

## About Conshohocken Council 1603

A Message from Grand Knight Dan Trapini



I welcome all of you to learn about our Council!

The Knights of Columbus Conshohocken Council 1603 is a territorial council serving the parishes in Conshohocken and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The council has been active in the Conshohocken Community since the early 1900s. At one time, the Council flourished with several hundred members and ownership of a dedicated Council Hall. As the Catholic Church experienced decline, so did the Conshohocken Council. A small but dedicated band of brothers kept the council alive for several years by meeting at the local VFW and conducting limited charitable activities. When St. Mary's opened again as the dedicated Latin

Mass parish for the Archdiocese, the Council experienced a surge in membership and became much more active. We met in various locations for the next two years, holding formal business meetings and activities.

In February 2023, we found our permanent home at St. Matthew Catholic Church. Welcomed by the newly appointed pastor, Fr. Devlin, who immediately tore down walls in the Parish Life Center to give us our own dedicated Council room. Soon after, Fr. Joseph Ryan, O.S.A., PhD approached us and offered to be our chaplain, enriching our meetings with his reflections and wisdom. Our Council continued to grow, adding many new members and winning the Fr. McGivney Award for membership in 2023. The Conshohocken Council is now a vibrant community, a wonderful mix of members from the surrounding parishes, all working together in unity to serve our Church.

We hold our regular meetings on the third Monday of each month at St. Matthew Catholic Church. The evening begins with us joining the Rosary Group at 7:00 p.m. in the main church for an Exposition, recitation of the rosary, and Benediction. We then proceed to our Council room for the monthly Council meeting, where we discuss and plan our activities.

Our mission is to serve the Church through faith, fraternity, and service, focusing on the following priorities:

- helping men grow in holiness
- bringing the Catholic culture and the love for Christ into our secularized world
- supporting our priests in building vibrant parishes
- defending the unborn while helping mothers, children, and those in crisis



We conduct many activities to enrich and encourage devotional life at St Matthew. We participate in Adoration and the new monthly devotion of Sunday evening Vespers & Benediction, sponsoring dinner and fellowship afterward. In the 2023-24 Fraternal year, we sponsored three spiritual talks and helped the rosary group organize public rosary processions. Our last procession in October was featured in Catholic Philly and drew about 75 participants processing down Fayette Street. We also plan to sponsor a Day of Recollection, trips to area Catholic shrines, and a Corpus Christi procession each June.

To defend the unborn, each First Saturday, several Council members pray the rosary in front of the abortion clinic in Norristown. Our Council marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Conshohocken in March. To promote Catholic fellowship, we have sponsored pancake breakfasts, Lenten fish dinners, and spaghetti dinners. We have our annual hoagie sale on Superbowl Sunday in February. As our Council grows and develops, we will embark on additional initiatives and charitable endeavors aligned to our priorities. Feel free to contact us to learn more. We welcome Catholic men in good standing to join our Council and enjoy the benefits of Catholic brotherhood while serving the Church.

### **About the Knights of Columbus**

The Knights of Columbus is a global Catholic fraternal service order with over 2 million members worldwide. Founded on the principles of charity, unity, and fraternity, the Knights of Columbus was established in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., and a group of parishioners. They intended to bring financial aid and assistance to the sick, disabled, and needy members and their families. Today, Father McGivney is being considered for sainthood. Today, being a Knight means a life of faith in action, a life of boldness in brotherhood, a life worth living. The Knights contribute millions of dollars and service hours each year. Our Supreme Council offers structured programs to support local Councils' efforts.

