

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3956

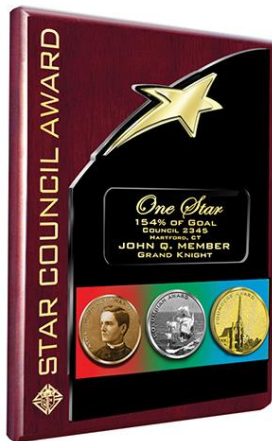
Newsletter

St. Pius X, Southgate, Michigan Issue #58

FEBRUARY, 2024



O'BRIEN COUNCIL AGAIN RECEIVES STAR COUNCIL AWARD



Congratulation Grand Knight Mark Garcellano and council officers! For again meeting the high standards to receive this award! 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. Additionally, the council must meet the requirements for the [Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity](#) and the [Service Program Personnel Report](#) . In the United States and Canada councils must also be fully compliant with applicable safe environment requirements

2023 - 2024 Fraternal Year

\$25 SPECIAL!! SHRINE AND STEIN - FEBRUARY 3RD

Bus leaves at 8:00am sharp to go to the [Our Lady of Consolation Shrine](#) in Carey, OH. Self-guided tour of the Shrine with a Healing Mass at 11:00am and blessing afterwards with a relic of the True Cross. We will then stop at the [Patron Saints Brewery](#) in Toledo, a Catholic owned brewery. Food truck available or you can bring your own lunch. \$25 per person and includes 1 beverage at the Brewery. Non-alcoholic Craft Root Beer available. We will return about 5:30pm. See [Brian Batko](#) after Mass starting next weekend to sign up.

Note: If you'd like to go and can't afford it, please let us know and we will include you on the trip. Thank you for all of the volunteering you do all year. God Bless!!

Brian Batko
bbatko@gmail.com
313-550-1330

**WEDNESDAY February 7, 2024, 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.



Please see our February schedule below and make the time to attend one if not all of these programs.

February 3, Shrine and Stein, Our Lady of Consolation

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

February 18, Desert Meal, Crystal Gardens

February 19, 6:30 pm Registration, 7:00 pm Exemplification

Looking ahead to March, here are some of our major events. Please set time aside to volunteer as much help will be needed. Look for our Sign-Up sheet on our website at www.kofc3956.org/signups/.

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

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

COMMUNITY REPORT

- Men's Scripture Club had their first monthly meeting on Saturday on January 20, 2024, from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM at St. Pius Social Hall
- Shrine and Stein trip to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, OH is on Saturday 2-3-2024. The bus leaves at 8:00 AM, arrives at approximately 10:00 AM, mass from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM and bus will leave at 1:15 PM for Patron Saint Brewery in Toledo, OH. Bus will arrive back at St. Pius around 5:30 or 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$50 and contact Brian Batko if interested.
- Desert Meal will be held on 2-18-2024 3:00 PM, at Crystal Gardens. Tickets are \$20 per person and support the 2024 Seminarians of Sacred Heart Seminary.

ADDRESS FROM GRAND KNIGHT MARK GARCELLANO



My Fellow Brother Knights! In this month's article I would like to share with you the 2024 Winter Diocesan Meeting and the Tri-District Meeting. The Diocesan meeting took place on January 16, 2024, from 6PM-9PM at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. The meeting was hosted by Archbishop Allen Vigneron. The meeting was chaired by Michigan State Officers including Chris Kolomjec, State Deputy, Rev. Aidan Logan, State Chaplain, Barry Borsenik, State Secretary, Charles McCuen, State Treasurer and Dan Fuller, State Warden.

There were more than 300 K of C Council Leaders including District Deputies, Grand Knights and Council Officers from the Metro Detroit Area. Our council was represented by Ray Bilyk, SDRR and FS, Mark Garcellano, GK and Brian Batko, Trustee.

