

CHARITY

UNITY

FRATERNITY

PATRIOTISM



# Knights of Columbus

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



## KNIGHT LINE

February - March, 2025

### Message from the Grand Knight

As we move into the heart of winter and prepare for the promise of spring, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work our council has done and the opportunities ahead. February and March are pivotal months for our council's mission, as we deepen our commitment to faith, charity, and fraternity.

February is a time to celebrate love and service, not only in our personal lives but also in the ways we extend God's love to others. Valentine's Day reminds us of the importance of kindness and compassion, and our council has a unique opportunity to embody these values through our ongoing projects. Whether it's assisting the less fortunate in our community, supporting parish families, or volunteering at local events, let us continue to be a light in the lives of others.

Looking ahead to March, we find inspiration in the season of Lent, a time for renewal, sacrifice, and spiritual growth. As Knights, we are called to deepen our relationship with Christ through prayer, fasting, and acts of service. I encourage each of you to use this Lenten season to not only strengthen your own faith but to inspire others to do the same.

I also want to express my gratitude for the dedication and hard work each of you contributes to our council. Recent events, from our fundraising efforts to our parish involvement, have shown the strength of our brotherhood and our shared mission to make a difference. Your commitment to living out the principles of charity, unity, and fraternity is what makes this council a force for good in our community.

As we navigate these next two months, I encourage you to stay involved, support one another, and continue to invite new members into our fold. The more hands and hearts we have, the greater the impact we can make.

Finally, let us pray for the success of our upcoming events, for those in our community who are struggling, and for one another as we journey together in faith. Thank you for your dedication and service—it is an honor to lead such a devoted group of Catholic gentlemen.

May God bless you and your families during this time of reflection and renewal.

Vivat Jesus!

Brian M. Kloeckner  
Grand Knight



On December 15, 2024, our council exemplified six new members. The new members are (front row from left to right) Brock Revermann, Blake Kloeckner, Alden Moss, Carter Ritzhiemer, Kyler Johnson and Mike Faust.



On January 12, 2025, our council exemplified seven new members. The new members are (front row from left to right) Ian Berndsen, Carter Goebel, Zander Brueggemann, Tom Berndsen, Bryce Revermann, Joe Leonard and Mark Berndsen.

**Welcome to our new Brother Knights – we are honored to have you join our council and mission of faith, service, and fraternity!**

### Upcoming Events in February and March

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

- **Thursday, February 13:** 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.
- **Saturday, February 15:** We will hold our councils annual **Free Throw contest** at 12pm in the main gym at Mater Dei High School. This contest is open to boys and girls ages 9-14.
- **Saturday, February 22:** Past Grand Knights Dinner – This event honors our Past Grand Knights for their dedicated leadership, unwavering service, and lasting contributions to our council's mission.
- **Sunday, February 23:** Diocesan Bowling Tournament held at Bartelso Bowling Alley.

Looking ahead to a busy March:

- **Sunday, March 2:** District Free Throw Contest at 2:30pm, Mater Dei High School
- **Wednesday, March 5: Ash Wednesday** – This is our first **Fish Fry** of the season. We don't have a scheduled crew for this event. Volunteers are needed to assist in the kitchen and on the serving line.
- **Saturday, March 8:** *COR*, This is a new program the Knights are starting at 8am in the Lampe Commons at Mater Dei High School. See page 4 of this newsletter for more details.
- **March 8-9 & 15-16:** Church Drive Weekend: Our council will give a brief presentation at our Parish Partnership churches, as well as St. Rose and Beaver Prairie, to extend an invitation to join our fraternity.
- **Thursday, March 13:** Council meeting - This month, we have a Fraternal Benefit Night starting at 7:00 PM. The meeting will begin immediately after the presentation.
- **Sunday, March 30:** "5<sup>th</sup>" Sunday Breakfast – The proceeds from this breakfast will benefit one of our many charities that we support throughout the year.

## Knight of the Month

February: Colby Voss

March: Leonard Bathon

## Family of the Month

February: Russel & Pam Zurliene

March: Kyle & Shelly Ritzhiemer

## Lent Fish Fry

As we prepare for the Lenten season, our Fish Fry events are a wonderful opportunity to come together as a council, serve our community, and support our parish. To make these events successful, we need your help! Volunteers are needed to assist with tasks such as food preparation, kitchen duties, serving, and clean-up. Whether you can help for an entire evening or just a few hours, your time and effort will make a big difference. Contact **Dennis Book** at 618-789-3252 if you volunteer. Additionally, we encourage everyone to spread the word and invite friends, family, and parishioners to join us for a delicious meal and fellowship. Your support and participation are essential to the success of our Lenten Fish Fries, and we greatly appreciate your dedication to this meaningful tradition. Thank you!

