

CHARITY

UNITY

FRATERNITY

PATRIOTISM



# Knights of Columbus

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



## KNIGHT LINE

April - May, 2025

### Message from the Grand Knight

As we enter April and May, it's a great time to reflect on the significance of these seasons in both our faith and community. April brings the joy of Christ's resurrection, a season of renewal and hope. May, with its blossoming flowers and warm days, reminds us of the beauty and growth that can emerge from even the toughest times. As Knights of Columbus, these months offer us the chance to deepen our commitment to charity, unity, and fraternity in our daily lives.

Let us remember the spirit of Easter. Christ's resurrection brings new life and the victory of light over darkness. As Knights, we are called to be bearers of that light. Whether supporting a brother Knight, volunteering, or offering a kind word, we witness the power of love and compassion. This season reminds us of the strength found in standing together in faith and supporting one another as we strive to live more Christ-like lives.

In April, we'll continue our Lenten fish fries and always welcome volunteers to participate. We also have a special event on April 11—hosting the Stations of the Cross at St. Dominic. This will be a meaningful chance to reflect on Christ's sacrifice and grow in faith together as a community. Your commitment to these events is a true reflection of our mission to support the most vulnerable. I encourage everyone to stay involved, whether through volunteering or financial contributions. Every effort, big or small, makes a real difference.

As we move into May, we honor the Blessed Mother, Mary. She is a model of faith, humility, and service. Let us follow her example by striving to be men of integrity and generosity. May also brings the chance to celebrate our council's accomplishments at the state convention, recognizing the hard work of all our members and the impact we've made on our community. I encourage all to attend and participate in the recognition of our collective achievements.

Finally, I want to thank each of you for your unwavering dedication and support. Whether you've been a member for years or just joined, your involvement makes a difference, and I am proud to serve alongside you. Together, let's continue to grow in faith and fraternity, lifting one another in service to God and our community.

May God bless you all, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Vivat Jesus!

Brian M. Kloeckner, Grand Knight  
Breese Council #2869



On February 22, 2025, our council hosted its annual Past Grand Knights dinner, honoring our most recent Grand Knight, Patrick Jansen. Past Grand Knights in attendance included (front row, left to right) Don Toennies, James Lampe, Fr. Chuck Tuttle, Fr. James Nall, Mike Nettekmeier, Ron Kleiboeker (back row, left to right) Tony Antonacci, Richard Robben, David Moss, Doug Kuhl, Patrick Jansen, Dennis Litteken, Bill Koetting, Dennis Book and Donald Deiters. Thank you for your steadfast leadership, unwavering service, and enduring contributions to our council's mission.

## Upcoming Events in April and May

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

- **Thursday, April 10:** 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.
- **Friday, April 11:** We are hosting the **Stations of the Cross** at St. Dominic Church starting at 7pm.
- **Saturday, April 12: COR,** This is the prayer program the Knights are hosting at 8am in the Lampe Commons at Mater Dei High School.
- **Sunday, April 20: Easter Sunday** – rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord, renewing our faith in His victory over death and embracing the hope and new life He offers to all.
- **Monday, April 28: Food Sanitation Class,** 8am at the hall. See the next page for more details.

Looking ahead to a busy May:

- **Thursday, May 1:** Spring book fair and End of School year party at All Saints Academy
- **Saturday, May 3: Clean Hanna's Playground** - The Knights perform this task every year to clean and sanitize the playground area and equipment, ensuring that everyone can enjoy a safe and clean environment.
- **Thursday, May 8:** Our council meeting will start at 7:30pm. This month, we will hold nominations of Officers for the upcoming fraternal year. If you want to get more involved in the knights, this would be a good meeting to attend to make your voice heard.
- **Saturday, May 10: COR,** This is the prayer program the Knights are hosting at 8am in the Lampe Commons at Mater Dei High School.
- **Sunday, May 11: Mother's Day** – Let us honor and celebrate the selfless love, unwavering support, and countless sacrifices of all mothers, recognizing the profound impact they have on our lives and faith.
- **May 16 - 18: 127<sup>th</sup> Illinois State Convention,** Oak Brook, Illinois

## **Knight of the Month**

April: Bill Rauen

May: Dan Ketterer

## **Family of the Month**

April: Ron & Jane Kleiboeker

May: David & Cynthia Rolfingsmeier

## **Korean and Vietnam Veteran Census - reminder**

Our December, 2024 – January, 2025, Newsletter included a flyer with details on the Korean and Vietnam Veteran Census being conducted by the KofC 4<sup>th</sup> Degree but which is open to **All** KofC members who meet 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.

