



Knight's News



Mother Seton Council 6724

March 2025

Nativity Catholic Church

Grand Knight's Message

From darkness to the Light.



As we enter this Lenten season let us review what God has done in our lives, both the good and the hard, and prepare ourselves for a joyous Easter.

March begins with a parish Ministry Fair on the 1st & 2nd. The Council will have a table to promote the Knights of Columbus and for recruitment. Stop by and help meet and greet men of the parish and invite them to become a Knight.

This is the same weekend that the Tampa Bay Men's Conference is being held. The Council will be covering half the cost for up to 3 Council Knights to attend. Contact Financial Secretary John Fitzhenry for more information.

The newly formed youth group, Sentinels, will hold their first official meeting on March 4th under the watchful eye of Tony Hingle. Tony has been very instrumental in getting the group up and running at Nativity. Look for them at upcoming events.

On March 8th we will hold our Altar Server and Clergy Appreciation Dinner. Approximately 70 altar servers and their families will be invited. All altar servers will receive certificates and be recognized for their dedication and hard work. We also recognize our clergy who are spread thin but continue to do so much for us.

We will be forming our Slate of Officers for the new fraternal year very soon. If you are looking to expand your involvement in the Council and would like to take an active role as a Council Officer, now is the time to let your Grand Knight or a Trustee know.

Our Jambalaya Dinner was held on February 22nd and was a great success. Thank you to all who donated their time and talents to make this a successful event. Once again Jonathan Lodrigues provided the parish with a great taste of New Orleans.

We had to move the date of our February Food Truck collection to February 15th & 16th. As always, the families of Nativity were very generous, and we collected 2711 pounds of food items. The Food Truck for March will be held on the 29th & 30th.

Tootsie Roll Drives continue this month with 2 more scheduled. One on the 8th and another on the 22nd of March. Look for additional eblasts with the locations and as always, volunteers are desperately needed. The two drives held in February raised over \$1300 for the Lopez Exceptional Center that cares for local children with severe disabilities.

God Bless and wishing you a Lent that brings you closer to God and his will.

Tim Ashcraft

GK Tim Ashcraft
Mother Seton Council 6724



Mother Seton Council 6724 Officers 2024-2025

Chaplain – Fr. Don Amodeo
Grand Knight – Tim Ashcraft
Deputy Grand Knight – Jay McCabe
Chancellor – Dale D’Alessandro
Financial Secretary- John Fitzhenry
Treasurer – Jonathan Lodrigues
Warden – Bill O’Keefe
Recorder – Neil Waid
Advocate – Howard Baum III
1 Year Trustee – Tim Kasprzyk
2 Year Trustee – Mark Coté
3 Year Trustee – Karlos del Aguila
Lecturer – Ed Brelsford
Inside Guard – Tony Carew
Outside Guard – Javier Gonzalez

Programs Director

- DGK Jay McCabe - (813)-546-0679 (text only)

Membership Director

- Bob Hopkins - (813)-363-5935

Faith

- John Fitzhenry - (813)-598-3457

Family

- John Sepessy - (863)-455-6809

Community

- Neil Waid - (813)-830-3817

Life

- Richard Spinelli - (813)-495-6446

Kairos

- Richard Spinelli - (813)-495-6446

Publicity

- Joe Angelo - (347)-224-0690

Council Calendar



Mar. 1&2 – Ministry Fair
Mar. 3 – **Council Business Meeting**
Mar. 4 – Sentinels Meeting
Mar. 8 – Tootsie Roll Drive #3
Mar. 8 – Altar Server Dinner & Awards
Mar. 9 – Donut Duty
Mar. 19 – Sentinels Meeting / Holy Hour
Mar. 19 – **Assembly Business Meeting**
Mar. 22 – Tootsie Roll Drive #4
Mar. 26 – **Officers & Directors Meeting**
Mar. 29-30 – Food Truck



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead Saturday night, 8 March, so you won't be late for church Sunday morning!

