



KNIGHTS IN ACTION

December 2025

Our Lady of Victory Council 7968

&

Joseph R Perrone Assembly 2789



Monthly Highlights

Birthdays and Member Anniversaries

December	Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest & Citizenship Essay Contest Winners
16 November	OLV Renaissance Festival
3 December	First Wednesday Rosary & Holy Hour
6 December	OLV Nativity Scene Set Up
9 December	Second Tuesday Food Van
13 December	Habitat for Humanity
23 December	Christmas Goody Bags Assembly & Social

Grand Knight – Marty Mears

Faithful Navigator – Steve Malutich

Dep Grand Knight – Dan Lesh

Faithful Captain – Dan Lesh

District Deputy – Robert Gualtieri

State Deputy – Michael P. Gizewski

Insurance Agent – Ivan Delabruere

Newsletter Editors: Marty Mears, Herb Fosman, Peg & Doug Shepherd

Visit our Website at <https://olvnow.com/kofc>

Assembly (4th Degree) Business Mtgs are held on the **1st Thursday** of the month at 7:00PM.

Council (1st-3rd Deg) Business Mtgs are held on the **2nd Thursday** of the month at 6:30PM.

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!

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe 2026 is here, and this will be a year full of celebration for our country's 250th Birthday Celebration!

As we start this new year, please take some time to reflect on what you have accomplished and learned this past year, and thank God and to ask Him what He has in store for you this year. I usually have a lot of goals and desires for the new year, and I usually fall short of meeting them all, but I am always thankful for the time I get to spend with family, friends and my fellow Knights.

We are officially halfway through our Council Fiscal Year, and we are well on our way to meeting our goals and earning Star Council. I am especially proud of the young men and women and boys and girls who competed in the Citizenship Essay and Keep Christ Christmas Poster contests – as many of them went on to win at the District and Region!

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

Happy New Year

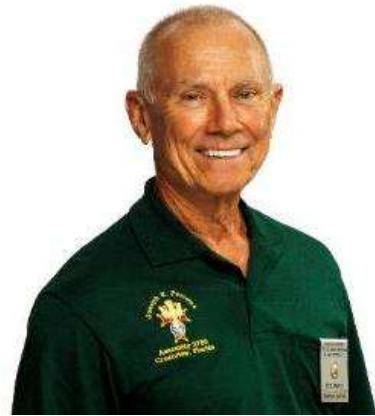
2026



Faithful Navigator's Note

Brothers and Significant Others,

Happy New Year and New Quarter Century! While I treasure and am grateful for every moment God graces me with, this year is special for our country and hence should be special to us!! We celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence! While our forefathers declared independence, we were still neck deep in the American War of Independence, also known as the Revolutionary War. Per the Encyclopedia Britannica, "The war began with skirmishes at Lexington and Concord in April 1775 and ended with the British surrender at Yorktown in 1781, leading to the Treaty of Paris in 1783, which recognized American independence."



December was another very busy month! What month isn't busy, right?! Dan Lesh, Mike Reiss, John Libby and I started the month by helping count Baby Bottle Drive donations. We set a new record for total amount donated – yay! We prayed the Holy Rosary and the Glorious Mysteries on the first Wednesday. On Tuesday, December 9th, we assembled the Nativity Scene at OLV. Tony Jette, John Libby, Travis Robinson, Bill Marchand and I moved unloaded flooring tile and plywood into the Hall in advance of the reflooring project. And, of course, we participated in recurring activities like bingo. Sandy and I enjoyed the company of our youngest daughter Rachael and our son in law Ryan and crew (5 children ages 15 to 1!) and our son Danny and his wife Paloma from Mexico over the Christmas holiday. It's a blessing that they still want to spend time with mom and dad/mimi and papa. I pledged to keep Christ in Christmas, and I think I did so. I hope you all had a joyous Christmas, too.

May God's Peace be with you and your families.

I am honored to be a Knight!

Vivat Jesus!

Stephen Malutich

Faithful Navigator

Insurance News

Brothers,

Happy New Year!

The Knights of Columbus has very exciting news to share as we begin 2026!

