



Knights of Columbus

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

December 2024
Vol. 39, Number 4

The Knight Reader

COUNCIL OFFICERS 2024 – 2025

- Grand Knight.....
Robert Malnati, GK
- Chaplain.....
Father Fernando Ayala
- Deputy Grand Knight.....
Matthew Bartos
- Chancellor.....
Adam Rypinski
- Warden.....
Francis Bulman
- Financial Secretary.....
James Barrows, PGK, FS
- Treasurer.....
David Breen
- Recorder.....
William Pacino
- Advocate.....
Eugene Bartos, PGK, FDD
- Lecturer.....
Ed Ciampa
- Inside Guard.....
Richard Zuppardi
- Outside Guard.....
Jean Croteau
- 3rd Year Trustee.....
Adam Whitehouse, PGK, DD
- 2nd Year Trustee.....
Louis Soracco, PGK, PFN
- 1st Year Trustee.....
James O'Keefe
- District Deputy.....
Paul Sidari, PGK, PFN, DD
- Field Agent.....
Matt DiCalogero (interim)

Grand Knight Report – Robert Malnati

Dear brother knights, December 2024

November has been a time of transition, progress and hope.

In transition, we have participated in a significant national election and we have mourned the passing of beloved former Chaplain Fr. Corey Bassett.

In progress, we have initiated a most successful new Charity fund raiser [the M n M drive]. A successful Catholic Essay contest yielded winners at two grade levels, who will now enter State competition. The Council is enjoying increasing attendance and participation at meetings and events. An in-person exemplification welcomed a new member. A most successful Diaper drive and Christmas card sale took place.

Ongoing participation in a Veteran’s Day ceremony, State webinars, Star council award dinner, a wonderful social/charity evening, visits from State Warden and Boston Council GK, kept the calendar full during the month.

HOPE is where it’s at!

With the sequence of the Feast of Christ the King, Thanksgiving and beginning of Advent, culminating in Christmas we find much cause for Hope. We strive to enter the kingdom of our Lord Jesus our King. We celebrate, with great thankfulness, the great land that we are privileged to live in. With the arrival of Advent, we find Hope. Events such as the spaghetti supper served to 60 Confirmation candidates, the exemplification of our youngest council brother into the 4th degree, COR gatherings that are bringing brothers together in prayer, all give us cause to be Hopeful for the future.

I must point out that the reflection on the Incarnation has been plagiarized from a longer reflection by Bishop Steven Maekawa (see page 5).

Please examine the Council calendar at the end of this newsletter for upcoming events. If possible, attend the 6 PM Mass at St. John’s on December 1, at which time our essay winners will be recognized.

I am most grateful to ALL of my brother knights for your participation and support. It is my fervent prayer that you will find peace and hope in your Faith and enjoy the many blessings of Christmas with family and friends.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Michelle Mosher, daughter of Dave Breen

Ruth Malnati, wife of GK Bob Malnati

Tim Fitzgerald; Luigi Iacoviello; John Miller; George Dixon - visitors welcome

Charlie DeStefano, recovering from knee replacement

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 Adam Rypinski at arypinski@yahoo.com



Annual Yankee Swap

The Council Christmas Party and Yankee Swap will be held on Monday, December 9.

We will celebrate one of our most popular meetings of the year. A brief business meeting will be followed by the traditional Yankee Swap. We encourage all members to attend this good-time event. Be sure to bring a wrapped gift of \$20 to \$30 to participate in the Swap.

Newsletter deadlines/ Check Spam folder weekly

Articles that are intended to be included in the January 2025 issue of this newsletter must be e-mailed to Bill Pacino at knights_news@yahoo.com by December 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 (first Monday), members (second Monday) and social (fourth Monday) meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Meetings are held at The Paul Center, 39 Concord Road, Chelmsford.

So much happened in October, still catching up



↑The cargo area of GK Bob Malnati's Jeep brought the pumpkins to be painted at St. Catherine's.

←Brother knights collected donations for Bishop Ruocco's M and M charity drive.

↓Pumpkin-decorating at St. Catherine's in October.



The artistry of pumpkin painting



And much more from November



James Barrows donates to the Enterprise Bank Coats for Kids collection. Bob Chevalier supplied the coats to James.



