

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3956

Newsletter

St. Pius X, Southgate, Michigan Issue #57

JANUARY, 2024



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!



### *NEW YEAR PRAYER:*

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.

Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.

Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,

Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty,  
Help me fill it with good things

Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.

Amen.

“Heavenly Father, as we face both known and unknown challenges of the coming year, grant us strength and courage. Help us to rely on your mighty power and to find our refuge in you. May we be steadfast in our faith, knowing that you are our rock and our fortress.” Amen

May the New Year bring you joy, peace, and abundant blessings. Here's to looking back in gratitude for the past year and looking forward to new beginnings! Wishing you and your loved ones a year filled with opportunities, good health, and prosperity. God's blessing to all our brother knights, their family and friends!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS O'BRIEN COUNCIL AND ST. PIUS ATHELIC DEPARTMENT HOST  
SECOND ANNUAL BRUNCH WITH SANTA**







## **SANTA RETURNS FOR BRUNCH AT ST. PIUS ACTIVITY CENTER**

On Sunday December 17th Santa made a return visit to St. Pius. After hours of preparation by our O'Brien K of C council, together with school staff, we were ready. To our athletic director Victoria Dudek, thank you so much for all your help and guidance.

**All proceeds support our St. Pius Scholarship program.  
Thank you to all who freely and generously donated.**

After a great tasting and filling breakfast, Santa walked into our Activity Center. A lot of jubilation and cheers took place. Many children and a few adults received the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap. School children were excited when Santa came to his chair.

Preparations began days before to make sure all the decorations, seating and purchases were made. This was no easy task. Special thanks to all who helped prepare a fantastic meal. Thank you to the master chefs, Chuck DeGroat, Chuck, Ryan and all who got there early to start and those who stayed later to help clean up. Ray, Fred, Steven, Tom You did another excellent job!

To all you young Fathers out there, you saw all the joy and happiness on your children's faces, come join us and you too could help spread this joy. You will never regret it.  
Courtesy of DGK Dave Kudla.

**WEDNESDAY January 3, 2023, MEMBERSHIP  
BUSINESS MEETING**



**K of C Council 3956 Business Meeting (St Pius Social Hall) Social Hour begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.**



**GK's AGENDA:**

**January 14, 2024**

**First Donut Sunday of the new year.** This is among our most popular and easy to run events. Please speak with current chair Ray Bilyk of Grand Knight Mark Garcellano to learn more about volunteering for this event.

**January 15, 2024**

**District 105 Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.** St. Pius X Catholic Church from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Open and encourage for all to attend and witness.

**January 20, 2024**

**Men's Scripture Club first meeting of the new year** at the Social Hall from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Bring a family member or friend. Brian Batko to provide more information at the meeting.

**January 31, 2024**

**Officers Planning Meeting.** Time and location to be confirmed at Business Meeting.

**February 3, 2024**

**Shrine and Stein - 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** This all-day event includes visit to National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio followed by visit to Brewery on return to St. Pius.

**February 16, 2024**

**Lenten Fish Fry** begins in the Activity Center from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**February 18, 2024**

**All Downriver Desert Meal** from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Crystal Gardens, 16703 Fort St, Southgate, Michigan. All donations and proceeds to support the 2024 Seminarian's of Sacred Heart Seminary on their pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Includes: Full Meal and Dessert with Cash Bar. More details including cost per person to be discussed at the meeting.



**Grand Knights Report 01.03.2024  
Bernard P. O'Brien Council #3956**

**GK's Report (includes old business):**

1. Christmas Party @ Hungarian Rhapsody 12/10/23, 5PM
2. Brunch with Santa @ SPX Activity Center 12/17/23, Noon
  - Signup Genius setup
  - Wristbands required, Capped at 250
3. Exemplification @ SPX 1/15/24, 7PM
4. Building (Jim's Tuxedo)
  - Investigating establishment of legal building owner entity
  - Repair 2 lights (Complete)
  - Repair leaking gutter (status)
  - Replace gutter downspout extensions (3 commercial, 2 residential) (Complete)
  - Clean gutters (Complete)
5. Free Throw Contest, SPX Activity Center, 1/19/24
6. K of C Spelling Bee, SPX Activity Center 1/30/24
7. Shrine and Stein, Our Lady of Consolation, 2/3/24
8. Dessert Meal, Crystal Garden, 2/18/24
9. Corned Beef and Cabbage/ Rubeen Dinner, SPX Social Hall, 3/9/2024 after 4PM Mass
  - Marketing Plan?

