us should review our life's journey and judge whether we have met all the goals we have set for ourselves. Have we met Jesus Christ's commandment of Charity? Have we fostered our relationship with God? Have we taken care of our family? Have we given back to our community? This is the legacy after we leave this earth. If you are looking for a group of men that share your concern, please consider joining the Knights of Columbus.



DEACON CHUCK

### BRINGING IN A NEW YEAR

As I write my first article for 2023, it's wet and dismal outside, just as I feel inside while recouping from a weeklong illness masquerading as vacation. These set of circumstances have kept me home and away from work; given me a chance to slow down and reflect.

I thought I should start making my list of New Year's resolutions. As with most people, many will fall away as too aggressive or unreasonable. Some will be too vague, lacking details of how to go about getting to where I want to be. Still others, will sound good at the time but after getting into the thick of it, will be discarded with "who needs that headache."

Then again, maybe, I'm just fooling myself on what I really want. Perhaps, my new resolution is really not mine, but someone else's. Possibly I've taken on more than I can handle at this stage in life. It seems for most people, the list of why not's are usually greater than the why's. So too with our journey to sainthood. We know as Catholics all are called to a life of holiness. All are called to live the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity (love); while striving to perfect the cardinal virtues of fortitude, prudence, temperance, and justice.

In this regard we must ask ourselves: Is our striving for holiness as cluttered with the "why not's" as this year's resolutions are? Have we already talked ourselves out of improving on our virtues? Was seeking virtue (anyone) even on our radar?

If so, let not our hearts be faint or grow weary. As with any great architecture, it takes time to build. Our Lord is the master carpenter who can do amazing things with even the smallest scraps. If you wish to build a temple pleasing to the Lord then let him help you build virtue. Discipleship requires trust, belief, and willingness. If part of your New Year's resolution is to become a better version of who God made you to be, then like the baby Jesus, learn to crawl before you walk. Pray for help from your Mother Mary. Like the Jackson Southernaires sang, "it's hard to stumble when you're down on your knees." Happy New Year.

Vivat Jesus,  
Deacon Chuck/Lecturer



A Memorial mass will be at St. Pius on February 28, 2023 with a dinner afterward. St. Pius Council will join them and do a memorial mass at the council level as well. We will collect the names of our brother knights who have passed away in the last two years to be read at the Mass. If their families are not there, we can still at least read their names and remember and pray for them.



#### **MESSAGE FROM FINANCIAL SECRETETARY RAY BILYK**

Our Football Squares fundraiser for St. Francis Xavier Cabrini church in Parrish, Florida hurricane relief is ongoing through Superbowl Sunday. We still have open squares to sell. The cost is only \$50.00 for Five Squares. Please contact me to be a part of the worthy fundraiser at [raybilyk@kofc3956.org](mailto:raybilyk@kofc3956.org)

The Santa Breakfast was a free will donation to support the St. Pius X Scholarship. We made \$273 gross in donations

Next year we could consider setting up donations via an app to get more donations. Or we could make it some kind of ticketed event where people decide how much to contribute for a ticket.

The Desert Meal which you will learn more about in Brian's article will need seed of \$500.00. Other forthcoming events such as the proposed Memorial Wall/Garden will need start up money as well. The Essay and Poster Contest prizes will be funded by the council. Our fundraisers are very important to raise money to sponsor these activities. Please help us with your time in our mane programs to make these events possible.



#### **PROGRAM DIRECTOR & TRUSTEE BRIAN BATKO REPORT**

##### **Desert Meal**

The Desert Meal to support of Seminarians is planned for Sunday, February 19, 2023. Working on getting the tickets. Cemeteries will be the sponsor for the tickets. We are also in communication with Deanne Cortese to see if Archdiocese of Detroit will make a contribution. Many of the other local K of C councils are being contacted to see how many tables they want. We'll sell tickets for \$20. There is not much margin.