There were several presentations held during the meeting:

- Opening prayer conducted by Rev. Aidan Logan, State Chaplain
- Pledge of Allegiance lead by Dan Fuller
- State Deputy comments by Chris Kolomjec
- Archbishop comments Allen Vigneron

Other information learned was as follows:

1. Journey with the Saints Statue and Relic Dedication Ceremony on Thursday, February 8, 2024, starting at 7PM at The Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament.
2. There will be a State Chaplain Tribute Banquet on Saturday, February 24, 2024, starting at 5PM at Zuccaro's Banquets in Chesterfield. The cost is \$35 per person. Contact me for reservations.
3. There will be a Fraternal Knight at a Detroit Red Wings Game on Sunday, April 7, 2024 starting at 7PM. The cost is \$60 per ticket. Contact Mike Kozakiewicz to purchase tickets.
4. The K of C State Convention will be held at Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, Wednesday May 22-Friday May 24, 2024. Our council will elect delegates in next council meeting.



Overall, the meeting had a lot of information at the state level of our fraternity. There were many new ideas presented and resources that were offered at our council level for recruitment, fraternal benefits and state programs. Another nice benefit was the food that was served for dinner. I encourage all council officers to attend the next Diocesan Meeting.

The Tri-District meeting took place on January 24, 2024, from 6PM-9PM at St. Kateri in Dearborn. This was the first meeting co-hosted by our new District Deputy Davie Hayward.

Our new Worthy DD discussed best practices for Grand Knights, recruiting and meetings.

Overall, the meeting has a lot of information at the council level of the fraternity. I encourage all our council officers to attend the next District Meeting. It's a great opportunity to network with other council leaders as well as learn more about best practices.

Congratulations to winners of the 2024 O'Brien Council K of C Free Throw Challenge (1/19/2024)

Girls:

Age 9- Grace Aguilera, 734-363-3184, 6 baskets

Age 10- Emma Murray, 734-624-0511, 11 baskets

Age 11- Reese Grabetz, 734-752-8748, 13 baskets

Age 12- Sloane Hasler, 734-341-3473, 9 baskets

Age 13- Greta Edge, 734-925-4344, 8 baskets

Age 14- Cierra Soltis, 734-552-2302, 4 baskets

Boys:

Age 9- Ben Walentowics, 734-347-8223, 5 baskets

Age 10- Matthew Jarvis, 313-587-0388, 9 baskets

Age 11- Will Cooper, 734-934-3702, 10 baskets

Age 12- Wyatt DelValle, 313-303-4444, 8 baskets

Age 13- Bobby Danko, 12 baskets

Age 14- Johua Mamuyac, 4 baskets

Congratulations to our new District Deputy Dave Hayward

Dave is replacing Ray Bilyk. He reported that our council is successful at recruiting and maintaining membership. Dave said his job is to assist in any way that is necessary or upon request. The District Deputy requests help at a pancake breakfast on Sunday 12:00 PM 1-28-2024 at Christ the Good Shepherd Church. A Sign-Up genius has been posted on the Council #3956 website and all members are encouraged to volunteer their time and talent to make this a successful event. Casino Trip Tuesday 2-6-2024 Bus Trip to Firekeepers Casino-cost is \$40.

Regards,

Mark Garcellano, GK

Knights of Columbus

Bernard P. O'Brien Council #3956

734-968-6900

Southgate, MI -

<https://www.kofc3956.org>

gk3956@mikofc.org

GrandKnight@kofc3956.org

MESSAGE FROM SDRR and FN0475 RAY BILYK



On February 14, 2024, at 7:30pm there will be a Fraternal Benefit Night hosted by the Robert Jones Council #3078. The Benefit Night will be a live event on Wills and Trusts conducted by the Morello Law Group P.C. You can either attend the event at the Jones council or watch via zoom with the link below.

Those that attend live will have a question-and-answer session. Spouses are encouraged to attend. As a reminder each council is required to participate in two Fraternal Benefit Nights. A form needs to be completed to get credit.

