



Knights of Columbus

Bishop Ruocco Council, No. 9275
Chelmsford/ Littleton/ Westford, Massachusetts
knights9275.com

March 2024

Volume 38, Number 7

The Knight Reader

COUNCIL OFFICERS 2023 – 2024

Grand Knight.....
Robert Malnati, GK

Chaplain.....
Father Fernando Ayala

Deputy Grand Knight.....
Paul Sidari, PGK, PFN, DD

Chancellor.....
James O'Keefe

Warden.....
Joseph Molligi

Financial Secretary.....
James Barrows, PGK, FS

Treasurer.....
David Breen

Recorder.....
William Pacino

Advocate.....
Eugene Bartos, PGK, FDD

Lecturer.....
Ed Ciampa

Inside Guard.....
Ryan Cozzens

Outside Guard.....
Matt Bartos

3rd Year Trustee.....
Charlie DeStefano, PGK

2nd Year Trustee.....
Adam Whitehouse, PGK, DD

1st Year Trustee.....
Louis Soracco, PGK, PFN

District Deputy.....
Paul Sidari, PGK, PFN, DD

Field Agent.....
STEPHEN A. WHITE
603-894-4780
stephen.white@kofc.org

Grand Knight Report – Robert Malnati

Dear brother knights, March 2024

In keeping with the Lenten practices of Fast and Abstinence, this is a bare-bones report.

Council achievements during February were:

- Welcome and exemplification of four new members: FRANK BULMAN; ADAM RYPINSKI; BOB STALL; and, NIKHIL SUARES. Attendance at the exemplification was over 30 persons. *See page 4.*
- Donation of over 1,000 cans of tuna fish, under our Food for Families program, to Lazarus House food pantry. *See page 3.*
- Ratification and adoption of amended "Policies and Procedures of Bishop Ruocco Council 9275"
- KFM [Knights Family Mass] at St. John's with Fr. Fernando celebrating.
- Soup and Stations for over 100 persons at St. Mary's. *See page 6.*
- Coordinated funding with Acton Lions for special needs child [Tootsie roll money]
- Participation in HOSEA INITIATIVE presentation at Tewksbury K of C. [right to life group]. *See page 7.*

March will feature a delta membership drive at St. Mary's (*see page 5*), Pizza and Stations at St. Anne's, coffee and donuts at St. Anne and St. Catherine, Corned beef and fixings at St. John's (*See page 6*), KFM at St. Mary's, Special Olympics, hopefully another exemplification, as well as our usual monthly planning and member meetings. Please plan to give an hour or two this month of your precious time.

Thought for the remainder of Lent as we approach EASTER on March 31.

Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain or accomplish for yourself. It is what you do for others.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following brothers and their families and caregivers in your prayers:

Luigi Iacoviello; George Ripsom, John Miller (open heart surgery in January)

Kathy Clark (wife of deceased Grand Knight Paul Clark). She recently had lung surgery.

Jennifer MacDonald (wife of Ron (Frank) MacDonald). She has undergone at least 50 chemo therapy treatments.

For those who are sick or in distress, please remember that you are in our prayers at each meeting and in the private prayers of our hearts.

If you know of a brother knight or family member who would like to be included in our prayers, please contact one of the individuals below:

Grand Knight Robert Malnati at randrmalnati@gmail.com

Or Chancellor James O'Keefe at jimmy_okeefe@msn.com

KofC and Baseball: An American Story

From Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center

The story of baseball cannot be told without a tip of the cap to the Knights of Columbus.

For the Knights of Columbus, the game served as an early avenue of assimilation for Catholic immigrants and first-generation Americans. Today, baseball continues to serve as a path of spiritual formation and charity for Knights and their families. These values stem from the Order's founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, who was an early fan of the game.

Use the following link to this exhibit:

<https://www.michaelmcgivneycenter.org/en/exhibits/an-american-story-kofc-and-baseball-first-base.html>



Newsletter deadlines/ Check Spam folder weekly

Articles that are intended to be included in the April 2024 issue of this newsletter must be e-mailed to Bill Pacino at knights_news@yahoo.com by March 26. The newsletter will be published before the first meeting of the month.

Note: Check your Spam folder every week to make sure your email provider is not electronically judging the messages and monthly newsletter from your local council as Spam mail. You will be surprised how many legitimate email messages end up in the Spam folder.

Meeting times -The monthly planning meeting begins at 7:00 PM. The monthly members meeting and social meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Meetings are held at The Paul Center, 39 Concord Road, Chelmsford.

What can you do with 1,000 cans of Tuna fish?

From GK Bob Malnati

Tuna in a can meets the need of protein in a very portable package.

Tuna in a can is a godsend to Lazarus House of Lawrence and surrounding communities, as 1500 families a week rely on Lazarus House to help these families with shelter, clothing and food insecurity issues.

Bishop Ruocco council of Knights of Columbus has supported Lazarus House with time, money, food, and prayers in the battle with all these issues. The photo shows the donation and delivery of a recent purchase of 1,000 cans of name-brand tuna fish for the Lazarus House food pantry.



