

CROSS AND COMPASS



A Publication of the Knights Of Columbus Council 9924 February 2024



Brothers,

Welcome to the February edition of the Cross and Compass, it is hard to believe we are in February already. As we kick-off this month I've got some great news to share, we are officially in the 300 club for membership. We had an exemplification ceremony on January 12, and we welcomed 5 new brothers, and we've had many brothers transfer their membership to our Council. Let's all congratulate Eddie Jones and the membership team for their hard work in making us over 300 brothers strong. Our membership is our lifeblood and is essential for making our Council, Church, and Community a better place for all. It's great to see the new brothers jumping right in by volunteering their time and helping us make a difference. We saw all kinds of activities in January. The Pancake Breakfast was such a huge success that we started to run out of food. The Parrish Center was absolutely packed, great job Dave and Kitchen Team! We also need to thank Henry Von Salzen, and all the 39 people that showed up and donated 29 pints of blood at the Blood Drive. This precious gift is life saving and helps those in our community when it is needed most. In January we also had a Food Drive and the Tootsie Roll drive kicked-off. Again, thanks to Eric Bisighini, Bob Burhoe and all brothers that helped with these drives or donated to them. We received the approval for the Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) Raffle and ticket sales are now underway. Since the approval was delayed, we have a shortened window to sell all 700 tickets. The good news is we are only selling 700 tickets so the odds of winning the Top Prize of \$5,000 or 1 of the 2 \$2,500 prizes are pretty good. If we could each take a couple of tickets to sell, we can have a sell out in no time. Please see Ron Bowes or one of the Officers if you are interested in helping. The annual Free Throw Contest will be on February 4th starting at 10:30 am. February 11 is going to be a busy day for us as we have a pancake breakfast after the 8:00 am and 10:00 am Masses and we will also be participating in the Living Rosary at 3:00 pm. We will be hosting Fat Tuesday Paczki & Coffee on Tuesday February 13th after 8:00 am Mass in the Parrish Center. We are going to need some help with these events, if you can, please consider volunteering some time, I promise you will enjoy it! Lastly, as we enter the month of February, I am also reminded of the profound sense of purpose that binds us together as Knights of Columbus. The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd calls us to contemplate the essence of our commitment to charity and service. Let us renew our dedication to the principles that define us, as we actively engage in activities that uplift those in need within our community. We then have The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 11. This Feast teaches us profound lessons of humility, faith, and service as Mary beckons us to be instruments of charity, love, and compassion. Let us, as Knights, embody the spirit of service in our communities, just as Mary revealed her love for humanity at Lourdes. We then enter the Lenten Season on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. May February be a month of purposeful service and strengthened fraternal bonds as we continue to make a positive difference in the lives of those we touch. I look forward to seeing you at mass or our next meeting on February 7th starting with the Rosary at 5:30.

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

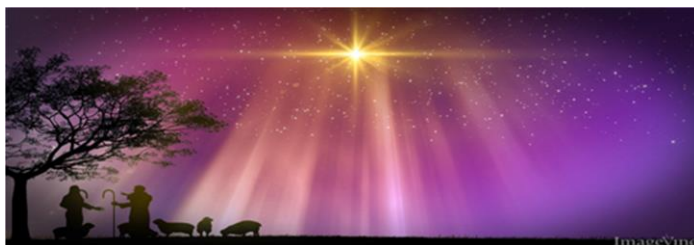
Michael Costanza 941-400-7416



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



Special Message from Rick Kuertz, Grand Knight



Good afternoon, Brothers:

Our Brothers in the 4th Degree have asked us to join them during Adoration to pray for our fellow Knights and their spouses with the addition of a prayer book. Please take a minute to read the message below. As we all know prayer has a lot of power and this will be a simple way for us to keep all of our Brothers and their spouses covered in prayer.

It seems that we always find that we have Knights in need of our prayers, all too often in dire need.

In an effort to generate a more intense and focused prayer effort for brother

Knights and their spouses we are beginning a new program.

Starting on Friday February 2, and continuing every First Friday going forward, we will have a book containing the names of Knights and or their spouses that are in need of our prayers, on the kneeler in front of the Blessed Sacrament at Adoration. Any Knight may write in the name of any other Knight or his spouse to be prayed for.