You will need the names, email addresses, and phone numbers of all members or member-eligible attendees invited by your council. If you are unable to open the link below, or have any other questions, please do not hesitate to send me a message.

Robert Jones is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Time: Feb 14, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82304955464?pwd=M2t0Ym1DZ1NTK1IQMUZhdi84ZWV6UT09>

Meeting ID: 823 0495 5464

Passcode: 156375

Here below is our Exemplification Schedule for February and March

February 14, 2024, 6:00 PM Registration, 6:30 PM Exemplification Council 3078 Lincoln Park

February 19, 2024, 6:30 PM Registration, 7:00 PM Exemplification. Council 3956 Southgate

March 13, 2024, 6:00 PM Registration, 6:30 PM Exemplification. Council 3078 Lincoln Park

March 18, 2024, 6:30 PM Registration, 7:00 PM Exemplification. Council 3956 Southgate



General Assembly Meetings- 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:00 PM - 8:00PM @ Wyandotte K of C.

4th Degree Exemplification scheduled throughout the year. For more information, please call Mark Garcellano at 734-968-6900 (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.



I AM YOURS

When I realized that Ash Wednesday this year falls on Valentine's Day, I thought it's somehow telling of what ashes, like roses, mean in the way of showing our affection toward someone else. When we dawn ashes, we let others know of our love for the Lord, much like when our wives receive flowers from us at their workplace. It is a clear sign to the community of a devotion that goes deeper than words can express and its symbolism a strong indication of our total commitment to God.

When given the ashes we are told, "Turn away from sin and remain faithful to the Gospel" and so we attempt to live this out through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We realize as St. John Paul II stated, "The purpose of Lent is not to force on us a few formal obligations, but to soften our heart so that it may open itself to the realities of the Spirit, to experience the hidden 'thirst' for communion with God."

This is much like doing things around the house we are not asked to do as a show of love and affection. Like Ash Wednesday, our courtship started with a single act and expanded into what is now a partnership for the whole of life. Lent could be viewed the same, we attempt to put ourselves out there in hopes that it will continue and lead to a much more fulfilling relationship.

We realize that when we sacrifice, it is then that we grow. I don't think there is a man around that will tell you a successful marriage hinges on our ability to be self-absorbed. Those good and lasting relationships are ones that allow for complete autonomy to do whatever one desires without considering the other. So too with our faith.

My brothers, let us strive to be the kind of man that is willing to extend "self" beyond himself. Let us be the person able to show love for God and others this coming Lent and throughout the year. Remembering what Thomas Merton so rightly said, "Every moment and every event of every man's life on earth plants something in his soul."

What is it you want planted on yours?

Vivat Jesus,
Deacon Chuck, Council Lecturer

SHARING THOUGHTS FROM DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT DAVID KUDLA



SANTA AT ST. PIUS

On Sunday December 17th Santa made a visit to St. Pius. After hours of preparation by the K of C, school staff and parents we were ready. Special thanks to our athletic director Victoria Dudek, and her staff for all your help and guidance. After a great tasting and filling breakfast, Santa walked into the Activity Center to a lot of jubilation and cheers. Many children and a few adults got to visit with Santa. Then at the end K of C members posed for a holiday picture with the great man in red. Many children were thrilled by this visit, and I must admit, I was too.

Someone asked me, "What is your favorite event during Christmas time?" My answer of course was celebrating the birth of Jesus. To all of you who came out on this special day, thank you very much. A lot of K of C families were there also. School children were totally excited when Santa came to his chair. Santa shook hands as he passed by.

Our K of C kitchen staff did another great job! Now we look forward to a visit from the Easter Bunny visit when we get close to the Easter Season. It will be here before you know it. I was honored to be at the front table as guests came in. Thank you to Walt Kabalka and everyone that helped assisted to keep us all keep the energy up. For me that was his company along with company and a Christmas special plate with coffee.

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.