State Warden Mike Bello gladly takes a check from FS James Barrows. This payment was from money collected by brother knights at the yearly Tootsie Roll drive.



Keep Christ in Christmas cards were for sale after Masses in November.



Brother knights man the Keep Christ in Christmas display.

A Reflection on the Power of the Incarnation

From Bob Malnati, GK

The Yukon River drives an immense volume of water through vast spaces, pushing fallen trees, sand, and dirt, carving new channels in its bed. It has the power to sustain massive amounts of fish and wildlife. The power to change the lives of all who live on or near it. Then it freezes in the winter. Water becomes ice thick enough for trucks to drive on. Each year the river manifests the power of nature to change water into ice and ice back into water. Humans have no control over it.



The new life given to us in the baby Jesus

The river is going to do what the river is going to do.

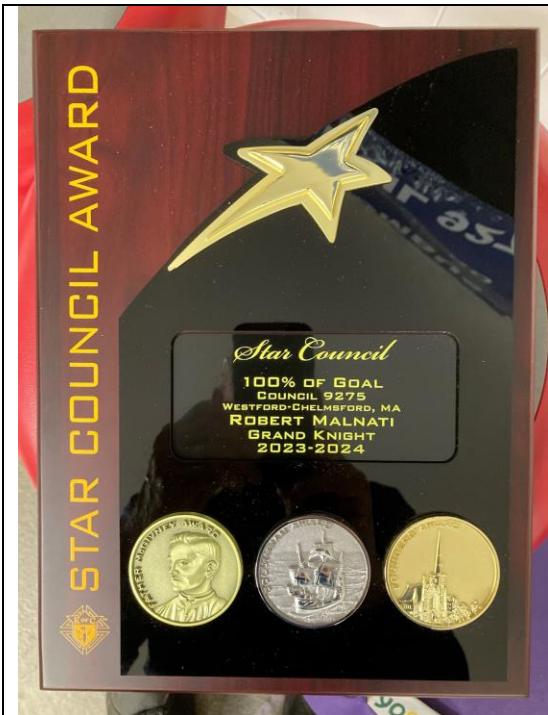
CHRISTMAS is a story about power. The power of God's love for humanity. The power of God's humility to become human. By coming to Earth to forgive our sins, JESUS demonstrates that the power of forgiveness to change lives is so great, it exceeds our imaginations.

The power of God's love is firmly planted before us in the fragility of His infant son. Our God, King, and Savior enters the world dependent on those he wishes to save. God graciously signals His desire to give us a life of grace by having the infant Jesus needing the love, generosity, and patience of Mary and Joseph. He comes to us speaking the language of human life, with the intention of raising us up to communion with the divine life of the Holy Trinity. We only dare to say, "God is going to do what God is going to do" because thankfully, it is true.

Jesus chooses to become one of us. He joins us in our sufferings. What greater demonstration of love is there than this? On the cross, the adult Jesus will accept the burden of all humanity's sins and sufferings. By doing so, He changes human suffering into an act of forgiveness and salvation. He then shares His cross with us so we can be like Him and do the same for others by uniting our sufferings with His.

This Christmas, may we be filled with gratitude and praise. Let us receive the message of the angel to the shepherds with a lively joy that a Savior has been born for us in Bethlehem. We thank God the Father for the new life given to us in the baby Jesus. We praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit for the power of their love that changes our lives in great ways beyond what we now can imagine.

Star Council designation returns to Bishop Ruocco council



Star Council – Bishop Ruocco council

Grand Knight Bob Malnati accepts the Star Council award for 2023-2024 from State deputy Robert Swartz (on left) and our District Deputy Paul Sidari (on right).



Program chair Lou Soracco, Membership chair Gene Bartos and Grand Knight Bob Malnati were also given recognition pins for our 2023-2024 Star council designation.

Faith Retreat food needs served by Knights

From Adam Rypinski



The Knights of Council 9275 were blessed to make and serve a meatballs and pasta dinner at Blessed Trinity's Saint Anne Church on November 20 in support of their Faith Retreat. In all there were about 60 teens and 20 adults that were served.