**Membership Report:**

- \$30 to a Knight who brings in a brother.

**Worthy Director Reports:**

1. Donuts and Coffee Chair Ray Bilyk (1/14/24, 2/11/2024)
2. Family Breakfast Chair Chuck DeGroat
3. Program Director- Ryan Daw
  - Faith- Brian Batko
  - Life- Bob Bailey
  - Community- Dr. Stephen Gall
  - Family- Robert Park
4. Newsletter Chair- Robert Park and Tony Chirco
5. 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Representative
  - Establishing a uniform fund to support the Assembly.



### ADDRESS FROM GRAND KNIGHT MARK GARCELLANO

Happy New Year! Thank you to all who participated in recent events including John Tibbs Concert, Knights Christmas social at Rhapsody Restaurant and the Brunch with Santa Claus in the St. Pius Activity Center.

At our Christmas social, I prepared a State of the Order address for all attendees. I would like to share that with you here below. It is followed by a First Quarter Initiative addressing exemplification schedule and programs planned for the first quarter that will work well as recruiting events.

### STATE OF THE ORDER (December 2023)

Worthy Brother Knights, Ladies and honored guests,

Vivat Jesus!

I would like to give a brief state of the order for the Bernard Patrick O'Brien Council #3956.

St. Pius X is a microcosm of the Roman Catholic Church, similarly, the Bernard P. O'Brien Council is a microcosm of the Knights of Columbus. Worldwide, there are more than 2 million brother knights and more than 7000 councils. In the state of Michigan there are approximately x brother knights and 429 councils. At our council level we have 114 brother knights.

Last year, our council donated more than \$20,000 dollars to charity and 1556 volunteer man hours. This year our council is projected to donate more than \$22000 dollars to charity and 1795 volunteer man hours.

In terms of volunteer hours and donated funds worldwide, the knights have donated more than 185 million dollars and 76 million volunteer man hours.

So, what does that mean? Every brother knight who takes time to volunteer, every lady who takes time to volunteer even if it's just 1 hour of their time is making a difference. If you look at that time collectively, it adds up to the very large number of 76-million-man hours.

Therefore, I would like to take the time now to thank all of you for gathering today and celebrating our council. Furthermore, I would like to thank all of you again for volunteering. Because without your help, we cannot conduct all the programs we conduct (we have more than 76 events this year).

As part of my thanks, I would like to recognize individuals who support our council. The first is Father Suresh, who is also a brother knight. Without his support, we could not conduct all the events we do at the church and school. The next is our parish secretary Lou. Thank you for coordinating the social hall, activity center, collecting donations and being an advocate for the knights. The next is Laura Howard another advocate for the knights, who supports us especially when it comes to announcements at Mass of our events.



Next, I would like to recognize individual knights. Deacon Charles Dault receives the Above and Beyond Award for his promotion of our council events to the congregation. Walter Kabalka receives the Officer's Dedication Award for 15 years of service as Treasurer of our council. Dennis and Debbie Hamilton received the Feeding the Needy Award for 14 years of service and counting for collecting food for the pantry. Anthony Chirco receives the Newsletter Excellence Award for an outstanding newsletter.

Again, I really appreciate all your support. I look forward to finishing out the fraternal year strong with all our remaining events and continuing with our initiatives which are to support the church, the school and grow our faith. Thank you again and Merry Christmas!

### **2024 FIRST QUARTER PROGRAMS:**

First Quarter Council Exemplification, please see our schedule below and make the time to attend one if not all these programs. All will be at St. Pius Church.

