

Evolution of St. John the Baptist Knights of Columbus Council No. 10232

Following Frank Hertz's term as Grand Knight of Council 4080 in Huntsville, Alabama, State Deputy Gene Baker appointed him District Deputy for North Alabama in 1984. Frank served in this capacity for a two-year term, and it was during his term as District Deputy that Frank realized the enormous potential of establishing a council in the fast developing city of Madison, Alabama. The formation of the new council would largely remain in the talking stage, pending construction of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. In the meantime, Frank was able to influence Council 4080 to make a sizable contribution to the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church building fund.



Father Patrick J. Murphy
First Pastor of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
June 1986 – June 1998

In June 1986, Father Patrick J. Murphy arrived from Our Lady of Lourdes in Birmingham to minister to the expanding St. John's Parish community. Upon Father Murphy's arrival he set about gathering the necessary people together to begin the process of establishing a Saint John's council. Father Murphy, a knight himself, recognized the importance of getting a council established to bring the men of the young parish together.

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Council 10232 Charter Officers

- Howard Goodlett – *Grand Knight*
- James Kaelin – *Deputy Grand Knight*
- Father Patrick J. Murphy – *Chaplain*
- Michael Binh – *Chancellor*
- Robert Bidlack – *Recorder*
- Ralph Semyck – *Treasurer*
- Ronald Belz – *Financial Secretary*
- Allen Rhodes – *Advocate*
- Eric Kaelin – *Warden*
- Kevin Heuser – *Inside Guard*
- Robert McKee – *Outside Guard*
- William Moeller – *1 st Year Trustee*
- Steve Kestler – *2 nd Year Trustee*
- Jerry Jennings – *3 rd Year Trustee*

Charter Members of Council 1023

<i>Ronald Belz Robert Bidlack Michael Binh Matthew Bradley William Cecil, Jr. Kirk Chaisson Greg Clark Thomas Doyle Crispin Engutan Howard Goodlett Paul Gorski</i>	<i>Robert Gravitz John Hart Thomas Hart, Jr. Kevin Heuser Livingston Holder Joseph Ingrassia Jerry Jennings John Jorgensen Eric Kaelin James Kaelin Steve Kestler</i>	<i>Nicholas Kiddey Darrell Lenkner Robert McKee Thomas Menke William Moeller Fr. Patrick Murphy James Reeson Daniel Renihan Allen Rhodes Edward Sendral Jerry Seeman</i>	<i>Ralph Semyck William Stone Lawrence Szablewski Walter Teska Joseph Wagner Marc Watson Mark Weaver Philbert White Mark Williams</i>
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Howard Goodlett
January 1990 – June 7, 1990

A special meeting was held on February 15, 1990 at which the council approved the by-laws. Shortly thereafter they were sent to Supreme for approval.

The council has been blessed with tremendous growth since its founding. The council started with only 42 men and has grown to well over 250 members today.

The St. John's Council has had many rich traditions of service that have lasted several years. These include our Scholarship Programs for both college bound high school

seniors as well as graduates of St. John's Catholic School bound for John Paul II Catholic High School, Lenten fish dinners, and Basketball Free Throw Competition, all have tradition in the council and each comes with its own purpose of strengthening the St. John's Council family.



St. John the Baptist Council No. 10232 has excelled in Columbianism because of the organizational leadership by our Grand Knights. We conduct events and programs like no other council. We perform a great amount of work in our parish community and wider Madison community that results in a great deal of council pride. As a result the Council has been recognized for our talents and programs at the State Council level and was awarded the prestigious Council of the Year seven consecutive years.

Council 10232 has also been recognized at national level and has achieved Star Council status on multiple occasions. Besides many National and State wards, The council can be proud of the development of many leaders who operated in positions outwith the Council that has included District Deputies, District Marshals from our Assembly members and the great honor of State Deputies from our ranks.

One of the key elements to council 10232's success has been our ability to face the universal challenge of sustaining efforts while developing long-term community relationships in the community we serve.

Some parishioner have expressed curiosity about the "Knights Room" in the church basement. We are indeed blessed as the provision of a dedicated venue gives us an excellent resource for Council and Assembly meetings, some ceremonial events and a place to display our awards and memorabilia.



KofC Council 10232 St John the Baptist invites all men of our parish who are over 18 to consider joining our ranks as a Knight so that you too can make a difference by helping our Council to continue growing and increase the amount of good we are able to deliver in the parish and the wider community.

Acknowledgment – with thanks to the original document author – Danny Garcia.