



Knights of Columbus

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APRIL 2019

Brother Knights,

Congratulations to: March Knight of the Month – Jack Passafiume and to March Family of the Month – Mike and Joan Gates. Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the three seminarians our council is supporting this fraternal year: Matthew Donahue, Andrew Hendershott, and Deacon Mark Schuster. Deacon Mark will be ordained a priest this summer.

Thanks to the volunteers who support dozens of programs and activities with the council and parish:

- All Lenten Fish Fry March volunteers – Ted Ansink, Kyle Botica, Brian Briody, Mike Carter, Pete Colombo, Ben Compton, Dick Groves, Tonyardini, Pete McKenzie, Mo Molchan, John Murphy, Jack Passafiume, Phil Perkins, Ken Podgorski, Don Schreyer, John Stabile, Matt Sturgill, Wen Thomas, Hans Vanderveldt, Cathy Varga, Doug Varga, Trish Varga. Most of these volunteers worked two or three or four weeks.
- March 10 breakfast volunteers.
- March 10 Fourth Degree dinner volunteers.
- March 15-16 Catholic Charities volunteers – Walt Hanson, Lance Lyons, and Doug Peterson.
- March 23-24 Membership Drive volunteers – Bill Allington, Tony Angelelli, Pete Colombo, Ben Compton, Mike Gates, Walt Hanson, Paul Hughes, Pete McKenzie, Fidel Perez, Mike Ryan, Don Schreyer, Terry Scoggins, and Wen Thomas. Four prospective members were identified.
- Volunteers who distribute food and goods to those in need in Knox and surrounding counties.
- All Knights, spouses and family members who serve in one or more capacities at St. John Neumann and elsewhere as CCD teachers, choir members, Eucharistic ministers, grounds and maintenance volunteers, lectors, and Perpetual Adoration adorers.

You are encouraged to share this newsletter with spouses and prospective members.

April Birthdays

Congratulations to Deacon Don Amelse, Neil Donahue, Ed McInerney, Matthew McGrath, Cormac Mohan, Chris Pacitti, Jack Passafiume, Fidel Perez, Garrett Swartwood, and Matthew Walter.

Looking Ahead to April Dates and Events

- Regular council meeting, 7:00 p.m., SJN Music Room, Thursday, April 4; **no First Degree.**
- Lenten Fish Fry, 6:00 p.m., Friday, April 5. Volunteers needed, contact Matt Sturgill.
- Lenten Fish Fry, 6:00 p.m., Friday, April 12. Volunteers needed, contact Matt Sturgill.
- Breakfast Buffet, after morning Masses, Sunday, April 14
- Holy Thursday, April 18 – NO COUNCIL MEETING.
- Good Friday, April 19.
- Holy Saturday, April 20.
- Easter, April 21.

Monthly Spiritual Reflection:

A great way to augment your daily prayer life is to include a reflection or two.

April Reflections:

Sanctify Yourself: In our vastly secularized modern world, the need has never been greater to reclaim the surrendered ground of the sacred. While it was nearly a millennium ago that Pope Urban II challenged would-be warriors to "reclaim the sacred," in our day it was Pope John Paul II, in his January 6, 2000, Apostolic Letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, who made his clarion call for us to put aside all fear and pursue daring apostolic goals which are rooted deeply in prayer. This is a call to return to our first priority, the Universal Call to Holiness: "All Christian faithful ... are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity."

The spiritual devastation of the last few decades compelled Pope John Paul II to draw up his master plan for the new millennium. In his plan, he emphasized the importance of "starting afresh from Christ:" "No, we shall not be saved by a formula but by a Person." Thus, he called for pastoral initiatives that would focus on "Training in Holiness" and "Schools of Prayer." St. Francis of Assisi affirms this training in holiness as the fundamental starting point: "**Sanctify yourself and you will sanctify society.**"

Pope John Paul II challenges us to consider, "since baptism is a true entry into the holiness of God through incorporation into Christ and the indwelling of his Spirit, it would be a contradiction to settle for a life of mediocrity, marked by a minimalist ethic and a shallow religiosity ... 'Do you wish to become holy?' It means to set before you the radical nature of the Sermon on the Mount: 'Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect' (Mt 5:48)."

