



The Outer Guard

Knights of Columbus #1143

7132 Marine Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025

618-656-4985

Meetings: Council -- 2nd Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Fourth Degree -- 1st Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Grand Knight David Green
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www.kofc1143.com
www.facebook.com/edwardsvilleKofC
www.instagram.com/kofc1143

February 2024

Grand Knight's Letter

Welcome to February Brother Knights!

We've turned the page of the calendar and are already entering the second month of 2024. January was a busy month. Thanks to Deputy Grand Knight Marcus Agustin, Lady Zennia and their son Matt as well as a number of other Knights and volunteers, the Free Throw Competition was a big success!

We braved the cold weather and held our Columbus Day/Awards Banquet with a number of Knights and their Ladies in attendance with a very nice meal and a full slate of awards being presented (I want to thank all the past Grand Knights whom I bothered with countless questions while planning the Awards Banquet and also Brother Jeff Davis for putting together the list of honorees and Brother Den-

nis Hessel for putting together the Awards Banquet program).

We also had a Holy Hour at St. Boniface and met for the Rosary For life at St. Mary's.

February promises to be just as busy as January and things just get more action packed after that. We have another Rosary For Life on February 10 and a Fraternal Benefits Night on February 12 with a meal before our regular Council meeting that night. Lent arrives with Ash Wednesday on February 14, a blood drive will be at the Hall on February 14, our first Fish Fry during Lent is on February 16, and the annual Father/Daughter Dance is on February 24th.

As we get further into Spring, we will be busier still. Our Council has the privilege and responsibility to stand for life on March 21 as part of

the 40 Days For Life campaign. We need to fill all of the one hour time slots between 7:00am and 7:00pm. Please contact Tom Tucker to sign up by text at 618-741-8930, call at 618-692-5154 or e-mail at thtucker5@yahoo.com.

We are also planning a membership drive to be held on April 6-7, so be on the lookout for more information on that. Thank you for all your hard work and let's keep it going! Vivat Jesus!

Vivat Jesus!

David Green
Grand Knight

2024 Membership Dues

The annual membership dues are due January 1, 2024. You should have received an email invoice for your dues by now. Annual dues is \$40.00. Half of this money goes to the Supreme Office to fund the operation of the Order and the other half stays with our council to help cover operational costs and for charity. If you didn't receive the invoice please send you check to Knights of Columbus 7132 Marine Rd, Edwardsville, IL 62025.

February Anniversaries

A mass is offered each month for those couples celebrating their anniversary during the month.

- 2 Dennis & Ginger Hessel
- 10 Sergio & Dawn Cortes
- 12 Brad & Audrey Bolt

- 17 Jeff & Lisa Worman
- 22 Matt & Leanne Rakers
- 23 Steven & Alice Bartels
- 24 David & Angela Berczek
- 27 Frank & Kathy Troeckler, Jr

CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY MORES!

February Birthdays

- 1 Adam W Davis
- 4 Frank J Troeckler Jr
- 6 Robert L Rapp
- 7 Brad B Bolt
- 7 Raymond J Kerkemeyer
- 8 Brian M Reeves
- 9 Jeffrey L Chitwood
- 9 Todd M Frank
- 11 Gregg E Korte



- 12 Thomas P Saks
- 13 Clifton E Sachs
- 15 Thomas L Dammerich
- 15 John A Smith
- 17 Rev Jeffrey H Goeckner
- 19 Vincent P Hess Jr
- 20 Michael J Ziolkowski
- 21 Christopher S Taylor
- 22 Matthew B Wilkinson
- 26 James M Strack Jr

FEBRUARY FISH FRY

February 16th , Team #4 First Friday of Lent

February 23rd Team #1

March 1st, Team#2

Calendar of Events January 2024

All events at the HALL unless specified otherwise

- Feb 6—Fourth Degree Assembly Meeting 7:30pm
- Feb 10—Rosary for Life St Mary Church 9:00 am
- Feb 12—Council Meeting 6:30pm dinner
- Feb 14—Blood Drive 3:30-6:00pm
- Feb 16—Fish Fry Team # 4 4:30-7:30 pm Lent begins
- Feb 19—Fred Mills Club Meeting 7:00pm

- Feb 23- Fish Fry Team #1 4:30-7:30 pm
- Feb 24—Father Daughter Dance
- Feb 26—Officer Meeting 7:00pm

Euchre Tournament...

On January 26th, the 4th Degree Assembly 225 held a Euchre Tournament. This is the second year that they held this event. There were 24 players that evening and all proceeds are going to the Missouri USO at St Louis International Airport

Thank you to those that participated and to Ryan Fitzpatrick for chairing this event.