January 15, 2024, 6:30 PM Registration, 7:00 PM Exemplification.

February 19, 2024, 6:30 PM Registration, 7:00 PM Exemplification.

March 18, 2024, Registration, 7:00 PM Exemplification.

### **2024 FIRST QUARTER RECRUITING EVENTS:**

January 14, 2024, Donut Sunday, St. Pius Social Hall

January 20, 2024, Men's Monthly Scripture Group, Social Hall

February 3, 2024, Shrine and Stein, Our Lady of Consolation

February 11, 2024, Donut Sunday, St. Pius X Social Hall

February 18, 2024, Desert Meal, Crystal Gardens

March 9, 2024, Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, St. Pius X Social Hall

March 17, 2024, Brunch with Easter Bunny/ Easter Egg Hunt, St. Pius Activity Center

March 31, 2024, Fifth Sunday Rosary, St. Pius X Church

These, like most of our events, not only require volunteers to participate, but also to complete reports that are then submitted to the State Council. It is quite easy and goes a long way to assist our council in obtaining the support we need to do our good work. I will provide more details at our business meeting on January 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Social Hall. Please attend.

Regarding the Family of the Year Program and the Service Program, the officers are investigating if the council will participate in these programs.

Vivat Jesus!

Mark Garcellano, Grand Knight, Council 3956

734-968-6900

[markgarcellano@yahoo.com](mailto:markgarcellano@yahoo.com)



### MESSAGE FROM SDRR and FN0475 RAY BILYK

Thank you to all my brother knights for their recent prayers for my wife who is in recovery from what we understand to have been a small stroke. Please continue your prayers for her as she has begun Physical Therapy.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next business meeting on Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Social Hall. I hope to be there at 6:00 p.m. for food and beverages and then to provide my report to the council at the general meeting at 7:00 p.m.



### JOY OF THE NEW YEAR!

This time of year, many of us are engaged in self-reflection. We consider our failures and shortcomings; avenues where we could do better. This is followed by resolve to overcome these imperfections so that we can bring about the best version of ourselves.

In doing so we feel that accomplishing our committed, self-improvement, endeavors will somehow make us happier, more content. Sadly, within a month we lose interest or find we bit off more than we can chew so we slide back into old habits, finding ourselves morose and malcontent; our hearts matching the gloomy overcast skies of January.

I propose an alternative to this cycle of despair that many experience. I suggest not spending a great deal of time worrying about where you fell short but rather contemplate where God used your individual talents and gifts to bring peace and joy to the hearts of others; how you did your part, though perhaps not perfectly, to bring about the Kingdom. When contemplating, work on expanding what you do have in the way of talents and gifts instead of dwelling on what you lack or where you fall short.

We know each of us was placed here for a purpose. We each have been given talents and gifts as part of God's plan. As St. Paul states, "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit" (1Cor 12:4-7).

Let us go into the New Year committed not so much to ourselves but exercising more fully our talents and offering more completely our gifts to others. Like Mary, we have been given a vocation by God. Like Mary, we may not fully understand all its implications, but remain obedient. Like Mary let us humbly say, "Let it be done to me according to your word."

Here's a New Year's resolution that will make you happier. Spread more joy. Jesus (J) to others (O), by giving of yourself (Y).

Vivat Jesus,  
Deacon Chuck, Council Lecturer



## SHARING THOUGHTS FROM DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT DAVID KUDLA



### IT STARTED ON THANKSGIVING

Many years ago, our churches were packed, not just at Christmas, but also on Thanksgiving Day. Whole families came out to give thanks for everything they had. Well, nowadays things are different in a lot of ways.

This year at Thanksgiving, there were a number of families who did give thanks here at St. Pius. A number of people brought canned goods for our Food Pantry, left a monetary donation and took home one of our traditional Thanksgiving breads.

It was a cool, beautiful day here at St. Pius and I was happy to spend a part of the day with some of our parishioners. Whether you went home to cook, get ready for the Lions game or watch the parade on TV. You started off the day in a good way coming to Church.

