



March 2016



Congratulations to the Following Honorees

**January Knight of the Month
Taupule' (Tau) Iosia**



**January Family of the Month
Debbie & Darrell Hover**

**Knight of the Quarter
October, November, December
Fr. Francis Cosgrove**

**Council 802 Knight of the Year 2016
Howard McCarty**

**Council 802 Family of the Year 2016
Liberty and Salvador (Sal) Moreno**



**Assembly 1251 and State
Sir Knight of the Year 2016
(to be determined)**





Knights Of Columbus The Meridian Knight Council Officers



Grand Knight
David Viger

Chaplain
Father Matthew Simmons

Deputy Grand Knight
David Klutz

Financial Secretary
George Walston

Chancellor
Robert J. Leo PGK

Treasurer
John D. Harwell

Advocate
Roland Stewart

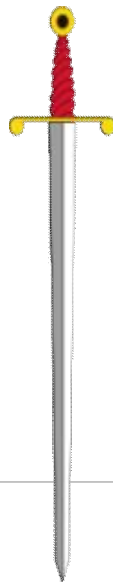
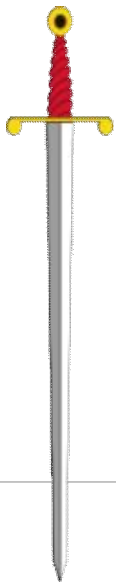
Recorder
Frank Polizzi, PGK

Lecturer
John Bennett, PGK

Warden
Howard McCarty

Inside Guard
Frank Sharp

Outside Guard
David Stephens



Trustees

Patrick J Carter PGK
John Maloney Sr PGK
Mouise Richards PGK



Newsletter Editor
George Walston

The Main Principles of Our Order

Charity

Unity

Fraternity

Patriotism

THE KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS



PROTECTING FAMILIES
FOR GENERATIONS



*We Thank You Lord for all that
you give us freely*

[Meridian Knights of Columbus Homepage](http://www.kofc802.org)
<http://www.kofc802.org>



Grand Knight Dave Viger



Brothers Knights,

It seems we were just celebrating Advent but now, we are already well into the season of Lent! Let us continue to strive to do all we can to keep ourselves in the spirit and help purify ourselves to be closer to our Lord. Jesus spent 40 days fasting and praying before he started his ministry. Let us continue through this Holy Season praying for those things closest to our hearts and what is important to our church.

During the month of March, I also encourage each of us to focus on membership and to ask ourselves: Can we show enough love to our fellow Catholic gentlemen to invite them to join our order? Can we show the love for each other that will make them want to join our order? When non-members have a chance to see all that we do, I am sure we can get them to join!

I want to take this opportunity to especially thank our Council Director, Brother Tau, for his superb efforts in organizing both the Super Bowl Party and our Sweethearts Night. His hard work and dedication ensured both events were extremely successful and enjoyed by everyone who participated.

Please read the rest of the newsletter for the various activities that are offered this month. Please show our Unity by being in attendance or by simply volunteering. Our Program Directors work very hard and we should avail ourselves of all of these opportunities for fellowship with each other and for service to our Catholic community.

Thank you and God Bless!

Vivat Jesus!

Dave Viger, GK



Church Sal Moreno



March is Easter month. I was warned to be prepared for a busy but important month of activities ahead. First in the list will be our Corporate Communion Mass on Saturday, March 19th at 5:00. Don't forget to wear your green shirt and be ready to participate in the celebration of the Mass. Then we will have the Knights of Columbus sponsored R.C.I.A. brunch which is tentatively scheduled for April 10th. Also, the knights of Columbus sponsored 1st. communion reception and the confirmation reception is just around the corner. I personally don't think it is going to be that bad but it is always a good practice to get ready to ask for help and as the Navy saying goes... "Always be ready and Standby for Heavy Rolls"

God Bless

Sal Moreno
Chairman



Community Roland Stewart



Due to some sort of virus, we had to cancel our February trip to East Mississippi. They informed us that they were in a lock down mode and no one would be allowed into the facility. We should, however, be alright for our visit in March. Since the fourth Thursday will be Holy Thursday, we plan on going on the Fifth Thursday which is March 31st. Thanks to all of you who help with this function each month.