THE FREE THROW CONTEST

On a cold Friday January 19th, our K of C sponsored basketball free throw contest. Most of our school kids took part in this activity. OUR GYM WAS THE PLACE TO BE ON THIS DAY. The contestants were separated by gender and age, and we all had a great time.

What I enjoyed seeing was the sportsmanship of our school kids. Everyone received three practice shots. Fifteen shots were allowed. One girl sank 11 baskets. I asked her if she was on the basketball team. She said yes and how could I tell? My answer was, I just wondered.

We all had a great time, special thanks to the Knights of Columbus and Mr. C, our gym teacher (also a K of C member) who helped out. This was a special treat as we all got to ride in a new electric car. Thank you Mark for lunch and the car ride. The next day at our St. Pius basketball games I spoke with a few parents whose children participated. They were happy and proud.

On Sunday January 28th our school hosted our annual open house. Many organizations had tables set up in the Activity Center. Hopefully you will be interested in what we do and join us in our St. Pius mission. Well, if you missed us this year, there is always next year. You also could join us anytime. Just come up to us and ask us anything.

See you in Church.
Respectfully,
Dave Kudla, DGK
Deputy Grand Knight



MESSAGE FROM PGK AND ADVOCATE BILL ROBERT

A BLESSED FLIGHT

Bill and his wife Linda left for a well-deserved vacation to Florida on February 1. As they boarded their plane, they were surprised to see that Archbishop Alan Vigneron was on their flight! A humble man, he was seated at the back of the plane. What a blessed way to start our long vacation. We wish them a very safe and relaxing sabbatical. Until Bill returns in March, we are in need of volunteers to step in for Bill. Please come to our meeting on Wednesday, February 7th to enjoy food and company beginning at

The business meeting begins at 7:00. We ask you to consider volunteering for upcoming events like the Family Breakfast, Desert Meal and Corn Beef and Cabbage.



MESSAGE FROM TRUSTEE AND COR DIRECTOR BRIAN BATKO

Shrines and Steins has been rescheduled for this Saturday, February 3rd, from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. beginning from our St. Pius parking lot. More details are provided within 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. All donations and proceeds to support the 2024 Seminarian's of Sacred Heart Seminary on their pilgrimage to the Holy Land

On Saturday, March 7, 2024, we will once again host Corned Beef and Cabbage Rubeen Dinner. Plans are to have meals served in the Social Hall beginning at 5:00 p.m. and after 4:00 p.m. Tickets will be \$15 per person. We will also need volunteers to prepare the evening before and to assist during the event.



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 3rd in the Social Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m. or if you prefer, visit our website at www.kofc3956. Click "pay dues" or go you can go directly at 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.



SNEAK PEEK!

Upcoming Events for January and February 2024

There are some upcoming events and before they show up in our parish bulletin, we wanted to share them with YOU!



Men's Scripture Club (Cor) – Starting January 20th in the Social Hall. 7:30to 9:00am. We will meet once a month to start off. We will discuss that weeks Sunday readings and reflect upon them. Arrive a little early for coffee/donuts. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS TO ATTEND! OPEN TO ALL MEN!!!** Please see Brian Batko after Mass if you have any questions and would like to join us.



Shrine and Stein Bus Trip – We’ve rescheduled this to Saturday, February 3rd . Bus leaves at 8:00am sharp to go to the Our Lady of Consolation Shrine in Carey, OH. Self-guided tour of the Shrine with a Healing Mass at 11:00am and blessing afterwards with a relic of the True Cross. We will then stop at the Patron Saints Brewery in Toledo, a Catholic owned brewery. Food truck available or you can bring your own lunch. \$50 per person and includes 1 beverage at the Brewery. Non-alcoholic Craft Root Beer available. We will return about 5:30pm. See Brian Batko after Mass starting next weekend to sign up.