Be Summoned to Courage with your Faith and Prayer: A society increasingly disengaged from the Divine Life has no place to go but down. Definitely not progress, but a radical descent away from our greatest potential. "Tens of millions of unborn babies have been slaughtered; illegitimacy rates have soared; divorce has skyrocketed; pornography is rampant; drug use has exploded; sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS have killed millions; birth control is a way of life; sex outside of wedlock has become the norm; countless children have been permanently damaged - their innocence lost forever - because of the proliferation of broken homes; and sodomy and homosexuality are celebrated openly. America has become the new Babylon." (Jeffrey Kuhner, Washington Times)

Summoning us to courage, a popular saying challenges us to fight: "Hope has two beautiful daughters: their names are anger and courage. Anger that things are the way they are. Courage to make them the way they ought to be."

St. Cyril of Jerusalem in his *Mystagogical Catechesis* insists, "Just as the Savior, after his baptism and the coming of the Holy Spirit, went forth to vanquish the Enemy (in the wilderness), so you too, after Holy Baptism and Mystical Chrismation, having put on the whole armor of the Holy Spirit, are to resist the power of the Adversary and to vanquish him, saying, 'I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me' (Phil. 4:13)." So today, start your day with courage and prayer.

Join us on April 10 for a First Wednesday Devotion to St Joseph. As the virgin father of Jesus, St. Joseph showed Him all the natural love and affection of a father's heart. He placed his life at the service of God in total self-giving for our Savior who grew up in his house. And Jesus grew "in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man." (Lk. 2:52.). On the eve of his own feast day, March 19, 1958, St. Joseph made an appearance to Sister Mildred, the visionary of the Our Lady of America devotion. He proclaimed the unique privilege that was bestowed on him as the virgin father of Jesus. **He said that all fatherhood is blest in his fatherhood. He asked that our family life be modeled on that of the Holy Family, with Jesus at the center of all its activity.** He wants us to teach our children and grandchildren well. On March 30, St. Joseph again appeared and declared himself the protector of the Church and the home.

He stated that Jesus and Mary desired that his pure heart, so long hidden and unknown, be now honored in a special way. He asked that we all **honor him on the First Wednesday (after the First Friday) of every month** by attending Mass and receiving Jesus in the Eucharist, with the same love that St. Joseph gave to Him, and by praying the **Joyful mysteries** of the Rosary in memory of his life with Jesus and Mary. St. Joseph confirmed his enormous role in God's plan of salvation, shared with his holy Spouse, the Mother of Jesus. (*Diary* 26-31). Join us for the 6:00 p.m. Mass, Wednesday April 10, and after the Mass we will pray the rosary in honor of St. Joseph's Most Chaste Heart.

Degree News

There is one remaining Knighthood Degree date in the Diocese of Knoxville:

- April 27, St. Dominic (Kingsport), Council 6992

All Knighthood Degrees start at 10:00 a.m., with candidates expected to arrive no later than 9:30 a.m.

Each council is expected to conduct Admission Degrees whenever they have candidates; typically, Council 8781 plans to hold Admission Degrees prior to each first Thursday meeting.

Eligible candidates will be contacted by email with pertinent details prior to any scheduled Second or Third Degrees.

Council 8781 Minutes and Financial Summaries

Attached are March 21 Minutes provided by the Grand Knight for Recorder David Hetrick. The March 18 and April 1 financial reports are provided by Treasurer James Parsly.

Council Insurance Representative

Our local agent is Ron Henry and we look forward to having him visit our council as his schedule permits. If you have questions about any Knights of Columbus insurance products, please contact Ron at 314-9441 (cell) or ron.henry@kofc.org.

Fraternally,

Bill