Beginning January 1, 2026, a dividend increase took effect for eligible participating insurance policies, for the second year in a row. What does an increased dividend rate mean for you?

Dividends are amounts that may be paid annually from the surplus funds of the Knights of Columbus and are paid on an equitable basis by class as determined by the Board of Directors.¹

These dividends can be used in various ways, including:

- Purchase paid up additions, which is the default option.
- Place the dividends on deposit and earn additional interest.
- Receive the dividends in cash.
- Reduce billed premium.²
- Reduce an existing loan.

Guided by the vision of our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, we are dedicated to supporting the financial security of our members. Over the past 30 years, Knights of Columbus has paid more than \$8 billion in dividends to those we serve.

I would love to sit down with you in the coming year to discuss how this dividend increase may help you achieve your financial security goals. If you have any questions about this, or any of the benefits of having a Knights of Columbus insurance policy, please come chat with me, and we'll schedule a time to meet.

Thank you!



**Knights of
Columbus**
Asset Advisors*

Ivan Delabruere FIC,FICF,FSCP,WMCP
Financial Advisor
Mobile: 850-516-2622
Office: 850-343-5333
6553 Lakeshore Dr
Milton, FL 32570
<https://info.kofc.org/Meet-Ivan-Delabruere.html>

Catholic Investing



Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

¹ Dividends are not guaranteed.

²This option is not available on all policies, and not available if policy is paying premiums via a monthly EFT.

Birthdays

These members are celebrating birthdays in January:

Sir Knights

1 January – Joseph Masterson
6 January – Joseph Lakatos
18 January – Dcn Dan Dailey
25 January – Paul Pronovost
26 January – Robert Huggins
29 January – Logan Steele
30 January – William Cunningham
31 January – Stephen Malutich

Brother Knights

2 January – John Jones, Sr
2 January – Arturo Leyva
23 January – Kris Johnson
24 January – Germainye Hudson
24 January – Joseph Parenteau
27 January – Thomas Roccisano
28 January – Joseph Vota, Sr
29 January – Dennis Benevides



Anniversaries

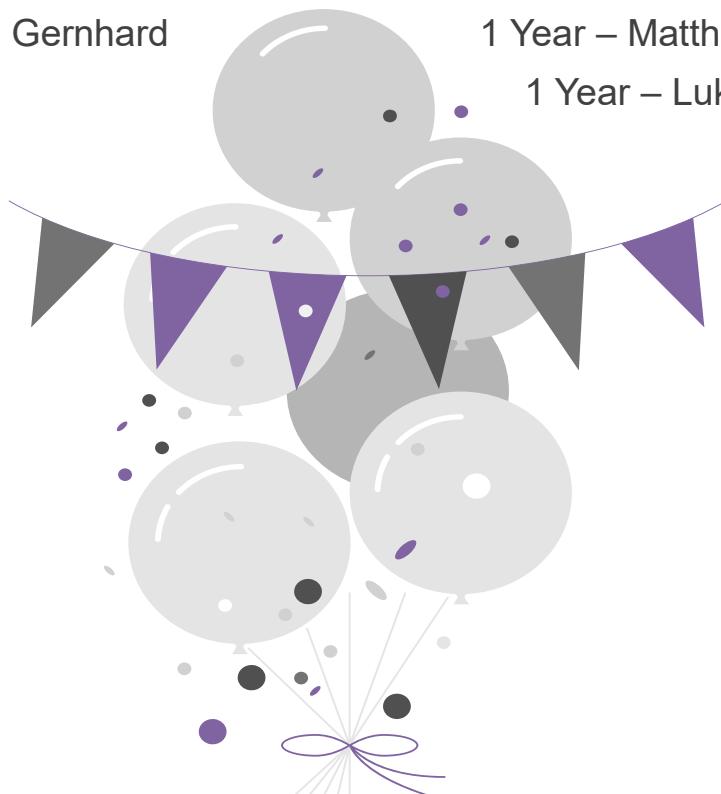
These members are celebrating their KofC anniversary in January:

1st - 3rd Degree

54 Years – Joseph Vota, Sr
44 Years – Joseph Fellenz
42 Years – Charles Wells
34 Years – Guy Stockton
27 Years – Dcn Dan Dailey
26 Years – Joseph Lakatos
25 Years – Arnaldo Fonseca
19 Years – Travis Robinson
18 Years – Matthew Coleman
16 Years – Robert Groves
16 Years – Tommy Salter
3 Years – Joshua Raigoza
1 Year – Richard Emmons
1 Year – Frank Battistelli
1 Year – John Gernhard

4th Degree

26 Years – *Antonio Alcobia*
26 Years – *Patrick Bauer*
26 Years – *Anthony Cozzie*
26 Years – *William Cunningham*
26 Years – *Dcn Dan Dailey*
26 Years – *Anthony Jette*
26 Years – *Ralph Kight*
26 Years – *John Libby, Sr*
26 Years – *Thomas Witzman*
26 Years – *Lee Wooledge, Jr*
26 Years – *Randolph Wooley*
10 Years – Nathan Schrader
8 Years – Daniel Lesh
8 Years – William Marchand
1 Year – Matthew Lynch, Sr
1 Year – Luke O'Toole



Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

Brother Arnie Fonseca conducted our Annual Keep Christ in Christmas (KCiC) Poster Contest. The contest is open to all youth from Kindergarten - 8th Grade and requires each participant to submit original work with a slogan reflecting a KCiC theme on an 11"x17" poster. We had an incredible 19 participants submit entries!

The posters were completed and submitted by December 7th and judged by members of our Council on **December 11th**. The Council winners by grade are:

Knights of Columbus Council 7968 Keep Christ in Christ Poster Contest Results

Grade	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
K	Aoife White		
1-2	Ellie Dodd-Fonseca*	Giselle Hewett	Olivia Winter
3-4	Eleanor White	Mia Stine	Noah Winter
5-6	Olivia Williams	Eli Whitfield*	Hattie White
7-8	Kamila Gomez*	Ramona Florez	

*K-2, 3-5, 6-8 Region Contestants



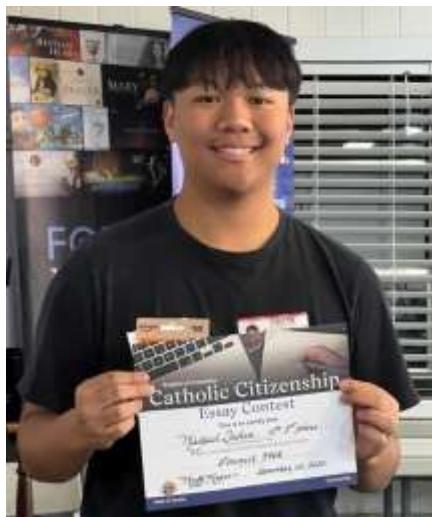
Three of our contestants (marked with an * above) all won at District 5 (Niceville-Destin-Crestview) and at Region 1 (Pensacola-Tallahassee area)!! Judging was done on December 27th and announced on December 28th. Congratulations to all our very talented artists.

Region 1 Citizenship Essay Contest Winners

Last month we highlighted all our essay participants and winners, and this month we are proud to announce that three of our Council Citizenship Essay Contest Winners went on to win at their grade level at District 5 and at Region 1!! Judging was done on December 27th and announced on December 28th.

Congratulations to our very fine essayists!!

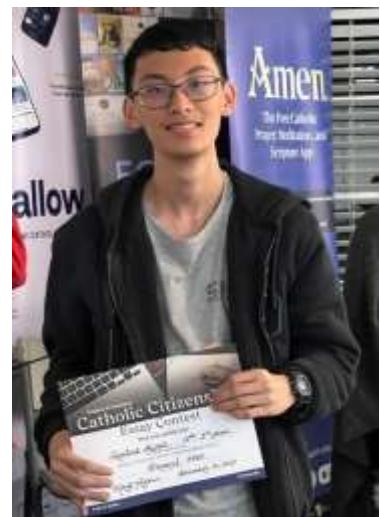
12th Grade 1st Place
Miguel Tadeo



11th Grade 1st Place
Bernadette Humphrey



10th Grade. 1st Place
Santino Ginez



OLV Renaissance Festival

Last month's activities were so busy we ran out of time and space for the OLV Renaissance Festival that was held on 16 November. We downloaded several pictures of Knights and parishioners working and playing and would like to share them with you all. Thank you Mike Winner and Arnie Fonseca for the great pictures!