Speaking of Euchre There has been some talk of forming a Euchre League on Wednesday evenings at the HALL bar. If you are interested email dhessel@charter.net

4th Degree News Assembly 225



Faithful Navigator's Letter:

Hello Brothers,

Well, 2024 is well underway! Thanks to all of you who supported the Euchre Tournament, an update on turnout and level of success will be presented at the General Assembly Meeting on Tuesday February 6th, at 7:30pm at the Hall. Come on out to the Hall and enjoy dinner and some fellowship while we tend to the business of the Assembly!

What's on tap for this month? At this time, I am not aware of an Assembly event besides the General Meeting but there are several Council events we can support. Please take a good look at the schedule of events and see where you can attend and lend a hand!

Last month I spoke about increasing our ranks by inviting 3rd Degree Knights to attain their 4th Degree and become "Sir" Knight. This month I want to continue that theme of "inviting" and invite all our 4th Degree members to become members of our Assembly's Honor Guard. I thought it would aid my efforts if I could speak to the history of the Honor Guard, so here is what I found!

On February 22, 1900, the first exemplification of the Fourth Degree was held in New York City. To the three original principles of the Order: charity, unity and fraternity, the ritual added patriotism. The focus of the Fourth Degree is on this principle - an abiding love for and devotion to one's country. The primary purpose of the Fourth Degree is to foster the spirit of patriotism by promoting responsible citizenship and a love of and loyalty to the Knights' respective countries through active membership in local Fourth Degree groups

called assemblies.

Starting at the Supreme level there is the Supreme Master and the Supreme Board of Directors. The next level of the structure is broken into provinces of which there are twenty. Each province is led by a Vice-Supreme Master. The province is then broken up into districts each of which contains a number of local Assemblies led by a Navigator. A Master is in charge of a District and usually has a District Marshal to assist him.

Certain members of the Fourth Degree serve as Color Guards and Honor Guards at civic and religious functions, an activity which has brought worldwide recognition to the Knights of Columbus organization. Honor Guards have mastered the "Manual of the Sword". The Master wears a Gold Service Baldric, a Gold Patch for his Beret, and can have a Gold Handled Sword. The District Marshal wears a Green Service Baldric, a Green Patch for his Beret. The Navigator of an Assembly wears a White Service Baldric, a White Patch for his Beret, and can have a White Handled Sword. The Color Corps Commander wears a Purple Service Baldric, and a Purple Patch for his Beret. Finally, all other members of the Color Corps wear a Patriotic Red/White/Blue Service Baldric, no Color Patch for their Beret and have a Black Handled Sword.

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If you are a member of the 4th Degree please consider getting the regalia. We are in need of more members with regalia. The Assembly will reimburse you 50% of the cost of the regalia. If you are not a member of the 4th Degree, please consider becoming a 4th Degree Knight.

Faithful Navigator's Letter continued...

As members of the Color Corps, you are the visible part of the Order. When the public sees the Color Guard in parades and at other events, they see the visible arm of "The Knights of Columbus". When the Color Guard attend wakes and/or funerals of our deceased brothers all see the visible "Knights of Columbus". In the many parishes in which we serve, our fellow Catholics see "the Knights of Columbus".

I was not able to find an official history of the 4th Degree Regalia. I believe via some old pictures that I did see that the first regalia was White Coat/Tails and White Top Hat, next came Black Coat/Tails and Black Top Hat, followed by the Cape and Chapeau Regalia

that was just retired, giving way to our present 4th Degree Honor Guard Uniform.

Remember the Assembly will reimburse you for half the cost of the new uniform. Please say a prayer for guidance and then consider ordering your new uniform. The next time the Bishop is attending at one of our parish churches it would be great to have 20 plus Sir Knights providing an Honor Guard. Please reach out to any "new uniformed" Knight for guidance on ordering your uniform, learn from their experience!

"Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring."

–St. Catherine of Siena

God Bless,
Doug Hastings
Faithful Navigator Assembly 225

From Our Field Agent

2023 Accomplishments

Every year in early January, Knights of Columbus Agencies get together to celebrate our accomplishments from the previous year.

The Niemeyer Agency released 675 applications for Life, Long-Term Care, and Disability Income Insurance with over \$1 Million of premium in 2023.

We had ten of our agents qualify for membership in the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT). This was a record for us. We also had seven agents qualify for the company Premier Performers Incentive Trip with one agent qualifying for Supreme Knights Club. This was also a record for our agency.

As a company the Knights of Columbus ended the year with \$128 Billion of Life Insurance in-force. This \$2 Billion of growth over 2022 was a record high. We had a record high of \$78 Million of premium in 2023. We also had \$1.1 Billion in Annuity Deposits.

We had 400 plus agents in The Order qualify for MDRT. This record high equates to 42% of the entire Field Force. We also had 10,739 New Members recruited by agents last

year. This was a 3,000 increase over 2022.

