



The St. Joseph Worker

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

Volume 31—Number 3— June 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

June	10th	Business Meeting
June	14th & 15th	Schutzenfest
June	20th	Parish's picnic Strickers Grove
June	24th	Council picnic
July	4th	Independence Day
July	8th	Business Meeting
July	22nd	Installation of Officers
August	8th - 10th	Visitation Festival
August	12th	Business meeting
August	26th	Social

The 2025 Cornhole Championships!

this year's Cornhole Tournament was a great success, drawing over 20 competitors and many more enthusiastic fans on the sidelines. Special thanks to Jim Bischoff and his crew for grilling up delicious burgers and brats. Congratulations to this year's champions, Bill Wittich and Steve Rodenbeck, and to the runners-up, Steve Duebber and Joachim Fischesser. Well done, Steve and Bill...you've earned bragging rights until next year's tourney!

Election of Officers List

Nomination for 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Officers

Grand Knight Ed Hoffrogge
Deputy Grand Knight Bob Rischmann
Chancellor Kyle Dupler
Treasurer Carl Braun
Advocate John Toerner
Inside Guard Ken Merck
Outside Guard Gil Carr
Warden Joe Bredestege
Recorder Ron Pastrick
Trustee 3 year Mike Groh Trustee 2 year Rich Joesting Trustee 1 year Jon Dinger

Lecture's Moment by Dan Warnock

Knights of Columbus - Mexican Martyrs

I knew that in the 1920s the Mexican government persecuted Catholics, but I never fully understood what prompted such harsh action by government officials. In the May issue of Knightline, there's a small blurb about the Cristero War and how six Knights were martyred during the conflict, a sobering reminder of what our faith has endured.

I believe there was even a movie made on this very subject. I also came across an audio feature by Patrick Madrid on Formed, the Catholic media platform, where he explores the history of the persecution of the Church during that era. In short summary, here's what I've learned about the Cristero War so far. As a side note, I found it interesting (ref: Holy Family School history book, 1967*) that it was also 1917 when the Russian rebellion took place and the beginning of Soviet rule:

The persecution of Catholics in Mexico during the 1920s was largely the result of the Mexican government's efforts to enforce strict anti-clerical laws established in the 1917 Constitution. This period of intense conflict is most famously associated with the Cristero War (1926–1929). Here's a breakdown of why the persecution happened:

1. The Mexican Constitution of 1917

After the Mexican Revolution (1910–1920), the new constitution included anti-clerical provisions intended to reduce the Catholic Church's influence in public life. Key elements included:

Banning religious orders.

Stripping the Church of property rights.

Prohibiting public worship outside of church buildings.

Outlawing religious education in schools.

Denying clergy the right to vote or speak about politics.

2. President Plutarco Elías Calles (1924–1928)

Calles was especially aggressive in enforcing these laws and even added further restrictions under the Calles Law in 1926, which:

Required priests to register with the government. Imposed fines and prison terms for clergy who wore religious clothing in public or criticized the government. Limited the number of priests per state.

3. The Cristero War (1926–1929)

In response to these repressive measures, many Mexican Catholics, especially in rural areas, rose up in an armed rebellion known as the Cristero War. The rebels, called Cristeros, fought under the slogan Viva Cristo Rey; (Long live Christ the King!). The war resulted in:

Thousands of deaths on both sides.

Severe repression, including executions of priests and lay Catholics.

A compromise brokered by U.S. Ambassador Dwight Morrow in 1929 that ended the violence but didn't fully restore religious freedoms.

4. Why the Government Was Hostile to the Church

The hostility stemmed from the belief that the Catholic Church: Had historically supported conservative elites and opposed liberal reform. Was an obstacle to building a secular, modern nation. Held too much economic and political power, particularly in rural communities.

Summary

The persecution of Catholics in 1920s Mexico was the product of a revolutionary, secular government attempting to reduce the influence of the Catholic Church, which led to harsh laws, resistance, and eventually violent rebellion during the Cristero War.

(According to text by Google.)

Vivat Jesus!!