The John Tibbs concert has been rescheduled to March 5, 6pm. We'll do adoration before that, something like 3:30-5:30. This will be good for people to see, especially if any non-Catholics are coming to the concert. Since this is during Lent, it will be billed more as preparation for lent.

Brian also had the idea to have a Knight of Columbus sponsored youth group. If we get the parishes and our family of parishes to work together for a youth group run by the knights, that will do something to engage the kids and parents and it would be a good service for us to do.



## Presents



## Keynote



January 21, 2023

Sacred Heart, Grosse Ile  
21599 Park Lane  
Grosse Ile, MI

Most Reverend Battersby  
Auxiliary Bishop  
Archdiocese of Detroit

Check in: 7:30 AM  
Breakfast 8 AM  
Closing Prayer 10 AM  
Free Will Offering

Register



[www.fishers-of-men.us](http://www.fishers-of-men.us)

[info@fishers-of-men.us](mailto:info@fishers-of-men.us)

313.638.JJJJ(5555)

## MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT DAVE KUDLA

After a Covid absence, our Knights of Columbus and Ushers' club got together for a holiday good time on December 11<sup>th</sup>. We all met at the Rhapsody Restaurant for our Christmas meal. It was a time of good joy when members of both organizations along with their significant others could kick back and just have a good time. The food was great and the company we shared with each other was outstanding.

We were in the company of such notables as Ray Bilyk (District Deputy), Mark Garcellano (Grand Knight), Dennis Hamilton (Ushers Club President), Deacon Chuck and Dick Gregorie, Dick is our Sacristan, and is also known as "that other guy". Before you know it, Christmas 2023 will be here. It would be a good idea and a great feeling for you to come and join us. Hoping to see some new and old faces at our next get together, so we can all party down.

*Other Thoughts from Dave:*

### ON BEING NICE AND WELCOMING

When we meet or encounter a new or prospective future member, we have to be warm and cordial to them. If we act like an old grump who certainly is not pleasant, this is a total turn off for any new member. This happened to me twice. The second time this happened I was talking to a K of C member at a K of C club, and he certainly was not very welcoming to me and I am already a member. I finally just walked away from him not wanting to waste any more of my time. I went to the Grosse Ile Picnic and a member came up to me and said, "Hi, I'm so and so from this council." The first words out of my mouth were, "Now that's the way to do it."

The moral of my story is, if we wish to grow our organization, we have to be nice and welcoming to others. We cannot forget our purpose because the K of C does a lot of good and we have to be all inclusive.

Respectfully,  
Deputy Grand Knight, Dave Kudla

### **KNIGHT OF THE MONTH - TONY CHIRCO**

Our Knight of the Month is Tony Chirco. Tony is married to Angela and they have two grown children. Both children graduated from St. Pius X and Gabriel Richard High School. His daughter Anmarie will be married this October and his son Joey is a brother knight, he is married and has a son. He smiles and says "I have a 10 month old grandson". Tony is also my boss as the editor of our K of C newsletter. He has been a K of C member since 2017, is a trustee and our PR Director. He really enjoys the camaraderie among brother knights. Tony has been active at St. Pius church and school since 1996.

Tony was our moderator at our Breakfast with Santa. He brought decorations to compliment what had been prepared for Santa. He really liked this event with the St. Pius school. He welcomed ole' Saint Nick to come and wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Tony - Job well done.

### **FAMILY OF THE MONTH - THE RAY AND JENNIFER BILYK FAMILY**

The Bilyk Family consist of Ray, wife Jennifer, and two children Devin and Kiara. I have personally worked with both Devin and Kiara at a few K of C activities. Namely Donut Sundays, Coats for Kids and our Free Throw contest.

Jennifer has helped us with many different activities, and she is also the secretary for the Women's version of the K of C which meets at the Jones council in Lincoln Park. If any women are interested in joining, you must be a Catholic woman, 18 years or above to take part. You do not need any other K of C affiliation. I was told the ladies assist at the Pregnancy Crisis Center and Coats for Kids. These are two of the great works which they do. She would like interest to lead to a St. Pius group to form soon.