Roland Stewart
Community Chairman

Meridian Knights of Columbus Homepage
<http://www.kofc802.org>



Chaplain
Fr. Matthew Simmons



Dear Brother Knights,

The first concern voiced at Bishop Kopacz' listening session at St. Patrick was also the concern most frequently voiced. That concern is one for the young men & women of the parish and our inability to foster their relationship with Jesus Christ through the Church He founded. Out of approximately one hundred participants at the listening session, less than twenty could be considered young adults or youth. Some parents and grandparents expressed the need for more social activities for young people. Others, including a twenty-year-old, vocalized the need for our passing on to the younger generation an understanding of the Catholic Church as unique among Christians.

The Knights of Columbus, with their emphasis on marriage and rearing children in the Church, can continue to play a special role in evangelizing young people. The fathersforgood.org website and Facebook page of the Knights presents good resources for relating Catholic faith in Jesus Christ to everyday family life. Most especially the example that you set by your presence in Church is invaluable.

As we enter into a membership drive for the council, we join our efforts to our prayers for the future of the Catholic Church in Lauderdale, Clarke, and Kemper Counties. As a Mississippi native, I believe that one of the gifts of these parishes is that so many of you are from outside the state or have lived outside the state. You have a better sense of the universal nature of the Roman Catholic Church. I have heard Mississippians brag that, through defending our faith, we know it better than other Catholics. I don't see too many still defending the Church, though; and Mississippi easily loses its connection to the universal Church with its Tradition.

It seems to me that, as a small Catholic minority, we tried too hard to convince other Mississippians that our relationship with Christ was just like theirs. We succeeded in convincing young Catholics that there was little difference between the Catholic Church and others. The young gathered that there was nothing positive about being a member of the Church. If the differences between Christian churches don't matter, I don't think I would go to a Church at all. No other Christians in Meridian share our understanding of the presence of Jesus Christ in the Mass.

Your commitment to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament bears witness to your belief in the teaching of the Church regarding this unique Real Presence of Christ. I'm preaching to the converted to encourage you in the importance of your endeavors as we renew our efforts to evangelize those who have already been baptized in the Church. May God bless you and bless the Church through you.

MPS

Fr. Matthew



Council
Tau Iosia



I would like to thank all the Knights, their families, and the Catholic Community that help during the month of February at the events. We've had positive feedback on Father Cosgrove's retirement party, Super Bowl, and Sweethearts night. Super Bowl did raise \$116 and Sweetheart night raised over \$1300.00 which went towards priest education. This would not have been accomplished without the great team work of the KC's and our Catholic Community. I am truly blessed and grateful.

Moreover, serving on the parish council, we are living in the Year of Mercy and events will be happening throughout the entire year. When you can, please support these events.

Finally, I am truly blessed and thank everyone for their continued help.

Tau

*Please continue to pray for vocations.
We need more priests*



Special from
John Maloney, PGK



Last month I mentioned about Bingo. Needless to say, Professional Bingo Halls were opened in a short time. Our Bingo lost a good many customers. In fact, all the other Bingo's shut down after a few weeks or months but the K of C Bingo rose to the challenge. We completely changed our format. Purchased paper bingo cards (packs), and went up on our prizes. A letter was sent to the three Professional Bingo's telling them about the many charitable organizations we donate to and asked them to not hold their games on Wednesdays. Only one Professional Bingo still played Wednesday night. Then the State Gaming Commission was implemented. To make a long story short, the Gaming Commission closed all the Professional Bingo's over a couple of years. Our Bingo program has always passed their inspections with flying colors.