Annual Desert Meal – Sunday, February 18th at Crystal Gardens. Come meet and support the Seminarians for their trip to the Holy Land or possibly Rome this year. It's always a great event and meeting our future priests is sure to strengthen your faith with their vocation stories. Full meal with 2 meats, pasta, potatoes, vegetable, salad, rolls, coffee, tea, and dessert. Cash bar available. Tickets are \$20 and are available in the Parish office or after Mass starting on the 21st.

If you have any questions about any of these events, please contact Brother Knight Brian Batko at bbatko@gmail.com or text/call him at 313-550-1330.

**BRUNCH WITH THE EASTER BUNNY AND
EASTER EGG HUNT IS MARCH 17, 2024
AT THE ST. PIUS X ACTIVITY CENTER**





Knights of Columbus®

Bernard P. O'Brien Council #3956

**Come join us for a Corned Beef and
Cabbage or Rueben Sandwich Dinner!!!**

After the 4:00 PM Mass (5:00PM)

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Dinner/Beverage- \$15

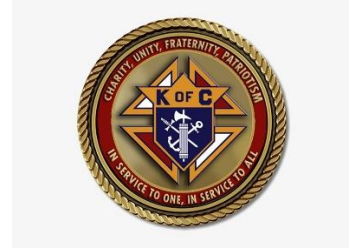
Rueben Dinner/Beverage- \$15

Proceeds benefit KofC charities.





SPECIAL GUEST COLUMN



Editor's note:

As Lecturer, Deacon Chuck has graced our newsletters and meetings with his reflections of God's message to us. This month, he adds in this "Special Guest Column" more with insight into daily prayer.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

We have all been told that if you want to increase your faith, become holier, or connect with God more, you should increase your prayer life. It goes without saying prayer takes care of a lot of things. Jesus prayed every day. Many saints are noted to engage in prayer whenever the opportunity presents itself.

The church's clergy and religious pray the Liturgy of the Hours on a regular basis and is required as part of their vows. Many of the faithful have followed suit as a way of strengthening their prayer life. But the books are expensive and properly using them is at best difficult without instruction. Thanks to technology there is now an easier, no cost way to participate in what is commonly referred to as "the prayer of the Church."

The Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office or the Work of God (*Opus Dei*), is the daily prayer of the Church, marking the hours of each day and sanctifying the day with prayer. The Hours are a meditative dialogue on the mystery of Christ, using scripture and prayer.

The Divine Office "is truly the voice of the bride herself addressed to her Bridegroom. It is the very prayer which Christ himself together with his Body addresses to the Father." (SC 84) The dialogue is always held, however, in the presence of God and using the words and wisdom of God.

In the Hours, the royal priesthood of the baptized is exercised, and this sacrifice of praise is thus connected to the sacrifice of the Eucharist, both preparing for and flowing from the Mass.

For more information, visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at: <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgy-of-the-hours>

And now a word about the technology that makes it possible for you to easily participate in the Liturgy of the Hours and so much more. The App is called the iBreviary.

The iBreviary is a digital, portable, breviary. You can use it to pray for all the texts of the Liturgy of the Hours. Simply launch the application, select the prayer time you want to say from the menu and all the antiphons, prayers, canticles, and hymns of the day and time will appear in the right order.

The texts of the Liturgy of the Hours are formatted just as they appear in the printed version of the Christian Book of Prayers. Start at the top and work your way down without having to worry about flipping around the book.

In addition, the iBreviary offers the complete daily missal to follow the Mass. It is similar to the missalettes, and worship aids found at most churches. It offers all the major Catholic prayers and more!

Further, The Missal of the iBreviary contains the Ordinary of the Mass, the Eucharistic Prayers, Masses for the Saints, daily Mass readings, Prefaces, Prayers of the Faithful, Solemn Blessings, rites for various celebrations and other liturgical texts.