**Please contact me** (Rich Koerkenmeier) **by April 10th**, (if I haven't already spoken to you) preferably via e-mail to [rkoerk@yahoo.com](mailto:rkoerk@yahoo.com) or 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 above. Thank You and God Bless, Rich Koerkenmeier, Faithful Navigator of Bishop Althoff Assembly 193

## **Food Sanitation Class**

It is a county requirement that every crew member, whether working Thursday wings, Friday chicken, or any time the kitchen is used for cooking, have at least one person with a Food Service Manager Certification. MJ Kellner will be offering this course on April 28, 2025, at 8:00 AM (please arrive by 7:40 AM) at our hall. All attendees must pre-register for the class. The course lasts approximately seven hours, followed by the test. You'll have two breaks and be provided with lunch. The cost of the class is \$150, but as per a motion passed at our February meeting, the council will cover the cost for any member willing to take the class. To pre-register, visit [www.mjkellner.com/customer-portal/events](http://www.mjkellner.com/customer-portal/events) or contact Patrick or Stephanie Jansen in the club room.

## **KC Hall Roof Raffle**

KC Hall Roof Raffle tickets will be available soon. This raffle, organized by the Columbian Board, helps offset the cost of the roof replacement from a few years ago. Monthly drawings will take place on the first Thursday of each month, starting in June and running through May. An early bird drawing will be held on May 1, 2025. Please support this important fundraiser!

## **4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification**

The 125th anniversary of the Fourth Degree was a great success, and we are excited to continue the celebration with the Exemplification of Patriotism on May 3, 2025, in Sherman, Illinois. Our goal is to have 125 candidates for this special event, and we need everyone's help to spread the word and contact assemblies in the Southern District of Illinois. Be sure to mark your calendars for this exciting day!

The Exemplification will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Sherman, IL. The fee is \$70 per candidate, with a \$10 cost for the luncheon (priests and deacons attend for free). The dress code is a business suit or appropriate uniform for candidates in the armed forces, police, or fire services. Please notify Kevin Schoenborn by April 25, 2025, if you plan to attend the luncheon. For more details, contact him at [ILSDMAS@outlook.com](mailto:ILSDMAS@outlook.com) or 618-250-8520.

## **K of C Member Benefits**

Please take a moment to review the K of C Member Benefits insert included with this newsletter. Did you know that all K of C members are entitled to these benefits, and their value has significantly increased in recent years? Be sure to remind your brother knights and prospective members of the Order!

## April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 April Fools' Day	2	3 Rich Eilermann wing crew	4 Steve Tebbe fry crew (Lent Fish Fry)	5
6	7	8	9	10 Dennis Book wing crew  Council Meeting w/ Rosary, start @ 7pm	11 Dan Ketterer fry crew (Lent Fish Fry)  Stations of the Cross	12 COR program 8am @ MD  Mater Dei Dinner Auction
13 MD F&F Breakfast  Palm Sunday	14	15  4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Meeting in Albers @ 7:30	16  Columbian Board Meeting @ 6:30	17 Don Kuhl wing crew  Holy Thursday	18 Russell Zurliene fry crew (Lent Fish Fry)  Good Friday	19  Holy Saturday
20  Easter Sunday	21  Easter Monday	22  Earth Day	23	24 Dave Rolfingsmeier wings	25 Mark Niemeyer fry crew	26
27  Divine Mercy Sunday	28  Food Sanitation Class @ the hall, 8:00am	29	30			

