



The St. Joseph Worker

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

Volume 31—Number 1—April 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	Fr. Jerry Hiland
Grand Knight	Mike Groh
Deputy Grand Knight	Ed Hoffrogge
Program Director	Steve Rodenbeck
Financial Secretary	John M. Hughes
Insurance Agent	Brien Hartung
Field Agent	937-540-0485
District Deputy	Bill Johansen
Membership (Growth)	Jim Bischoff
Fourth Degree Navigator	Paul Blevins

Need a St. Joe K of C Shirt ?

Polo or Blue Dress shirt

Email: Paulbeck@zoomtown.com

Orders being taken for group order!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April	8th	Business Meeting
April	13th	Palm Sunday
April	20th	Easter Sunday
April	22nd	Awards Presentation
May	13th	Business Meeting
May	15th	Noon meal Ronald McDonald House
May	27th	Social - Cornhole Tournament
May	30th - 6/1	Fishing Derby
June	10th	Business Meeting
June	20th	Parish's picnic Strickers Grove
June	24th	Council picnic
July	4th	Independence Day

Grand Knights Message

Welcome spring! It's a time of rejuvenation. Warmer and longer days cause the grass to green up, flowers to bloom, and trees to regain their leaves; an amazing rejuvenation for us to enjoy.

Spring is also the season of Lent which culminates with our Lord's death on Good Friday and ends with His resurrection on Easter Sunday. This is a great time for us to rejuvenate our faith life. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and repentance. It's a good time to get to Confession and repent our sins.

Finally, I wish everyone a joyful and blessed Easter!

Vivat Jesus, Mike Groh

From The Desk of Fr. Jerry

Archbishop Schnurr reached the mandatory retirement age for Bishops of 75 and his resignation was accepted by Pope Francis. Archbishop Schnurr will continue to reside here in the Archdiocese and we may see him from time to time. He said that it has been a long time since he left his home in Iowa and the people he knew when he was young are all deceased now. Cincinnati is now his home.

Under Church canon law a former Ordinary (bishop) can remain in his residence after retirement. I remember Archbishop Alter staying in the old Archbishop's house for many years after retirement until his death.

The new Archbishop, Robert Casey, will be installed the first week of April. Every person is different and it will be interesting to see what things change and what things remain the same with a new Archbishop. On a personal note, the new Archbishop is younger than me. I suppose that he is younger than a lot of Knights.

I turned 69 recently and will celebrate 40 years as a priest in June. I am slowing down and I plan to retire July 1. I plan to stay here in the Divine Mercy family of parishes and help out as needed. When I came here three years ago we were told that I would not be replaced. We will know for sure in a month or two.

Spring Blessings, Fr. Jerry Hiland

Lecturer 's Message

By Dan Warnock

Catholic Easter Season

Easter represents the culmination of Holy Week, which begins on Palm Sunday, the first time we hear the Passion reading. Holy Week includes the Easter Triduum, which starts the evening of Holy Thursday with the Mass of the Lord's Supper, includes Good Friday and ends with the Easter Vigil.

Easter continues to be celebrated on two different dates depending on which church you belong to. The Orthodox Easter now falls anywhere between April 4 and May 8 and the Catholic Easter falls anywhere between March 22 and April 25. In rare instances, the dates align, and Easter is celebrated simultaneously. Orthodox and Catholics have different Easter dates because the Orthodox calculate it using the Julian Calendar and the Catholics calculate it using the Gregorian calendar.

Religions that don't typically celebrate Easter include Judaism, Islam, and some Christian denominations like Jehovah's Witnesses, who often have different interpretations of the Bible and religious traditions. Jews do not celebrate Easter because they do not recognize Jesus as the Messiah, and their religious calendar centers around the Passover, not Easter.

At Easter, we as Catholics rejoice in the empty tomb, Jesus's resurrection. Easter is the day Jesus rose from the dead after being crucified.

The empty tomb means that Jesus's words rang true. He fulfilled the promises of Scripture and conquered sin and death.

Had Jesus not risen from the dead, the world would have seen Him as just a prophet or teacher instead of who he is: the Son of God, the Messiah. Jesus overcoming death is the reason we know His name today. It's the foundation of all Christianity. With His death and resurrection, Jesus opened heaven to all of us. Because of Easter, we know that no matter what sufferings we experience or what sins we struggle with, God is always with us.

