CROSS AND COMPASS



A Publication of the Knights Of Columbus Council 9924 December 2023



Greetings. Brothers!

Merry Christmas Brothers!

Welcome to the December edition of the Cross and Compass, Ho Ho.

Wow, what a great month November was for us, and we are just warming up for the season. We began the month with an All Souls Day Mass at Venice Gardens, thanks to brother Bob Burhoe for handling all the planning. We abo hosted our annual Circle of Life Golf outing to support our Mother's House, Pregnancy Solutions, and Venice Area Pregnancy Center. Dave Tura and his committee raised over \$37,000 for those charities, great job Dave and Team. We then had our inaugural Italian Night to support our Veterans through Operation Wounded Warrior. Ray Pronko and his committee raised approximately \$23,000. Many thanks to Ray. his committee and all the members who came to support our Veterans. We also had a great weekend recruiting new members for our annual Membership Drive. Eddie Jones and his team spent the weekend talking to men interested in joining us and we look forward to welcoming these men into our fraternity. If that wasnt enough, we somehow managed to have a pancake breakfast and Blood Drive as well. Thanks to Dave Kristie and all the volunteers who helped with those breakfasts and thanks to Henry and everyone who helped make the Blood Drive another success.

We are an extremely blessed council as we are a very active group, and we are making a difference in our church and our community. All this great work cannot continue without the support of all of our members. I really do appreciate everything everyone does for our Council; it is simply unbelievable what we can achieve when we all work together. We have several committee chairs opening in the next couple of months and I'm calling on you to prayerfully consider taking one of these on. More details to come.

Finally let's remember what this time of year is all about as we enter the Advent season. Advent marks the preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us each take some additional time for spiritual reflection, prayer, and as we anticipate the coming of Christ. We will also celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December go and our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th.

In closing, as we approach the wonderous celebration of Christmas, let us come together as brothers in prayer: Heavenly Father, in this blessed season of love and hope we gather as Knights, bound by our shared commitment to faith, family, and service. We thank you for the blessings you have bestowed upon our council and for the unity that strengthens us as brothers. Grant us the wisdom to continue our mission of charity, to embrace the spirit of fraternity and to foster a sense of unity within our community. May this Christmas season fill us with joy, peace, and an abundance of goodwill toward all and may the light of Christ's birth illuminate our hearts and guide us in our endeavors to make a difference in the lives we touch. Amen.

I look forward to seeing you at mass and our next meeting.

Vivat Jesus

Rick Kuertz, GK



Council 9924 2023-2024

Grand Knight

Rick Kuertz 513-430-4330

Deputy Grand KnightEric Bisighini 860-899-8785

Chancellor

John Tosado 610-428-9292

Treasurer

Robert Rueger 941-493-4927

Advocate

Peter Spagnuolo 941-786-6638

Recorder

Robert Burhoe 941-716-3243

Warden

Bobby Whiting 941-416-5912

Outside Guard

Larry Middendorf 513-884-1559

Lecturer

Jay Junkus 630-842-3618

Trustee 3 Year

Ron Bowes 412-965-1983

Trustee 2 Year

Bill Szyper 704-776-0041

Trustee 1 Year

Dave Tura 978-837-0692

Chaplain

Father Saji

Financial Secretary

Bill Morris 214-244-9464

Field Agent

Brian DeBlauw 440-669-8957

District Deputy

Michael Costanza 941-400-7416



Prayers for Our Sick & Distressed



Jim Collins Patrick Burke Dennis Putman Scott Sheldon Armand Padula Dick Maier Jack Stass John LeDuke **Patrick Burke**



Remembering Those Close To Us



Prayers For Those Close To Us



Thank you letters from those receiving donations from Council 9924. These illustrate the value of the rewards of our charitable work and commitment to those in need.





St. Joseph the Worker Parish

24000 US Highway 2/ P.O. Box 1109 Moore Haven, FL 33471 Phone: (863) 946-0696

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Mission

November 8, 2023
Our Lady of Lourdes
Knights of Columbus Council #9924
1301 Center Rd.
Venice, FL 34292

Dear Knights of Columbus,

On behalf St. Joseph the Worker Food Pantry, I would like to inform you that we have received your recent donation of \$1,139.00 with check number 1226.

Thank you for your prayers and continued monthly support. Thanks to your contributions and the contribution of other donors and organizations that keep feeding low-income families and elderly every week.