Dan Warnock, Lecturer

SUPER CASH BONANZA RAFFLE FINAL UPDATE

Great job by everyone who sold or bought raffle tickets this year! We sold 788 tickets and earned \$2785 profit for our Council after expenses. Our 2025 top sellers:

Charlie Wilke – 128 Steve Rodenbeck – 37 Denny Murray – 30 Joachim Fischesser – 68 Jim Bischoff – 37 Steve Duebber – 21

Thanks to everyone for making this raffle fundraiser a success!

State Council Elected Officers

Please join us in congratulating M. Stewart Vetter (“Stew!”) who has been elected as our State Warden.

Stewart has a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Bowling Green State University and is an Accounting Manager for Bunge North America.

Stew, his wife Melissa, and their two sons, Zachary and Evan live in Bellevue, Ohio.

By way of background, Stew grew up in Van Wert, Ohio where he was in *Squires Circle 2927*, then *Knights of Columbus Council #6034* as a member of St. Mary’s parish. Stew served as *State Chief Squire* from 1993-1995 under the mentorship of State Father Prior Fr. F. Richard Snoke and then State Squires Director Robert F. Collins, Jr.

Stew is a *Past Grand Knight of Bellevue Council #752* and a former *District Deputy*. Additionally, he has served as *State Family Director* under PSD Bob Collins, *State Youth and Squires Director* under PSD Kevin Miller, *State Membership Director* under PSD Bob Byers, *State E-membership Director* under PSD Mark Siracusa, and recently served as *State Life Director* under SD Jeff Kilianny.

In addition to the election of State Warden, the following State Officers were elected:

- State Secretary Mike Felerski is State Deputy-Elect
- State Treasurer Jim Maslach is State Secretary-Elect
- State Advocate Chris Sarka is State Treasurer-Elect
- State Warden Tony Offenberger is State Advocate-Elect

Please join us in congratulating these brother Knights and keep them in our prayers as they prepare for the next fraternal term.

Council Website and Facebook

Website at: stjosephkofo.org

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

Steve Rodenbeck Council Program Director

The month of May proved to be another successful month for our Council with respect to programs. Our Grand Knight, Mike Groh, and our Deputy Grand Knight, Ed Hoffrogge, attended the State Convention in Cleveland. Our Council was awarded the "Mary" award. This means our Council completed and reported at least 28 Program activities in the 4 reporting areas of Community, Family, Faith and Life. The receipt of this Award is a tribute to all the hard work and commitment of all our members. Congratulations to you all.

During the month of May our Council provided the funding and volunteers for another meal at the Ronald McDonald House. The chef has often remarked to me how he enjoys our group of volunteers. These meals mean a lot to the families who are undergoing hard and difficult times. The Council also hosted a meeting of the Cincinnati Chapter and we received compliments for the food prepared by Mike Groh and his wife, Carol. We had another successful Cornhole Tournament as the rain clouds parted to allow us to have this activity. By the time of the printing of this Newsletter the Council will also have held under the leadership of Jim Bischoff another Fishing Derby for kids.

Our Council is not one to sit back on its laurels. The month of June will be a busy one as well. A number of our members will be doing volunteer work at the Schutzenfest Festival the weekend of June 6th. An email was previously sent out if anyone wanted to volunteer and a number have stepped up. In addition, the Council has been asked to provide the grilling for the Parish Picnic on Friday, June 20, 2025 at Strickers' Grove. This will be interesting as all three Churches have been asked to attend. It may prove to be a challenge, but knowing you all I have all the confidence in the world. The same evening we have been asked by the Miami Township Trustees to provide a parking detail for the concert on its property on Shady Lane. Our Social for the month of June will be our Council Family Picnic to be held at the Pavilion at St. Joe's. More details on these events will be forthcoming.

As they say, a successful Council is an active and busy one. Our Council meets that standard to a tee. Our individual Program Directors deserve quite the credit for their leadership over this past year and I thank them for their time and efforts.

Vivat Jesus!

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**

It is time to approve our budget for the next Fraternal Year. Drafts have been routed to the leadership for their initial input. A final version will be presented at the June Council Meeting for your approval.

