



KNIGHTS IN ACTION

May 2025

Our Lady of Victory Council 7968

&

Joseph R Perrone Assembly 2789



Monthly Highlights

Birthdays and Member Anniversaries

- 7 May Rosary and Holy Hour**
- 8 May Presentation of Scholarship Checks**
- 13 May Second Tuesday Food Van**
- 14-15 May Biloxi VA Drive and Drop Off**
- 17 May Highway and Hall Clean-up**
- 23-25 May State Convention**
- 26 May Memorial Day Ceremony & Flag Retirement**

History of our KofC Spaghetti Dinners

Grand Knight – Marty Mears

Faithful Navigator – Steve Malutich

Dep Grand Knight – Logan Steele

Faithful Captain – Michael Winner

District Deputy – Travis Robinson Jr

State Deputy – Richard P. Hughes

Insurance Agent – Jeff Fischer

Newsletter Editor: Doug Shepherd Newsletter Contributor: Herb Fosman

Assembly (4th Degree) Business Mtgs are held on the **1st Thursday of the month at 6:30PM.**

Council (1st-3rd Degree) Business Mtgs are held on the **2nd Thursday of the month at 7PM.**

Council Socials are typically held on the **4th Thursdays of the month at 6:30PM.**

Council Officer Planning Mtgs are held on the **Monday before the Assembly Mtg at 6:30PM.**

All meetings are held at the Knight's Hall, 701 E. James Lee Blvd.

Grand Knight's Greetings

Greetings Brother Knights!

It is officially summer and last month we were on Fire!

Your Faithful Navigator (FN) Steven Malutich and I attended the 121st Annual Meeting of the Florida State Council, also known as the 2025 State Convention in Jacksonville from 23-25 May. It was a great experience and we met a lot of Knights from around the state. I was honored to accept on behalf of the Council, 2nd Place for Community Activities Award for Division 3 (largest sized councils). It is a testament to all of our members' time, energy, talents and faith!



We finalized (mostly) our Council Officers for the next fiscal year (July 2025 – June 2026), but we are still looking for more volunteers. Below is a list of our Officers to be installed on Thursday, June 26th at the Knights Hall at 6:30pm followed by a dinner and social.

Grand Knight	Martin Mears
Deputy Grand Knight	Logan Steele*
Chancellor	Dan Lesh
Recorder	VACANT
Treasurer	Tony Jette
Advocate	Bill Marchand
Warden	Steve Kerr
Inside Guard	Joe Lakatos
Outside Guard	Luke O'Toole
One Year Trustee	Mike Reiss
Two Year Trustee	Mark Johns
Three Year Trustee	Jim Pazienza

We currently have 2 positions (highlighted) that we are still looking to fill. Brother Logan Steele has agreed to remain in the position in the interim.

Additionally, we have three key positions to appoint: **Family Director**, **Membership Director**, and **Retention Chairman**. These are rewarding opportunities to consider. Even if you only have a few hours a month, it can still make a difference in these positions – and know that you will not be alone.

Please let me know if you are interested in serving, or if there is a project or charity that you would like to support next year.

And as always, thanks again to those of you who regularly attend our events, support bingo, help in the kitchen, and work the bread ministry, food van & OLV care center – we couldn't do it without you!

God Bless and Vivat Jesus!

Martin Mears

Grand Knight

Faithful Navigator's Note

Hello Brother Knights!

May 2025 was a busy month!! In addition to our normal monthly activities like First Wednesday Rosary, Caring Coach, and Bingo, we took our annual trip to the Biloxi VA, we conducted our quarterly highway clean-up, Grand Knight Mears and I attended the Florida KofC 2025 State Convention, 22 Knights and 6 spouses attended the Crestview Memorial Day Ceremony, almost all the Knights and Spouses that attended the Memorial Day Ceremony then came to the Flag Retirement Ceremony at our Hall, plus a few Knights that were unable to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony, and lastly, on May 31st, Sir Knight and Vice Marshall Jette, Sir Knight Mike Winner and your Faithful Navigator served in the Honor Guard for the Ordination Mass celebrated by Bishop Wack at St. Paul Catholic Church in Pensacola. Sir Knight Deacon Dan Dailey also attended the Ordination Mass, but with his brother priests and deacons.