Ray Bilyk has been a part of the St. Pius family for 15 years. He has been in the K of C since he joined the Squires program in 1983 and was a state director. Ray is currently our District Deputy, and Finance Director, has been Grand Knight a number of times and pushes the rest of us to move forward.

Wow! This is an extremely active, dedicated family right here at St. Pius. Thank you all so much for everything you do. Congratulations on being our Super Family of the Month.

If any St. Pius parishioner would like to submit a person for Knight of the month or family for our Family of the month, please make this noted on a piece of paper and put the paper into an envelope marked K of C, then put it into the collection basket. Thank you!

*Special thanks to Deputy Grand Knight Dave Kudla for your endorsement of these fine people.*

Deputy Grand Knight



**NOW MORE THAN EVER, THE CHURCH NEEDS MORE FROM HER MEN.**

**Exodus 90 is a spiritual exercise for the renewal of the Church.**

Prayer, Asceticism, and Fraternity

A small group of your Brother Knights are inviting you to Exodus 90 to prepare for Easter. You may have heard of this program from people you know. I encourage anyone reading this invitation to look into the program for yourself and pray about whether it will work for you. If you are like me and you sometimes find yourself saying things like, “Sometimes I’m so tired at the end of the day, I fall asleep before I finish/start my nightly prayers.” Or, “My life is really busy during the Holidays/School Year/Work week, and I never feel like my priorities are in order.” Exodus 90 is something you should consider. I had to look up the definition of Asceticism. It is severe self-discipline and avoidance of all forms of indulgence for religious reasons. It’s the part of Exodus 90 you may have heard of, the cold showers, and abstaining from television and non-work Internet usage. It’s a challenge that’s meant to make you holier. Not all groups take on all aspects of Asceticism. I’ve found St Augustine’s quote to be helpful when he says, “Complete abstinence is easier than perfect moderation.”

The other pillars of the program are meant to fill a void in many men’s lives that modern society no longer promotes. It is something you will find in great abundance when we gather as Knights during our monthly meetings and events for the benefit of the Church and school. There are many strong friendships between your fellow Knights. These were formed and nourished by working together towards a common goal that was greater than ourselves. I’ve found them invaluable during times of personal loss and great celebration. I’m hoping to foster an even deeper level of fellowship and fraternity by inviting you to join.

The prayer portion is most important, and most often overlooked. I invite you to continue to pray about this challenge and the blessings that God has given us.

[Exodus 90 | A 90-Day Spiritual Exercise For Men \(ucatholic.com\)](http://ucatholic.com)

Respectfully,

Robert Park  
Co-Assistant Editor



### **Catholic Citizens Essay Contest**

The Knights of Columbus, Bernard P. O'Brien Council of St. Pius X is conducting a Catholic Citizen Essay Contest for 8th-12th Graders. This year's theme is: In an essay of 500- 750 words, to explain how young Catholics can evangelize our faith to families and friends who have turned away from religion and encourage them to return to the Church and embrace the sacraments. The due date for the essay is: January 7, 2023.

There are 2 possibly 3 levels of competition. The first level is the Council level. The possible second level is the district level. The third or last level is the International level. There will be certificates and prizes for the winners at each level.

### **SPX Spirit wear Membership Initiative**

Mark and Tony met with Victoria Dudek, she is very excited about it. We are going to move forward with it. The next four home games are Saturdays. January 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

We will want at least one officer to be there each week but don't have to be there the whole time. The parents are going to man the booth. You would be the resource for the volunteers if they have questions. You would also be meeting the parents introducing them to the Knights of Columbus events.

We will have people sign up at the meeting and on Signup Genius

### **Calling all Dads**

Calling all Catholic men 18 and older. Now is a great time to join the Knights of Columbus. Scan the QR code, enter your information and use the FREE code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY for a FREE membership as an online member. The Knights are a Catholic fraternal organization that actively supports the teachings and values of the Catholic Church. Whether you have 2 hours a year or 2 hours a month, show your support for our faith and sign up.