Before the Casino in Philadelphia opened our program paid \$300.00 for regular bingo games and had a \$4,000.00 jackpot which guaranteed at least \$1,000.00. Our best night before the Casino was built, we cleared \$7,777.00. That night we had 318 customers. We would average 222 customers a night. Over 50 customers came from Philadelphia. Today we use the same bingo program except the prizes have been reduced. The only time \$4,000.00 jackpot was hit was by a man passing through, who saw the Bingo sign and stopped to play. He was from California. He filled the card in 47 numbers. To my knowledge that was the only time \$4,000.00 was paid. We were hit for \$3,000.00 several times over the years.

More Memories next month.

John Maloney, Sr.
Trustee and PGK



Bingo
Bob Leo



When I go out on the bingo hall floor I think I'm in a different bingo hall, what with all of the new faces that are coming to our bingo sessions. The number of customers is increasing. The 1st week we only had 162 players, the 2nd week we had 188 and the third week we had 191 players, and the month is not over yet.

I contribute the increase of players to tax time, which will probably diminish as the months go by. But, I don't know what to contribute the new faces that I'm seeing. I see an increase in our neighbors from Philadelphia, the Choctaws.

What I would like to see is an increase in the new Brother Knights that have just recently joined our council. We could use your help on the floor. We have one young man that will be joining our council shortly, and has already been part of our bingo, and is doing a wonderful job at it, I would like to welcome and thank Tyler Oakes, for helping us out, Tyler Helps out in the kitchen, behind the bar, and out on the floor selling sheets. Thank you Tyler.

If any of you new Brother Knights would like to join Tyler and your brother Knights, just come on out to the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hwy 19 North at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday night. Come on out and meet your brother Knights, and Tyler. If you can't be there by 6:00, we can use you on the second shift at 7:30. We usually get out by 10:00 or 10:15

Bob Leo
Bingo Manager



Family Bob Leo



Congratulations to the Darrell and Debbie Hover Family for being chosen as our "Family of the Month" for January. Some of you may know of the problems that Darrell and Debbie are having, with Darrell having health problems, and with the storm damage to their van and their yard shed, with the good lord's prayers Darrell and Debbie have come through these troubled times unscathed, and together they managed to overcome these adversities. Again congratulations to Darrell and Debbie.

Also congratulations to the Sal and Liberty Moreno Family for being selected as our "Family of the Year" for 2015-2016. Sal and Liberty have been chosen as our Family of the Month on a number of occasions this year, and are most deserving of this most prestigious award. They work very hard for our church and the community, and also at the Meridian Naval Air Station where they are active at the St. Joseph of Cupertino Chapel. Again congratulations to Sal and Liberty Moreno.

Have you a Family in mind yet that you would like to see chosen as the "Family of the Month" for the month of February? If not, now would be a good time to think of one. I'll bet you know of one Brother Knight who already has a family in mind (not to mention any names). Please get active in this program. It is a wonderful way to recognize a family that has done outstanding work for the church, the community, and our council. Now the Family doesn't have to be affiliated with the Knights of Columbus. The only drawback to this is that the Family will not be eligible for the Supreme drawing, for a "Family Plaque, but can be recognized by the council with a "Family of the Month Certificate, at the yearend Awards Banquet. So put on your thinking caps this month.

Bob Leo
Family Director



Deputy Grand Knight Dave Klutz



I have been working the last two weeks to get all the reports and awards done for the state convention. This is my first time doing this so I have learned a lot. One of the things I learned is that writing up the award for the best program in each category is a lot more difficult than I thought. It isn't that we don't deserve it, but it is tough to write the award with very little information on the program reports. The write-ups want information about not only the event but what we did behind the scenes and issues that had to be overcome.

So, chairman, the next time you write up your program report put as much information on the report as possible. What supplies you got, what you did to set up the event, how many people came, clean up or issues that were overcome. All this detail will only help to explain why our programs should be voted as the best in Mississippi. Next time you fill out the program reports put as much information as possible. It will make the end of the year reports much easier to write next year. Thanks!!!