All we do is special for me, even though I've done it many times – like Bingo and Highway Clean Up. The Ordination Mass was a first for me. It was a long Mass – 2.5 hours – but, wow, very moving as four new priests were ordained by Bishop Wack. And in addition to Tony, Mike and I, there were another 18 Sir Knights in regalia from around our Diocese that served in the Honor Guard. After Mass was over, and we had our picture taken with Bishop Wack, and I was leaving the church to go to Tony's truck, a lady stopped me and thanked me for all that Knights do. Wow! I accepted her appreciation on behalf of all Knights. We do a lot to support our parish and parish ministries, our communities, many charities, veterans, and each other. I am honored to be a Knight!



Peace be with you!

Stephen Malutich

Faithful Navigator

Insurance News

Brothers,

On Saturday the 24th of May, at the Florida State Knights of Columbus Convention, I was honored to be recognized by our General Agent (Brother Knight and friend), Jim Spinelli, for my 23+ years of service to our Knights families in northwest Florida. I was given a plaque commemorating the same. Additionally, Jim announced, on my behalf, my retirement from the Agency, Effective 1 July 2025. He then presented me with a beautiful watch from my Brother Agents! Thank you, Jim and my Spinelli Agency, Agents!

Of course, I will remain a Knight/Sir Knight with our order. I just won't be on call 24/7 as I've tried to be for my KofC Families.

God bless & Stay safe



 **Knights of
Columbus**

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Birthdays

These members are celebrating birthdays in June:

Sir Knights

1 June – John Sipos
7 June – Lawrence Kime
15 June – Luke O'Toole
19 June – David Herard
20 June – Jared Parker
24 June – Larry Johnson
24 June – Kenneth Mayfield
26 June – Cliff Wolf
30 June – Anselmo Gerard

Brother Knights

3 June – Nathaniel Bielawski
5 June – Norbert Birgirimana
7 June – Will Cisneros
7 June – Edward Shackleford
9 June – Frank Martin
12 June – Joseph Fellenz
12 June – Jeffrey Knoll
20 June – Matthew Chaddock
22 June – Antoine Hynson
26 June – Rev Oliver Smalls, Jr
29 June – Tommy Lee



Anniversaries

These members are celebrating their KofC anniversary in June:

1st - 3rd Degree

41 Years – William O'Donnell, Jr
34 Years – Michael Winner
28 Years – Dennis Daigle
27 Years – Anthony Jette
27 Years – Randolph Wooley
22 Years – Rev Kurian Manikuttiyl
14 Years – Robert Reese
13 Years – Patrick Stanley
8 Years – Brian Nurmi
6 Years – John Jones, Sr
4 Years – Robert Foley
3 Years – Cesar Lopez-Zelaya
3 Years – Doug Shepherd
2 Years – Ronald Unite
2 Years – Michael Aldrich
2 Years – Thomas Roccisano
2 Years – Robby Wilcox
1 Year – Jacob Foreman

4th Degree

14 Years – James Acol, Jr
14 Years – Reggie Brown, Jr
14 Years – Richard Connolly, Jr
13 Years – Rev Kurian Manikuttiyl
13 Years – Glenn Moore, Sr
13 Years – Robert Reese
8 Years – Antonio Aguilar



First Wednesday Rosary and Holy Hour

Brother Knights Arnie Fonseca, Deacon Dan Dailey, Steve Malutich and Rob Ochsner led the reading of the Rosary before Mass on **May 7th**, the first Wednesday of the Month. Thank you, brothers, for representing!



Presentation of High School Scholarship Checks

On the **8th of May**, our Worthy Grand Knight Marty Mears presented three checks totaling \$4000 for high school graduates in our north county schools. GK Mears met with the principals of Crestview High School, Baker School, and Laurel Hill School. Each Principal applies the money towards their 'Principal's Scholarship' pool, and award \$500 scholarships to deserving students based on merit and financial need.

Picture 1 (top): GK Mears presenting the Principal of Crestview High School, Ms. Vicky Hayden, with a check for \$2000.



Picture 2 (bottom left): GK Mears presenting the Principal of Baker School, Brother Knight Mike Martello, with a check for \$1000.