## May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Ralph Langhauser wings  Spring book fair, End of School Year Party @ ASA	2 Rich Eilermann fry crew	3 Clean Hanna's Playground  4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification @ Sherman, IL
4  MD Band Banquet	5  Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8 Rich Eilermann wing crew  Council Meeting @ 7:30 (Nomination of Officers)	9 Jeff Niemeyer fry crew	10  COR program 8am @ MD
11  Mother's Day	12	13	14	15 Dennis Book wing crew  MD Parent/Senior Banquet	16 Ralph Langhauser fry crew  127 <sup>th</sup> Illinois State Convention – Oak Brook	17  127 <sup>th</sup> Illinois State Convention – Oak Brook
18  127 <sup>th</sup> Illinois State Convention – Oak Brook	19	20  4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Meeting in New Baden @ 7:30	21  Columbian Board Meeting @ 6:30	22 Don Kuhl wing crew	23 Steve Tebbe fry crew	24
25	26  Memorial Day	27	28	29 Dave Rolfingsmeier wings  Ascension of the Lord	30 Dan Ketterer fry crew	31  MD Golf Tournament



# Knights of Columbus®

## Member Benefits

Aside from the numerous personal rewards that come from being a Knight, here is a list of the many substantial rewards for you and your family.

***Columbia Magazine*** — Free subscription to the Order's award-winning magazine examining issues of concern to Knights, Catholics and families

***Knights of Columbus rosary*** — Blessed by the supreme chaplain, presented during the Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity to each new member

***Mass of Remembrance Each Weekday*** — Celebrated for deceased members and their wives at St. Mary's Church, the birthplace of the Order

***Insurance*** — Access to a portfolio of top-quality life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability income insurance and annuity products exclusive for members, their spouses and their dependent children

***Family Fraternal Benefit\**** — Benefits for children of insured members that include guaranteed-issue insurability under age 18 and automatic death benefits for children dying before age 61 days

***Orphan Fraternal Benefit\**** — Provides monthly benefits and college scholarships to each eligible orphan of insured members

***Member/Spouse Fraternal Benefit*** — Accidental death benefit for member in good standing and spouse at no additional cost

***Widow Benefits*** — a) continues to be covered under the Member/Spouse Fraternal Benefit; b) the surviving spouse of a Knights of Columbus insured may purchase life insurance, long-term care insurance or annuities after insured member's death; c) receives a free lifetime subscription to *Columbia*; d) eligible with her children for scholarships

***Scholarships*** — Scholarship programs for higher education available to members, their spouses and children

***Leadership Development*** — Opportunity to build personal leadership skills, public speaking ability, organizational skills, etc.

***Fourth Degree*** — Eligibility to join the Patriotic Degree

***Honorary Life Membership*** — At age 70 with 25 years of membership

***Membership Card*** — Entitles participation in all Catholic, fraternal and social activities in member's council and also in over 15,000 councils throughout the world

***Activities*** — Participation in a variety of programs and activities conducted by your council

\*Subject to eligibility requirements, conditions and restrictions.

# Knights of Columbus

## FRATERNAL BENEFITS

### *Member/Spouse Accidental Death Benefit*

The Knights of Columbus will pay a benefit upon the death of a member or his spouse, occurring within 90 days, as the result of injury sustained in a covered accident. Protection is on a 24-hour basis for accidents that may occur anywhere in the world during activities on or off the job, on business, pleasure, vacation, or at home, except for the exclusions. This benefit is given at no cost to all members (and their wives) residing in countries that have been designated as insurance territories by the Supreme Council.

#### *Benefits*

<b>Years of Continuous Membership</b>	<b>Non-Insured Member Benefit</b>	<b>Insured Member* Benefit</b>
Less than 5 years	\$1,500	\$3,000
5 years or more	\$2,500	\$5,000
Age 65+	\$1,500	\$1,500

The spouse benefit at all times corresponds to the member's benefit. Should the member predecease his wife, she shall continue to be covered thereafter at a fixed benefit of \$1,500. Should the spouse and the member die within 90 days from the same accident, however, the scheduled benefit will be paid.

#### *Beneficiaries*

The accidental death benefit will be paid to the next of kin in accordance with Section 71.2 of the Order's laws. The claim for this accidental death benefit must be received at the Supreme Office of the Knights of Columbus within three years of the date of death.

#### *Exclusions*

This accidental death benefit will not be paid if death results from: suicide, self-inflicted injury while sane or insane; sickness or disease (except bacterial infection resulting from accidental cut or wound); flying, except as a fare-paying passenger on a regularly scheduled airline; or injury from driving or riding in a speed or organized contest.

