

CROSS AND COMPASS



*A Publication of the Knights
Of Columbus
Council 9924
March 2024*



Brothers,

Welcome to the March edition of the Cross and Compass. It is hard to believe we are a couple of weeks into Lent and Easter will be here in just a couple more short weeks. Easter without a doubt is my favorite holiday as this is the day Jesus conquered death and gave us all a chance to make our way to eternal life. What better gift could one give, than to give their own life so that each of us broken sinners could be saved and have eternal life. Easter to me is also a time for renewal and rejuvenation. Growing up in Ohio, I always looked forward to spring, knowing that under all the snow, a beautiful life was about to emerge when the season turned. We do not get to see such a dramatic change down here in Florida, but nature does change, and everything comes out in full bloom. We are just like those flowers under the winter snow, once the warmth of the sun hits, they come out from their slumber to a new life. We are all blessed to be on this journey together as we too one day will awaken from these bodies, and we will be with the "Son." I just love Easter!!

As usual, our council was busy last month. We held an exemplification and welcomed three new members to our council. After our Financial Secretary added the new names to our rolls, and moved a couple over to the state, we officially hit the 300-member mark. Thank you, Eddie Jones, and the team for all the work you all put in to growing our membership. We kicked off Lent with the Fat Tuesday Paczki, thanks to Bill Szyper, and Dave Kristie for putting it together. We also had our monthly Food Drive, thanks to Eric Bisighini and the team for being there to help with collections. We ended the month with the Basketball Free Throw Contest with our youth. We had another spectacular turn out with boys and girls ages 9 to 14 competing. Thanks to Nick Catone for putting together another magnificent event this year. Special thanks to Bill Blanchard, Bob Breen, Mark Crews, Tony Giardullo, John Prisco, and Michael Woods for keeping scores and encouraging the kids to do their best. Dan Dacey does just a wonderful job with our youth and helped us out by recruiting the kids from the religious education program. Thanks Dan! We are going to need a new lead for the Free Throw Contest next year, if you feel called to do this, please let us know as Nick is going to step down.

This month also holds a special significance for us as we celebrate the Feast of St Joseph on March 19, honoring the earthly father of Jesus and the patron saint of workers. St. Joseph's life exemplifies humility, obedience, and unwavering trust in God's providence, qualities that serve as the inspiration for all of us Knights. Let us also remember the Annunciation on March 25th, when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary the miraculous conception of Jesus. This day reminds us of the power of God's divine plan and the pivotal role Mary played in our salvation.

As we journey through this month on our way to Easter Sunday on March 31st, let us each recommit ourselves to our principles Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism that guide us in our everyday lives. Let us also support one another in our spiritual growth and strive to be beacons of light in our church and communities where we live.

I wish all of you, my brothers, and your families a blessed and Happy Easter.

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



First Friday of the Month Adoration



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.

Every First Friday, 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.





St. Joseph the Worker Parish

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Mission

February 14, 2024

Our Lady of Lourdes

Knights of Columbus Council #9924 1301 Center Rd.

Venice, FL 34292

Dear Knights of Columbus,

On behalf St. Joseph the Worker Food Pantry I would like to inform you that we have received your recent donation of \$617.00 (Six hundred seventeen dollars) with check number 1277.

Thank you for the continued support you give to St. Joseph the Worker Food Pantry. Your contributions help us feed low-income families and the elderly week after week.

Be assured of my prayer to the members of the Council and to the parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Sincerely,

Reverend Marcial Garcia

Pastor

Dear Knights of Columbus
Council # 9924

I very much appreciate
your help. Please keep me
in your prayers. I will
do the same.

God bless,

Bao (Brian) Nguyen

Diocese of Venice Florida,

January 2024

Dear Knights,

Thank you for your
continued generosity and
prayers. Please know you
and your families remain
in my prayers.

Thank you for all you do
for us seminarians for the
Diocese and for the Church.

Blessings,
Pat Long
seminarian

1/25/24

Dear Knights of Columbus
Our Lady of Lourdes,

I hope that you all are doing well.
Thank you for your prayers and your
support. I hope you had a nice
Christmas with your love ones. May
the Lord in this new year fill you
with peace and joy to continue.

God bless!

Andres Cordero



CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHDAYS

NAME AGE

John	Tosado	52
Eric	Skleder	57
Stephen	Mcentegart	66
Lucky	Haynes	66
Kevin	O'brien	66
Steve	Beck	67
Dennis	O'Brien	69
George	Barbiero	70
Robert	Rinda	73
Tony	Dolejs	75
Giuseppe	Biancaniello	75
John	Negro	75
James	Stevens	75
David	Tura	76
Robert	Smialek	76
Charles	Short	77
Joseph	Connors	77
Larry	Keener	77
Richard	Potson	79
Peter	White	79
James	Placek	79
John	Vidas	81
Ronald	Juaire	81
Eugene	Clifford	83
William	Srofe	84
Charles	Peck	85
Frank	Edwards	91