A request was made to have our records updated due to missing information. An email request will be sent to those we do not know the following:

What is your "Parish." Not parish family, but parish.

Your marriage status. If married, we are asking for your wife's name.

If married, your anniversary date. We might even send you a greeting card.

Thank you for your support. Viva Jesus!

John M. Hughes
Knights of Columbus Council 11550 and Assembly 2170
513-574-1814

Scholarship winners from Visitation



Avery Albertz - Mt Notre Dame High School
Kendra Pauly - Seton High School

**Treasurer's Report
April 2025**

Beginning Balance	\$19,708.37
Less Expenses	<u>\$1,242.38</u>
	\$18,465.99
Plus Income	<u>\$3,460.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$21,925.99
CD 1	\$5,813.45
CD 2	<u>\$10,854.61</u>
Total Funds	\$38,594.05

**Council Picnic
June 24th**

We are asking for guys to help bring tables and chairs from church (we will need someone with a pickup truck) over and help with the cooking. Ed says we should have the helpers come at 5:30.

SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC
TUESDAY, JUNE 24TH
TIME: 6:00 ARRIVAL

6:30 FOOD IS SERVED

7:15 GAMES FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

Come and enjoy the FUN. Bring your Children and Grandchildren.

Everything is FREE

Soft Drinks, Beer, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Bratts, Metts.

We are asking that families with last names beginning with the letters A through M bring a side dish. Families with last names beginning with the letters N through Z bring a desert.

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

Happy Easter! He is Risen! The Easter season is coming to a close. The 50 day season of Easter ends with the feast of Pentecost. I personally invite all of you to try to participate in this year's Pentecost Novena which begins on Friday May 30th. Invite the Holy Spirit into your life and ask that His gifts be set fire in your heart.

The Pentecost Novena is the first of all novenas, nine days of prayer. After Jesus' Ascension into heaven, He commanded His disciples to come together in the upper room to devote themselves to constant prayer (Acts 1:14). They prayed for nine days before receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

On May 4, 1897, Pope Leo XIII proclaimed: "We decree and command that throughout the whole Catholic Church, this year and in every subsequent year, a novena shall take place before Whit-Sunday (Pentecost), in all parish churches." It has been reported that Pope Leo XIII was inspired to mandate the Pentecost novena because of a letter from a housewife in Italy. Pope John Paul II has reiterated Pope Leo XIII's command for a worldwide Pentecost novena, although the novena can be prayed at any time — not only before Pentecost.

Try to go to Mass daily throughout the novena. Go to Confession during the novena. Make visits to church to adore the eucharistic Jesus throughout the novena. The Church has not written any official prayers for the novena.

Presentation Ministries has a link you can use to access the prayers and readings:

<https://www.presentationministries.com/series/publications/publication-pentnovena-247748>

Come Holy Spirit!

"Quest for 200 New Members"

The Fourth Quarter Council Growth Incentive runs from April 1st until June 30th. No reporting necessary, just bring in new Brother Knights into Ohio!

Any council that brings in **at least two new members** during the Fourth Quarter will be entered into a drawing for \$300.00.

- Any council brings in **three new members**, will receive a \$25.00 Gift Card in addition to being entered in the \$300 drawing.

Any council that brings in **four or more members** will receive a \$50.00 Gift Card in addition to being entered in the \$300 drawing.



Award presentation at State Convention to Mike Groh Grand Knight by State Deputy Jeff Kiliany for the Mary Award.

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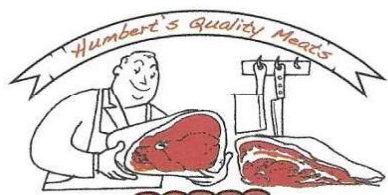
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Fr. McGivney

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	Tom Butz	Kathy Davis	Mike Kathman	Rose Mary Niehe
Carol Groh	Ben Staubach & Family	Pray for cure of Alzheimer's			Active Military

Council cornhole tournament



Champion team of Steve R and Bill W 2025 winners May 27th.

Runners up Steve D and Joachim F.