To View details on the **Event Calendar** on our website, > **Ctrl + Click** < on the link below:

<https://uknight.org/CouncilSite/events.asp?CNO=6724&DATE=3/12/2025>

District Deputy Comments

Dear Brother Knights

I was extremely Impressed with the Exemplification held on January 25th. It was great to see the number of family members who attended the ceremony. It is a great way to involve them as well as let them see firsthand who the Knights are, and what they do.

Remember, every Knight is a recruiter. Whenever you meet someone new, ask them if they know about the Knights or if they have ever been asked to join the Knights.

The Florida State Convention will be held in Jacksonville this year, at the end of May. Now is the time to choose your representatives that will attend.

The Council involvement in the Food Pantry and Food Truck Collections, along with your very distinctive shirts is a great way to gain recognition and draw new Knights. Continue to keep up the good work that is being accomplished by the Council.

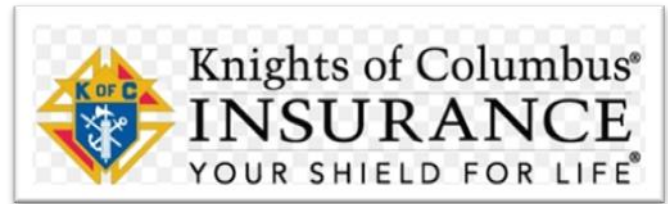
--Excerpts from the District Deputy's report at the Council Business Meeting on February 3, 2025.--

Vivat Jesus

Bill Ingham
DD 47



Insurance Corner



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Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors offers one of the most extensive lineups of Catholic investment strategies and products in the world. Catholic families can enjoy the peace and satisfaction that comes from knowing their investments align with their Catholic faith.

[INVEST WITH INTEGRITY](#)

KoCAA is the intersection of Catholic and Capable. With an investment portfolio over \$28 billion strong and a commitment to the socially responsible investment guidelines set by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), we offer clients a way to invest with integrity, assured that their funds are invested with companies committed to sound ethical, environmental, social, and corporate governance practices. That's how we provide "value with values"-- by helping clients grow their future with faith-based investing.

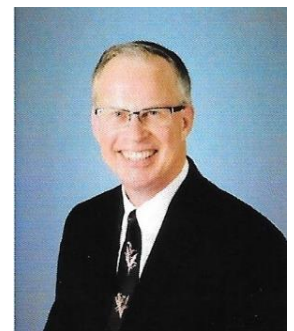
**To learn more,
contact me today!**

John Holtzhauser,

Field Agent

440-567-0824

john.holtzhauser@kofc.org



Awards & Recognitions

Knight of the Month



Photo by Bill O'Keefe

Tony Hingle left and Bob Hopkins right, receive their Knight of the Month awards from GK Tim Ashcraft.

Knight of the Month – December 2024

Tony Hingle received the December Knight of the Month for being instrumental in organizing the new youth group, Sentinels, and getting them approved.

Knight of the Month – January 2025

Bob Hopkins was recognized for his tireless work as Membership Director, his constant recruiting efforts and the organization of the Council's Exemplification program.

Nativity Catholic Church Service Award

Marvin Hoffman was selected as the recipient of the Nativity Service Award for 2024. Each year this award is presented to a member of the Nativity parish for their dedicated service and devotion. Marvin has been at Nativity for 26 years and a Knight with Mother Seton Council for 4. He is involved in the Food Pantry, Family Promise, a Faith Formation teacher, and he worked with Vida Joven as a teacher. Congratulations Marvin.



Photo by John Fitzhenry

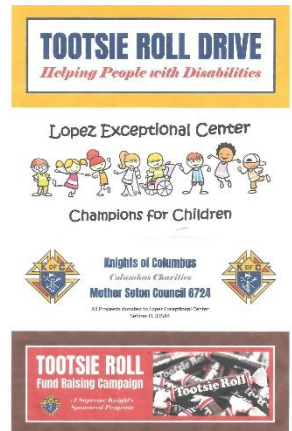
Knights in Action

Tootsie Roll Drives 1&2

(1) - \$569 - (2) - \$753

We are off to a great start with our first 2 drives that have collected over \$1322.