Picture 3 (bottom right): GK Mears presenting the Principal of Laurel Hill School, Mrs. Lee Martello (wife of Mike), with a check for \$1000.



The Second Tuesday of the Month

It is amazing how the months fly by. Another 2nd Tuesday arrived on the **13th of May** where 39 families remained in their cars and received perishable and non-perishable food. We sure appreciate the continued support of our volunteers who help to support those in need. The next 2nd Tuesday will be on 8 July. Come on out and enjoy the fun by supporting others in need. Be at the Parish Hall by 11:30 AM and in addition to having fun you will enjoy a super free lunch.

Picture 1 - The Caring Coach van arrived with new Catholic Charities workers, and our Brother Knights off-loaded the food from the van.

Picture 2 - Brothers Dan and Jim hauling the offloaded food into the Parish Hall.



Pictures 3 & 4 - Processing food in the Parish Hall.





Picture 5 - Peggy getting our free lunch ready.

Picture 6 - The volunteers enjoying a super free lunch.



The pictures were provided by Brother Herb, thanks a bunch!

Biloxi VA Drive and Drop Off

On Thursday the **15th of May**, Rosemary and her team of Knights and their wives were on their annual 160-mile trip to the VA in Biloxi, MS, arriving with four full truckloads of thousands of dollars in merchandise for the vets and the VA Hospital. In addition to off-loading the four trucks of goodies the Team arranged to play bingo with 64 vets who enjoyed playing bingo and winning prizes. Pictures of the vets could not be taken. Brother Herb was also part of the team, but he did not go to Biloxi. He went instead to Our Lady of Victory 9 AM Communion Service with Deacon Dan conducting the service, and during the prayers of the faithful Herb let everyone know the Knight's team was on their trip and we prayed for a successful journey to and from Biloxi.



Picture 1 - Off-loading of the four trucks with the help of VA Hospital workers.



Picture 2 - A picture of the VA helping team thanking the Knights team for the wonderful veteran and hospital donations.



Picture 3 - A picture of the Senior Knight's delivery team from left to right: John Libby & wife Neneth, Tony Jette & wife Rosemary, Bill Marchand & wife Linda, Travis Robinson & wife Jeanine, and Steve Malutich.

Highway and Knights Hall Clean-up

On the **17th of May**, the Knights gathered bright and early at the Knights Hall to begin a morning of trash pick-up and Hall clean-out. First, the volunteers were treated to coffee, juice and Good Things donuts while we gathered up the volunteers. At 0700 we took a group photo (picture 1) and departed the hall to clean our 2-mile stretch of US Highway 90. When all was said and done, the knights collected 14 bags of trash and reconvened at the Hall for a big, beautiful breakfast prepared by Travis Robinson (picture 2). And finally, Tony Jette identified several electronic items, as well as a couple large items to be removed and taken to the dump. This definitely freed up space in our basement room, and hopefully we can keep it that way!

Much thanks to our 12-13 volunteers, but we really need more help during these highway clean-ups so that we can complete the trash pick-up in an hour instead of the nearly 2 hours it has been taking us the last few times. **Mark your calendar now, the next one is 23 August!**



State Convention

Brothers Grand Knight Marty Mears, The Faithful Navigator Steve Malutich, and District Deputy Travis Robinson attended the Annual State Florida Convention held in Jacksonville Florida on **23-25 May**. It was great event and learning experience!

Picture 1 - Marty standing in the Parade of Banners.

Picture 2 - Steve, Marty, and Travis with Marty holding the Community Activities Second Place Award in Division Three.



Memorial Day and Flag Retirement Ceremony



We had an outstanding turnout at the Crestview Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday **May 26th**! First picture is (hopefully) all the Council 7968 Knights who attended the ceremony. We also had six spouses attend! In picture 2, our wreath is displayed proudly in front of the Veterans Wall. In picture 3, our Brother Colonel Joe Masterson, US Army, Retired, places our wreath and salutes our fallen brother and sister warriors.



The outstanding attendance carried over to our Flag Retirement Ceremony, where we had about the same number of people, plus nine Boy Scouts and two scout leaders! One of the scout leaders was Brother Joe Parenteau, scout master of Troop 532 and the second scout leader was Heather Happel, wife of deceased brother Tony Happel. Two of the nine scouts were Heather's sons. Prior to the ceremony, everyone enjoyed a pizza lunch.



