



The St. Joseph Worker

Newsletter of
St. Joseph of the Three Rivers Council
#11550
Knights of Columbus

Volume 30—Number 10—January 2025.

Mission Statement

To promote the Catholic values of all families and particularly the families of the membership of St. Joseph of the Three Rivers Council, through activities and assistance, and to proclaim the teaching of our Catholic faith while sharing our material wealth with those in need of our help.

Chaplain
Grand Knight
Deputy Grand Knight
Program Director
Financial Secretary
Insurance Agent
Field Agent
District Deputy
Membership (Growth)
Fourth Degree Navigator

Fr. Jerry Hiland
Mike Groh
Ed Hoffrogge
Steve Rodenbeck
John M. Hughes
Brien Hartung
937-540-0485
Bill Johansen
Jim Bischoff
Paul Blevins

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January	1st	Happy New Year 2025
January	14th	Business Meeting
January	24th	March for Life Washington D.C.
January	28th	Social New Field Agent will give presentation on what is available for members
February	1st	Bengal Volunteer Dinner– Farm
February	11th	Business Meeting
February	14th	Valentines Day
February	22nd	E-6 Conference @ East Central High School in St. Leon, Ind.
February	25th	Ladies Night

Need a St. Joe K of C Shirt ?

Polo or Blue Dress shirt

Email: Paulbeck@zoomtown.com

Orders being taken for group order!

Council Annual Christmas Dinner



Grand Knight's Message

By Mike Groh

2024 has come to a close. In my January 2024 newsletter report, I listed some activities that we had planned for the upcoming year:

1. Continue support of our family of parishes -

We supported many parish events such as the Rosary Rally in October, a donut Sunday, VisiFest and parish picnics.

2. Continue to support local agencies that provide help to people in need including TRAM, Pregnancy Center West, and Mater Filius -

We made generous donations to all these agencies and also Elizabeth New Life and Heavens Gain ministries

3. Reaching out to Catholic men and inviting them to join our council! -

We've added 5 new members so far in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

4. Each quarter, provide tasty meals through the Taste of Hope program at Ronald McDonald House -

We provided funding and prepared meals on a quarterly basis

5. Support local area children with special needs through our Measure-Up campaign and support of the Oser-Rost Fest -

For the second year in a row, our Measure-Up campaign was #1 in the state (\$12K raised)

We provided a generous donation to Oser-Rost fest and staffed the Big 6 booth. Through the Measure-Up campaign, donations were made to Three Rivers School District and Margaret Rost School. We also supported the Special Population Free Throw event at Margaret Rost.

6. Fundraising by working Bengals games and raffles -

We made over \$25K working 10 Bengals games

7. Provide scholarship money to give worthy 8th grade students ready to attend a Catholic high school a good head start -

We awarded three \$1500 scholarships

8. Have a good time during our monthly social events! -

Too much to write but trust me that each social event was worth attending.

We accomplished all of our objectives and more! In 2024, through our fundraising efforts, primarily from working at Bengals games, soliciting donations to our Measure-up campaign, and selling tickets for the two state run raffles, we brought in over \$40K. These funds get dispersed to support our faith, pro-life, family and community activities.

We will continue these activities in 2025. I'm sure it will be another great year. Thanks to everyone for your support and involvement. I'm proud to be a member of our council!

Vivat Jesus!

Mike

Lecturer 's Message

By Dan Warnock

One of our Knights of Columbus principles is Charity. In 1 Corinthians 13, it is written: "The highest form of love, signifying the reciprocal love between God and man that is made manifest in unselfish love of one's fellow man."

So, what do we as Knights do when it comes to charity? We give aid to those in need through acts of love and service to our neighbors. Sometimes, our giving is through others and their charitable good works. One such remarkable group is the St. Joseph Knitting and Crochet Ministry.

This special group of women began their ministry 20 years ago, gathering in the Hospitality Room at St. Joseph Church. They started by knitting hats for Army and Navy members from our parish. Shortly after, they expanded their efforts to make hats and blankets for Pregnancy Center West.

These women, now volunteering their time and skills, represent all three Divine Family parishes.

Fast forward 20 years, and their outreach has grown significantly. Today, they create items for nine non-profits, having made 1,737 handmade items for the needy this year alone. Their recipients include:

- Bayley Place Nursing Home
- Valley Interfaith
- Pregnancy Center West
- Old St. Mary's Pregnancy Center
- Prayer Shawls for the Healing Mass
- Inner-City Schools
- St. Joseph Church Baptismal Blankets
- Women's Center of Ohio
- Heavens Gain

Although many of their materials are donated, not all are. These incredibly thrifty women—true West Siders at heart—buy supplies only when on sale or with coupons. About five years ago, two pioneers of this group, Mary Beth Walter (a lifelong member of St. Joseph's) and Mary Carol Davis (wife of Brother Knight Al Davis), approached our council for support. They asked if we would consider contributing funds for supplies. We gladly agreed, and since then, we've budgeted \$400 annually to help sustain their efforts.