Please know that we also keep the council and parishioners of Our Lady of Lou des in our prayers. May you have a blessed Thanksgiving Day.

Blessings.

Rev. Marcial Garcia

Pastor

From Father J.J.

The moky our some bux.

The moky our some woon

The love of beautiful - D

1's hidsel so breatful - D

Do oppurint your Thoughtfulness

I wish you all, ell good

Things, Good Penal



Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of Venice in Florida

Pay Strain Smeryk, M.A., J.C.D., J.D. - Chancellor

Rita Cavuoto, Chair Robert Farnham, Vice-Chair Eduardo Gloria, Chief Executive Officer

November IN, 2023 Mr. Bill Morris

Knights of Columbus 9924 301 Center Rd Venice, FL342923810

Dear Mr. Morris,

Please accept this acknowledgement of your donation of \$1139.00 supporting the Arcadia Food Pantry, received on 11/6/2023.

Because of your generosity, we have been able to answer more than 20 thousand calls for help from people who reached out to us last year.

We greatly appreciate your generosity and know it's because of gifts like yours that allow us to continue to assist the mother and her infant who comes to us with no place to live and no way to care for her baby safely. Because of you, families experiencing a crisis can receive the boost they need to return to self- sufficiency. Your generosity directly affects those that are hungry, those without hope, those that are lost, and the elderly population that deserves respect and com passion.

We thank you and greatly appreciate your generosity and are confident that together we can continue to *provide help*, create hope, and serve all.

Be Well,

Eduardo Gloria Chief Executive Officer



BIRTHDAYS NAME AGE Padula Armand 93 Reilly 91 John 90 Robert Chapman 87 Salvatore Trofi Peter Rodriguez 86 John Janisse 83 John Chiumento 80 Denis Merchant 79 78 Gregory Walsh 78 James Young Ronald 77 **Bowes** 76 George Counes **James** Gillio 76 Rick 74 Presley Edmund Cassidy 73 Robert Burhoe 73 **Thomas Davis** 73 Richard Cusack 72 72 James Schmidt O'Malley Brian 71 Whiting 70 Robert Larry Smith 69 Michael Suhowolak 68 Don Freiburger 65 David Mc Donnell 64 Joseph Indelicato 63 William **Kovacs** 62 Antony Lukka 57 Orlando Priede 53 Stephen 43 Swanson

| ANNIVERSARIES | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|
| N | YEARS | | | | | | |
| Gerard | St Germain | 57 | | | | | |
| Douglas | Piper | 56 | | | | | |
| Robert | Subach Subach | 53 | | | | | |
| Larry | Keener | 51 | | | | | |
| John | Gallagher | 36 | | | | | |
| Tony | Dolejs | 26 | | | | | |
| Peter | Spagnuolo | 22 | | | | | |
| Vincent | Hagerty | 14 | | | | | |
| Rick | Presley | 14 | | | | | |
| John | Raymond | 14 | | | | | |
| Richard | Cusack | 10 | | | | | |
| James | Bennett | 10 | | | | | |
| James | Collins | 8 | | | | | |
| Dennis | Putman | 7 | | | | | |
| Joseph | Mrusko | 5 | | | | | |
| Michael | O'Kane | 5 | | | | | |
| Armand | Padula 🦰 | 5 2 | | | | | |
| John | Tosado | 2 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| RED Denotes Life Member | | | | | | | |

SERVICE PROGRAMS

Director – Nick Catone 717-818-3167 Community - Dan Dacey 493-9107 Faith Director – Bob Burhoe 941-716-3243 Family Director - Nick Catone 717-818-3167 Blood Donor – Henry VonSalzen 631-672-1803 Membership – Ed Jones 240-507-0800 Retention – Bill Morris 214-244-9464 Culture of Life - John Yaglenski 941-408-7558 Publicity - Jim Palermo 941-493-3424

November Food Collection

\$2,185 in donations and 410 lbs of food collected. Thanks to all who donated their time, goods and money.



Knights of the Month



Dave Tura and the "Circle of Life Golf Committee" recognized as Knights of the Month

Peter Spagnuolo presents Fr. Saji with his photo art from the Blue Mass



New Members

left to right in the photo below

Frank Knox, Ken Burroughs, George Zammit, Frank Edwards, Bobby Ferreira





Welcome to Council 9924. We look forward to your contributions.