Colonel Masterson led the ceremony, and Travis Robinson was in the thick of things demonstrating and teaching the Scouts proper Flag handling protocol. We retired a lot of Flags! Brothers and spouses jumped in and put things in place to make the Ceremony go smoothly – burn barrel in place and lit, canopy erected, chairs put out, table put out for tearing or cutting the stripes of the demonstration Flag, podium and sound system in place. Well done to all involved!!



Picture 1 - Brother Tony burning flags prior to the start of the ceremony.

Picture 2 - Brother Joe Parenteau, and his Scouts from Troop 532.

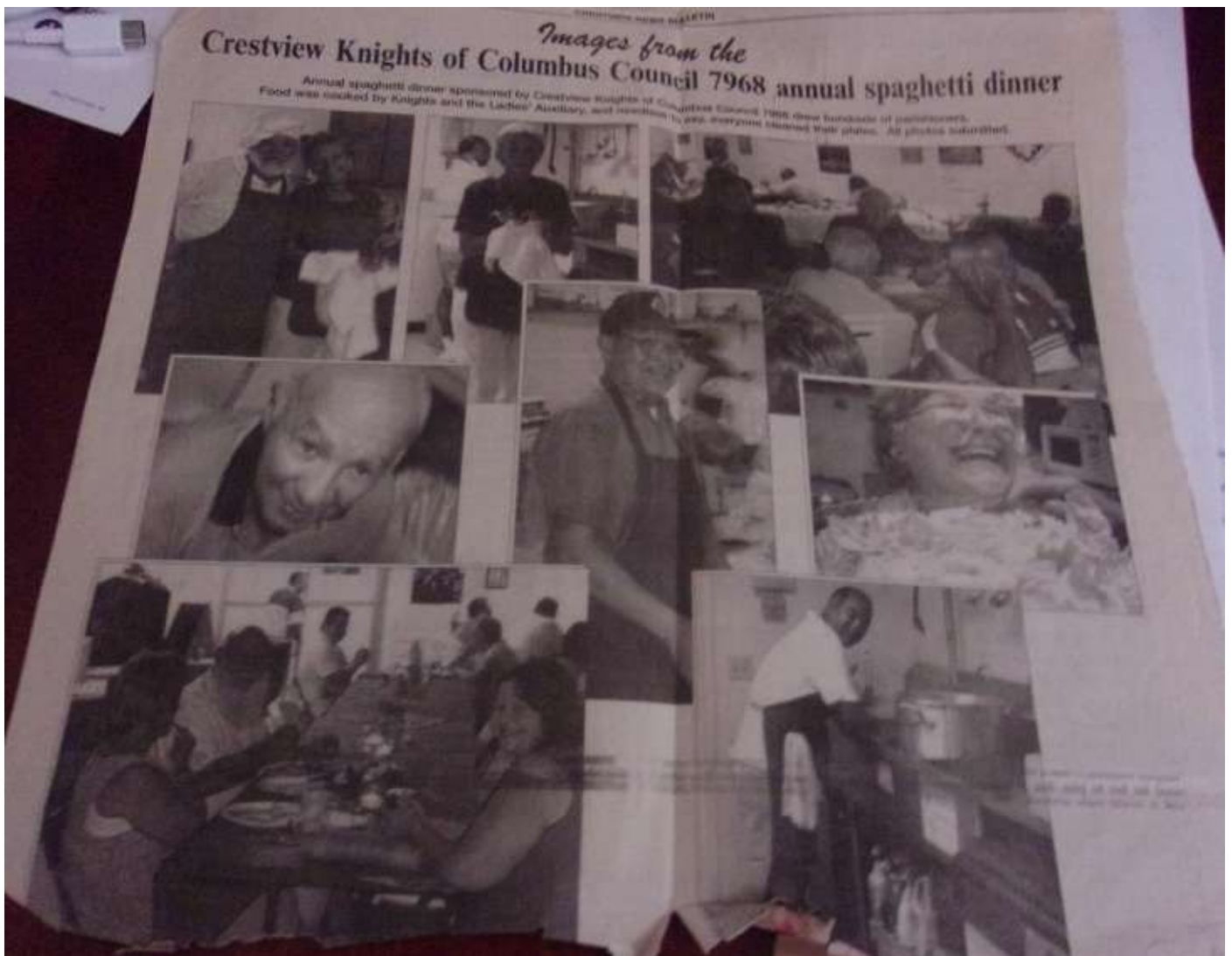
Picture 3 - Those watching the ceremony.