## Fraternal Benefit Night – Before our March Council Meeting (March 13)

Join us for our upcoming Fraternal Benefit Night, an informative and engaging event designed to highlight the many advantages of being a member of our council. This evening will feature a presentation from a knowledgeable field agent who will discuss the various benefits available to Knights and their families, including financial planning resources, insurance options, and retirement strategies tailored to our members' needs. It's also a great opportunity to learn more about how our fraternal programs support our mission of faith, charity, and community service. Whether you're a long-time Knight or new to our council, this event offers valuable insights and the chance to connect with fellow members. Don't miss out on this important night—mark your calendar and invite a friend to join us!

## Become a hospice volunteer

Heartland Hospice of Springfield, Illinois, has reached out to our council seeking volunteers to assist patients in need of care. Volunteers can provide a variety of services, either directly supporting patients or contributing in behind-the-scenes roles. Serving with Hospice offers a deeply rewarding experience, making a meaningful impact on both the volunteers and the families they assist.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Emily Robbins, Volunteer Coordinator for Heartland Hospice, at **Emily.Robbins@HeartlandHospice.com** or by phone at **(269) 579-4093**.

## Hats, Gloves and Scarves for the needy



This picture appeared in the January 16, 2025, edition of the Breese Journal. It shows the collection boxes that were in the back of our parish partnership churches. The items collected were in support of the drive hosted by Mater Dei's St. Vincent de Paul Society.





As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the wits of his neighbor. Whoever tends a fig tree eats its fruit, and whoever looks after his master will be honored.

- Proverbs 27: 17-18

Have you looked at our church and community and thought, "Is this really it? Is this all the Christ Jesus has called us to do? Who truly is Christ Jesus and what am I supposed to do for him?" These are questions that have been placed on my heart over the last few years. I had a huge yearning to know this question that I once asked Father Ed at St Rose, "Would you be able to help me know what exactly Jesus told his apostles?" I was pointing to the Catechism of the Catholic Church and started a whole new path of spiritual growth. Matthew 18:20 was still burning a hole in my heart, "For where two or three are gathered in together in my name, I am there in their midst." So, a journey was started to find a group of men that wanted to get together to pray and draw closer to the Lord as a cohort for ourselves to become better as servant of God, our Families and our communities.

The Knights of Columbus empowers Catholic men to live their faith and serve their family, parish, community and country. This is because families need strong husbands, fathers and the world need courageous witnesses to Jesus Christ. They developed a program that will help men develop in their faith called Cor. Cor is designed to strengthen us in faith and virtue through a brotherhood committed to **prayer, formation, and fraternity.**

Our Council is going to be starting a Knights of Columbus COR program at the beginning of Lent 2025. The brothers will be able to meet on the second Saturday of each month beginning on the second Saturday morning in March and will meet monthly for a 60–90 minute retreat, to be lifted by the Lord and one another. The meetings will consist of a light breakfast, scriptural and readings, discussions and prayer. The direction will be based on the Catholic Catechism to keep us on the straighten path. However, there is a very wide path to help each other understand what is being taught through our discussions and prayers

I would like to formally invite all the men (18 years of age and older) in our communities to come and attend the meetings. We will be sending out official messages to our parishes to announce the meeting details over the next few weeks. If you have any questions, you can reach out to me via my email below.

A Brother in Christ,  
William, Bill, Rauen  
[William.rauen1@gmail.com](mailto:William.rauen1@gmail.com)

## February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 St. Augustine Trivia Night @ KC Hall, 6pm
2	3 Columbian Board Meeting @ 6:30	4	5	6 Don Kuhl wing crew	7 Ralph Langhauser fry crew	8
9 Super Bowl	10	11	12	13 Dave Rolfingsmeier wings  Council Meeting w/ Rosary, start @ 7pm	14 Steve Tebbe fry crew  Valentine's. Day	15  Council Free Throw Contest, 12pm @ MD
16	17 President's. Day	18 4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Meeting in Avison @ 7:30	19	20 Ralph Langhauser wings	21 Dan Ketterer fry crew	22  PGK Dinner Hapy Hour – 5:30-6:45 Meal – 6:45
23 Diocesan Bowling Contest @ Bartelso Bowling Lanes	24	25	26	27 Rich Eilermann wing crew	28 Russell Zurliene fry crew	