Also as I completed all our Convention Reports I noticed a lot of the same names. That tells me a couple of things. First, we really need all our Knights to support these events. Many take very little time to volunteer. All you have to do is read this newsletter pick an event and contact the chairman to see if they need help. I'll tell you from experience with the youth I'll never turn away help. Second, noticing all the same names also tells me that we should have no problems nominating Knights of the Month, so chairman please think about the guys that help you out often and nominate them. That way we don't have the same 2 people nominating Knights every month. Lastly, it impresses me how much we do around the church and the community. I am very proud to say I'm a Knight of this council.

Dave Klutz, DGK



Special on Youth from Dave Klutz, DCK



Another month and another month without any volunteers to take the post as Youth Chairman. I know you see these newsletters every month from me and think, well Dave is doing it. True, but I am also the Deputy Grand Knight and I NEED help.

Next month the biggest event we have is the Easter Egg hunt on March 27th. We will be hosting this event for the entire Catholic Community. It will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall right after 11:00 Mass. So I'm guessing we will have a 12:30 start time. I will need some help with entertainment and hiding of the eggs. We will provide drinks and light refreshments. Please come join us.

We have also been challenged by the 7th grade class at St. Patrick's School to a basketball game. I am going to need a few "young" volunteers who want to help me school these young students in the skills of basketball. When we have a date I will let you know. Again, please think about taking over as Youth Chairman. It isn't hard and I promise I will help.

Dave Klutz
Acting Youth Chairman



Seminarians Corner Nick Adam



Brother Knights,

I thought I would change it up a bit this month and give y'all a taste of what we are learning here in the seminary:

Notre Dame Professor Dr. Brant Pitre (pronounced Pea-tree) recently released a new book called *The Case for Jesus*. This book has helped me understand, and explain, the reasons that we have confidence in the accounts of Jesus' life as described in the Gospels. It may surprise you to hear this, but there are many biblical scholars who have cast doubt on very fundamental elements of Gospel literature, such as *who wrote the books*. Pitre's point is simple. In his book (and in his class) he simply states that it is *reasonable* to assert that the Gospels were written by who it says they were written by!

We live in a culture that *loves* skepticism; we love a good theory that calls into question all that we *thought* we knew before. Pitre's book shows that it makes sense to read the Gospels as historical biographies about Jesus written by eye-witnesses (Matthew and John) or near eye-witnesses (Mark and Luke). I can't go into all his arguments, but the result of taking away the skepticism is incredible. When we have the freedom to believe in the stories told in the Gospels as they appear, they can come alive in our prayer life (they certainly have come alive in mine).

Think about this example. Some scholars question whether the nativity accounts in Matthew and Luke were added later as a sort of myth to explain the divine origin of Jesus. These scholars jump to this conclusion because the nativity is not included in Mark (which is generally considered to be the first Gospel written, although this is not certain). Pitre has another idea, what if the nativity stories are included in Luke and Matthew because Luke and Matthew had a source that Mark didn't, a source that knew exactly how the birth of Jesus came about, a source that knew what the angel Gabriel said at the Annunciation. Maybe they included the nativity story because they had access to *Mary* as a source!

I apologize if these are all common sense answers to these questions, but as a student who has grown up in an academic world that loves to question, getting some straightforward answers about sacred scripture has been wonderfully refreshing and helpful to me. I hope that any of you with high school/college/young adult age children would consider putting them onto this book by Dr. Pitre, and I look forward to seeing you all this Easter!!!!

Nick

[Meridian Knights of Columbus Homepage](http://www.kofc802.org)
<http://www.kofc802.org>



Fourth Degree John Harwell, JN



January 31st saw the farewell Mass for our Faithful Friar Father Frank Cosgrove. The Honor Guard as always helped make the service beautiful with their presence. Then on February 14th, NAS Meridian welcomed Bishop Neil Buckon to the St. Joseph Cupertino Chapel on post for a special Mass. The following Honor Guard members participated in both of the aforementioned Masses: Commander Bob Leo PFN, Tom Zettler PSD, Frank Polizzi PFN, Frank Sharp, PJ Carter PGK, Roland Stewart, Bob Connor, Larry Birzer, David Klutz, Dewayne Klutz, Sal Moreno, Howard McCarty and Richard Moody. As we know, Father Cosgrove's send off was a beautiful day all the way around and then from NAS Father Dan Reardon conveyed his warm appreciation and thanks for your attendance.