We were reaffirmed our rating of A+ by AM Best. And Forbes and Statista Inc. have again named the Knights of Columbus one of "America's Best Insurance Companies" for 2024.

For over 141 years, the Knights of Columbus has financially protected generations of Catholic families. Through responsible business practices and Catholic values, we continue to provide guarantees to help protect what matters most.

Vivat Jesus!

JOIN THE KNIGHTS!

Michael Sullivan
michael.sullivan@kofc.org
618-363-9395
KofC.org/JoinUs
Agent Referral Code
MSULLIVAN



Columbus Day Awards Banquet....

On Sunday, January 21, 2024 the Council 1143 held the postponed Columbus Day Awards Banquet. The evening started off by attending a Corporate Communion Mass at St. Boniface Church. The members then returned to the hall for a meal, a speaker and presentation of awards.

Bethany Riechmann from the Beacon of Life Pregnancy Center spoke about the services they provide, the number of clients they served last year, and Thank You for our continued support.

Awards were presented to the following Brother Knights for their years of service.

NEW HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Member 70 years of age and 25 consecutive years of service
or 50 years of consecutive service

Douglas L. Hastings	Arthur J. Kotsybar
David R. Gebhart	Jerome A. Kapp
Edward G. Colling	Roger A. Frank
Thomas D. Henry	Jeffrey A. Hessel
James C. Caulk	

NEW HONORARY MEMBERS

Member 65 years of age and 25 consecutive years of service

James W. Kovarik Jr.	Daniel L. Boner
Steven H. Ambrozat	Fr. Robert J. Jallas
Alan R. Gerstenecker	David M. Yates

NEW 25 YEAR MEMBERS

Douglas L. Hastings	Arthur J. Kotsybar
John A. Smith	

NEW 50 YEAR LIFE MEMBERS

James C. Caulk	Jeffrey A. Hessel
Louis F. Popelar	Thomas D. Henry

We also remembered the Knights that have passed away since October of 2022

Thomas Allen	Thomas Hoppenrath
James Barry	Thomas A. Jacober
Thomas E. Berry	Michael A. Klopmeier
Edward B. Buchanan	Michael J. Long
Charles E. Duncan	Robert W. Maher
Charles O. Fears	James Michel
Melvin J. Heien Jr.	Dr Jack Miller

Columbus Day Awards Banquet in pictures....



Left—District Deputy Ryan Fitzpatrick presented Fr. Robert Jallas with an Honorary Member certificate.

Congratulations Father Bob!

Right -District Deputy Ryan Fitzpatrick presented Brother Jim Caulk with an Honorary Life Member certificate and a 50 Year Pin. Congratulations Jim!



Left—District Deputy Ryan Fitzpatrick presented Brother Dan Boner with an Honorary Member certificate.

Congratulations Dan!

Right—District Deputy Ryan Fitzpatrick presented Brother Roger Frank with and Honorary Member certificate.

Congratulation Roger!



2024 Free-throw Contest



The Edwardsville Knights of Columbus Council 1143 recently held the local level of the competition for the 2024 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship on January 13, 2024 at the St. Boniface School Gym. Despite the cold weather, 13 children participated in the competition. The following will proceed to the district-level of the competition as the local winner in their age group.

Age Group	Girls	Boys
9		Lincoln Shoemaker
10	Briar Jones	Jack Fields
11	Vivian Dorsey	Brandon Frank
12	Stella Worman	
13	Avery Riechmann	Stephen Gilbertson
14	Katelyn Frank	

Thank you to all the participants, Fr. Kyle (good friend of the Fitzpatrick's), and to the following Brother Knights and their families for making this a successful event!

David Boduch, Jim Caulk, David Caulk, Joe Doyle, Steve Edwards, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Mike McDonald, Lynn Ripper, Mike Sullivan, Keith Sutorius

Marcus and Matt Agustin

Co-chairs, Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for Council 1143





ACCPETING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Each year the Edwardsville Knights of Columbus awards on-time non-renewable scholarships to incoming freshmen to Fr. McGivney Catholic High School and to graduating seniors at a local high school and planning on attending a 2 year or 4-year college or university. The size of the award is based on the amount of money available and the number of qualified applicants.

The applicant must also be a child or grandchild of a member (in good standing for at least one consecutive year from the date of the application deadline) of Edwardsville Knights of Columbus Council 1143 and/or Edwardsville Assembly 0225. The Edwardsville Knights of Columbus Scholarship Committee has final authority over all awards.

Goto www.kofc1143.com/scholarships/ for details and application forms

Application Deadline— MAY 3, 2023



Building the Domestic Church

While Strengthening Our Parish

The Family Fully Alive

The Sacrament of Marriage



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.

Meditations

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 be-

come 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.

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.

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?

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Building the Domestic Church

While Strengthening Our Parish

The Family Fully Alive



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 below 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.