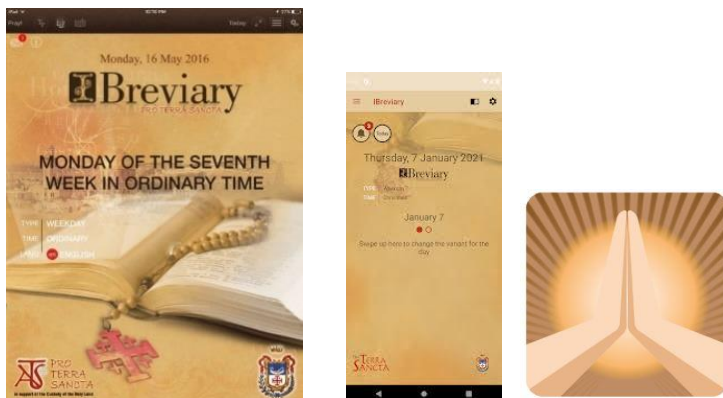
So, if Liturgy of the Hours isn't your thing, there are plenty of other different prayer options to choose from. There is so much in the library, and it doesn't take up any more room than what you're already carrying in the way of a phone or tablet.

Here is the hotlink for the website <https://www.ibreviary.com/m2/breviario.php>

Here is the hotlink the App:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.netguru.ibreviary&hl=en_US&gl=US&pli=1

Here are images that let you know you have the right one.



(website) (phone site) (App icon)

I hope you find this App a useful tool and convenient way to grow closer to the Lord. I've used it for years and is a big help when I don't have my Christian Book of Prayers with me. Check it out.

Vivat Jesus,

Deacon Chuck

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) 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

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! You can be part of changing lives and saving lives by joining us. Go to <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

DD Ray Bilyk (313) 247-2110

RayBilyk@kofc3956.org

View our newsletter and other information at 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

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 with the subject line: "Add to GroupMe"

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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 7, 2024

K of C Council 3956 Regular Business Meeting (St Pius Social Hall) 6:00 - 8:00 pm.
Please come around 6:00 for some socializing and maybe some food. Meeting at 7:00.

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 - ASH WEDNESDAY
FIRST DAY OF LENT

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 - Valentines Day!

Friday, February 16, 2024

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

Saturday, February 17, 2024

Knights Table and SPX Fan Gear at SPX Basketball Game from 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. St Pius Catholic School Activity Center. Knights, come out and support our kids while selling SPX Fan Gear and promoting membership in our Knights of Columbus Council!

Sunday, 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

Monday, February 19, 2024

District 105 Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
St. Pius X Catholic Church, 14101 Superior St., Southgate, MI Hosted by O'Brien Council.

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Detroit-West Region Competition

At John Neumann Gymnasium, 44800 Warren Rd, Canton, MI 48187

Time: Sign-in starts at 1:30 pm; Event starts at 2 pm

Saturday, March 2, 2024

4th Degree District 1 Bi-Annual Meeting from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Wyandotte Council, 3530 Biddle Ave, Wyandotte, MI 48192

\$5.00 per person

Saturday, March 7, 2024

Cornd Beef and Cabbage Rueben Dinner 5:00 PM. Tickets will be \$15 per person.



GREAT NEWS FOR YOU AND A FRIEND!

Each member that brings in a new member will receive \$30 off next year's dues!

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Event in the New Year

- Our next Coffee and donuts after mass will be held on February 11, 2024.
- Lenten Fish Fry in Activity Center begins 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.
- Corned Beef and Cabbage Rye Dinner 5:00 PM -Saturday 3-9-2024 Tickets will be \$15 per person. Family Breakfast
- The next family breakfast will be held at Easter and a large volunteer presence is required to make it a successful event. Volunteers are needed for cooking, serving, greeters, and clean up.
- We purchased Right to Life-1/2 page add in the Right to Life of Michigan Annual Conference booklet. The March for Life was 1-21-2024 @Mt. Carmel Cemetery.



Thank you Grand Knight Mark Garcellano and his team of volunteers who prepared breakfast at the request of Jones Council K of C for the parishioners at Christ the Good Shepherd in Lincoln Park.