Thank you to all who have dedicated their time to help raise this money used to help the children at Lopez Exceptional Center in Seffner.



Sentinels, Nativity's newest youth group.

It is official. The Sentinels have become the newest youth group at Nativity, through the dedicated efforts of Howard Baum and Tony Hingle.



SENTINELS

The Sentinels are composed of prior members of Squires Circle 5209 that had been disbanded. Efforts by Howard Baum, who worked diligently to have the Squires Circle transferred to Nativity, were unsuccessful. Tony Hingle became involved and proposed creating a new youth group at Nativity that would function similarly to a Squires group. Through many meetings, much coordination and with Fr. Mike's blessing, the Sentinels are now active at Nativity. They are comprised of members from St. Stephen and Nativity, 12 to 18 years old; whose goal is to support the Church, develop leadership and help the community.



3rd Annual Jambalaya Dinner From ticket sales to cleanup.

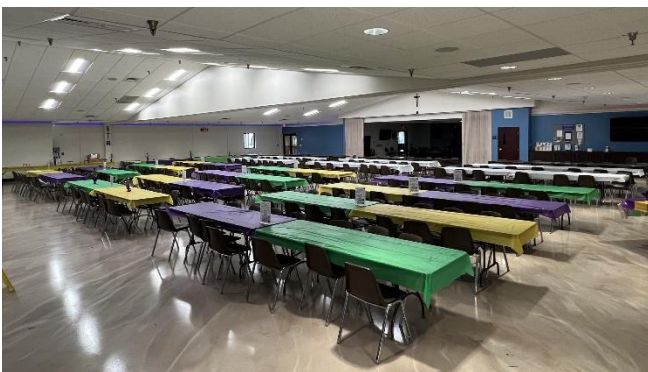


Photo by John Fitzhenry

Ticket sales were off to a great start thanks to the help of Matt Meyers, Tony Hingle, GK Tim Ashcraft and Jonathan Lodrigues. Over 180 tickets were sold in the first 2 weeks of sales.



The big day finally arrived, and decorating began in earnest. Javier and Lucy Gonzalez worked their magic, and with helpers, the social hall took on the festive looks of Mardi Gras.



Photos by Tony Hingle



Then there was the table with a giant container of Mardi Gras beads where dinner guests could place a guess at how many beads were in the jar. Credit goes to DGK Jay McCabe for this great idea.



The meal prep began early with plenty of help to include Tony Hingle, Jonathan Lodrigues and Paul Menendez pictured above.



Of course, the nerve center of the night was the kitchen. Under the watchful eyes of Jonathan Lodrigues, the smell of New Orleans began to waft throughout the social hall.



Pictured here are Ed Brelsford, Arturo Esparza, Rafael Mir and Angel Vazquez, part of the kitchen crew that helped make it come together.



The meal was loaded with loving care by Ed Brelsford and Mark Coté. Now it was just a matter of time for the ovens to work their magic.



But of course, there is always that one person that “bears watching at all times.” Mark Coté was caught with his hand in the bead jar and was immediately disqualified.

Photos by Tony Hingle



Finally, the doors opened and those with tickets took their place in line. Seen here at the ticket table are Mehira Sanjurjo, Tony Hingle and Bob Hopkins.
Photo by GK Tim Ashcraft



The dinner ended all too soon but everyone who attended had kind words of praise and spoke of how great the food was.



“A special thank you to all the knights that supported and worked long hours doing food prep, setting up, ticket sales etc. A special thank you to the Boy Scouts and our new KofC youth group, Sentinels, for delivering food and take-out meals to customers and selling excellent desserts. Everyone's help made this event very successful. Hats off to Chef Jonathan Lodrigues.” --GK Tim Ashcraft--

Upcoming Events

Ministry Fair 1&2 March



Nativity will be holding its annual Ministry Fair on the weekend of March 1st & 2nd. This was scheduled for October 2024, but a couple of hurricanes blew it into the new year. Help will be needed at the Knight's table as this is our biggest recruitment event of the year. Contact Membership Director Bob Hopkins for more information at kofcbhopkins@icloud.com

Altar Server & Clergy Appreciation Dinner



Annually Mother Seton Council conducts an appreciation dinner for the Nativity altar servers, their families and our Clergy, to show our appreciation for all the hard work they do throughout the year. This year it will be held on Saturday, March 8th in the Social Hall from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Help is needed for setup and cleanup as there is an event being held on Sunday morning. Contact GK Tim Ashcraft at gknight6724@gmail.com to volunteer.