I would be remiss if I did not add my thank you to our Honor Guard. This doesn't just happen. A great amount of work and preparation goes into the Honor Guard and I salute all of our members for dedicating their time to make what I think is the best Honor Guard in the state of Mississippi.

At 8:00AM (0800) on February 15th, another dedicated group of Sir Knights met in the rain at St. Patrick Cemetery to raise our Nation's Colors for Washington's Birthday. It is commonly called President's Day but the Federal recognition is still noted as Washington's Birthday. Dewayne Klutz, Bob Leo, Rick Norman, PJ Carter, Tom Zettler and John Harwell braved the elements to raise the flag. We then lowered flag to half-staff in honor/memory of our fellow Catholic Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia who died on Saturday, February 13th. At 5:00PM (1700) Tom Zettler, Bob Leo and John Harwell met to retire the flag. While we were there, looking out to the west from the hilltop, we were greeted with a beautiful setting sun as the clouds that had brought the rain earlier in the day were breaking up. It was a welcomed sight, given the storms that had passed through the area throughout the day.

In lieu of our meeting being cancelled due to inclement weather on February 23rd, a very brief, special 4th Degree meeting will take place at the conclusion of the Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 1st. The nominations and selection of our Sir Knight of the Year will be on the agenda.

Otherwise I hope you all have a good month as we continue Lent and move closer to Holy Week later in March.

Faithful Navigator
John Harwell
1 COR 12 4-7

March Birthdays

1st Thomas Carl & Encarnacion Mayo Osorio **3rd** Kenneth Napierkowski **6th** Terry Lanterman & John Maloney, Sr.

7th Marvin Nance **9th** Gary Koca & Robert Kochanski **15th** Minh Duong **19th** Phillip (Bill) Vollor

21st Russell Huntley **28th** Bob Connor **29th** Patrick (Pat) Quito **30th** Bradley Parsons

31st David Henson & Archie McKinley

Meridian Knights of Columbus Homepage
<http://www.kofc802.org>



Membership David Stephens



Brother Knights,

I trust you all took my advice and February was a sweet month for you. Our next Membership Drive is planned for the weekend of March 19-20th after each Mass. As stated the last time we had a drive, we will need “A Few Good Men” to assist with recruitment during that weekend. Of course, as usual, we are seeking new members on a daily basis. Let me know if you are willing to help after one or more of the Masses (601-938-5757). All who continue to help recruit new members, thank you! “Membership is truly a team effort!” Let’s Go Team!!!

Exemplifications in March:

- 3rd Degree – Saturday, March 5th, 2:00-4:00 p.m.; Olive Branch, MS.
- 1st Degree – Tuesday, March 15th, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; KC Hall, Meridian, MS.
- 4th Degree – Saturday, March 12th, 1:00-2:30 p.m.; Natchez, MS.
- 3rd Degree – Sunday, March 13th, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Kiln, MS.

All you 1st, 2nd and 3rd Degree Knights, please contact GK David Viger and/or Faithful Navigator, John Harwell (for 4th Degree) and let them know you wish to be a candidate for the 2nd/3rd/4th Degree Exemplification listed above.

Additionally, Sir Knights planning to attend and observe any of the out of town Degree Exemplifications should notify David Viger and/or John Harwell of your intentions.

As always, we are “*in search of*” new members. Seek out those who you believe might be interested and qualified, then plant a seed...

Thanking you in advance for your support!

Vivat Jesus!