Easter Resources: Hallow

Our Life Program

By Mike Groh

Mater Filius – Request for help on Handyman Projects – March 2025

- a. The Mater Filius Cincinnati organization has a house on the grounds of St. Aloysius Church in Sayler Park. The ladies who operate the home are focused on helping mothers in residence meet the challenges they face, and are generally not experienced or schooled in the maintenance and repair matter which arise.
- b. Examples include a floor drain which emits sewer gas, electrical outlets which sometimes work or sometimes not, foundation leaks, problems with gutters and downspouts. We have a bathroom sink that is slow to drain, there is an outlet upstairs that does not have a plate and is loose in the wall, kitchen cabinet issues, drafty windows and doors, garage doors that work poorly, the camera is not working on the ring doorbell. Dealing with high ceiling light bulbs, smoke alarms, window A/C units, plus many others.
- c. Some of the work is quick, straightforward, and can be done easily by many Knights. Other work may require hiring tradesmen
- d. We would like to create a team of Knights from different councils who have experience and are willing to help. We are looking for men with backgrounds in repair and construction and who can be available to advise the best way forward as problems and opportunities develop.
- e. If you can help, please contact Kip Backscheider at (513) 520-6341

Council Website and Facebook

Website at: stjosephkcofc.org

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

St. Joseph of the Three Rivers #11550 K of C Celebrates 30 Years!

On March 29, 1995, St. Joseph of the Three Rivers Council #11550 was chartered as the 11,550th council in the Knights of Columbus. Coincidentally, Fr. Michael J. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus on the same date in 1882—113 years earlier.

While some councils formed before us have since folded, St. Joseph K of C has only grown stronger, thanks to the dedication of the men who have represented our council over the past 30 years. Our accomplishments have been numerous, and as Knights, we should all take great pride in what we have achieved.

Our journey began through the diligent efforts of then-District Deputy Ken Gardner, with the support and cooperation of St. Joseph Church, Pastor Father Harry Gerdes. Together, they planted the seeds of our council at St. Joseph Parish starting with 35 charter members, men from both St. Joseph and Our Lady of Visitation parishes. The first Knights of Columbus business meeting was held on April 11, 1995, in St. Joe's Hospitality Room, overseen by Jim Bischoff, our council's first Grand Knight.

Since then, our council has grown to 183 members strong. As a fraternal order, our mission statement remains at the heart of everything we do:

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

Our council has never been one to rest on its laurels. In our first ten years, we donated a total of \$35,000 to charity, thanks to countless hours of hard work and volunteering. Over the next two decades, our charity funds grew exponentially, bolstered by our Lenten Fish Fries and later, our work at Bengals games. Some key charitable contributions over the past 30 years include:

- **Support Our Seminarians (SOS):** over \$18,000 donated. **Measure Up Campaign (supporting special needs students at local schools):** An incredible \$112,889 donated, making our council the top contributor in Ohio. Matching Funds over \$8,000 Annual Free Throw not only monies but also copious man hours contributed. Bill Dehmer Scholarship Fund \$40,200 over last 20 years. Pregnancy Cent West. Ultrasound Machine + over \$20,000 **Total donations over 30 years:** Over **\$465,000** raised to support charitable causes.

These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of our members and the unwavering support of our wives and families. Over the years, St. Joseph K of C has organized numerous fundraisers, including:

- Pancake Breakfasts Italian Dinners Lenten Fish Fries Super Cash Bonanza tickets Football Frenzy tickets Measure Up Campaign collections at Kroger Personal donations Our most successful fundraiser—volunteering at Bengals games

Council Traditions and Social Events

Beyond fundraising, our council takes pride in hosting a variety of cornerstone events, including:

1. **Bill Dehmer Scholarship Fund** – Established in 2005 in honor of our Chaplain, Deacon Bill Dehmer, this fund awards three \$1,500 scholarships to 8th-grade students continuing to Catholic high schools.
2. **Memorial Mass (November)** – Honoring our departed brothers and their wives.
3. **Christmas Dinner with Santa** 4. **April Awards Night** 5. **Oktoberfest Beer Tasting** 6. **Veterans Presentation** 7. **Lenten Presentation** 8. **St. Joe's K of C Family Picnic**

Over the years, St. Joseph of the Three Rivers Council has received numerous awards from the Ohio State Council. Among our highest honors, we have been recognized several times with the **Star Council Award**, a prestigious distinction earned by only a select few of the 400 councils in Ohio.

Since our founding on March 29, 1995, our council has remained strong, thanks to the commitment and leadership of our members. A council is only as strong as the men who support it, and we have been blessed with dedicated leaders and members willing to sacrifice their time and energy for the greater good.