We ask that all Knights make an effort to attend Adoration, wearing our shirts, and spend a little time with our Lord asking for his blessing for our Brother Knights that are in need of His graces.

The benefits are obvious:

- Our brother gets the prayers he needs*
- Our parishioners will see Knights in numbers showing up to pray for their brothers, that's a good thing.*
- We will be teeing it up for Fr. McGivney to get that miracle he needs for canonization.*

Thank you, and remember, eventually, we're all going to be in that book.

Fraternally,

Rick Kuertz Grand Knight

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.





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

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

January Food Collection

\$1,942 in donations and 900 Lbs of food collected. Thanks to all who donated their time, goods and money.



Knight of the Month

**Grand Knight, Rick Kuertz, recognizes
Tom Reno as Knight of the Month**





New Members

Mike Wood George Duke Marty Houlroyd
Robert Gurek John Owens

Transfer Members

Paul Slattery Leonard Danielswitz
Charles Glomb Joseph Gallupi Leonard Shuzdak

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

Eddie 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

**Thank you to Paul Krause (PGK) for volunteering to replace
Henry Von Salzen**

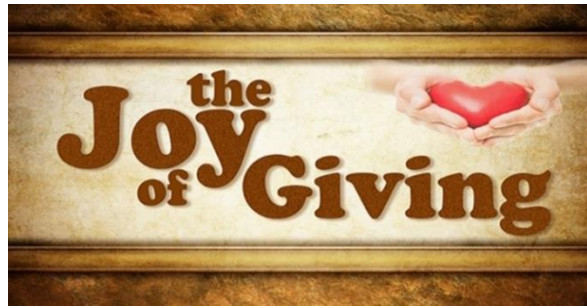
Thank you Paul and Henry !

Clothing Drive

**Thank you to Bobby Whiting and Marty Reis for taking the
leadership role for the clothing drive.**

Tootsie Roll Drive

**Thank you Rick Anderson for volunteering to be Co-chair with
Bob Burhoe.**



Sock Drive



Father Jay has challenged us to collect 10,000 pairs of socks to help workers in need. So far, we have collected 3300 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

February

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Tootsie Roll Drive
4 Tootsie Roll Drive Free Throw Contest	5	6	7 Council Meeting 5:00 Officers 5:30 rosary 6:00 dinner 7:00 meeting	8	9	10
11 Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes	12	13 Paczki & Coffee After 8 am mass	14 Ash Wednesday	15	16	17 Valentine's For Vets
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Food Collection
25 Food Collection	26	27	28	29		

Tootsie Roll Drive



Results in the next issue

**Thank you to Rick Anderson for stepping into
the role of Co-Chair.**

Bob Burhoe

Basketball Free-Throw Shooting Contest

Sunday Feb 4th at 11:00am



We are sponsoring a Free-throw Shooting Contest for Boys & Girls between the ages of 9 and 14 years-old, on Sunday, February 4th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Basketball Court near the Pavilion. Kids will come primarily from Our Lady of Lourdes, but other children are invited to participate.

“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



One Blood Results

Incredible turnout at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish's January blood drive!

We appreciate our partnership with Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and thank you for all you do as the chairperson to help make blood drives a success.

We are pleased to share with you that the recent blood drive resulted in 29 units of blood. Remember, each donation can save up to three lives, so that means 87 patients could benefit from the lifesaving efforts of blood donors from OLOL. We encourage you to share the drive results with the rest of your fellow Knights and please pass along our gratitude (see attached Honor Roll flyer) to everyone who came out to share their power to save lives, especially in January when hospital needs are high. Even more, donations were very slow over the holidays. (Note: 31 units of blood is record high donations at OLOL.)

Every two seconds, someone needs blood. The blood donated at your blood drive will 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.

An enthusiastic, dependable blood drive chairperson is one of the keys to a blood drive's success and we want to take this opportunity to thank you for helping with coordinating the drive and saving lives in our community.

Our next scheduled blood drive is Sunday, March 24th. In March, we offer donors a OneBlood Insulated Tote and a \$20 e-gift.

