

CROSS AND COMPASS



A Publication of the Knights Of Columbus Council 9924 January 2024



Happy New Year Brothers,

Welcome to the January edition of the Cross and Compass. It is hard to believe it is 2024 already and the Christmas Season is behind us once again. I learned at Mass on Christmas Eve from Father Jay that Christmas does not have to be over as we can celebrate Christmas every day of the year. He said Christmas is not a holiday that should be celebrated just once a year as Jesus is a gift, we can each keep giving our church and the community we serve daily. Father's Homily was quite beautiful as he told a story about when he first came to Our Lady of Lourdes. A beautiful Christmas tree was set up in his villa to welcome him to the church and how the tree was never taken down. The tree still stands to this day as a testament that Christmas really can be every day. I decided to make this my New Year's resolution to celebrate Christmas every day with everyone I meet and with everyone I love. If you want to join me, you can. This is a resolution I do not want to break. Please pray for me as I give this a go.

As we move into the new year, I want to let everyone know I am absolutely filled with gratitude for the dedication and service exhibited by each Knight within our Council. Let us together embrace the possibilities this year can hold, united in our shared values of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. Our efforts, guided by these principles, empower us to make a meaningful impact on our church and community. I encourage each of you to continue embodying the spirit of service and togetherness that defines our order. May the year ahead be one filled with compassion, purposeful actions, and an unwavering commitment to our mission.

Let us also remember January holds significant religious importance for us as we celebrate various feasts this month. We have the Solemnity of Mary on January 1st to commemorate the role of Mary as the mother of Jesus Christ. It is a day for us to honor Mary's unique role in salvation history. On January 6, we celebrate the Feast of the Three Kings (Wise Men/Magi) which signified the revelation of Jesus Christ to the world. We also have the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Let us each spend a little extra time in prayer this month, by doing so, we can grow spiritually and deepen our faith as we reflect on the life of Jesus.

One last reminder, our meeting dates have changed through March. See you at Mass, or our next meeting on 10th at 5:30 for the Rosary.

Vivat Jesus
Rick Kuertz, GK



Council 9924 2023-2024

Grand Knight

Rick Kuertz 513-430-4330

Deputy Grand Knight

Eric 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

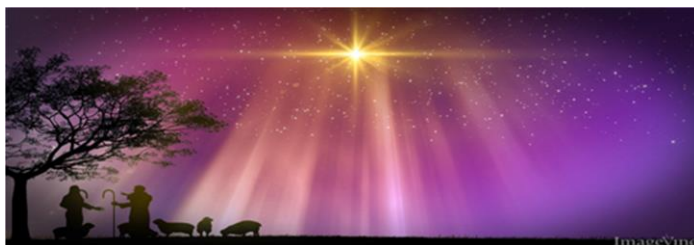
Michael Costanza 941-400-7416



Prayers for Our Sick & Distressed



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



Remembering Those Close To Us



Prayers For Those Close To Us



Brother of Vinnie Ferris

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.



From Renee Owens

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace to those on whom his favor rests."

LUKE 2:14 *the Wonder and the Miracle*

*Sharing with you the **Glory**,*

Merry Christmas.

Thank you again
for your generosity and kindness
and for all you do!

Love,
Renee

Thank
your Kindness
Christmas gift :)
you and the Knights do such great
work and are making a difference
in so many lives - it is such
a privilege and joy to support
and help in anyway I can!

Thank you from Venice Area Pregnancy Center



Nov. 22, 2023

Dave ~

During this time of Thanksgiving, please accept our sincere thanks and appreciation for all that you & the Knights do for us! Your hard work & the participation of so many in this year's Golf Outing, certainly have helped us to provide for more clients and their children. The proceeds will be partly used for new clothes and as always diapers & car seats!

Special Blessings to all ~
Susan Robison, VAPCC

Thank You

from Jacqueline Zdrojowy, Executive Director of Pregnancy Solutions. Our council gave them \$8,000 from the Diehl Fund to spend on needy children. Looks like the money was spent well.

Dear Knights,

We wanted to offer our sincerest thanks for helping make our Christmas an unforgettable one for our clients at Pregnancy Solutions.