Recent delivery of 1,000 cans of tuna to Lazarus House (photo by GK Bob Malnati)

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Night of Reflection at Saint Benedict's Abbey, April 22

From Adam Whitehouse

The night of Reflection is going to be Monday, April 22 at Saint Benedict's Abbey in Harvard. Starting at 6:00 PM with vespers in the chapel. Following vespers, we will have a delicious meal cooked by the monks, and a talk from one of the Abbey's monks. The price to attend is \$20 per person.

Feb. 19 exemplification held for five new knights

From Gene Bartos, Membership chairman

On Monday, February 19, thirty knights, inductees, family and friends attended an exemplification at the Paul Center in Chelmsford. The Bishop Ruocco council gained three new members: Adam Rypinski; Nikhil Soares; and Frank Bulman, plus transfer/reinstatement Robert Stall. We also had a new knight Dustin Batista of Fr. Wren council exemplified.



Front Row – left to right: new members Dustin Batista (from Fr. Wren council); Bob Stall; Adam Rypinski; Nikhil Soares; and Frank Bulman

Back Row – left to right, Gene Bartos; Bill Killion, the State Ceremonial Chairman; Eric Kibblehouse, PGK; Grand Knight Bob Malnati; Ubaldo Mendes, PGK; Grand Knight Philip Bellingheri (from Billerica)

Return address for physical mail to be sent to Bishop Ruocco council:

Knights of Columbus
 Bishop Ruocco Council, No. 9275
 Chelmsford/ Littleton/ Westford
 1521 Gorham St.
 Lowell, MA 01852

For financial matters relative to the local council, use the email address:

knights9275@gmail.com

For news items, death notices, thank-you notes, and all other non-financial items, send to email address:

knights_news@yahoo.com

Local council web site is: knights9275.com

Membership Drive at St. Mary Church, March 16 & 17

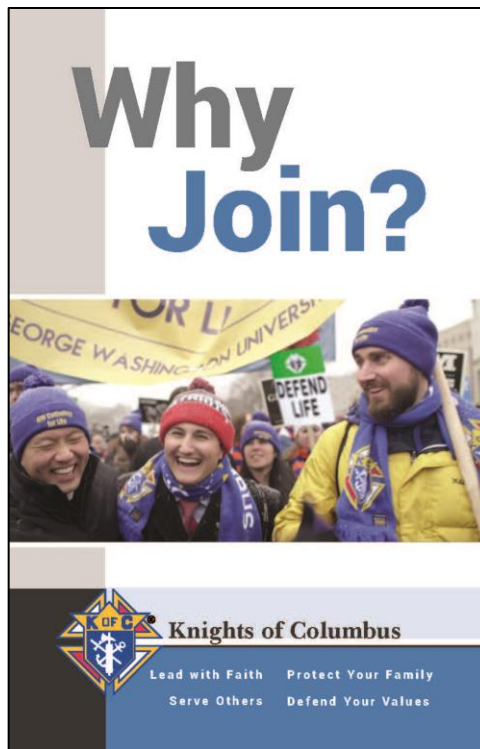
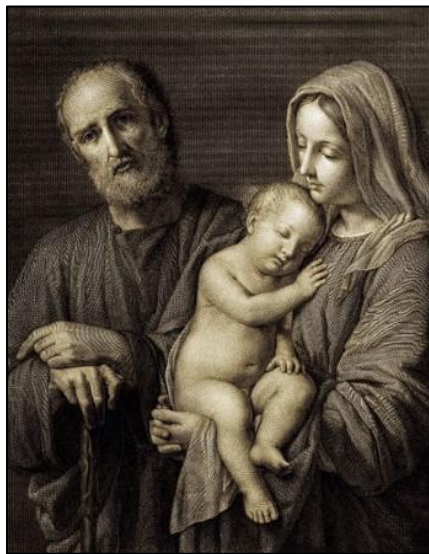
From Gene Bartos, Membership Chair


Brothers. We are hosting a membership drive, at Holy Rood Collaborative’s St. Mary Church, the weekend of March 16/17. We need your help in making this a successful event inviting men from the parish to join our council.

Unlike church drives of the past, our new way of inviting men is much simpler with the Delta Church Drive. We need “ambassadors” to place material in the pews before Mass, handing out prayer cards as families arrive, and collecting prospect cards as people leave. It’s that simple! No more form 100s and other material as prospects will then receive an email invitation to join online.

We will be conducting the drive at the Saturday 4:00 PM and Sunday 11:00 AM Masses. We need at least 6 brothers per Mass and your family is welcome to help in this effort

Please contact membership director Gene Bartos in advance that you will help. Contact information is farmergb@aol.com or 508-517-5677.



 **Knights of Columbus**

I would like to become a member of the Knights of Columbus.

I would like more some information regarding membership in the Knights of Columbus.

I am a former member interested in rejoining the Knights of Columbus.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State or Province: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Parish: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please contact me by: Phone Text Email

Best time to contact: Morning Afternoon Evening

Knights will participate in St. Patrick's dinner, March 16

From Bob Chevalier

We are pleased that our #9275 Council Knights have been asked to handle the Corn-Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes and other dinner delights while cooking for the annual St John's, Saint Patrick's dinner. This late winter feast will be held at the St Johns Hall after the 4 PM Mass on March 16, 2024.