These women aren't seeking recognition. They're simply doing what we, as Catholic Christians, are called to do: to serve others through acts of love and charity. However, I believe they deserve to be celebrated—they are truly making a difference.

As Linda Klems, Director at the North Fairmont Community Center, says:

"On behalf of our parents and caretakers who cannot afford such nice outerwear for their children, we thank you all so very much for keeping so many little heads and ears warm! Utilizing your talents to help these children is truly a blessing for their families."

Let us continue to support and uplift those who embody the spirit of charity.

Vivat Jesus!

Dan Warnock

Life Program by Mike Groh

January is Pro-Life month. The annual March for Life in Washington DC will be held on January 24. Continue to pray for the lives of unborn children, that mothers considering abortion will come to understand the beautiful gift of life.

From the Desk of the Financial Secretary

John Hughes

It's Annual Dues Time Again!

The Supreme Dues Notice will print on December 15th.

They will be mailed to members within 5 days of the notice.

Honorary Life members **will not** be assessed dues.

Members who sold 6 or more Football Crazr tickets **will not** be assessed the \$25.00 dues.

Life members **will be** assessed only \$8.00 for dues.

Regular and Insured members **will be** assessed \$25.00 for dues.

The Council is asking you to contribute to our two assessments.

Listed on the dues notice is a request to additionally support the following:

\$5.00 for our annual Measure Up Program in support of Three Rivers and Rost schools.

\$3.00 for our Culture of Life Programs in support of Pregnancy Center West and Mater Filia.

I am still working on a revised "on-line" payment option of PayPal. More to come.

Football Crazr Fundraiser

The Football Fundcrazr has 3 weeks to go. Through the first 7 weeks there have been 6 winners. I believe this is the highest number of winners we have ever had. Good luck in the final weeks! Hopefully we will have a few more winners.

Wk 1 16 Kathy Fischesser -12635 138 20.00
-4 Ed Hofffrogge -12569 46 20.00

Wk 2 15 Doug Sand - 78145 126 30.00

Wk 3

Wk 4 10 Dick Roettker -78208 139 \$60.00
-3 Ron Roehrig -21724 28 \$30.00

Wk 5

Wk 6 16 Paul Blevins -12515 161 43.34

Our Programs

By Steve Rodenbeck, Program Director

Our Council finished off the 2024 calendar year with a flurry of activities and recognition from the State Officers.

First of all, we had a special event at our regular Bingo Program at the Nursing Home on Jandar Acres. This activity has been a staple of our Council for a number of years and was started by our Past Grand Knight, Bob Nieporte. Don Larrick and his wife, Sharon, purchased small room decorations for the residents attending the program. These were given out during the course of the Bingo program. We received many comments thanking us not only for the gifts, but for our Program. I am told it is one of the most liked activities held at the Nursing Home. The State Director on Life is considering this Program as one of the top Programs in the State.

Second, ten volunteers from the Council went to the Ronald McDonald House on Dec. 14th to help prepare and serve a meal and to do the clean up. The Council had paid for the Brunch Meal fare and we served over 160 family members, volunteers and staff members. The Chef complimented our group and requested we keep doing this program. Many of the family members extended their gratitude.

Third, we finished off the year with our Annual Christmas Party. This event was very successful and credit goes to John Toerner, Paul Leising and Denny Murray for chairing this event. Santa Claus was a hit along with his Elf for the kids and the meal and facilities were excellent.

As I review the State records our Council is one of the leaders in programs being held and conducted. This is a tribute to our individual Brother Knights and spouses. We are looking forward to 2025 and hope to be hosting a Fraternal Benefit Program in January.

I wish each of you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Membership Growth

Our current membership is:

134 Associate Members

46 Insured Members

2 Inactive

Of these members there are

33 Honorary Life Members

4 Honorary Members

44 Fourth Degree Members

The Financial Secretary is researching using more on-line dues collections and fundraising. To get an idea of how many members would be willing to pay by debit/credit card, and even receiving your 2025 dues notice by electronic email, please send a quick email or text message (to my phone) and advise who you are. If there is enough interest in moving into the next decade, please let me know so we have an idea of how much it would make your life easier. We are working with PayPal to be our provider. Phone number 513-574-1814
Email : jmhughes@fuse.net

Will you consider a little time to the Council?

In the last few meetings and business meetings there have been several requests for people to step up and volunteer to help by either taking over as a chairperson or volunteering for an event. We are proud of our Council but believe we are wearing the same people out. A lot of our leadership hold more than one role and the same people seem to always be around. If you find yourself wanting to do more or you know you have the time, see where your talents could help out in our council. We have members who will be more than helpful in guiding your next adventure. If you have any questions see any of the leaders in our council. Also, go to our facebook page or website to get involved:

Website at: stjosephkofo.org

Facebook: "Knights of Columbus, Saint Joseph's North Bend".

Our Faith Programs By Ken Merk

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas. May your New Year be full of Blessings.