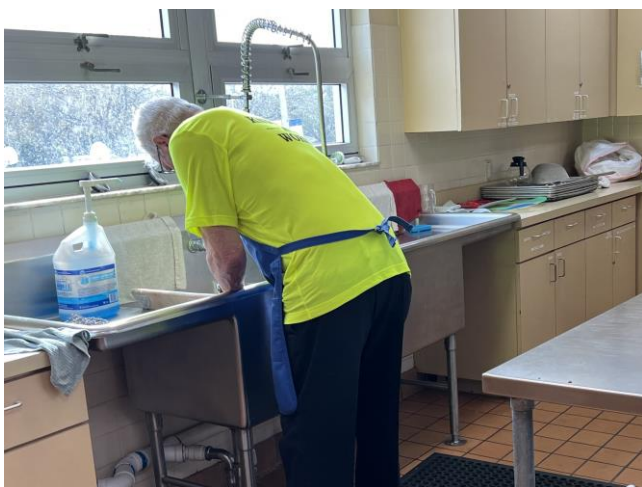
Photo by Tony Hingle

The Sentinels conducted a fundraiser by selling desserts and they were able to raise \$150. Congratulations.



Pictured with Sentinels working the desert table, are Frank Anderson and Bob Malloy.

Photo by GK Tim Ashcraft



As always, the cleaning must be done. Richard Spinelli is seen hard at work ensuring the final touches were completed. *Photo by Tony Hingle*

Volunteer Opportunities

Food Pantry and Food Truck Collection

| |
|---|
| Thursday, March 6 |
| Thursday, March 13 |
| Thursday, March 20 |
| Thursday, March 27 |
| FOOD TRUCK MARCH 29 & MARCH 30 |

The Food Pantry is held every Thursday and serves over 180 households each week. On average, over 4500 pounds of donations are given out each week. Volunteers are needed between the hours of 6 to 1 pm for jobs such as sorting donations, loading shopping carts or loading cars. Stop by any Thursday to see how the system works and if there is a job for you. The warehouse is also in need of volunteers to help sort and organize food received from outside agencies. For more information contact Neil Waid at neil.waid.50@gmail.com or stop by Thursday and see him at the Food Pantry.

The Nativity Outreach truck will be on campus March **29 & 30**. Saturday, the truck setup begins at 2:00 pm and collections are from 2:30 to 4:00 pm. Sunday, the truck is manned for business at 6:00 am and collections are from 6:30 to 12:30. Stop by, visit and help unload some cars.



Tootsie Roll Drives 3 & 4

The third Tootsie Roll Drive is Saturday, 8 March. It will be held at the Publix located at Brandon Mall next to Burlington's. There are 4 shifts: 9-11 am, 11-1 pm, 1-3 pm and 3-5 pm.



The fourth drive will be held on March 22nd at Kingsway Crossing. Contact GK Tim Ashcraft at gknight6724@gmail.com to sign up for a day and time.

Knight's Donut Duty

The Knights have Donut Duty on Sunday, 9 March. Help is needed after all morning masses and able bodies are needed for cleanup after the 10:30 Mass attendees depart.

There is a need for early volunteers to help make the coffee and juice prior to the 7:00 am mass finishing.



FOURTH DEGREE



Bishop Charles B. McLaughlin Assembly 1850

Local Dance Group Recognized



Photo provided by Bob Hopkins

VAVS Representative Bob Hopkins and SK Larry Langowski presented Dancing for a Difference members with Patriotic Service Certificates, in recognition of their participation in Assembly 1850's annual Christmas party held at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital for veterans in the SCI unit. The young dancers were awarded the certificates and a \$10 gift card from Chick-fil-A. Thank you to the dancers, family members and their Instructor, Mrs. Sara Battaglia, for their participation in this event.