FRED GERRING

It was just a few months ago that Fred joined our Knights of Columbus council. He makes a great example of getting involved early and jumping in with both feet. So far, he's been a very active member assuming the role of Recorder on the council and volunteering at Donut Sundays, Family Breakfasts, and the Family Breakfast for Christ the Good Shephard in January.

Fred likes the work that the O'Brien Council K of C does for the Church and the school. He has two lovely adult daughters. One daughter attended St. Pius X school for a few years. Fred has a history of serving his community. He has been an active member of the Lions Club in Wyandotte for many years. If you see Fred, please shake his hand and congratulate him on becoming the Knight of the Month for January 2024

CHALLENGE OF THE MONTH

Lord's Prayer Wordsearch 2

D E L I V E R C L L I W	AGAINST	HEAVEN
J I M O D G N I K J X V	AMEN	KINGDOM
G G N O I T A T P M E T	BREAD	LEAD
A T I L E A D N A M E E	DAILY	NAME
K R C V B L L I V E H A	DELIVER	TEMPTATION
N E V A E H J O M F D R	DONE	TRESPASS
T S N I A G A T O Z P T	EARTH	WILL
E P D E W O L L A H W H	EVIL	
N A A N R E H T A F K W	FATHER	
O S E V I G R O F T Z B	FORGIVE	
D S R E L U A M E N S W	GIVE	
T G B L G W Y L I A D L	HALLOWED	

Resources for Catholic Educators

4catholiceducators.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

- Lindsay P. McLean (February 3)
- Edward D. Stol (February 3)
- Deacon Scott LaForest (February 4)
- Robert M. Liddle (February 4)
- Michael J. Gyolai (February 7)
- Henry Pochini (February 8)
- Mr. Ryan D. Daw (February 14)
- John G. Husar, Jr. (February 17)
- Robert J. LaForest (February 22)
- Mr. Amadeo Ricardo Pentacost-Gonzeles I (February 23)



WIVES BIRTHDAYS

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



- Catherine (Catie) Chirco (February 22nd) Wife of Joseph (Joey) Chirco



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:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| • Dennis J. Levko | (February 1) | 41 Years of Service |
| • Michael J. Levko | (February 1) | 41 Years of Service |
| • Worthy Ray J. Bilyk | (February 23) | 36 Years of Service |
| • Patrick D. Tidwell | (February 1) | 33 Years of Service |
| • James A. Kandrevas | (February 14) | 28 Years of Service |
| • Brian T. Cronan | (February 21) | 15 Years of Service |
| • Norman W. Lemay | (February 19) | 11 Years of Service |
| • Mr. Joe Schwartz | (February 12) | 1 Year of Service |

Happy Anniversary!

MEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Steven and Melissa Melinda February 16, 1996 28 Years

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.
[Ephesians 5:25](#)

Congratulations!

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 so they can be added to our list. We would love for this to be as accurate as possible. Thank you, Ray!



Michael Mitroka

November 20, 1923 - December 07, 2023

Michael Mitroka, was born on November 20, 1923 in Dowell, IL to Mike and Julia (Curtis) Mitroka. Michael, who resided in Brownstown, MI passed away on December 07, 2023 at the age of 100. Michael is the beloved Husband of the late Rosemary (Bukovics) Mitroka. Loving father of Michael (Tina) Mitroka and Paul Mitroka. Dear brother of Charles Mitroka. Loving grandfather of Jenifer (Dan) Lopez, Michelle (Nate) Nestor, and Kristine (Matt) Downey. Dear Great Grandfather of Gabriel, Alex, Macy, Sonya, and Riley. Michael was preceded in death by his siblings Julia Lembo, Mary Menzik, John Mitroka, George Mitroka, Ann Sokovich, and Katherine Mitroka. Michael will be deeply missed by family and friends. Visitation on Monday December 11, 2023 from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Taylor Chapel of Voran Funeral Home, 23750 Goddard Rd., Taylor, MI 48180. Funeral services for Michael will be held at 5:00 PM that evening from the funeral home. Michael will be transported to Pyle Funeral Home in Zeigler IL for visitation on Thursday from 5:00-8:00 PM, funeral services at 11:00 AM on Friday at St. Aloysius/Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Royalton, IL with burial services immediately following at St. Mary's Orthodox Cemetery in Royalton, IL. Donations may be made to St. Aloysius/Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Royalton, IL in care of St. John the Baptist Church, 702 E. Main St., West Frankfort, IL 62896. Please share memories and/or leave condolences on Michael's guestbook on his tribute wall.