When I was a freshman at Orchard Lake, I remember our principal telling us; “tomorrow is Thanksgiving Day, so you boys go to church and take your parents with you”. Does this still happen? I must admit it was a neat and rewarding day. Our family didn’t have buckets of money or gold bars, but we were a happy bunch. We were very happy and thankful for what we had.

When I was young there were many things which I wanted and said I would do when I got older. Now that I am older, these things just aren’t that important. I feel good when I go to church on special occasions like Thanksgiving, Christmas and the first mass of the new year. I am certainly looking forward to the new year. I hope all my brother knights are as well.

### DONUT SUNDAY

To all of you who came out to our last donut Sunday, thank you so much. All our drives whether they are donut Sunday’s or our family breakfast Sunday’s go to our selected charities. None of are kept for ourselves. Passing out the selected donuts and talking with people as they came by was a lot of fun. One young person who came up a second time requested donut holes. He My response was “well we have five left, take all five”. He happily agreed.

One lady came up a second time and said she had a taste for a second donut. She insisted on donating a second time. I thanked her and offered her a couple of cookies. She said thanks and did so. Our basket was empty when she donated, (the funds were already picked up). After she left, we were amazed at what she donated. Thank you so much (Mystery Lady) and to all who gave to our Charities. No matter what amount you give it certainly will help.

The people who came all had a good time. I got my cherry donut, so I was more than happy. Did I mention I also had four cookies? Hoping to see all of you back for our next donut Sunday or family breakfast. A good time was had by all. To one of our newer members who I had the pleasure of working with for a second time, thank you Fred for putting up with me.

Respectfully,  
Dave Kudla, DGK  
Deputy Grand Knight



#### **MESSAGE FROM PGK AND ADVOCATE BILL ROBERT**

##### **RUSHING?**

It seems with Christmas passed and the new year beginning we procrastinate, put things off till we run out of time. When that occurs, we rush to buy presents, accomplish tasks (the Christmas tree and decorations) and rush to Church.

This is a season to rejoice! Slow down and take time to enjoy this time with family and friends. Watch your young children or grandchildren's eyes and reaction to Christmas morning. It is really the way to view this holiday.

When we give of ourselves, we receive so much more. So, while we rush to accomplish all that is expected, take time to enjoy the short time we have on Planet Earth. Thank the Lord for all the blessings you have received. Take time to reach out to your family and let them know you love and appreciate them.

Remember that when we love, as Jesus Christ, everyone is our neighbor. This is the very hard concept of being a Christian. But that being said, we can try to reach out during this season of rebirth and renewal. Merry Christmas and Vivat Jesus.



#### **MESSAGE FROM TRUSTEE AND COR DIRECTOR BRIAN BATKO**

We all had a wonderful experience at the John Tibbs concert. The Bell Ringers added a special element of joy for all who attended. We look forward to planning another inspirational concert some time in 2024.

Looking ahead, I strongly encourage all men to attend our first Men's Scripture Club first meeting of the new year. To learn more, call or text me at 313-550-1330 or by email at [bbatko@gmail.com](mailto:bbatko@gmail.com)

Shrine and Stein has been rescheduled for Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. beginning from our St. Pius parking lot. More details are provided in our calendar of events later in this newsletter.

Mark your calendars for February 18, 2023 - All Downriver Desert Meal from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Crystal Gardens, 16703 Fort St, Southgate, Michigan.



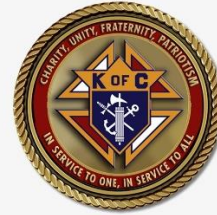
#### **MESSAGE FROM FINANCIAL SECRETARY RAY BILYK**

I encourage all brother knights to renew their dues as soon as you are able. You have several options: They can be paid directly at our council business meeting this Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Social Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m. or if you prefer, visit our website at [www.kofc3956](http://www.kofc3956). Click "pay dues" or go you can go directly at [www.kofc3956.org/pay-dues/](http://www.kofc3956.org/pay-dues/).