Just like the leaves
on each shamrock I see,
there are three parts
to the Holy Trinity.
First is God the Father,
then Jesus, His only Son,
And the Holy Spirit
together as One.



ST. JUDE PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF CANCER

God of healing mercy,
in Jesus Your Son You stretch out
Your hand in compassion,
restoring the sinner, healing the sick,
and lifting up those bowed down.
Embrace us now in Your loving care,
particularly those afflicted with
cancer, for whom this intention
is offered. May the Spirit of Jesus
bring us all health in soul and body,
that with joy and thanksgiving we
may praise You for Your goodness,
through the same Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

- Shrine of St. Jude

dcsp.org



Please keep the following in your prayers:

Pope Francis

Sam & Joan Miller
 Tim & Nancy Kasprzyk
 Jim & Cheryl Schwonek
 George & Carolyn Thomas
 Tim & Katie Ashcraft
 John & Diana McCabe
 Tom & Ellen Stanley
 Ed Brelsford
 Lew Palumbo & family
 Luis Perez-Ortiz & family
 Juan Pagan & family
 Bill & Olga O’Keefe
 Michael Palmiotto
 Rick Zemke & family
 Wil & Janet Caraballo
 Edward Gorgacz

Richard Hardesty
 Chester Williams
 Bill Queenan
 Don Clark
 Karen Webb
 Dale D’Alessandro
 Jay McCabe
 Richard Spinelli
 Rick Silver
 Andrew Balser
 Marvin Hoffman
 Gordon Hewitt
 Tom & Judy Beriou
 John Sepessy
 Frank Anderson
 John Fitzhenry
 Patrick Hill

Prayer for the Sick

Dear Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the sick, we turn to you in this time of illness. O dearest comforter of the troubled, alleviate our worry and sorrow with your gentle love, and grant us the grace and strength to accept this burden. Dear God, we place our worries in your hands. We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servant to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do, you do for the love of us...Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

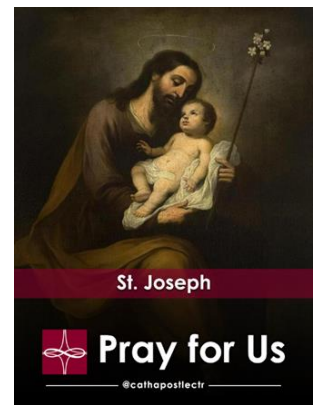


IN MEMORIAM

**Robert L Clary
 FDD Michael Barbone**

St. Joseph

**Feast Day, March 19
 Patron Saint of Fathers**



St. Joseph is known in the Gospels as a humble carpenter, the husband of Mary, and father of Jesus. Joseph’s paternal care of Jesus, loving protection of Mary, and his commitment to the education of Jesus led to him being declared patron of the whole Church. Many popes have written about St. Joseph, including Pope Leo XIII in *Quamquam pluries* and Pope John Paul II in *Redemptoris custos*. Throughout Church history, many famous pieces of art have depicted scenes in the life of St. Joseph, from Jesus’ birth and childhood, to St. Joseph’s carpentry, to his death.

[Catholic Apostolate Center](#) "Feast Day Calendar" for March 2025.

HOLY HOUR WITH OUR LORD



6:30-7:30 PM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025

Evangelizing our Faith



All Catholic men are invited to attend the **15th Annual Tampa Bay Men's Conference** on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Tampa.

Control + [Click here to read more.](#)

Nativity Widows and Widowers Group



Are you a widow or widower and looking for a faith-based group for support and fellowship? The Nativity Widows and Widowers Group will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, March 12th and may be just what you are looking for!

They hold two meetings. A morning meeting in the St. Francis Room from 10:00 am to noon and an evening meeting in the Adult Education building from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

To RSVP or for more information contact Faith Director John Fitzhenry at 813-598-3457 or Margaret VanDame at 813-833-8074.

**THANK YOU TO OUR 8TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT
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