Picture 4 - Raising the new American flag over the Knights Hall.

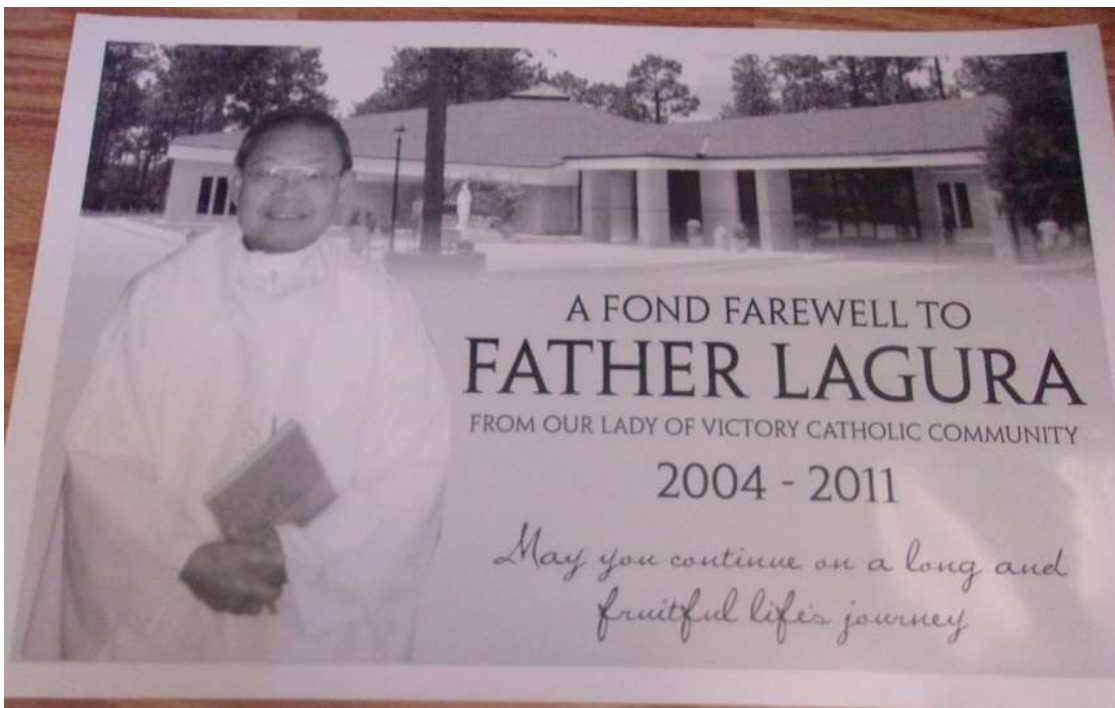
Picture 5 - Scouts learning to fold the flags.

History of the Spaghetti Dinner

Back in 2005, Brother Gene Calabro started the annual KofC spaghetti dinner. As Herb was looking through his papers, he came across the article shown in the first picture below and thought it would be a nice monthly newsletter article representing something that we still do today. Gene was a super cook and loved spaghetti. His meatballs were huge, his spaghetti delicious, and people loved their meal. The Crestview Bulletin article came out on 17 Sep 2005, and shows some of the people who were there, although there were many more who helped serve the people their meals. Most of those you see in the picture are no longer with us. For example, in the top left you see Dennis Thibeau who passed away on 3 Oct 2022. Dennis was the Council's Newsletter Editor and what a super job he had done filling that position for many years starting in 2001. His monthly newsletters were always professionally done, and so well done that Dennis won the Florida State Knights of Columbus Bulletin and Newsletter Award for Fraternal Year 2005-2006. What a great honor that was, not only for Dennis, but for the Council as well. Our Crestview Council came into existence back in Jan 1982 and that was the first and last time our Council won that award. Quite an achievement when you consider there are over 300 councils in the state of Florida. That is only one great thing Dennis did.