Your dues support many of the charitable functions that help of the Knights of Columbus meet the needs of our local communities.



**FROM DICK GREGOIRE**



*Dick's part two of his LETTER TO THE EDITOR*

God has given us an instruction manual on how to live. We can do this virtually every day at Mass, especially on Sundays' the Lord's Day. It's also a place of prayer where we ask and give forgiveness and give Thanks to God for all His gifts and all He has done for us and give All the Glory and Honor to God for any Good that we may have done because we couldn't give anything if it hadn't already been given to us by Our Dear Lord.

Our greatest Gift is God sent His only son into the world to suffer and die and save us from our sins. Sometimes it's hard to take it all in!! So don't walk away and be scared off now, there is one more thing. The Holy Spirit. I'm suspicious that He brought you here. Just before Jesus ascended into Heaven his friends(his Apostles)were afraid they would be left alone without their Lord that taught them about life in His Kingdom He said He would send them the advocate, a paraclete, a helper.

Jesus said when her the spirit of truth has come, he will teach you all the truth and her will receive of what is mine and declare it to you. Then St Paul tells us in his letter to the Galatians 5:16 to walk in the Spirit and we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh and with the Spirit you will find charity; joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, modesty, continency.5:22-- . So, we walk with the Spirit and pray to the Spirit that we can walk together hand in hand and pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Nice talking to you about these things. You should come back, tell me what you think about all this. I'm sorry Tony if I am rattling on like I usually do but I can't help myself given the opportunity to talk about the Faith Excuse me for that, that's the worthy editor Tony that I believe he likes the story to be a little shorter so he may have his work cut out. As always Thanks for the encouragement, Tony.

Buddy you could come back and look at a lot of ways of maybe finding the meaning of life. We have prayer groups(Rosary Confraternity), Outreach programs(Christian Service) we have a choir that gives Glory to God with song, then there is the Knights of Columbus which works to support all the above with prayer and gives a chance to maybe try something new to help all our neighbors. So, do you have a lost and found? Do you know where it's at?

P.S. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing. In all things give Thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus regarding you all. Do not extinguish the Spirit, do not despise prophecies, but test all things: hold fast that which is good. Keep yourselves from every kind of evil. 1Thessalonians:16-22

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas  
Dick Gregoire, Chancellor



**OUR FIRST COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY IN SEVERAL YEARS WAS  
A JOY FOR ALL WHO ATTENDED.**

Special thanks to Grand Knight Mark Garcellano who arranged the dinner. Rhapsody Hungarian Restaurant in Southgate were great hosts. The food was very good, and the company was just as great. Thank you to all who attended.



2024 Edition of the Vivat Jesus Spiritual Planner is available for only \$6.00.

The Vivat Jesus Spiritual Planner is a pocket-sized prayer book and calendar for the year 2024. This book is designed to help men develop and maintain a daily prayer routine while also incorporating traditional Catholic prayers and devotions throughout the year for themselves and their families.

The Vivat Jesus Spiritual Planner for 2024 includes:

- Suggested daily prayer plans and practices.
- Space to build your personalized daily prayer routine.
- Weekly review of prayer life
- Monthly calendars with liturgical feasts indicated.
- Suggested devotions and prayers for each month including the Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge
- Collection of Prayers
- Guides for devotions and spiritual practices such as the Daily Examen and Lectio Divina
- Information about Blessed Michael McGivney and what it means to be a Knight.

On the Knights Gear website, they are selling for \$15.99 including shipping:

<https://knightsgear.com/products/copy-of-vivat-jesus-spiritual-planner-2024>

SDRR, FN and FS Ray Bilyk ( [raybilyk@kofc3956.org](mailto:raybilyk@kofc3956.org) ) is selling them for the LOW PRICE of only \$6.00!!! Please email, call/text (313-247-2110) or see Brother Ray to purchase one or more of these very helpful and divine books while supplies last!



## ARE YOU BUILDING YOUR FAMILY ON SOLID GROUND?

It's a question every Catholic man needs to ask - and answer. God calls you to love your wife, raise your children and provide for your family in good and bad times.