### *Family Fraternal Benefit*

The Family Fraternal Benefit provides the following benefits to insured members\*:

- a). Pays \$5,000 for the child who is stillborn at least 20 weeks after conception
- b). Pays \$5,000 for the child who dies before the age of 61 days
- c). Offers guaranteed-issue insurance - up to \$10,000 - to any child under age 18.

### *Orphan Fraternal Benefit*

The Orphan Fraternal Benefit provides the following benefit to the children of insured members\*:

- a). Pays \$500 monthly allotment for each eligible orphan of up to age 19
- b). Pays up to \$5,000 per year in college scholarships up to a maximum of \$20,000 per eligible orphan

\* Insured members, for this and for all fraternal benefits, are defined as those members who have, at minimum, one in-force life insurance policy on the member or spouse with a minimum annual premium of \$300, or permanent life insurance with a face amount of at least \$15,000.

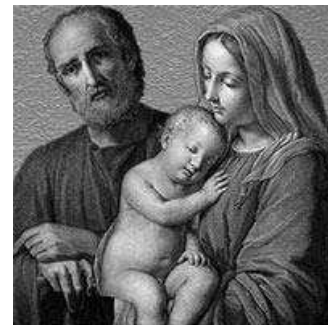
This brochure does not include all of the eligibility provisions of the Order's program of fraternal benefits. Please contact your Knights of Columbus Insurance Agent for these important details. Terms and conditions apply.



# Building the Domestic Church

## *While Strengthening Our Parish*

### The Family Fully Alive



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

**MERCY AND FORGIVENESS**

**APRIL**

**Faith In Action: Good Friday Family Promotion**

**The inner form of Christian familial love is mercy like God the Father who is “rich in mercy” (Ephesians 2:4).**

#### Breaking Open the Theme

Pope St. John Paul II has beautifully said mercy is “love’s second name.” Sacred Scripture speaks frequently about Christ’s love in terms of mercy. For instance, there are the memorable parables of the prodigal son (Lk 15:11–32) and the lost sheep (Lk 15:1–7). In fact, Christ’s strongest teaching about the sacredness and life long permanence of the marriage bond (Mt 19:12) is preceded by one of his strongest teachings about forgiveness in the parable of the unforgiving servant (Mt 18:21–35). During the course of the parable of the unforgiving servant, Christ instructs his disciples to forgive not just seven times, but 77 times — a symbolic number that represents a willingness to forgive without limit. In other words, Christ instructs his disciples to love unconditionally by being merciful. The fact that this teaching occurs right before his teaching about marriage’s indissolubility powerfully suggests that marriage, and the family life that flows from it, is to be held together by unconditional mercy. If the family practices mercy, they will be immensely blessed: “blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy” (Mt 5:7).

#### Meditation

From Pope Francis’ *Amoris Laetitia*

Once we allow ill will to take root in our hearts, it leads to deep resentment. ... The opposite of resentment is forgiveness, which is rooted in a positive attitude that seeks to understand other people’s weaknesses and to excuse them. As Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Lk 23:34). Yet we keep looking for more and more faults, imagining greater evils, presuming all kinds of bad intentions, and so resentment grows and deepens. ... Something is wrong when we see every problem as equally serious; in this way, we risk being unduly harsh with the failings of others. The just desire to see our rights respected turns into a thirst for vengeance rather than a reasoned defense of our dignity. When we have been offended or let down, forgiveness is possible and desirable, but no one can say that it is easy. ... All this assumes that we ourselves have had the experience of being forgiven by God, justified by his grace and not by our own merits. We have known a love that is prior to any of our own efforts, a love that constantly opens doors, promotes and encourages. If we accept that God’s love is unconditional, that the Father’s love cannot be bought or sold, then we will become capable of showing boundless love and forgiving others even if they have wronged us. Otherwise, our family life will no longer be a place of understanding, support and encouragement, but rather one of constant tension and mutual criticism.

#### Family Reflections

1. Considering that Jesus forgave his persecutors from the cross, what does God’s mercy in the scriptures teach us about how to forgive our family members?
2. Why is it important to be forgiven by God? Why must we trust in his forgiveness in order to forgive others properly?
3. Do any of us find it hard to forgive? What holds us back from forgiving? Is it resentment based on ill will, unduly looking for faults, an excessive concern for our rights, the inability to forgive ourselves or to accept our own limitations? or is it something else?