Tickets are being sold at St John's the Evangelist Church after Masses at all Holy Rood Collaborative Parishes on weekends of March 2/3 and March 9/10 or, at the Parish Office through Friday March 8. No tickets sold at door. Ticket price is \$25 per person.

Here is our Happy St Patrick's Knights from 2023



Drew Jubinville, Paul Brzezinski, Bob Chevalier, Ron Bator, and Dave Sousa (missing from photo, Tim Fitzgerald, who handled the heavy lifting in the afternoon)

Serving God and each other

From Paul Sidari



The group of brother knights, from Bishop Ruocco council 9275 (shown in the photo), made and served an assortment of soups at St. Mary church for the hundred or so parishioners who attended the Stations of the Cross. It was a wonderful night of collation and fellowship.

(Left to right in photo) Charlie DeStefano; Lou Soracco; Matt Bartos; Paul Sidari; Margie Sidari; James Barrows; and, Fred Fernandez

Annual State Raffle

From James Barrows

The Annual State Raffle is well underway. The drawing is at the end of April at the State Convention. Either mail your tickets to James Barrows with a check made out to the council or drop them off at a meeting. Tickets are \$15 per book. Contact James Barrows for more tickets. All tickets must be purchased and turned in by the local council’s April 8 members meeting.

\$1,000 Scholarship available from local K of C council

From James Barrows

The Knights of Columbus is again awarding two \$1,000 Scholarship graduating seniors from the Holy Rood Collaborative and Blessed Trinity parish that will be attending an accredited school or institution of higher education—2 or 4-year college or trade school—in the fall of 2024.



The required application, and terms of the required essay can be found at www.knights9275.com

Click on “SCHOLARSHIP INFO” in the left-hand sidebar, and this document will be downloaded to your computer.

To be considered for this scholarship, your application and essay must be received by the deadline...

Email deadline is April 1

USPS deadline is March 25

If mailing, address to:

Scholarship Chairman

Knights of Columbus, Council 9275

1521 Gorham Street

Lowell, MA 01852

Questions? email knights9275@gmail.com.

HOSEA Initiative, Sanctity of Human Life

From Paul Sidari

This organization is an educational 501(c)3 that is working hard to TELL THE TRUTH about legalized abortion and to promote the SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE.

A presentation at the Knights of Columbus Tewksbury Hall was attended by Paul Sidari, Adam Whitehouse, James Barrows and Bob Malnati on Monday, February 26. It was a very informative and compelling message. We as Knights are committed to being pro-life. The information put forth by the HOSEA INITIATIVE is well worth reading. Their website is: www.Hosea4you.org

Bishop Ruocco Council, 2023-2024 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Chair	Time & Place
March			
	2024		
3	Coffee and donuts	Jean Croteau, Matt Bartos	8:30 AM, St. Anne 10:30 AM, St. Catherine
4	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
9	Special Olympics bowling	Charlie DeStefano	Auburn bowling center, 8:15 to 12
11	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	Council meeting begins at 7:30 PM
16	Catholic Men's Conference	Worcester	For more information, https://catholicmenworc.com/
17	Knights' family Mass	Jimmy O'Keefe	St. Mary, Chelmsford, 11 AM
16/17	Membership drive	Gene Bartos	St. Mary, <i>see article on page 5</i>
25	Social Meeting/ Cornhole tournament?	Ryan Cozzens	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
April			
	2024		
1	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
6 to May	Baby shower online	James Barrows	Baby shower donations chosen online
8	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:30 PM start of meeting
13	Polar plunge	Charlie DeStefano	Long Lake in Littleton, 10 AM
15	State K of C Patriots Day dinner	Lantern Award presentation	Sheraton Framingham, program and dinner, 7 PM
18	Anniversary dinner/ Knight of Year	Jean Croteau	The Establishment restaurant, North Chelmsford, 6 PM to 8 PM
21	Knights' family Mass	Jimmy O'Keefe	St. Catherine, Westford, 10:30 AM
22	A night of Reflection at the Abbey – limited to 25 knights, sign up now	Adam Whitehouse \$20 per person	Start at 6:00 PM with vespers in chapel, shared meal, and a talk from a monk. St. Benedict's Abbey, 252 Still River Rd. Harvard, MA
May			
	2024		
1	Hail Mary Challenge begins	Paul Sidari	
6	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
13	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:30 PM @ Paul Center
16	Special People Prom	Paul Sidari, Adam Whitehouse	5:00 pm Tewksbury High School
18	Knights' family Mass	Jimmy O'Keefe	St. Anne, Littleton, 8:30 AM
27	Social Meeting?	Bob Malnati	TBD
June			
	2024		
3	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
10	Members Meeting - Elections	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm Collation @ Paul Center 7:30 pm Council Meeting
24	Social Meeting, Changing of the Guard	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
July			
	2023		
July 3- 4	July 4 th booth and parade, Chelmsford		Volunteer help needed
July 1	Planning meeting		7:00 PM @ Paul Center
July 8	Members Meeting		7:30 PM Council meeting