# BEGIN TODAY / BECOME AN ONLINE MEMBER

[www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/lead-with-faith/index.html](http://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/lead-with-faith/index.html)

The Knights of Columbus is here to help. We offer the Catholic faith formation, financial protection, and family resources that can help you grow as a father, husband, and leader. With the Knights, you can become the man you want to be - and your family needs.

Right now, we are offering a FREE download of our annual prayer planner “*Vivat Jesus*” to help you grow in your faith and prayer life as you lead your family.

**Become a Knight Today!** Did you know that the international organization known as the Knights of Columbus is 139 years old? That we were founded by a parish priest, Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney? That Pope St. John Paul II called the Knights “the strong right arm of the Church”? Did you know that Knights change lives and save lives through our “Faith in Action Programs”?

You can be part of changing lives and saving lives by joining us. Go to [\*\*https://www.kofc.org/joinus\*\*](https://www.kofc.org/joinus) and become a Knight today. Online membership is **FREE** if you use the promo code **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY**. After joining us Online, our Council, **Bernard P. O'Brien/St. Pius X Council 3956**, will contact you so you can transfer into our Council.

If you have any questions, please can contact us directly at:

GK Mark Garcellano (734) 968-6900

[GrandKnight@kofc3956.org](mailto:GrandKnight@kofc3956.org)

DD Ray Bilyk (313) 247-2110

[RayBilyk@kofc3956.org](mailto:RayBilyk@kofc3956.org)





## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 1, 2024 - HAPPY NEW YEAR! Please pray for our loved ones as we start a new year with our eyes on God!

Wednesday, January 3, 2024 - K of C Council 3956 Regular Business Meeting (St Pius Social Hall). Social Hour begins at 6:00 pm, Meeting at 7:00 pm. YOUR ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Saturday, January 6, 2024 - THE EPIPHANY.

Sunday, January 14, 2023 - Tentative first Donut Sunday of the new year. After each Sunday Mass. (9:00 and 11:00). Prep work begins before each mass. This is an easy event, but does require several people to help to set up and serve with donuts, coffee and other beverages.

Monday, January 15, 2024 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 15, 2024 - District 105 Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. St. Pius X Catholic Church from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Hosted by Bernard P. O'Brien Council 3956. Open and encourage for all to attend and witness.

Saturday, January 20, 2024 - Men's Scripture Club first meeting of the new year at the Social Hall from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Bring a family member or friend. Please contact Brian Batko for more details.

Wednesday, January 31, 2024 - Officers Planning Meeting. Time and location to be confirmed at Business Meeting.

Saturday, February 3, 2024 - Shrine and Stein - 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. From St. Pius parking lot, we will first travel to National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio followed by visit to Brewery before returning to back to St. Pius.

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 - ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 - Valentines Day!

February 18, 2023 - All Downriver Desert Meal from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Crystal Gardens, 16703 Fort St, Southgate, Michigan. All donations and proceeds to support the 2024 Seminarian's of Sacred Heart Seminary on their pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Cost per person to be determined. Includes: Full Meal and Dessert with Cash Bar. Sponsored by all the Downriver Knights of Columbus Councils. Get your tickets from your local K of C Council members or call/email Brian Batko @ 313-550-1330 (cell) or [bbatko@gmail.com](mailto:bbatko@gmail.com)



## LOOKING AHEAD

### Upcoming Event in the New Year

- Spirit Wear at St. Pius Home Games begins January 13<sup>th</sup> in Activity Center
- First Donut Sunday of 2024 on January 14 in Social Hall
- Men's Monthly Scripture Group on January 20 in Social Hall
- Lenten Fish Fry in Activity Center on February 16 in Activity Center
- Stations of the Cross Begin on February 16 at St. Pius Church
- Desert Meal for Seminarian on February 18 at Crystal Gardens, Southgate

View our newsletter and other information at [www.kofc3956.org/](http://www.kofc3956.org/)

### Interested in Joining Our Group Chat???



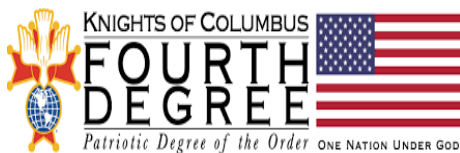
Our Council has started using **GroupMe** (<https://www.groupme.com>) to discuss and pass along timely information. It can be used only on your mobile device using text messaging, the GroupMe app or a web browser.

