

CHARITY

UNITY

FRATERNITY

PATRIOTISM



Knights of Columbus

Breese Council 2869, 480 North Walnut
P.O. Box 124, Breese, IL 62230



KNIGHT LINE

December, 2024 - January, 2025

Message from the Grand Knight

As we enter the joyful seasons of Advent and Christmas, we are reminded of the hope, love, and renewal this special time brings. It is an opportunity to reflect on the many blessings in our lives and focus on the true meaning of Christmas—the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May we embrace this sacred time to strengthen our faith, deepen our charity, and share Christ's light with those around us, especially those in need.

Looking back on the past year, I am deeply grateful for your dedication to our council's mission. Your efforts—whether through organizing charitable drives or supporting parish events—have left a meaningful impact on our community. As we approach the New Year, let us carry this momentum forward, renewing our commitment to serve as Knights of Columbus. Together, we can continue to be instruments of God's love and a source of hope for those we serve.

The coming weeks bring several wonderful opportunities to gather and celebrate this joyful season. I warmly encourage you to join us for these upcoming events: a **Workers' Christmas Party** – December 2nd at the hall, **Night of Prayer Service** – December 10th, St. Anthony Church, 9-10pm and an **Exemplification Ceremony** – December 15th after the 9:30am mass at St. Anthony Church. Additionally, you'll find donation boxes at the back of the church, where you can contribute new or gently used hats, gloves, or scarves for those in need. These events and acts of generosity not only deepen our bonds as brothers but also serve as powerful reminders of the unity and fellowship that define us. I hope to see you there!

As we step into January, let us embrace the New Year with renewed purpose and a clear focus on the future. This is a perfect time to set fresh goals for our council while staying true to our guiding principles of charity, unity, and fraternity. Please save the date for our **six-month planning meeting** on January 8th at 6 PM, where we will chart our course for the second half of the fraternal year. Additionally, don't miss our annual **membership dinner** on **January 11th**, from 5 to 7pm. This event is a wonderful opportunity to settle your annual dues while enjoying a delicious chicken dinner with a guest. Join us for an evening filled with fellowship, camaraderie, and the spirit of brotherhood. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and service. I pray that the Lord continues to bless you and your families this season and throughout the New Year. May we continue to grow in faith and mission together.

Vivat Jesus!
Brian M. Kloeckner
Grand Knight



State Membership Director, John Lough (left) and State Deputy, Jeff Peters (right) join Rich Koerkenmeier, Fr. Chuck Tuttle and Brian Kloeckner for a picture at Fr. Chuck's 50th Anniversary



Past Grand Knight Patrick Jansen receives the Star Council Award for Fraternal Year 2023-2024 from District Deputy Fr. Chuck Tuttle (Chaplain #2869)

Membership Update



If you have a father, son, brother, uncle, nephew, neighbor, or any Catholic gentleman interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, now is the perfect time! Signing up has never been easier. Simply use the QR code above with your cell phone to visit kofc.org.

When you sign up online, your first year of membership is free by entering the promo code **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY**. Be sure to include our council number, **2869**, to ensure you are registered with our council.

We are excited to announce an exemplification ceremony on **December 15th**, immediately following the 9:30 AM Mass at St. Anthony Church in Beckemeyer. This special event is a meaningful opportunity to welcome new members into our brotherhood.

Following the ceremony, we are hosting a chicken dinner to celebrate our new members and their families. Encourage those interested to take the next step and join us for this memorable occasion!

Upcoming Events in December and January

December has a few events scheduled. Here's a preview of what's ahead:

- **Monday, December 2:** Workers Party – Social hour @ 5pm, Dinner @ 6pm. We will be collecting unwrapped toys, gift cards and cash donations.
- **Tuesday, December 10:** Night of Prayer – St. Anthony, Beckemeyer, 9-10pm.
- **Thursday, December 12:** Our council meeting will start at 7:30 PM. This month, we will also pray the rosary for our deceased brothers starting at 7:00 PM, which we do every other month.
- **Sunday, December 15:** Exemplification @ St. Anthony, Beckemeyer after the 9:30 mass. A chicken dinner will follow the ceremony to celebrate our new members and their families.
- **Sunday, December 29:** 5th Sunday Breakfast - The proceeds from this breakfast will benefit All Saints Academy.