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
- Bill Robert's 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
- 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

Sunday February 18th is the Annual Desert Meal in support of the Seminarians. This event has been going for many years and has raised tens of thousands of dollars towards sending the future priests of the Diocese to the Holy Land. Seminarians get to feel the support of the downriver community. Money raised allows future priests to more effectively convey the message of the Gospel having seen and been in the places we've heard about. Those in attendance are inspired by the call to vocation our future priests received. Hopefully in sharing their stories, someone the audience is also inspired to a holy life. The Desert Meal is an event that makes me proud to be associated with our council. I hope you will feel proud to be associated with this event too. If you would like to be more involved, you can purchase a ticket for yourself or a loved one. If can't make it, you can always contact Brian Batko at bbatko@gmail.com and call or text (313)550-1330.

National Catholic Schools Week is January 28th to February 3rd, 2024. This year's theme is Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community. We are fortunate to be a parish with a thriving Catholic School. Talented teachers and administrators work tirelessly to educate our children in a Catholic environment. Many of our members have attended Catholic schools or sacrificed to provide a Catholic school education for their children. Please support our teachers, administrator and families by supporting the Church through prayer.

Respectfully,
Robert Park. Co-Editor



ABOUT ST. VALENTINE

Valentine's Day is not just a day to buy your loved one(s) flowers and chocolate. Believe it or not, it is a historic day named after a very real and holy saint. San Valentino (St. Valentine) was a Third Century Roman priest and martyr during the reign of Claudius II, known as *Claudius the Goth*. He was arrested for helping Christians who were being persecuted by Claudius in Rome and for performing marriage ceremonies between young Christian couples in love. While imprisoned and under threat, Saint Valentine would not sway from answering questions of the emperor regarding his beliefs.

The emperor tried to no avail to convert Saint Valentine. Regardless of what was asked, Valentine would not renounce his faith, so Claudius had him sent away to prison. The guard where Valentine was imprisoned listened as he preached day in and day out. As legend goes, the guard, Asterius, had a daughter who was blind. He asked Valentine to hear her confession and he did.

Afterwards, Valentine put his hands over the girl's eyes and chanted: "*Lord Jesus Christ, enlighten your handmaid, because You are God, the True Light.*" Immediately the little girl regained her eyesight. Because of this miracle, the guard and many of his family members converted to Christianity and were baptized. Upon hearing of the conversions, Emperor Claudius condemned all of them to death.

The night before his execution, Valentine wrote the young girl a note and signed it, "*From your Valentine.*" Valentine was then beaten with clubs and stoned and finally beheaded on February 14th, around the year 269. He was buried on the Flaminian Way and a chapel was later built over his remains. On the same day, another Valentine, bishop of Terni, was imprisoned and beheaded by Placidus, prefect of Terni, about sixty miles outside of Rome. Many believe mysteriously that the two are one in the same priest, the same Valentine who was earlier brought to Rome for execution and buried on the Flaminian Way.

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Pray to St. Valentine...

O glorious advocate and protector, St. Valentine, look with pity upon our wants, hear our requests, attend to our prayers, relieve by your intercession, the miseries under which we labor, and obtain for us the divine blessing, that we may be found worthy to join you in praising the Almighty for all eternity: through the merits of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Vivat Jesus

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