#### Scripture Reading

Psalm 51:3-6, 11-15

A prayer of penance and longing for God’s abundant mercy

Have mercy on me, God, in accord with your merciful love;  
in your abundant compassion blot out my transgressions.  
Thoroughly wash away my guilt;  
and from my sin cleanse me.  
For I know my transgressions;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone have I sinned;  
I have done what is evil in your eyes  
So that you are just in your word,  
and without reproach in your judgment.  
Turn away your face from my sins;  
blot out all my iniquities.  
A clean heart create for me, God;  
renew within me a steadfast spirit.  
Do not drive me from before your face,  
nor take from me your holy spirit.  
Restore to me the gladness of your salvation;  
uphold me with a willing spirit.  
I will teach the wicked your ways,  
that sinners may return to you.

#### Family Project

As a family, go to church for the sacrament of reconciliation. A week later, take a few moments to discuss how the sacrament has helped each of you to be more holy and to fight against temptation and sin.

# Building the Domestic Church

## *While Strengthening Our Parish*

### The Family Fully Alive

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



HOPE

MAY

*Faith In Action: Christian Refugee Relief*

**Because love is filled with hope when it is communicated, our family wants to promote hope and the life-giving spirit that flows from it to our families.**

#### Breaking Open the Theme

Christian hope is faith in the redemption of Jesus Christ that enables mankind to face the present, even when there are many problems. "The dark door of time, of the future, has been thrown open. The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life." But how exactly do such hopeful people live differently? Hopeful people do not get weighed down by pessimism. They choose to counter discouragement by accepting the love of Christ every day through a robust prayer life. They believe "all things are possible" with God (Mt 19:26). They lovingly help their family and friends, realizing that life in its fullness consists in "being for others" even when the other is not affirming or loving in return. Hope is born through encounters of love that present a life-giving spirit to our families. Families participate in the life-giving spirit of God through raising children, work, mission, generosity, tenderness and other acts of love. A hopeful family helps each person realize that they live "in the world for a purpose — to receive God's love ourselves and to show God's love to others. God seeks to heal a broken universe. He asks us to be his witnesses and helpers in that work."

#### Meditation

From Pope Benedict XVI's *Spe Salvi*

Whoever is moved by love begins to perceive what "life" really is. He begins to perceive the meaning of the word of hope that we encountered in the baptismal Rite: from faith I await "eternal life" — the true life which, whole and unthreatened, in all its fullness, is simply life. Jesus, who said that he had come so that we might have life and have it in its fullness, in abundance (cf. Jn 10:10), has also explained to us what "life" means: "this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (Jn 17:3). Life in its true sense is not something we have exclusively in or from ourselves: it is a relationship. and life in its totality is a relationship with him who is the source of life. If we are in relation with him who does not die, who is life itself and love itself, then we are in life. Then we "live."

#### Family Reflections

1. How would our family life be different if we did not love at all? How would this affect our sense of hope?
2. In what ways has the Catholic faith and God's love shown us how to love? In what way does the faith shape our hopes?
3. Why is having a relationship with God so important to really "living" and "hoping"?

#### Scripture Reading

Psalm 139:13-18

A prayer to the all-knowing and ever-present God

You formed my inmost being;  
you knit me in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, because I am wonderfully made;  
wonderful are your works!  
My very self you know.  
My bones are not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
fashioned in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes saw me unformed;  
in your book all are written down;  
my days were shaped, before one came to be.  
How precious to me are your designs, o God;  
how vast the sum of them!  
Were I to count them, they would outnumber the sands;  
when I complete them, still you are with me.

#### Family Project

Ask each person to choose something "impossible" to pray for this month, and choose one person in your family to pray for every day during the month. Also, to celebrate the life-giving spirit of your family, discuss times in your family's life when you grew together in faith or love. Discuss moments of your relationship, courtship, engagement and wedding celebrations that helped you grow as a couple. Share stories of your children's births, and discuss the gift that each of their lives has been to your family. Gather photos or various mementos of these events for a scrapbook or memory box that your family can cherish, or consider compiling them into a slideshow that can be shared with relatives.