Looking ahead to January:

- **Wednesday, January 8:** 6 month planning meeting – 6pm at the hall.
- **Thursday, January 9:** Our regular council meeting will start at 7:30 PM.
- **Saturday, January 11:** Membership Dinner from 5-7pm. Pay your dues and enjoy a chicken dinner with your fellow brothers.
- **Thursday, January 16:** Annual Columbian Board Meeting, 7pm. The board is seeking three new members as current terms come to an end. Please consider stepping up and helping your council.

Recurring Events: The **Queen of Hearts** raffle went out in October with a grand prize of over \$20,000. This was our largest jackpot ever. We started a new board with the jackpot at \$4,000. We are still in search of a chairperson for this board. This would be a great way to become more involved with your council.

Knight of the Month

December: Fr. Chuck Tuttle

January: Mike Niemeyer

Family of the Month

December: Mike & Donna Nettemeier

January: Neil & Carol Hustedde

Getting information quickly to members – Email newsletters

I included this message in the last newsletter but received only a few responses, so I am sharing it again in hopes of generating more interest.

There are times when we need to quickly share important information with our members—such as notifying you of a Brother Knight's passing and gathering for a Resolution of Condolence—or when you prefer to receive the newsletter by email. To ensure timely communication, we are building a database of email addresses and cell phone numbers. If you'd like to be included, please email your name, email address, and cell phone number to grandknight@breeseknights.org. Your participation will greatly help us keep everyone informed and connected. Thank you for your support!

Hats, Gloves and Scarves for the needy

It's the perfect time to clean out your closet and gather any new or gently used hats, gloves, or scarves. Donation boxes are available at the back of St. Anthony, St. Augustine, and St. Dominic churches. Simply drop off your items, and we'll ensure they reach those in need. Thank you for helping spread warmth and kindness this season!



Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Korean & Vietnam War Census Program



Brother Knights,

Please review the following information and contact me as soon as practical, preferably via e-mail to rkoerk@yahoo.com or if necessary by text message to 618-974-1910, to inform whether you, a family member or friend, either living or deceased may qualify to be added to the census as outlined below.

Thank You and God Bless,
Rich Koerkenmeier, Faithful Navigator of Bishop Althoff Assembly 193

Objective: In conjunction with the 125th anniversary of its founding, the Fourth Degree will conduct a census of the membership to establish a record of service by K of C members in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Purpose: Following the World Wars, the Order documented war service by its members. The results of these efforts are recorded in the archives at the Blessed Michael J. McGivney Pilgrimage Center. Similar efforts were not conducted following either the Korean or Vietnam Wars.

Significance: The Korean War commenced in 1950, making the approximate minimum age of surviving veterans 91 years. Similarly, the approximate minimum age of surviving Vietnam veterans serving from 1965-1973 is 68 to 76.

Considerations: Both the Korean and Vietnam Wars marked a significant departure in how troops served and returned from war, as service was no longer for the duration. Gone were the hero's welcome on return. Vietnam veterans in particular returned to a hostile and divided nation, where they were either overlooked or criticized for their service.

Execution: Assemblies working in conjunction with their assigned councils will conduct a census of their membership and where possible, documented service of deceased members will be recorded.

Qualifications: Inclusion in the census shall be limited to veterans meeting the requirements established by Congress for the Korean and Vietnam Service Medals. That means one must have served sometime during the period of June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953 in or near Korea, **OR** sometime during the period of July 3, 1965 to March 28, 1973 in or near Vietnam.