I wanted to remind everyone of the upcoming 10 th Annual E6 Catholic Men's Conference. It is being held at East Central High School's Performing Arts Center on Saturday, February 22nd from 8 am to 3:30 pm.

The conference gets it's name from Ephesians Chapter 6 verse 11: "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil".

The speakers scheduled are: Chris Stefanick, Bobby Angel, Craig Pohl, Jake Khym, and Fr. Jonathan Meyer.

This event is a great way to reconnect to our faith. Consider inviting someone who may have fallen away from the church. It is also a great way to deepen your commitment to the faith. The conference occurs shortly before Lent and is a good way to enter into the Lenten season. Please consider attending.

For more information or to sign up go to <https://www.e6catholicmensconference.com/>

Save \$10 by signing up early using discount code CHRISTMAS until 12-31-24. It would be great to get a group of Knights to attend.

Family Program By Don Larrick

MANY THANKS to all those who made the Christmas Dinner such a huge success. Paul, Denny and John for organizing it all. To Dan & Joann for getting and setting up the drinks, Sullivans for the food, Bobbie for the Nativity Sets and activity books for the kids, Sharon for organizing and getting the kids gifts together, Mick and Paul our Bar tenders, Chris our Santa and his helpers Don and Steve and to Steve Duebber our Consultant from previous Christmas Dinners.

Measure Up

This year's Measure Up Campaign was the best ever. The State has sent our check. Each School, Ross and Three Rivers, will receive a check for \$4,800.00. A special THANKS to Steve for organizing and collecting all these donations and collections after Mass. After the holidays (the exact date be announced) we will attend 8:00 Mass at St. Joseph's after which we will visit Three Rivers to see how our funds are being used to benefit their special needs students.

Growth

During this Advent and Christmas season, I ask everyone to invite a man to join the Order and give the gift of membership. Every Knights of Columbus member should be inviting eligible Catholic men to join our Order 365 days a year. Every event conducted by a Knights of Columbus council offers an excellent opportunity to invite men to join our Order and become a better husband, father, and Catholic man. Has your council implemented the new Knights of Columbus Initiative: "*Fishers of Men?*"

Fraternally,

Andrew J. Nuckols
State Growth Director

St. Joe's Sanctuary Set-up

A SPECIAL THANKS to our brother Knights Cliff, Ken and Don who helped Joe and Donna at St. Joseph's set up the Sanctuary and Gathering Space for Christmas. Their 4 hours of moving chairs and furniture, bringing the decorations from the basement upstairs, helping construct the Nativity Scene, putting 12 Christmas Trees together and stringing garland saved Joe and Donna a lot of carrying and lifting. Our help was greatly appreciated.

More Christmas pictures



Special Thank-you

A heartfelt thank you to our K of C Christmas Dinner committee for organizing such a wonderful event! I've put together a slideshow featuring the kids with Santa, joyful family moments, and Fran Wilson's incredible desserts, sure to make your sweet tooth tingle with delight.

Once again, our sincere gratitude to the committee for their hard work. Wishing everyone a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS!** Link :

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/7cQ5KLNzVSzVfG4m6>

Dan Warnock

Bengals volunteers

By Jim Bicknell

Another Bengals season has come and gone. I don't have the totals yet but we likely will have earned a record profit this year benefiting our numerous charities. As in past years we plan to have an end of the season celebration dinner at The Farm. The date is TBD but will likely be sometime later in January or early February. Any person who worked at least one game this season and their guest is invited to join our celebration. Thanks to all of you that made this possible. I have enjoyed our time together and I hope you did also.

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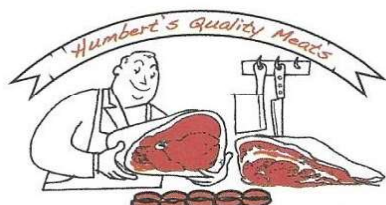
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suggestions to webmaster@stjosephkcofc.org



Fr. McGivney

Baseball's connection with the Knights of Columbus. Our meeting started with a quote from Sparky Anderson "Learn something new every day." Father McGivney played baseball. Babe Ruth was a Knight of Columbus. Jim O'Rourke who had the first hit in the new National League in 1876 was a Knight. Finally, by 1910, 18 World Series were managed by a coach who was a Knight.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Ross Lanter
Cheryl Bredestege
Kylee Phillips

Betty Burwinkel
Tom Butz
Pray for cure of Alzheimer's

Kathy Beebe
Colin Doyan

Cathy Davis
Ron Roehrig
Ken Uhrig
Active Military

Wreaths Across America



On Dec 14th 1500 wreaths were placed on veterans graves at miami township Maple Grove cemetery. A program was held at 12noon with the placing of wreaths St joseph of 3 rivers members were included in the program. Paul Beck gave the invocation and Ken Merk the Benediction the Taylor high School Choir sang about 150 attended including Boy scouts troop 418

Ken Merk St. Joseph K of C gave Benediction at
Wreaths Across America Ceremony