In our four centers we blessed 236 client children. We gave out a wide variety of toys, from giant stuffed teddy bears to legos to baby walkers to neon rope lighting for teens. Many parents chose toys to give to their children personally, while others brought their kids in to choose a present from under the tree. We received many gracious thank you's, and clients were overwhelmed by the extravagant generosity displayed. We have been asked by clients to pass on their gratitude to the donors, as they expressed what a difference this has made for their families.

Below is a small sample of the specific client situations that made receiving presents an extra blessing:

- Recently homeless family living in a camper
- Single mom with recent health issues, struggling to make rent
- Single mom, whose father of baby is in prison so she has no support
- out of work family
- young couple with baby trying to get their own place, but car broke down recently
- single mom of twins with little support
- family living in charity housing
- family with two kids still living in an RV since the hurricane
- Single mom who often goes hungry and could not afford presents

We have multiple clients who are just starting out, struggling with the housing market and the cost of living in general, with baby expenses making their financial situation challenging. We have several clients with recent health issues who are now struggling to work. A large number of our clients have little to no support system when first joining our program. Overall, our clients with significant needs were grateful for the blessing of being able to give their children presents this year.

In addition, we were able to bless four families that were in the greatest amount of need from each of our centers and adopt their family in a greater way for Christmas with more specific needs and wish list items.

Thank you for blessing our clients and their children!

We can't say enough for the impact your generosity has had!

Jacqueline Zdrojowy



Special message from Renee Owens, Parish Office Coordinator

My heart is filled with love and joy for each of you as I reflect on your ministries, your amazing leadership, and the passion you have for spreading the Gospel and touching so many lives through your example and ministry.

I wanted to share two events coming up in the New Year. Please mark your calendars and “Save the Date” for the following 2024 upcoming events and feel free to share them with your members:

1. **Saturday, February 10, 2024 from 9:00am – 11:30am**: First Aide/CPR/AED training. Each participant will receive an American Red Cross certification card and the cards are valid for two years. The fee is covered by the Diocese. It would be great to have a few people from each ministry participate so that you have added health safety during your gatherings, more information and registration information will follow in the New Year.
2. **Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 3:00pm**: Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (and Super Bowl Sunday). Please join us for the Living Rosary which will take place in the Church and will be led by the different ministries of our Parish, followed by a Volunteer Reception in the Parish Center. What a great way to start Super Bowl Sunday!

Also, I have a humble request: Our Lady of Lourdes is blessed with nearly 50 diverse ministries – that is wonderful news! Many of them use the classrooms in the Education Building – which is a blessing! Recently, it has been brought to my attention that several ministries have had parties and have been moving chairs and tables between classrooms. This is fine, but in some cases, the tables and chairs that were moved had not been returned, making it very difficult for the next ministry to have their meeting. **I humbly request, on behalf of Fr. Jay and OLL Staff, that if you do find it necessary to move furniture, please put things back the way you found them.** Thank you so much for understanding and for being respectful of the other groups.

And finally, I would be remiss if I did not share the sad news that our bookkeeper of over 10 years, Betsy LaSorsa, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 14, 2023. I will send out another email as soon as I receive information on Funeral Services. Please pray with me that God’s eternal light will shine upon Betsy as she is welcomed into Gods Heavenly Kingdom and that a ray of that light may touch the lives of her friends and loved ones, bringing them peace and comfort.

Thanks again for all you do, I pray you and your loved ones are filled with peace, love, and joy today and always. You are a blessing to so many, especially me. Thank you and Merry Christmas.



CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHDAYS

NAME	AGE
William Stahl	84
Herbert Ziefel	82
Kieran Day	81
Joseph Mrusko	81
Raymond Benkosky	79
J Martin	77
John Cullinan	76
Nicholas Catone	75
Guiseppe Ragozzino	73
David La Liberte	72
Dennis Tuszynski	72
William Blanchard	70
Richard Ventresca	63
Robert Lauser	56
Mark Iannotti	45
Christian Rodriguez	35
William Stahl	84

ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	YEARS
Theophane Frechette	59
John Reilly	58
Dennis O'Brien	41
Christopher Clair	40
Donald Maselli	37
James Kelly	35
Michael Wohlrab	34
David Mc Donnell	31
John Marino	31
Martin Reis	28
Patrick Rapp	25
James Connor	23
Don Freiburger	21
Dennis Veldman	20
Isabelo Sanchez	17
Thomas Reno	13
Michael Pote	11
Nicholas Catone	10
Joseph Connors	10
Daniel Smith	7
John Vidas	7
Henry Von Salzen	7
Albert Petera	6
Ronald Courtney	5

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 Von Salzen 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

Food Service – John Tosado 610-428-9292

Food Collection – Eric Bisighini 860-899-8785

James Collins 917-837-8698

Cross & Compass – Ray Pronko 858-880-8376

Backpack – Mike Milak 941-380-7248

Insurance Promotion

Visitation – Bob Burhoe 941-716-3243

Council Prayer Tree –

Fourth Degree – Pat Burke 914-953-9307

Vocations Chairman – Greg Walsh 941-681-2438

December Food Collection

\$1,553 in donations and 1,110 lbs of food collected. Thanks to all who donated their time, goods and money.



2023 Food Pantry Donation Totals



Thanks to the generosity of our Parishioners, 5 Tons of Dry Goods and \$28,500 were donated to three Catholic Food Banks.

**St Michael in Wauchula; St Joseph in Moore Haven,
Catholic Charities of DeSoto County in Arcadia.**

Knights of the Month

Grand Knight, Rick Kuertz presents Ron Bowes and Ray Pronko for OWR Fundraiser



Knight of the Month

**Grand Knight, Rick Kuertz,
Presents Dave Kristie with
Knight of the Month**



Knight of the Month

**Grand Knight, Rick Kuertz,
presents Ed Jones as Knight of the
Month**



Council 9924 Recognition

**Kendra Simpkins, Founder and CEO of
Operation Warrior Resolution, presents
Ray Pronko**

with a Certificate of Appreciation for the funds raised on Italian Night



Transfer Members

James Martin

Daniel Prickel

John Mitchell

Ronald Juaire

Steven Kindrick



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

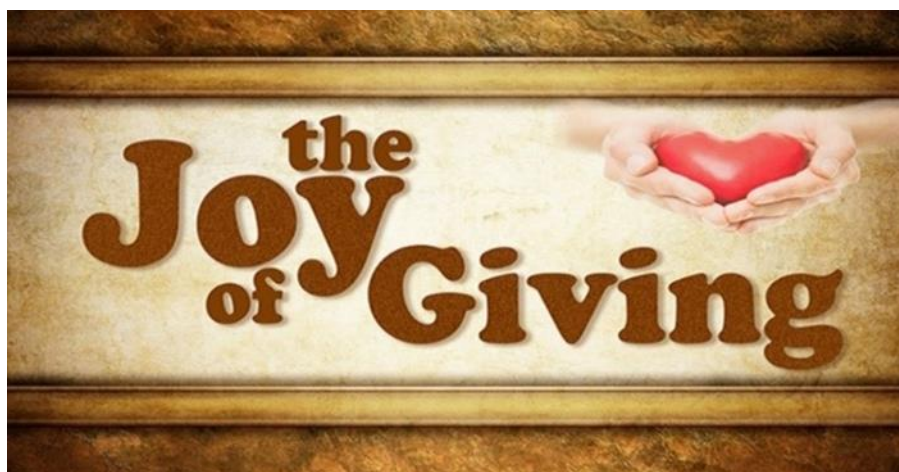
This is Tom Reno's last year as lead.

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
Mmilak33@gmail.com
941-380-7248

*January**2024*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Council Meeting 5:00 Officers 5:30 rosary 6:00 dinner 7:00 meeting	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 A Touch of Classics 6 – 7:30 pm	19	20
21 Blood Drive 8 am – 1:30 pm	22	23	24	25	26	27 Food Collection
28 Food Collection	29	30	31			



Katie Morris and the CCW gave us a wonderful Christmas Party enjoyed by all complete with diner from San Marcos, a sing-along of carols and stories from some of those in attendance.



Annual Clothing Drive

The Knights of Columbus thanks you for your support of our 2023 Clothing Collection. Your generosity provided nearly 1,000 bags of clothing - approximately 5 Tons! The clothing was picked up by St. Michael's Church in Wachula. It is made available to needy families (mostly migrant workers) through their thrift shop.