## March 2025

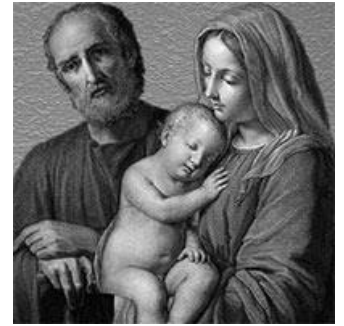
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 District Free Throw Contest, 2:30pm @ MD	3 Columbian Board Meeting @ 6:30	4	5 Ash Wednesday Lent Fish Fry starts	6 Dennis Book wing crew	7 Mark Niemeyer fry crew (Lent Fish Fry)	8 COR program 8am @ MD Regional Free Throw Contest, 10am @ MD Church Drive Weekend
9 St. Dominic Spring Chicken Dinner  Church Drive Weekend	10	11	12	13 Don Kuhl wing crew  Fraternal Benefit Night & Council Meeting @ 7pm	14 Rich Eilermann fry crew (Lent Fish Fry)	15  Church Drive Weekend
16  Church Drive Weekend	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Meeting in Breese @ 7:30	19	20 Dave Rolfingsmeier wings	21 Jeff Niemeyer fry crew (Lent Fish Fry)	22  State Bowling Contest @ Peoria
23	24	25  Annunciation Of the Lord	26	27 Ralph Langhauser wings	28 Ralph Langhauser fry crew (Lent Fish Fry)	29  Founder's Day
30 "5 <sup>th</sup> " Sunday Breakfast	31 Red Cross Blood Drive @ the hall, 12:30-5pm					

# Building the Domestic Church

*While Strengthening Our Parish*

The Family Fully Alive

*The Family that Prays and Plays Together, Stays Together*



THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

FEBRUARY

*Faith In Action: Holy Hour*

**The foundation of the domestic church is the sacrament of marriage. It is therefore important to reflect often on the mystery and calling of this sacrament. Also, our children may be called to become spouses and parents, so it is important to help them understand the type of love that is necessary in marriage and family life.**

## Breaking Open the Theme

The sacrament of marriage is a wondrous divine mystery. As Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen liked to remind couples, it takes “three” to get married: husband, wife and God. By virtue of the sacrament of baptism, Christians no longer belong to themselves, but to Jesus Christ. As a result, when a baptized man marries a baptized woman, Christ himself is the one who gives the spouses to each other on their wedding day. It is Christ who also receives their vows as the Church witnesses their exchange of love and blesses it in Christ’s name. This is why it is important to celebrate the sacrament of marriage in a church where the Blessed Sacrament is present and also why the Church recommends that Christian marriages take place within a Mass. Christ, who is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, is made present in the love of the spouses. He becomes the source and unshakable guarantor of their unity as a couple. He transforms their love: “spouses love each other with a love that is greater than themselves, in fact, with the very love that brought them into existence in the first place!” By virtue of the great sacrament of holy matrimony, human love participates in Christ’s own sacrificial love wherein he gave up his body for sinners on the cross. To receive the graces of this sacrament fully, married couples must enter into the total self-gift of Christ on a daily basis, holding nothing back in their love of each other through prayer and sacrifice for the good of the beloved.

## Meditation

From a homily by St. John Chrysostom on *Marriage and Family Life*

How is marriage a mystery? The two have become one. This is not an empty symbol. They have not become the image of anything on earth, but of God Himself. ... They come to be made into one body. See the mystery of

love! If the two do not become one, they cannot increase; they can increase only by decreasing! How great is the strength of unity!

From Pope John Paul II’s *Familiaris Consortio*

The spirit which the Lord pours forth [in the sacrament of marriage] gives a new heart, and renders man and woman capable of loving one another as Christ has loved us. Conjugal love reaches that fullness to which it is interiorly ordained, conjugal charity, which is the proper and specific way in which the spouses participate in and are called to live the very charity of Christ who gave Himself on the Cross. ... Spouses are therefore the permanent reminder to the Church of what happened on the Cross; they are for one another and for the children witnesses to the salvation in which the sacrament makes them sharers.

## Family Reflections

1. Do we think of marriage differently when we remember that Christ is present in the sacrament of marriage? How does this change or challenge our personal views of love?
2. What do we think of St. John Chrysostom’s principle of Christian married love — that spouses and family “increase” by “decreasing”? How does this principle relate to the words that we hear from John the Baptist: “He must increase; I must decrease” (Jn 3:30)?
3. Have we loved each family member by sacrificing for them as Christ has done for each of us? In what ways do each of us do this? In what ways could we be better at this?

## Scripture Reading

Psalm 128

A prayer of the happy home that follows the Lord

Blessed are all who fear the LORD,  
and who walk in his ways.

What your hands provide you will enjoy;  
you will be blessed and prosper:

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
within your home,

Your children like young olive plants  
around your table.

Just so will the man be blessed  
who fears the LORD.

May the LORD bless you from Zion;  
may you see Jerusalem's prosperity  
all the days of your life,  
and live to see your children's children.