Timeline: The program will culminate with a Mass at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday, April 26, 2025, in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War (April 30, 2025). Following Mass, the Supreme Officers and Board of Directors with an escort of a 4th Degree Honor Guard will lay wreaths at the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials. Certificates recognizing service will be delivered to surviving veterans via their councils.

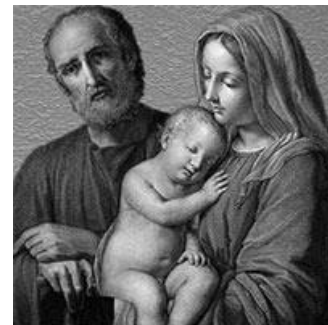
December 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1 st Sunday of Advent	2 Workers Party Drinks 5pm, Dinner 6pm	3	4	5 Ralph Langhauser wings	6 Jeff Niemeyer fry crew	7 Vocation Raffle Dwg
8 2 nd Sunday of Advent	9 Immaculate Conception Columbian Board Meeting @ 6:30	10 Night of Prayer @ St. Anthony 9-10pm	11	12 Rich Eilermann wing crew Council Meeting w/ Rosary, start @ 7pm	13 Ralph Langhauser fry crew	14
15 3 rd Sunday of Advent Exemplification @ St. Anthony after 9:30 mass	16	17 4 th Degree Meeting in Okawville @ 7:30	18	19 Dennis Book wing crew	20 Steve Tebbe fry crew	21
22 4 th Sunday of Advent	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 No Thursday wings Mater Dei Christmas Tournament	27 No Friday chicken Mater Dei Christmas Tournament	28 Mater Dei Christmas Tournament
29 5 th Sunday Breakfast benefitting ASA	30 Mater Dei Christmas Tournament	31 New Years Eve				

January 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Mary, Holy Mother of God New Year's Day	2 Don Kuhl wing crew	3 Dan Ketterer fry crew	4
5 Epiphany	6 Columbian Board Meeting @ 6:30	7	8 6 month planning meeting, 6pm @ the hall	9 Dave Rolfsmeier wings Council Meeting @ 7:30	10 Russell Zurliene fry crew	11 Membership Dinner, 5pm
12	13	14	15	16 Ralph Langhauser wings Annual Columbian Board Meeting, 7pm	17 Mark Niemeyer fry crew Pro-Life March @ the Courthouse	18 Pro-Life Roses after mass
19 Pro-Life Roses after mass	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	21 4 th Degree Meeting in Trenton @ 7:30	22 Red Cross Blood Drive @ the hall, 12:30-5pm	23 Rich Eilermann wing crew	24 Rich Eilermann fry crew	25
26	27	28	29	30 Dennis Book wing crew	31 Jeff Niemeyer fry crew	

Building the Domestic Church

While Strengthening Our Parish

The Family Fully Alive



The Family that Prays and Plays Together, Stays Together

JOY

DECEMBER

Faith In Action: Food for Families

**Joy is an attribute of God's divine love. To reflect God in our family life,
we are called to be joyful by developing our relationship with Christ.**

Breaking Open the Theme

It is often remarked that faith is caught more than taught in the family. One of the best ways faith is caught is through joy. Joy is not an emotion that can be faked or forced. There is something authentic about it that points to a deeper reality. Joy should be part of the regular fabric of Christian life. The Lord promises his disciples that "no one will take your joy from you" (Jn 16:22), and we are instructed by St. Paul to "rejoice in the Lord always" (Phil 4:4). But how is it possible to be joyful when there is sorrow in our lives? The answer is that joy in its deepest sense is not dependent on positive circumstances or upbeat feelings. Joy means having an encounter with God's infinite love for us, which is always present in our lives. It "adapts and changes, but always endures," even amid great sorrow. It takes the form of a quiet assurance, a reminder that we are God's beloved sons and daughters. At other times, joy means that one "rejoices with the truth" (1 Cor 13:6), praising aloud the Lord and thanking him for his gifts. But above all, joy comes from "an expansion of the heart" through prayer and gestures of love toward others, creating a bright, warm and cheerful atmosphere.