St. Joseph of the Three Rivers #11550 K of C Celebrates 30 Years!

Continued from page 3.

Additionally, we have been fortunate to receive unwavering support from our priests and Deacons: Fr. Harry Gerdes, Fr. Michael Savino, Fr. Andrew Umberg, Fr. Donald Siciliano, Fr. Jerry Hiland, Fr. Martin Bachman and Deacons Bill Dehmer, Ed Reising, Marc Alexander. We Thank you all for your guidance and bringing Christ to us.

With the grace of God, we will continue to carry the torch, serving our parishes and community with faith and generosity. May God Bless our efforts all. **Vivat Jesus!!**

St. Joseph of the Three Rivers Council #11550 Knights of Columbus 30th Anniversary Committee:

Donations to Originations

Matching Funds for Religious Education	The Measure Up Campaign	Coats for Kids
Christmas Giving tree	Bill Dehmer Scholarship Fund	Oser Roth Fest Donation
Christmas Party toys for kids	Eagle Scout projects	Block Ministries and (TRAM)
Support for Our Seminarians	RSVP & seminarian vestments	Mater Filius House
Pregnancy Center West	Ronald McDonald House	Pastor's Request
The Honor Flight & support for Military Veterans		
Whitewater Community Backpack program	Ultrasound Initiative	
During covid 2020 we gave \$500 to St. Jude, Visi and St. Joe's.		
Christ Renews his Parish	Heavens Gain Ministries	Donation to Ukraine
Wreaths Across America	Sophie's Angel Run	Visi Festival for Grill purchase
Metzcor	St. Vincent DePaul	BINGO at 3 Rivers Home
Chair Force One for ALS		March for Life in DC

Honor Flights

Recognition of your Military Service.

There will be four Honor Flights to Washington DC this year.

Any new veteran to join our council in 2025 is asked to share the following information.

Your branch of service.

The date you enlisted in the service and the date you were discharged.

Your job profession title (and abbreviation) and the highest rank you held.

Please share this information with Brother Knight Don Larrick.

He will add your information to our annual Veteran's Mass in November.

And let us know if you would like to be considered for an Honor Flight.

Thank you for your service.

From the Desk of the Financial Secretary

Program Chairs have been asked for their funding needs for the 2025-2026 fraternal year.

If you are a program chair, please send your recommendations to the chairman.

The final draft will be presented to the membership in April for review and the vote to approve will be in May.

Twenty-two members have not renewed their membership dues of \$25.00.

Four members have not renewed their membership for two years - \$50.00

Six members have not renewed their membership for three or more years.

Remember, you can go to our website and pay your dues through PayPal. Each year we ask you to tell us how many hours you have spent doing K of C activities. The report is due to the Supreme Office by January 31st. To date, three members have submitted their report. You can view the report at "https://www.kofc.org/annual_survey".

Our Programs

By Steve Rodenbeck, Program Director

The months of March and April illustrate our Council's achievements and strengths. Our Council celebrated its 30th Anniversary on Sunday, March 30, 2025 with a special dinner and program. The Committee led by Rich Joesting, Ed Hoffrogge and Dan Warnock did a splendid job planning, coordinating and putting on this event. Our Council in the corner of Southwest Ohio is known throughout the State and that is a tribute to each and every member of our Council. You have made a commitment to live out the mission and ideals of the Knights of Coumbus and it does show. In the past I have attended the State Convention and our Council is admired. Our Social for the month of April will be our annual Awards' Night where we honor certain fellow Knights and members of the community for their achievements. This will be a special night and I hope all will attend to congratulate these individuals and celebrate with them. In the month of May the Council will be hosting another Meal at the Ronald McDonald House. A group of ten volunteers has been selected and they will be hosting the lunch on May 15, 2025. Our Social for the month of May will be our annual Cornhole tournament at St. Joe's where Joachim Fischesser will be put to the test. I want to thank the individual Program Directors for jobs well done. Without their assistance and efforts our Council would not be the force it is today.