Peace upon Israel!

## Family Project

Read the following nuptial prayer from the order of Celebrating Matrimony. Share memories about your wedding day with your family over a nice family meal.

At this meal, have each child share one thing they appreciate about their parents' marriage. Then, each spouse should share one reason why they are grateful for their marriage and how each one sees Christ as present in their marriage.

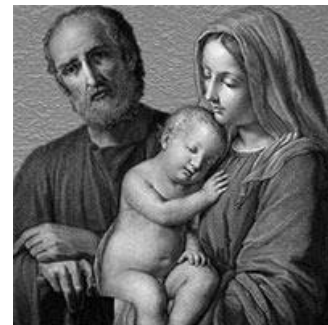
## Nuptial Blessing

Holy father, who formed man in your image, male and female you created them, so that as husband and wife, united in body and heart, they might fulfill their calling in the world; O God, who, to reveal the great design you formed in your love, willed that the love of spouses for each other should foreshadow the covenant you graciously made with your people, so that, by fulfillment of the sacramental sign, the mystical marriage of Christ with his Church might become manifest in the union of husband and wife among your faithful. ... May they also sustain, O lord, by their deeds the home they are forming and prepare their children to become members of your heavenly household by raising them in the way of the Gospel. ... Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Building the Domestic Church

## *While Strengthening Our Parish*

### The Family Fully Alive



*The Family that Prays and Plays Together, Stays Together*

**FAMILY DIFFICULTIES**

**MARCH**

***Faith In Action: Support Vocations Program***

**All families face difficulties. At such critical moments, it is important to learn how to suffer well and to suffer together with Christ. Suffering, if given to the Lord, can bring families closer together and strengthen their love.**

### Breaking Open the Theme

Catholic families today face many challenges in the very real and normal frustrations of marriage and family life. The world tells families that they can simply walk away from such situations and choose whatever lifestyle or solution makes them feel happy as individuals. However, this escapism is not the Christian way. As St. John Paul II often reminded people, the Christian way of suffering begins with hope and the firm conviction that “God’s strength is always far more powerful than your difficulties.” Relying on God’s strength, families should not be fearful to recognize their struggles together and bring them before the Lord in prayer. Although they may not experience instant relief or be given a solution to fix the problem they are facing, the Lord will help them carry their crosses to the very end, providing comfort and healing along the way. After taking these first steps, families need to remember that they must constantly undergo conversion and healing. They cannot stop talking about their daily concerns or problems; by doing so they run the risk of weakening their relationships. Open conversation unites family members and may lead them to discover the source of their pain and struggles. In particular, it may bring up issues that the family is struggling to express or even unbury deep concerns. It may be painful to face problems, especially those that have no easy solution, but families must do so with honesty and love. If families start with these first few steps, their wounds can be transformed into points of intimacy with God. Suffering need not be only negative; through faith it can be transformed into great love. It is this miracle of transforming suffering into joy that is at the heart of Christian salvation.

### Meditation

From Pope John Paul II’s *Familiaris Consortio*

There is no family that does not know how selfishness, discord, tension and conflict violently attack and at times mortally wound its own communion: hence there arise the many and varied forms of division in family life. But, at the same time, every family is called by the God of peace to have the joyous and renewing experience of “reconciliation,” that is, communion reestablished, unity restored. In particular, participation in the sacrament of reconciliation and in the banquet of the one body of Christ

offers to the Christian family the grace and the responsibility of overcoming every division and of moving towards the fullness of communion willed by God, responding in this way to the ardent desire of the Lord: “that they may be one.”

### Family Reflections

1. What are our family’s struggles? How might we work together as a family to heal these areas of hurt or confusion, without fleeing from challenges, shutting anyone out or giving in to despair?
2. What difference does it make to view suffering in light of the cross of Christ? How does this perspective transform the way we approach suffering together as a family?
3. How can we as a family better rely on God’s strength in times of difficulty? In what ways can we allow Christ’s love to make our suffering fruitful and deepen our love?

### Scripture Reading

Psalm 34:5-11

A prayer for those who suffer to trust in the Lord

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,  
delivered me from all my fears.  
Look to him and be radiant,  
and your faces may not blush for shame.  
This poor one cried out and the LORD heard,  
and from all his distress he saved him.  
The angel of the LORD encamps  
around those who fear him, and he saves them.  
Taste and see that the LORD is good;  
blessed is the stalwart one who takes refuge  
in him.  
Fear the LORD, you his holy ones;  
nothing is lacking to those who fear him.  
The rich grow poor and go hungry,  
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

### Family Project

Ask each family member to think about one difficulty in the family and to pray for it every day. At the end of the month, share your prayer intentions and experiences.