ANNIVERSARIES

NAME YEARS

Eric	Bisighini	5
Robert	Breen	1
Marvin	Bumb	12
Harold	Bumb	12
Paul	Cacciatore	31
Cornelius	Carr	2
Peter	Casamento	30
Edmund	Cassidy	4
Michael	Chiamonte	1
Gary	Costello	34
Edward	Farrell	20
Joe	Ferreira	10
Vinnie	Ferris	10
Vince	Gelsomino	3
Anthony	Giardullo	17
Frank	Guglietta	1
Guenther	Hennig	9
Mark	Iannotti	18
John	Janisse	55
Larry	Middendorf	7
Alfred	Miller	12
Stewart	Myers	1
John	Ozimek	7
John	Pacheco	1
Joseph	Pustizzi	1
David	Russell	2
William	Salomone	3
Howard	Schneider	29
Charles	Short	7
Ivan	Skoric	13
William	Stahl	6
Robert	Stewart	9
Stephen	Swanson	6
Lawrence	Tobias	3
Peter	Valenti	17
Salvatore	Vergona	9
Mike	Winn	4

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

February Food Collection

\$2087 in donations and 906 lbs of food collected. Thanks to all who donated their time, goods and money.



Knights of the Month



Henry Von Salzen - Blood Drive Chairman

Jim Palermo - Bulletin Announcements

Photos not available

Star Council Award

Grand Knight, Rick Kuertz, presents former Grand Knight, Ron Bowes the Star Council Award for 2023.





New Members

Kevin Burns

John Rispoli

John D'Alessandro

Transfer Members

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

State Convention

**Election of Delegates to the State
Convention May 26/27**

Delegate 1 – Rick Kuertz

Delegate 2 – Rick Miller

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.

Our New Leaders



Pancake Breakfast - George Bevis

Blood Drive - Paul Krause

Clothing Drive - Marty Reis & Bobby Whiting

Tootsie Roll Drive - Rick Anderson & 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

March

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Adoration	2
3 Corporate Communion Breakfast 9-11 am	4	5	6 Council Meeting 5:00 Officers 5:30 rosary 6:00 dinner 7:00 meeting	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Blood Drive 8am-1:30 pm	25 Annunciation	26	27	28	29	30 Food Collection
31 Food Collection Easter						

Tootsie Roll Drive



**Results of the drive will be
published in next month's Cross
and Compass**

Bob Burhoe

Basketball Free-Throw Shooting Contest



40 kids participated, ages 9 to 14, made up of both boys and girls.

Eight knights helped with scoring and certification. Each participant got a nice certificate and patch.

It was a very well-attended event that fulfilled one of our requirements for Star Council.

Thanks to all who participated

Nick Catone

Valentines for Vets

On Saturday, February 17th, Assembly 1818 held its 11th Annual V4V Dinner Dance at San Pedro Parish in North Port. The event was sold out with 210 guests in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the dinner prepared by SK Marty Reis and crew. The evening consisted of presentations to two Veteran Honorees as well as a recognition of all veterans. There was also music, dancing, raffles and a silent auction. The event netted \$9900! A committee will be formed to establish disbursements to various Veterans Organizations.



One Blood Drive



Sunday, March 24th

8:00 am – 1:30 pm

Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code #10114.

All donors will receive:

\$20 eGift Card

Insulated Tote Bag

Wellness Checkup including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening.

Each donation can save up to 3 lives!

Henry Von Salzen / Paul Krause

Pro-Life Update



Ray Ross

What we believe

For your reflection during this time in Lent, we believe:

- In the sanctity of life.
- That life begins at conception.
- That God co-creates a child at the moment of conception and at that moment the child is imbued with a soul.
- That we, including the unborn, are created in the image and likeness of God.

- That at the moment of conception the child is endowed with all of his/her natural rights, including the right to life.
- That those natural rights are God given.
- That the natural role of men is to act as protectors and, as Knights we have the responsibility to protect the most vulnerable members of society.
- That the unborn are patients too and, as such, doctors have the responsibility to keep their pledge “primum non nocere” – Do No Harm.

There have been 62 million unborn babies killed since Roe v. Wade.

That's more people than some countries.

How many of those unborn were great leaders, scientists, doctors, inventors, athletes, entertainers, entrepreneurs, and teachers that were gifted to us by God?

March



During the month of March, three prominent ideas are proposed for our contemplation by the liturgy of Lent: the Passion and Resurrection of Christ, baptism, and penance.

The Solemnity of St. Joseph is a special landmark this month in which we will celebrate the great honor bestowed upon the foster father of Jesus. And, if you are Irish (who isn't), St. Patrick's feast is another cause for a joyful celebration. The feast of the Annunciation is celebrated on March 25.

During this month we will continue our journey to the cross with our acts of penitence. We will reflect on our mortality ("*Remember man thou art dust*") and the shortness of life ("*and to dust thou shall return*"). We will heed the call, "Now is the acceptable time, now is "the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2)." Just like Our Lord's earthly life every moment of our lives is leading up to the last moment—when for eternity we will either go to God or suffer the fires of hell. During this month we will go from the suffering of Good Friday to the joy of Easter Sunday. We will trade the purple of penance for the white of victory and resurrection.

Let us not tire of doing our good works and penance but continue with the enthusiasm of the catechumens on their way to Easter and Baptism. May our Lenten observance be a joyful journey — and not a forced march.

Pray For Ukraine

and

**Peace in the Middle
East.**