Meditation

From Pope Francis' *Amoris Laetitia*

The expression rejoice over wrongdoing" (1 Cor 13:6) has to do with a negativity lurking deep within a person's heart. It is the toxic attitude of those who rejoice at seeing an injustice done to others. The following phrase expresses its opposite: "it rejoices in the right". In other words, we rejoice at the good of others when we see their dignity and value their abilities and good works. This is impossible for those who must always be comparing and competing, even with their spouse, so that they secretly rejoice in their failures. When a loving person can do good for others, or sees that others are happy, they themselves live happily and in this way give glory to God, for "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7). Our Lord especially appreciates those who find joy in the happiness of others. If we fail to learn how to rejoice in the well-being of others and focus primarily on our own needs, we condemn ourselves to a joyless existence, for, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). The family must always be a place where, when something good happens to one of its members, they know that others will be there to celebrate it with them.

Family Reflections

1. What are some joys we have experienced in our family? Are there ways to build upon these joys to create a more joyful home?
2. In what ways could we add more joy to our family? Could we be more cheerful in giving and complain less? Could we focus less on

our own needs and more on the happiness of a family member?
Could we rejoice in our family's love by affirming each other more with compliments? Could we smile more at our family members?

3. Do we base our lives on the joyful awareness that we are beloved sons and daughters of God, or do we let something rob us of the joy of the Gospel? What is it that robs us? Is it anxiety, fear or impatience? How might prayer help with these things?

Scripture Reading

Psalms 33:1-7, 20-22

A prayer of praise and rejoicing before the Lord

Rejoice, you righteous, in the LORD;
praise from the upright is fitting.
Give thanks to the LORD on the harp;
on the ten-stringed lyre offer praise.
Sing to him a new song;
skillfully play with joyful chant.
For the LORD's word is upright;
all his works are trustworthy.
He loves justice and right.
The earth is full of the mercy of the LORD.
By the LORD's word the heavens were made;
by the breath of his mouth all their host.
He gathered the waters of the sea as a mound;
he sets the deep into storage vaults.
Our soul waits for the LORD,
he is our help and shield.
For in him our hearts rejoice;
in his holy name we trust.
May your mercy, LORD, be upon us;
as we put our hope in you.

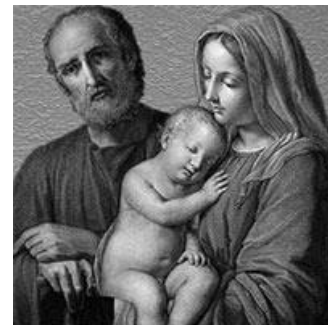
Family Project

Put joy into practice by singing together Advent and Christmas hymns, hosting an Advent or Christmas party with special treats, and reading a Christmas story out loud. The story could be Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* or a book more suitable for young children, like *The Legend of the Poinsettia* by Tomie dePaola. Also consider creating a family book of favorite religious hymns and carols. Have each family member choose a song that they enjoy and make copies to share. Then sing together Advent and Christmas songs at times that are convenient. For instance, a family could sing before its family prayer, before bed, before lighting the Advent wreath, before opening presents at Christmas, or at another time. If you have young children, sing a few simple songs to them so they can begin to learn the lyrics.

Building the Domestic Church

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The Family Fully Alive



The Family that Prays and Plays Together, Stays Together

FAMILY PRAYER

JANUARY

Faith In Action: March for Life

The Christian family needs to put first things first by cultivating a relationship with God together through prayer. Prayer is essential for families to develop Christian joy, faith, hope and love.