St. Michael's sent the following:

"Thank you, thank you, thank you for your generosity and the bags and bags of clothing and such."



Clothing drive led by Tom Reno and amazing work by the team of volunteers.



Tootsie Roll Drive



Beginning January 12th

Bob Burhoe

Tootsie Roll Drive - January/February 2024		
Location	Date	Days
Publix - Venice Village Shoppes	1/12/2024	Friday
	1/13/2024	Saturday
Walmart - tentative	1/12/2024	Friday
	1/13/2024	Saturday
Our Lady of Lourdes (doors)	1/20/2024	Saturday
	1/21/2024	Sunday
Publix - Venice Commons	1/26/2024	Friday
	1/27/2024	Saturday
Publix - West Villages	2/1/2024	Friday
	2/2/2024	Saturday



A Touch of Classics

Our Lady of Lourdes Council of Catholic Women is sponsoring a parish wide event featuring Muriel Desrosiers and Jen Moak sharing their gift of music on

Thursday, January 18, 2024

6:00pm – 7:30pm in the Parish Center
Suggested donation is \$5.00 per person

Throughout this event, they will be reviewing classic musicians along with some of their compositions from Bach to current composer, American John Williams. This is a can't miss event if you love music!

One Blood Drive



January 21st
8:00 am - 1:30 pm

Hit ctrl + click to schedule an appointment

[Scheduler | Donate Blood or Platelets \(oneblood.org\)](#)

[Scheduler | Donate Blood or Platelets \(oneblood.org\)](#) or copy/paste this link into your browser

All donors will receive*:

- \$20 eGift Card
- OneBlood Long Sleeve T-shirt
- Wellness Checkup including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening.

“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



Ray Ross

A belated Merry Christmas to all my brother knights and best wishes for the New Year.

As we kick off 2024 I thought it apropos to suggest ten prolife and pro-family resolutions for your consideration:

- Contribute to prolife causes with your time;
- Whenever possible, communicate prolife values to your family and friends;
- Regularly pray the rosary for an end to abortion and for the millions of unborn souls lost to humanity;
- Make charitable contributions to prolife organizations such as Life Site News, 40 Days for Life, and Students for Life;
- Constantly reinforce the value of the sacrament of marriage to your children and grandchildren;
- Teach and communicate our belief that the human person is a unity of body and soul created male and female in God's image;
- Stand for parental rights and against the indoctrination of our children;
- Only use pronouns that conform in accordance with the sex of the person determined at birth;
- Call or write members of Congress in opposition to the legalization of abortifacient drugs, and
- Support candidates who are prolife and agree with the Church teachings (e.g., Humane Vitae) that a human fetus regardless of size, age or appearance is a living human being.

From John Yaglenski



The Miracle of Motherhood!

"When pregnant, the cells of the baby migrate into the mother's bloodstream and then circle back into the baby, and it's called "fetal-maternal micro chimerism".

For 41 weeks, the cells circulate and merge backwards and forwards, and after the baby is born, many of these cells stay in the mother's body, leaving a permanent imprint in the mother's tissues, bones, brain, and skin, and often stay there for decades. Every single child a mother has afterwards will also leave a similar imprint on her body. Even if a pregnancy doesn't go to full term or if you have an abortion these cells still migrate into your bloodstream.

The baby helps repair the mother, while the mother builds the baby. This is often why certain illnesses vanish while pregnant. Research has shown that if a mother's heart is injured, fetal cells will rush to the site of the injury and change into different types of cells that specialize in mending the heart.

It's incredible how mothers' bodies protect the baby at all costs, and the baby protects and rebuilds the mother back. Think about crazy cravings for a moment; what was the mother deficient in, that the baby made them crave?

Studies have also shown cells from a fetus in a mother's brain even 18 years after she gave birth. If you're a mom, you know how you can intuitively feel your child even when they are not there ...

Well, now there is scientific proof that moms carry those children for years and years even after they have given birth to them.

January



The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, which is celebrated on January 3. The first ten days of January fall during the liturgical season known as Christmas which is represented by the liturgical color white, the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored). The remaining days of January are the beginning of Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. It is used in the Masses of Ordinary Time.

Pray For Ukraine

and

**Peace in the Middle
East.**