To join us, either go to the following URL:

[https://groupme.com/join\\_group/89941588/PMiLZWii](https://groupme.com/join_group/89941588/PMiLZWii)

or using your phone's camera with this QR code seen to the left...

You can also email your name, cell phone number and/or email address to [raybilyk@kofc3956.org](mailto:raybilyk@kofc3956.org) with the subject line: "Add to GroupMe"



General Assembly Meetings- 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:00 PM - 8:00PM @ Wyandotte K of C.  
4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification scheduled throughout the year. For more information, please call Mark Garcellano at 734-968-6900 ([markgarcellano@yahoo.com](mailto:markgarcellano@yahoo.com))

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Establishing a uniform fund to support the Assembly.
- All third-Degree Knights are encouraged to join the Fourth Degree. Many of your fellow brother knights have joined.

## 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)	67 Years of Service
• James M. Higgins	(January 1)	53 Years of Service
• Richard C. Myers	(January 1)	34 Years of Service
• Walter F. Kabalka	(January 20)	16 Years of Service
• Mark J. Sirois	(January 20)	16 Years of Service
• Robert G. Bailey	(January 12)	10 Years of Service
• Brian Batko	(January 12)	10 Years of Service
• Anthony M. Da Pra	(January 12)	10 Years of Service
• Kevin G. Pelkey	(January 20)	9 Years of Service
• Sam S. Lamb	(January 14)	6 Years of Service
• Michael C. Lewis	(January 24)	6 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, family and friends:

- Jennifer Bilyk
- Robert LaForest,
- Joe and Roger Hernandez
- Liz and Larry Ridenour
- Deacon Bob
- Manuel's Family
- Bill and Linda Robert family including their daughter Terianne Stewart and son in law Michael Parker
- Mel Jacobs
- Barb DeGroat
- Larry Rossi
- Nicholas Family
- Alyssia Schooner and Daniel Schooner, Bob Schooner's Grandchildren
- Michael Parker
- Carol Kainz, Cousin to Angela Chirco, diagnosed with Stage 4 Cancer

*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

I was recently reading some articles as we begin this new year. The common thread is that this **past** year was for some, particularly challenging. Don't feel disheartened if you weren't able to accomplish what you set out to do - instead, reflect on the insights, knowledge, and skills that you gained over the past year. Think of what worked and didn't work and use those lessons as an opportunity to gain experience, grow and plan for future goals.

The most important thing I will focus on in the new year is to not be anxious but be in continual prayer that we seek and find God's guidance for us and those we are responsible for. In the new year, let our first resolution be to listen to God through the Gospel. I am praying for you as I ask that you pray for us and those we love for good health in body,

Vivat Jesus

Anthony (Tony) Chirco, Co-Editor,  
The Bernard P. O'Brien Council of the Knights of Columbus



## PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Here is a prayer first offered by Pope John Paul II on January 1, 2000.  
It still resonates today.

I wish you a year filled with serenity and happiness: may you always be certain of God's love for us. As he did two thousand years ago, Christ comes today with his saving Gospel to guide the uncertain and faltering steps of peoples and nations, leading them towards a future of true hope. I ask him to bless this moment of festivity and good wishes, that it may be the promising beginning of a new millennium filled with joy and peace.

Let us enter "this year" with our eyes fixed on the mystery of the Incarnation. Christ, yesterday, today and forever. To him belongs time and the ages. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen! I thank you. Happy New Year to all. Praised be Jesus Christ!

***As we enter this new year 2024, let us pray:***

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.  
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
R/. Amen.

*—Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi*

Vivat Jesus

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