Breaking Open the Theme

The Christian family is called to offer to Christ all of its activities through a life of prayer. The Catechism of the Catholic Church gives this advice about prayer: “We cannot pray ‘at all times’ if we do not pray at specific times, consciously willing it.” In other words, families need to set aside a definite time for formal prayer together in order to have prayer infuse everything they do. Family members must build their life around God rather than fit God into their busy schedule. If families attempt the latter, then they are sure to find prayer dry and will eventually leave it out of their schedule altogether. To help nourish a shared prayer life, it is a good idea to learn more about different ways of praying and to establish a rhythm of praying. Different forms of prayer include vocal prayer (saying out loud a formal prayer, giving praise, asking for forgiveness, thanksgiving, adoration, petition, etc.); meditation on scripture or other religious writings; and contemplation, in which a person just listens to and talks with God as one would with a friend. But there are other ways of praying, such as through song and art. A family should consider its rhythm of prayer, such as morning or evening prayer, grace before and after meals, and prayers before bedtime. Some rhythms are weekly, such as Sunday Mass and entering into the Sabbath rest. Some rhythms are yearly, such as the liturgical year and its feast days. Finally, some rhythms of prayer should be unique to each person’s family, such as prayerfully celebrating birthdays, anniversaries of family members’ weddings, baptisms (or other sacraments) and patron saints. The possibilities are endless, but it is necessary to develop a rhythm because “life is shaped by rhythms: the rhythm of heartbeat and breathing, the rhythm of day and night, of meals, of weeks, and so on. Mental prayer should become a daily event as vital to us as the basic rhythms of existence. It should become the breathing of our souls.”

Meditation

From Pope John Paul II’s *Familiaris Consortio*

Family prayer has its own characteristic qualities. It is prayer offered in common, husband and wife together, parents and children together. Communion in prayer is both a consequence of and a requirement for the communion bestowed by the sacraments of baptism and Matrimony. The words with which the Lord Jesus promises His presence can be applied to the members of the Christian family in a special way: “again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. for where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Family prayer has for its very own object family life itself, which in all its varying circumstances is seen as a call from God and lived as a filial response to His call. Joys and sorrows, hopes and disappointments, births and birthday celebrations, wedding anniversaries of the parents, departures, separations and homecomings, important and far-reaching decisions, the death of those who are dear, etc. — all of these mark God’s loving intervention in the family’s history. They should be seen as suitable moments for thanksgiving, for petition, for trusting abandonment of the family into the hands of their common Father in heaven. The dignity and responsibility of the Christian family as the domestic Church can be achieved only with God’s unceasing aid, which will surely be granted if it is humbly and trustingly petitioned in prayer.

Family Reflections

1. Is prayer at the center of our family life? If not, why?
2. How can we better build a rhythm of prayer into our family’s life? In what way can we mark significant family moments throughout the year with prayer?

3. What are our family members' preferred ways of praying — vocal, meditative or contemplative? Is there a way to incorporate each family member's preferred way of praying into family prayer?

Scripture Reading

Psalm 65:6-14 A prayer of gratitude for God's blessings

You answer us with awesome deeds of justice,

O God our savior,

The hope of all the ends of the earth
and of those far off across the sea.

You are robed in power,
you set up the mountains by your might.

You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples.

Distant peoples stand in awe of your marvels;
the places of morning and evening
you make resound with joy.

You visit the earth and water it,
make it abundantly fertile.

God's stream is filled with water;
you supply their grain.

Thus do you prepare it:
you drench its plowed furrows,
and level its ridges.

With showers you keep it soft,
blessing its young sprouts.

You adorn the year with your bounty;
your paths drip with fruitful rain.

The meadows of the wilderness also drip;
the hills are robed with joy.

The pastures are clothed with flocks,
the valleys blanketed with grain;
they cheer and sing for joy.

Family Project

The Catechism recommends that we find places favorable for prayer. One of the places it suggests is a "prayer corner" in the home. If you do not already have one, make a prayer corner in the home in order to facilitate prayer. This sacred space could be a simple table with a nice cloth over it, a bible, religious images and statues, rosaries, candles, prayer cards, a family prayer intention book, a vase for flowers ,etc. Make the corner unique to your family and have each family member contribute one religious item to the prayer corner. For further ideas, see the following resource: The Little Oratory: The Beginner's Guide to Praying in the Home by David Clayton and Leila Marie Lawler