We had an outstanding response to Our Fall Membership Drive due to the support of numerous Brother Knights greeting and chatting with potential Knight AND Sir Knight men of the parish. Marty Reis and I were very active with potential candidates, handing out applications to many Transfer-In and potential New Member candidates. Many thanks to those who pitched in at all masses!!!

Ed Jones – Membership Chairman

Council Merchandise



If you would like to order a Council shirt or ballcap, please click on the link below. We have sizes Small through XXXL.

Shirts are \$25 or \$28 depending on size and optional embroidery of your name on the shirt is \$3. Ballcaps are \$20.

If you have misplaced your name badge, please let me know.

https://www.wesharegiving.org/app/giving/WeShare-20001756

Bill Morris, FS

Knight Times



Proverbs 11:25 The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

We are always in need of ushers for most masses, volunteers for food collection and readers for the 5th Sunday Rosary.

New Leaders Needed

Brothers! For next year we need new leads for these events. Please prayerfully consider volunteering. There is plenty of time to work with the current lead to ensure a smooth transition.

Pancake Breakfast

This is Dave Kristie's last year as lead.
The Council hosts 6 PB's each year.
Two in the Fall and four in the
Winter/Spring.

Duties Include:

Ensure dates for upcoming year are approved by OLOL (with Bill Morris)

Ordering food from Gordon Foods and Walmart

Ensure that online signup email is sent out to schedule volunteers (with Eric Bisighini)

Ensure Bulletin advertisement and Mass announcement is sent to OLOL (with Jim Palermo)

Oversee the PB from setup to cleanup

Collect donations and turn them over to the Financial Secretary

Blood Drive

This is Henry Vonsaltzen's last year as lead.

The Council hosts 5 Blood Drives each year.

Two in the Fall and three in the

Winter/Spring

Duties Include:

Ensure dates for upcoming year are approved by OLOL (with Bill Morris)

Schedule Blood Drives with One Blood

Ensure that online signup email is sent out to schedule volunteers (With Eric Bisighini)

Ensure Bulletin advertisement and Mass Announcement is sent to OLOL (with Jim Palermo)

Clothing Drive

This is Tom Reno's last year as lead.

Duties Include:

Ensure date for upcoming year is approved by OLOL (with Bill Morris)

Ensure that online signup email is sent out to schedule volunteers (With Eric Bisighini)

Ensure Bulletin advertisement and Mass announcement is sent to OLOL (with Jim Palermo)



Sock Drive



Father Jay has challenged us to collect 10,000 pairs of socks to help workers in need.

So far, we have collected 3181 pairs. Ollies Bargain Outlet has low prices on work socks. They can be collected at the monthly meeting. This will be an ongoing effort.

Marty Reis mkreis5375@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus 9924 Backpack Program Update





Since The Knights of Columbus from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Venice was approached by AFFB 15 years ago to get involved with the Backpack Program, Jim Palermo was the KofC Chairman. The Council handled Oak Park at the Middle School and Taylor Ranch School. Oak Park no longer exists. It has been a very meaningful 16 years knowing and seeing the good we have done for the kids and families in this area. Since Covid the involvement of the Knights has been drastically reduced. Also, as more and more donors have turned to QCD's from their IRA's we felt it appropriate to alert all donors and all Knights to send donations directly to AFFB, a 501c3 charity. There is no need for the knights to be the middleman since we turned over all donated backpack money to AFFB anyway. We ask that in the future you mark your donations to AFB and in the subject line that you note FOR Benefit of the Knights of Columbus.

Over the past 2 years we have been blessed with a few significant donations that have allowed us to support 100 students at Taylor Ranch School with weekend lunch bags as well as providing 75 Turkey Dinners for their families at Thanksgiving and 75 Ham Dinners for Christmas. But as with all programs the needs in our communities continue to grow and the need for more volunteers and donations along with it. Volunteering can be done in one of two ways:

- 1. Warehouse Packing of Back Packs and Case goods. Sessions last 2-3 hours have both morning and afternoon shifts. AFB is located in Sarasota off Fruitville Road.
- 2. Mobile Food Pantries. These are held at multiple locations and include about 6 to 8 locations around Venice. You help setup and work a drive thru distribution of a variety of food products to prequalified families. In any given shift a locations will serve 100-200 families.