We look forward to working with you again and thank you for your dedication and commitment to our lifesaving mission. Thank you, Henry, and your fellow Knights, for all you do to support blood donations in our community.



Blood Donor HONOR ROLL

Thank you for participating in the blood drive at
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish on Sunday, January 21, 2024

FLETCHER AMANDA

LEE BRIANNE

FLETCHER CHARLA

HASKIN DENISE

BISIGHINI ERIC

QUINNAN JAMES

DONOVAN JEROME

PACHECO JOHN

SARACENO JOSEPH

ESTABROOK

LORRAINE

SARACENO LYNN

NAMUTH MARK

QUINNAN MARY

FLEMING MICHAEL

CACCAVELLI PATRICIA

WHITE PETER

MARO ROBERT

KEAN THERESA

BORISY TROY

ROMANO ANNMARIE

SCUDERI-KILBANE

CAROLINE

PACHECO DANA

DEIMLER EILEEN

KUCERA JAMES

CURTIS JEFFREY

VALLERIE JOANN

WARD JOHN

MORRIS KATHRYN

MARO LUCY

REED MARILYN

PALERMO MARSHA

BERRY MICHAEL

STONE NANCY

KRAUSE PAUL

PRONKO RAYMOND

HEBERT FLANAGAN

SUSAN

GALEK THOMAS



Pro-Life Update



Ray Ross

Prayers Requested

Since 2023 a group known as “Floridians Protecting Freedom” has been gathering signatures on a petition that would put to a vote in the November General Election an amendment to the Florida State Constitution that would allow an abortion up to the time of birth. Of course, the name “Floridians Protecting Freedom” is totally deceptive and misleading.

On February 7th, the Florida Supreme Court will determine whether the language in the petition is ambiguous and may have misled many of those who signed it. Currently, “Floridians Protecting Freedom” has close to 200,000 signatures. I believe they need 10% of the registered voters in Florida to get on the ballot. As part of my data gathering for this article, I wrote to Dr. Bill Lile, the Pro-Life Doc. Dr. Lile is an Ob-Gyn and practices in Pensacola.

Dr. Lile responded to my email writing, “Should this become part of our Constitution abortion on demand would be available at any gestational age for any reason. When you read the verbiage of this amendment there are two parts. First, abortion cannot be hindered prior to viability. Viability is not defined in the amendment but is generally considered to be 23 to 24 weeks gestation. The next phrase is or if the “mother's health” is threatened, as determined by her

healthcare provider. Health was defined in the US Supreme Court case *Doe versus Bolton* and "health" was defined as physical, emotional, psychological, familial, or age. Such a broad definition provides no protection for the Pre-Born. Also "healthcare provider" is not defined. And even when you look at the financial support of this proposed amendment it is primarily coming from Planned Parenthood and the ACLU of Florida. Neither organization has the life and interest of God's preborn as a priority to save."

Dr. Lile went on to say that we are saving the lives of the unborn in Florida and that includes saving the lives of the unborn still in the womb through life-saving blood transfusions, cardiac valvuloplasty, septoplasty, and spina bifida corrective surgery.

So, on Wednesday, February 7th, the Court will hear the case. We should know the result by the time I write next month's article. I have an interview scheduled with Dr. Lile, but unfortunately that won't occur until after I submit this month's article. There is hope because the Florida Supreme Court is conservative. Nevertheless, please pray that this proposed amendment gets rejected and is not put to a November vote. If that happens, the forces of evil will descend on Florida with millions in financing and deceptive tactics to sway the vote just as they did in Ohio.

February



The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family. The special devotion which proposes the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the model of virtue of all Christian households. The Holy Family models for us what family life should exemplify. It is a school of virtue for both parents and children. There we find God, and learn how to connect with God and with others. The family is where love is freely given without self-interest. It is where we learn to love, to pray and to practice the gift of charity. Pope John Paul II has said, “The family, more than any other human reality, is the place in which the person is loved for himself and in which he learns to live the sincere gift of self” (Nov. 27, 2002).

Catholicculture.org

Pray For Ukraine and Peace in the Middle East.