First Wednesday Rosary and Holy Hour

The December first Wednesday Rosary and Holy Hour was held at OLV on 3 December 2025. The Rosary began at 5:30 PM. Brothers Travis, Steve, and Marty read the first three Glorious Mysteries with Brother Tim reading the last two mysteries. Mass began at 6:00 PM, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and confession.

Picture 1 - Brother Steve reading the second mystery.

Picture 2 - Brother Marty reading the third mystery.

Picture 3 - Brother Tim read the last two mysteries.

Picture 4 - Brothers Dcn Dan & Altar Server Luke along with Father Roy celebrating the Mass.

Picture 5 - Peggy doing the mass reading and is the Mass Sacristan along with her hubby Doug.



Thank you Herb for taking the pictures.

OLV Nativity Scene Setup (& Take Down)

On Saturday 6 December, the OLV Nativity set was set up. It was not an easy job. The wooden assembly had to be picked up at the Knights Hall, unloaded and set up in front of the church, and the Nativity figures brought out from the back of the church. Brother Travis Robinson was there with his truck along with Steve Malutich, Bill Marchand, Brian Nurmi, John Libby, Steve Kerr, Willie Davis, Scott Bauer, Rick Connolly, and Frank Batistelli to help out.



Picture 1: John Libby and Brian Nurmi hard at work putting the wooden structure together.



Picture 2: All the Nativity Scene figures lined up for inspection with Our Lady of Victory before they took their final places in the scene.



Picture 3: A picture of almost the whole crew working together – Teamwork making the Dream Work!



Picture 4: Same workers, but from a better perspective!



Picture 5: All Done – Great work guys!

The rest of the story...

However, taking the Nativity set down on 6 January 2026 was a major problem. Brother Steve Malutich, who annually gets the word out for the setting up and taking down the Nativity set every year, ruptured his biceps tendon the day after Christmas and had surgery to repair his arm on New Years Day. Poor Steve won't be able to drive or do anything for a month or more. In addition to that, we had a few knights on vacation and a couple others at home with the flu; and because of all that only two knights showed up to do all the work: Brothers Frank Battistelli who was there with a trailer and Steve Kerr. They worked very hard to get the job done and we can't tell them enough how much we appreciated what they did in the absence of so many Knights, thanks a bunch Frank and Steve!

Habitat for Humanity

On Saturday, 13 December, our brother Knights from Christ Our Redeemer in Niceville (Council # 13527) led by Jim Yurak organized a Habitat for Humanity build event in Crestview. Originally, it was scheduled for 6 December, but due to rain it was moved to 13 December. Brother Scott Bauer from our Council (in the middle with a blue shirt in picture 1) attended and provided some pictures below. We are looking for one of our Council members who would be interested in leading or liaising on future Habitat for Humanity projects. If interested, contact the Grand Knight Marty Mears. Below are some pictures of Scott and others working on the new house.



Christmas Goody Bags

On the 23rd of December, the KofC Council 7968 and family members worked a few hours holding its "Annual Christmas Goodie Bag Event", an event that Brother Travis Robinson began many years ago. A wonderful annual Christmas event is enjoyed by all the children who receive a Goodie Bag after Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Each bag had an apple, orange, cookies, and candy in it. The event is also appreciated by parishioners with Kids who appreciate the Knights and their family members for assembling and passing out the Goodie Bags.

Prior to the assembly of the Christmas Bags, Knights and family members enjoyed a meal of Vegetable Beef & Vegetable Chicken Chili and biscuits.

Pictures 1 and 2 - Member Knights and their wives working a few hours assembling 250 Christmas Goodie Bags that were passed out following the Christmas Masses.



Catholic Charities Food Van

On Tuesday the 9th of December, we once again hosted Catholic Charities to provide bags of groceries to needy families. Catholic Charities brought food to pass out on this second Tuesday. Food distribution was changed to Noon-1:00PM, which was advertised a month in advance. We had a total of 40 families receiving groceries (4 of them through the Care Center due to the time change). All volunteers enjoyed a free lunch purchased by one of the Care Center workers.