So How do we volunteer. Its easy. Once you are registered (you can follow the link below) you will receive an email once a month listing available/shifts that you can sign up for. Teams normally have 12-15 volunteers and wife's are highly encouraged. Volunteer opportunities include sorting and packing food, distributing at pantries, participating in our nutrition education and cooking classes, helping in our offices, lending a hand at events and more!

https://allfaithsfoodbank.org/volunteer-application/

Be a hunger hero -- DONATE!

When you donate to All Faiths Food Bank, your gift provides meals to children, families and seniors in our community. Donate today! Your tax-deductible gift feeds children and families right here at home. Food is the first step to help families gain stability, gives students the opportunity to achieve academic success, ensures that senior citizens can afford medication, and lets our veterans know they are not forgotten. Please mail your donation to:

Victoria Hasselbring All Faiths Food Bank 8171 Blaikie Ct. Sarasota FL 34240

Hope you find a way to either donate your time or donation or both. Questions, please contact me.

Mike Milak; Backpack Coordinator <u>Mmilak33@gmail.com</u> 941-380-7248

Circle of Life Golf Tournament

Check Presentations



Rick Kuertz, Jacqueline Zdrojowy from Pregnancy Solutions, Susan Rohman from Venice Area Pregnancy Care Center and Dave Tura



Lauren Horton and Sharladene Senko of Our Mother's House pictured with Dave Tura

A thank you to all the brothers that either found a sponsor or was a sponsor.

We raised \$37,500 after expenses.

Each Charity received \$12,500.

This was the largest amount ever raised by this event.

Dave Tura

Operation Warrior Resolution



We had a very successful event. I have received lots of positive feedback on the entire evening. We had a total of 185 persons at the event complete with an Italian dinner, excellent entertainment, dancing, a successful raffle, a recognition of veterans and we heard a compelling story on the value of OWR. Thank you for attending and supporting OWR! They were completely amazed at the success of the event and were very grateful. Total money raised including matching donations was approximately \$23,000!!!!

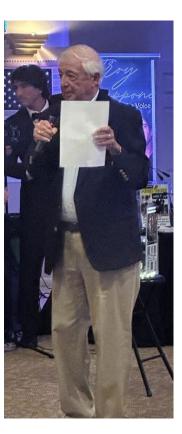
Special thanks to Peter Spagnuolo, Bill Salomone, Jim Palermo, Groom Ron Bowesarelli and Grand Knight, Rick Kuertz,











Church Picnic

Good food and fun served up to the parishioners. Thank you to all!



Blood Drive Results



The recent blood drive resulted in 19 units of blood. Remember, each donation can save up to three lives, so that means 57 patients could benefit from the lifesaving efforts of blood donors from your church. Every two seconds, someone needs blood. The blood donated at your blood drive likely be transfused into a patient within 48 to 72 hours. The turnaround is that fast and is that constant. Your support will make a dramatic impact in patient's lives. Your service to the community is essential.

Henry Von Salzen



Blood Donor

Thank you for participating in the blood drive at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish on Sunday, November 12, 2023

DOLEJS ANTHONY **SCRIVENS**

BERNADETTE SCUDERI-KILBANE WILLIAMS CYNTHIA

CAROLINE

SHANAHAN DIANE MARINO DONNA BISIGHINI ERIC MARINO FRANK

MERCURIO FRANK **QUINNAN JAMES**

SARACENO JOSEPH MARO LUCY VILLARREAL SARACENO LYNN

MADONNA

QUINNAN MARY ROBERTS MICHAEL

FREELAND PAMELA DELOID PATRICIA

BENKOSKY RAYMOND MARO ROBERT

OBRIEN ROBERT **ELLICKAL SAJI**

PATA SANDRA CASTAGNOLI SUE

GALEK THOMAS MALONEY WILLIAM









December

2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------------------|--|-----------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Christmas Party | Feast of the Immaculate Conception | 9 Clothing Drive |
| Clothing Drive Faith Formation Breakfast | 11 | Council Meeting 5:00 Officers 5:30 rosary 6:00 dinner 7:00 meeting | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | Merry Christmas | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Food Collection |
| Food Collection | Happy New Year! | | | | | |



December 7th

6-9 pm



hit ctlr + click on the link below to sign up

Annual Clothing Drive

December 9-10th 9am – 5pm



Highlight and hit ctrl+click to sign up below:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4BA4AD2BA6FB6-clothing

Please contact Tom Reno tomrenovenice@gmail.com 941-539-0230

One Blood Drive



January 21st

8:00 am - 1:30 pm

More information to follow.