Local knights in attendance: Jean Croteau, Peter Barbella, James O'Keefe, Phil Bellinghieri, Robert Malnati, Adam Rypinski



Food for families

From Bob Malnati, GK

\$1,000 of Market Basket gift cards will be distributed by Lazarus House Martha's Food Pantry for Thanksgiving. This is an important ministry, both in funding the gift cards and distributing to who are in need. The photo to the left is GK Bob Malnati presenting the gift cards to Ellen Bedrosian, Manager of Stewardship and Advancement Services at Lazarus House Ministries



Local observance of Wreaths across America, Dec. 15

From Joe MacShane



On Saturday, December 15, 2024 at 12:00 PM the Pine Ridge Cemetery will be helping Chelmsford to Remember and Honor our veterans by laying Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our town's fallen heroes.

Help us honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, volunteering on Wreaths Day, or inviting your family and friends to attend with you.

Bills for Dues went out on November 15th

From Financial Secretary James Barrows

Dues bills were mailed out. Consider a donation to the Business and or Charity account. If you haven't made a donation, one would be appreciated. A book of raffle tickets is available, contact James Barrows and he will send raffle books to you. The Book is \$15. Each ticket is \$1. The Council gets \$5 for every book sold. Please consider buying a book. These can also be sold to family, friends or-coworkers. DUES are due by December 31. If you are unable to pay for financial reasons, we understand. Just let me know.



State Raffle tickets, \$5 kept for local council

From James Barrows, FS
Knights9275@gmail.com

The Bishop Ruocco Council is once again selling the State Raffle Tickets. \$15 for a book of 15 tickets. \$5.00 of this money stays in our Council. I would like to see every member buy a book or sell a book to a family member or friend. Not very difficult. Let me know by email and I will mail you the Tickets. If you would like me to, I would be willing to fill them out for you. I will then send you a photo of your completed tickets. Please consider this fundraiser for the State and our Council.

Christmas Card Sales 2024

From James Barrows, FS

The Holy Rood Collaborative:	\$1341
The Blessed Trinity:	\$321.70
Total Sales	\$1662.70
\$1662.70-\$744 (cost of Cards) =	919 Profit

We Sold 100 Boxes of Cards for \$12 each = \$1200

Thus Approximately \$462.70 was from Cash Donations

Latest Diaper Drive Results

From James Barrows, FS

Diaper cash donations: \$500
 Number of diapers collected: 4237 (worth \$1,126)
 Baby wipes donated: 5939 (worth \$297)
 Baby formula donated: 244 oz.(worth \$305)
 Total value of donation to Pregnancy Care Center = \$2,228

Bishop Ruocco Council, 2024-2025 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Chair	Time & Place
December 2024			
2	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	Zoom online, meeting access numbers to come closer to this online meeting on December 2
7/8	Food for families	Bob Malnati	Blessed Trinity churches
9	Members / Social Meeting - Yankee Swap	Bob Malnati/ James Barrows	7:00 pm Council Meeting
14	Wreath Saturday	Joe MacShane	Chelmsford Vets
14	Winter Wonderland	Paul Center	See details on page 9
19	COR meeting	Paul Sidari	7 PM at Paul Center
	Social Meeting - annulled		
January 2025			
6	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
13	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	Council meeting begins at 7:00 PM
	Semi-annual audit		Grand Knight, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Trustees
27	Social Meeting - Superbowl Party	Paul Rigazio	7:00 pm @Princeton Station
February 2025			
3	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
10	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	Council meeting begins at 7:00 PM
	Special Olympics bowling	Charlie DeStefano	Auburn bowling center
24	Social Meeting		TBD
March 2025			
3	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
10	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	Council meeting begins at 7:00 PM
	Membership drive	Gene Bartos	St. Catherine, St. Anne
24	Social meeting	Bob Malnati	Knights and family members welcome at social meetings
	Soup and Stations	Paul Sidari	Soup and Stations of Cross, St. Mary, 5:30 PM to 8 PM
	Catholic Men's Conference	Worcester	For more information, https://catholicmenworc.com
April 2025			
7	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
14	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM start of meeting
17	Pancake supper		At St, Mary, before Holy Thursday mass
	Anniversary dinner		
	State K of C Patriots Day dinner	Lantern Award presentation	Sheraton Framingham
	Polar plunge	Charlie DeStefano	Long Lake in Littleton
	A night of Reflection at the Abbey	Adam Whitehouse	Start at 6:00 PM with vespers in chapel, shared meal, and a talk from a brother. St. Benedict's Abbey, 252 Still River Rd. Harvard, MA