### **Coats for Kids Appreciation Event**

Our Knights of Columbus Council will again host an appreciation event for the students at St. Pius for their helping in raising money, backpacks and more coats for Coats for Kids. The plan is to have an ice cream or pizza social soon. Last year's event was a hit for the students and the K of C members that volunteered had a great time with the students. Stay tuned for more news to follow.

## CATHOLIC WORD SEARCH

Compliments of Program Director Brian Batko

### Our Lady Of...

X A C X B V I N B V I J M O S N A R T J  
M L M O U N T C A R M E L C T E L H X D  
T A R X A A V H L W Y O V M R K E T X Y  
H E P T X S L M T R K M T R G M U E Y W  
J P D O F B R L A W A W F Y I C R P P L  
U U B T M Q J S G T O D W R P A J A S E  
E L B X V V O K K R I N A H Z N R N W S  
U A X V F R X A N M A C S T S Z T Q O N  
I D F N E K A L B O U C N E I V F N R U  
S A S H Z Y C S Y L C I E A H P J L R O  
E U T G L R X G O S V K X S N T H Y O C  
I G I R B L D U I L A S A L E T T E S D  
R B B A L Q S S E D R U O L B O O O C O  
O N S C O M P L E H L A U T E P R E P O  
T Z A E E D E L I V E R A N C E W F M G  
C S M D R O K J I E L S C T M H E A K P  
I Q A N O I T A L O S N O C P W E T J S  
V L N K U B Z E H W K P Z X E J H I G E  
S P R P S Q X R W F H Z Z C O S C M O V  
I T Y N L C V W V F A I R L O V E A D U

All Graces  
Consolation  
Deliverance  
Fair Love  
Fatima  
Good Counsel  
Grace  
Guadalupe  
Knock  
La Salette

Lourdes  
Mount Carmel  
Perpetual Help  
Ransom  
Sorrows  
The Miraculous Medal  
The Rosary  
The Snow  
Victories



**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**Bernard P. O'Brien Council 3956 Calendar**  
**January 2023**

Sunday, January 1, 2023      HAPPY NEW YEAR! MAY 2023 BE A HEALTHY AND BLESSED YEAR!

Wednesday, January 4, 2023 General Membership Meeting, St. Pius X Social Hall, 6PM-8:30PM

Friday, January 6, 2023      The Epiphany

Monday, January 9, 2023      **K of C Archdiocesan Meeting** 6pm - 9pm  
Sacred Heart Major Seminary, 2701 Chicago Blvd, Detroit, MI  
Archbishop Allen Vigneron will be in attendance to speak with us

Sunday, January 15, 2023      Doughnut Sunday after both Sunday masses  
Prep work begins at 8:00am, Clean up after 12:00pm.

Monday, January 16, 2023      **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

Friday, January 20, 2023      **Council 3956 Competition - K of C Free Throw Championship**  
8am - 3pm St Pius Catholic School, 14141 Pearl St, Southgate, MI

Saturday, January 21, 2023      **Fishers of Men - Breakfast and Keynote by Auxiliary Bishop Battersby - "Is All Hope Lost?"** 7:30 - 10:00am Free Will Offering  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 21599 Parke Ln, Grosse Ile Twp.

Tuesday, January 24, 2023      **Msgr Van Antwerp Assembly 475 Memorial Mass** 7pm - 8pm  
St Pius X Catholic Church, 14101 Superior St, Southgate, MI

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023      Officers Planning Meeting, Jones K of C, Lincoln Park, MI, 7PM

Sunday, January 29, 2023      **5th Sunday Rosary** - Half Hour before each Saturday and Sunday Masses. St Pius X Catholic Church, 14101 Superior St. Southgate  
Rosaries available for distribution. Talk to Ushers.