'VALENTINES FOR VETS'' February 17th

Knights of Columbus Bishop Charles Mclaughlin
Assembly 1818
11697 Renaissance BLVD
Venice, FL 34293

On Saturday February 17th 2024, Bishop Charles McLaughlin Assembly 1818 will be hosting our 11th Annual Valentines for Vets Dinner Dance starting at 6:00PM at the San Pedro Parish Activity Center located at 14380 Tamiami Drive in North Port. Dinner will consist of Salad, Bread, Baked Ziti and

Meatballs as well as Dessert. Entertainment will be by HAPPY FEET. This is a BYOB affair and tickets are \$25.00 each.

Please contact one of the below members of the ticket Committee and they will arrange to get you tickets. Please pass this on to your friends and neighbors. Regards....

Our Lady of Lourdes -- Robert O'Brien, 732-606-3738; OBR79@AOL.com Our Lady of Lourdes - Ed Farrell, 941-223-6321; esfarrell@comcast.net



Pro-Life Update



Prolife Report: Co-Habitation, How We Can Help
By Ray Ross

Last month we focused on the some of the causes of co-habitation before marriage. This month I would like to describe the program being put in place by the diocese to better proclaim the vocation of marriage.

Accordingly, I contacted Carrie Hawley who heads up the Diocese Office of Marriage and Family Life. Here's what I learned from that interview. Bishop Duane gets it. This is a top priority in the Diocese and much focus is being placed on couple marriage preparation as well as a couple mentor program (Witness to Love program).. More on this later in the article.

According to Ms. Hawley, when couples come in for marriage counseling, most of them have not been practicing the faith. They don't have any personal relationship with Jesus and, in most cases, they're going through marriage preparation and a church wedding to please grandma. In almost every case, they're already engaged in sexual intercourse.

During the six months of marriage preparation, the church has the opportunity to invite the couple into a relationship with Jesus. In the diocese, they're doing that by not only presenting the teachings and doctrine of the faith, but also pairing the couple with a married couple who know what it's like to deal with all of the struggles of marriage – finances, communication, dealing with both spouses working, raising children in a culture that is materialistic and anti-Christian.

Pro-Life Update Continued

In marriage preparation, the first step for the couple is to put the Lord Jesus at the center of their lives. The couple is encouraged to form good Catholic habits such as regular church attendance and daily prayer. The key though is to involve the couple in the community of the church. Ms. Hawley admits that the Protestant churches are much better at this than we are. If we can get couples involved by participating in church social events or, even better, by getting involved in a church ministry the likelihood that they'll remain faithful Catholics goes up significantly and the likelihood that they'll never get divorces also improves dramatically, In short, the goal of the first step is to convert the hearts of the couple and have them begin intentionally living for the LORD.

The second step largely falls on the priest and that is to teach the faith by explaining the doctrines of the church, the life of the Saints, and the teachings of the Bible.

At this point, the couple moves onto the third step which begins with an all-day retreat, then confession and finally a pledge that the couple will maintain a chaste relationship for the last two months prior to their marriage.

Throughout this preparation, the church emphasizes that the couple is called to carry their faith out into the world and that their primary mission is family.

In summary, the bishop has put in place a marriage enrichment program throughout the diocese. The key to the program is involving the laity. The goal is to provide open, caring hospitality for these couples who hopefully will look up and want to imitate the couple with whom they're working.

Pro-Life Update Continued

You can get involved by contacting the Parish Office and volunteering to become a mentor as part of the Witness to Love (WTL) program

According to the parish website: "What makes WTL unique is that the engaged couple chooses their own mentor couple. The mentor couples give them a connection and integration into the parish. Through the sharing of the mentor couple's own marriage journey, the engaged couple inherits a 'lifeline' of support in their commitment to Jesus and the Church."

Beyond joining WTL, it is incumbent on all of us to set an example within our families and to extol the value, dignity and grace of Holy Matrimony.

December



Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas, there are some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest wears violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose may be worn. Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

December



The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season.

Pray For Ukraine

and

Peace in the Middle East.