Fraternally,

David T. Stephens,
Membership Director



Message from the Financial Secretary George Walston



Please keep in mind that I am in the middle of collecting dues for the upcoming year. I still have quite a few members who have not remitted their dues. The Knights of Columbus does not suspend any member for non payment if there is some sort of problem, financial or personal. If your situation fits either of these conditions, please contact me at 601 485 8513 or 601 934 9110. Your situation will be held in the strictest confidence by me and your Grand Knight. Consider it as the “Seal of the Confessional”.

On another note, it has been my pleasure to serve as your Financial Secretary for these many years, with a couple of breaks in between, but I find it necessary to relinquish the job to a younger man. (Much younger). I feel that at my age, anything can happen and I wouldn’t want our council to be caught by surprise in the event of my death or disability. So, keeping this in mind, I will resign the position effective June 30th.



Pro Life
Darrell Hober



Brother Knights

Thank you to all who are praying the 40 Days for Life daily devotionals. The day 8 Scripture reading and the reflection that followed needed our undivided attention and bears repeating.

Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So, too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have. Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?' The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." —Luke 10:30-37

Reflection: Here Jesus commands us to show mercy to the victims of the culture of violence and death. But why did the priest and Levite fail to show mercy? Perhaps they feared that the robbers were hiding just around the next corner to attack them. They asked themselves, "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?"

The Samaritan, however, reversed the question, and asked, "If I don't stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

In working to save the unborn, let's not worry about what will happen to us if we act; let's worry about what will happen to the unborn if we don't.

Prayer: *Father, we are moved by the lesson of the Good Samaritan, who allowed compassion to influence him more than fear. Give us the same heart. Grant that we may never count the cost of standing up and speaking out for the unborn. We pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

God bless each of you. Have a great day every day. LIFE IS PRECIOUS.

Darrell, Pro-Life

Editors Note. The following is a quote from Pope Francis' homily on June 16, 2013 at his Mass for Evangelium Vitae Day on the Sanctity of Life.

"All too often, as we know from experience, people do not choose life, they do not accept the 'Gospel of Life' but let themselves be led by ideologies and ways of thinking that block life, that do not respect life, because they are dictated by selfishness, self-interest, profit, power and pleasure, and not by love, by concern for the good of others. ...As a result, the living God is replaced by fleeting human idols which offer the intoxication of a flash of freedom, but in the end bring new forms of slavery and death."

*Please continue to pray the Rosary to end Abortion
in our lifetime*



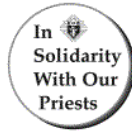


March 2016



Please continue to pray for vocations.

We need more priests



Meridian Knights of Columbus Homepage
<http://www.kofc802.org>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Please wish a Happy Birthday to all whose names appear on Page 8		1 1st Degree Business Meeting 7:30pm Followed by a brief 4th Degree Meeting	2 Bingo 6pm	3 Adoration 12 Noon to 8PM	4 Stations of the Cross at St. Patrick 6pm Relay For Life Fish Fry/Fund Raiser	5 3rd Degree Exemplification 2-4pm Olive Branch
6	7	8 No Meeting Tonight	9 Bingo 6pm	10 Adoration 12 Noon to 8PM KC Responsibility	11 Stations of the Cross at St. Joseph 6pm With Fish Fry	12 4th Degree Exemplification Natchez 1-2:30 pm
13 3rd Degree Exemplification 1-3pm Kiln	14	15 1st Degree Exemplification 6:30pm if applicant Business Meeting Follows at 7:30pm	16 Bingo 6pm	17 Adoration 12 Noon to 8PM	18 Stations of the Cross at St. Patrick 6pm With Fish Fry	19 Corporate Communion 5PM St Patrick St. Patrick School Irish Festival 11am to 3pm
20 Palm Sunday 	21	22 4th Degree Meeting 7:30pm	23 Bingo 6pm	24 Holy Thursday The Last Supper	25 Good Friday 	26 Holy Saturday
27 Easter Sunday 	28	29	30 Bingo 6pm	31 EMSH Visitation 6PM Adoration 12 Noon to 8PM	 Abortion Kills the Innocent	 Please continue to pray the Rosary to end Abortion in our lifetime