Monday, January 30, 2023      **Quad-District Meeting (w/Dists. 102, 105, 130 and 131)**  
6:15pm - 9:30pm  
K of C - Banquet Rental Hall, 202 W Front St, Monroe, MI

The latest Calendar of Events can be found at:  
<https://www.kofc3956.org/calendar-of-events>

## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

We would like to congratulate all members who celebrate birthdays in January:

- Worthy 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)
- Joseph D. Chirco (January 25)
- Robert G. Bailey (January 29)



## WIVES BIRTHDAYS

Our Better halves ... Behind every good man is a GREAT WOMAN indeed!



- |                  |              |                          |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| • Betty Guyette  | (January 1)  | Wife of James L. Guyette |
| • Karen Polaski  | (January 2)  | Wife of Cary J. Polaski  |
| • Jennifer Bilyk | (January 11) | Wife of Ray Bilyk (DD)   |



## YEARS OF SERVICE

Congratulations to the following Brother Knights celebrating the anniversary of their membership to the Knights of Columbus O'Brien Council #3956 in January:

• Paul J. Pauline	(January 1)	66 Years of Service
• James M. Higgins	(January 1)	52 Years of Service
• Richard C. Myers	(January 1)	33 Years of Service
• Walter F. Kabalka	(January 20)	15 Years of Service
• Mark J. Sirois	(January 20)	15 Years of Service
• Robert G. Bailey	(January 12)	9 Years of Service
• Brian Batko	(January 12)	9 Years of Service
• Anthony M. Da Pra	(January 12)	9 Years of Service
• Kevin G. Pelkey	(January 20)	8 Years of Service
• Sam S. Lamb	(January 14)	5 Years of Service
• Michael C. Lewis	(January 24)	5 Years of Service

If there are any missing birthdays, anniversaries, wife birthdays or ordination anniversaries please send them to District Deputy and Financial Secretary Ray Bilyk at [raybilyk@kofc3956.org](mailto:raybilyk@kofc3956.org) so they can be added to our list. We would love for this to be as accurate as possible. Thank you Ray!

## MEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her  
Ephesians 5:25

Congratulations!!

To all who celebrate their nuptials in January

### IN OUR PRAYERS:

Please pray for healing for our brother knights, their family and friends:



- Pope Benedict Emeritus XVI
- Robert Laforest
- Joe Hernandez
- Larry and Liz Ridenour
- Deacon Chuck
- Deacon Bob

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.



### REFLECTION

2022 ended with the loss of our beloved Pope Benedict Emeritus XVI. We pray for him and all those we loved who returned to the Lord this past year. We pray that their reward in heaven will be great. This past year, we faced family and social issues that we would not have imagined just a few years ago. But God was with us, as he is in this new year.

2023 Brings us hope for a grand year ahead. We will celebrate birthdays, weddings and anniversaries. We will face life's challenges and heart breaks, and we will face them together. We will laugh and cry, we will pray for each other and God willing, we and our loved ones will be together as this year concludes. Thank God for the life he has blessed us with. We are so fortunate to be a part of each other's lives. Thank you for the best wishes and prayers we shared together.

#### A New Year's Blessing

"Be strong and courageous, Do not be afraid or terrified because the Lord your God goes with you. He will never leave you, nor will he forsake you.

## PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

*This prayer from Billy Graham, written for The Saturday Evening Post in 2008, is just as relevant as we head into 2023.*

*Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future. We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.*

*In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love. In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need. In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost.*

*And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: "Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end" (Psalm 119:33).*

*We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them.*

*Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).*

*As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to [make You the foundation and center of our lives](#) this year.*

*And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come.*

*Amen.*

May the New Year bring joy, peace and happiness to you and your family

Anthony J. (Tony) Chirco, Public Relations Director, Trustee and Newsletter Co-Editor  
Robert Park, Membership Director and Co-Editor  
Knights of Columbus Council 3956