Treasurer's Report February 2025

Beginning Balance	\$22,412.53
Less Expenses	<u>\$2,673.17</u>
	\$19,739.36
Plus Income	<u>\$5,059.55</u>
Ending Balance	\$24,798.91
CD 1	\$5,757.13
CD 2	<u>\$10,782.29</u>
Total Funds	\$41,338.33

SUPER CASH BONANZA RAFFLE

John Toerner

RAFFLE UPDATE

We have sold over 500 tickets so far, with ticket sales continuing until May 9 th. Last year we sold 940 tickets and earned over \$2800 profit for our Council. This year our goal is 980 tickets and \$3000 profit! Please keep selling the tickets you have, and if you need more you can call or email John Toerner. You can mail tickets to John, turn them in at our April 8 business meeting or social, or have John pick them up at your residence. Let's keep the sales going and reach our goal! John Toerner (513-659-1704)
toerner4@fuse.net

Membership Growth

Our current membership is:

136 Associate Members

45 Insured Members

2 Inactive

Of these members there are

35 Honorary Life Members

2 Honorary Members

44 Fourth Degree Members

New E-Membership

"HOW TO" VIDEO

Remember, we also have a how to video on the State of Ohio's K of C YouTube page. This will show the entire process of how to sign a man up online! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kZFgaGKgEw>

PARISH BULLETIN INCENTIVE!

Finally, please don't forget about the parish bulletin incentive we have going on right now for E-Membership. For more details, go to kofcoho.org/membership

Please reach out to me for any questions you may have.

Thank you and Vivat Jesus!

Greg Singlar
State E-Membership Coordinator

Our Faith Programs By Ken Merk

Lent continues, and we are approaching Easter on April 20 th. I would like you all to consider attending the Triduum. The Divine Mercy Family of Parishes celebrates these services as a combined community. Each service is held at a different church within the family.

Holy Thursday is will be celebrated at St. Joseph Church on April 17. This is the Mass of the Lord's Supper. We are reminded of Jesus' words: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you, says the Lord ", and how he gave the apostles an example by washing their feet.

Good Friday will be celebrated at St. Jude Church on April 18. We recall the story of the Lord's Passion and Death.

The Easter Vigil is celebrated at Our Lady of the Visitation Church on Saturday April 19. This is the culmination of the Triduum, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus with a ceremony of light and the welcoming of new members into the church.

Please consider attending one or all of these services as you are able. It is a wonderful way to conclude your Lenten sacrifices, and will increase your Easter Joy.

Please see the church bulletin for times of all services

Family Program

By Don Larrick

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DEHMER/NIEPORTE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Our Scholarship Winners for 2025 are:

Kendra Pauly from Visitation . Kendra will be attending Seton High School

Avery Albertz from Visitation, Avery will be attending Mt. Notre Dame High School

Lauren Bradshaw from St. Jude, Lauren will be attending St. Ursula Academy

Many THANKS to our Scholarship Committee:

Jim Bischoff, Steve Duebber, John Hughes, Ron Roehrig and Don Larrick.

State Membership Drive

March 15, 2025

Congratulations Ohio!

We made another milestone on the journey to 2,000 new members and our Circle of Honor goal!

As of this weekend, we have reached **1,250 new Brother Knights** for Ohio this fraternal year. Let's make March the strongest Growth month so far!

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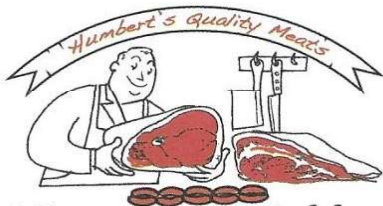
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"Knights of Columbus, Saint Joseph's North Bend".

Web Site / Kyle Dupler

Please visit our website
at stjosephkofo.org

Send any comments or
suggestions to webmaster@stjosephkofo.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:

Pope Francis	Archbishop Schnurr	Fr. Jerry	Ross Lanter	Ron Roehrig	Betty Burwinkel
Tim Leigh	Mike Ellert	Pray for cure of Alzheimer's		Active Military	

2nd Annual Fishing Derby

Camping Weekend May 30 - June 1

DIVINE MERCY FAMILY OF PARISHES

Saint Joseph of the Three Rivers

Knights of Columbus Council 11550

Catch and Release

FISHING DERBY

SOUTH WESTERN OHIO

CONSERVATION CLUB

Saturday, May 31, 2025

11AM to 2PM

6084 Morgan Road, Cleves, OH 45002

Contact Jim Bischoff at 513-574-4825

Or email: jbpounds@fuse.net to register to fish

Lunch will be provided to everyone.

Awards presented for longest

Pan Fish == Bass Fish == Catfish

In age groups 5 & Under

6 to 7 and 8 to 11 and 12 to 16.

We have 18 slots open for camping this year for the Fishing Derby. Please register by May 15th. Saturday evening meal will be a potluck cook out with the council providing burgers, brats, metts, and hotdogs.