His wife Julie was also a KofC helping hand. With Dennis is Elsie Radowicz, who along with her husband Arnie got involved with everything the KofC did. For all the great things Arnie had done he was selected as Knight of the year for Fraternal Year 2003-2004. They arrived here from Wisconsin in 2001 and in May 2015 they moved back to Wisconsin. The next picture from the left is Elsie again with Brother Ric Arevalo behind Elsie washing pots and pans. Ric is also in the bottom right picture. Ric is still with us, although he and his wife Debbie moved to the Bob Hope Village in Fort Walton Beach. Ric too, has always been an active member of the KofC and still helps when he can. In the middle left is Gene Calabro and to the middle right is Faylene Calabro. Two super people who have done some extraordinary things for the council over the years. I have so much info on these two, I could write a book. Gene and Faylene departed Crestview in Aug 2021 and are living in an assisting living facility in Peabody, MA, close to their kids. And in the middle of the picture is Father Lagura, who came to Our Lady of Victory Church from the Philippines in April 2004 and was on his own until Father O'Connor arrived Christmas of 2004. Father Lagura was a true blessing for our church and the KofC. He was asked if he would like to join the KofC and on 4 May 2004, shortly after his arrival, he became a First-Degree member of the Knights and within one year he became a 4th, Degree Sir Knight. Since we did not have a Council Chaplain, Father was asked if he would fill that position. Without hesitation, he said yes and helped out with many council projects. On Feb 13, 2007, Father O'Connor passed away, leaving Father Lagura to hold down the fort until the arrival of Father Cayer in Jun 2007. OLV held a farewell party for Father Lagura at the Crestview Convention Center and Herb was the Master of Ceremonies. The Center was filled with over 100 people (including area priests, deacons & acolytes) bidding farewell to a priest loved by all.



Picture 2 - What you see was purchased as placemats, but no one used it for that purpose; instead, they were taken home by all as a wonderful memento of a much loved priest.

Family of the Month & Knight of the Month

For the month of May, a very worthy family and Knight were nominated and selected. Although it is an exception to the rule that the KoM is also the FoM, it is fitting that it should happen to this exceptional Knight and his family: John and Neneth Libby!

John is a member of our Knights Bingo team, our main means of support, and works bingo 3.5 hours every third Tuesday night and has been doing that since 1998, and back then he worked bingo for years every week! During Lent, John worked on the Fish Fry Dinners helping the council to raise about \$14,000 for deserving charities. John has been active in our council meetings and for our 4th Degree Assembly he serves as our Outer Sentinel and will soon be our three-year Trustee. *ICYMI John's active support has been featured throughout this newsletter!*

This couple has been doing great things for our council, church and community for many years. They attend the 9:00am Mass every Sunday and after receiving communion they take communion to old and sick parishioners at four different locations to include nursing homes, and how happy they are that someone brings them Holy Communion every Sunday. Neneth is also a Eucharistic Minister and attends church often during the week. Both John and Neneth help every 2nd Tuesday of the month at the OLV Care Center to receive and unload the Catholic Charity Van. The Van delivers hundreds of pounds of food items to the Parish Hall where it is unloaded and brought into the hall to be separated, and each item placed into big bags and delivered into the cars of those in need. Normally there is an average of 35 cars per month.

John and Neneth always work senior bingo where John verifies bingo winners with Neneth bringing in food and helping to serve lunch. John has been our This couple worry about other people in need and probably do many other things we are not aware of. A couple well worthy of being called the Family of the Month for May 2025.

*(left) Chancellor Dan Lesh presenting the Knight of the Month Award to Sir Knight John Libby.
(right) Lecturer Herb Fosman presenting the Libby Family with the Family of the Month Award.*



Prayer of the Month

Oh Lord, help us to be your hands
To help provide your sheep
Assistance as they start this day
And hope for them to reap.
Help them to see You in us Lord,
Help us to see with love
As through this day we will afford
For Your glory up above.
Amen

If you would like to submit a prayer to be shared in the newsletter,
please email mr.doug@outlook.com