Picture 1: Travis Robinson, Bill Marchand, Bob Foley, and Steve Malutich unloading food brought in the van to take into the hall to put into bags for distribution.

Pictures 2: Peggy Shepherd, Net Libby, Sally Murphy, Jeanine Robinson, Rosemary Jette, and Linda Marchand getting the food organized to put into paper bags.



Picture 3: Steve Malutich - Service with a smile!



Picture 4: Bob Foley, Jim Pazienza, Bill Marchand and other volunteers getting ready to take the cart full of packed bags outside for distribution.



Picture 5: Loading vehicles with bags of food per direction from Catholic Charities folks on how many bags each vehicle gets.



Picture 6: Many of the great volunteers enjoying a well-deserved break!

Special Recognition

John A Libby Sr. retired from working Bingo on 16 December 2025 - the last day of KofC bingo for year 2025. John has been working bingo since 1997, a total of over 28 years, and for the first 13 years he worked bingo every week until quarter bingo came into existence. When quarter bingo came into existence Herb called and talked to numerous Knight members and obtained sufficient help to establish four Bingo Teams and later bingo fell to three teams. We want to thank John for his many years of devotion to the Knights of Columbus. John says he will continue to support and help with Quarterly Senior Bingo and other KofC projects and would probably help in a bingo emergency.



Thanks for all you have done John, we appreciate it. Take care and God Bless!

The Knights of Columbus Bingo Team.

Knight of the Month

Brother **Rick Arevalo** was selected as Knight of the Month for December. Rick is a long-time member and currently the Treasurer for the Don Braun Columbian Home (DBHC). As Treasurer for the past 12 years, he has been responsible for controlling the funds and providing financial updates both monthly and for the annual audit. Recently, Rick has been instrumental in purchasing new flooring material, and with the preparation and installation of the new floor.

Rick has been the Past President for the DBHC and has handled many repairs to the Knights Hall over the years to include roof damage from a hurricane, replacing the ceiling section in the main hall, and working to replace our AC and furnace. A few years ago, Rick moved from Crestview to the Bob Hope Village in Shalimar but still manages to regularly attend meetings and events!

Rick serves as a model of selfless dedication and an example of what a Knight in the Knights of Columbus can do to serve his God, his family, his church, and his community!

Grand Knight Marty Mears presents Brother Rick Arevalo with a certificate and coin.



Family of the Month

For the Month of **December**, a very worthy family was nominated and selected. The **Michael and Maritez Tadeo Family** serve as an astounding inspiration to our Parish, Community, and Council by supporting and strengthening Catholic Family Life.

Mike and Tez Tadeo are long-time parishioners and have a son, Miguel, who is a Senior at Crestview High School. Mike consistently supports many parish activities in support of Tez and Miguel. He leads his family to Mass every weekend and on special occasions. Tez is the “master food lead” for the parish Vacation Bible School (VBS), and she has been a long-time supporter of Middle School and High School Youth Ministry. Tez is always our go-to when asked “what are we going to feed them” for an activity we are planning. She expertly manages the food purchase and distribution, so we are good stewards of our allocated funds.

Miguel is one of the lead teens for the youth ministry and this is his third year supporting the Diocesan Youth Council that plans the Annual HS Youth Conference for 200-300 teens. Miguel has also participated in the last four Youth Camp-outs which the Knights support with food. In the month of December, Miguel helped jumpstart the competition for Ashely Furniture’s Annual Restore Hope Christmas Fundraiser by leading other teens to decorate a duck-themed Christmas tree that resulted in the highest number of food items donated.

Brother Arnie Fonseca recognizes the Family of the Month for December 2025



Prayer of the Month

*Oh Lord do us the honor
To serve all those in need;
As You shine within us,
We're blessed to plant Your seed.*

*We are Your hands and voice and feet,
Reaching out to share Your love
May we, for Your glory,
Bring Your presence from above
Amen*

Peggy Shepherd

If you would like to submit a prayer to be shared in the newsletter, please email

mr.doug@outlook.com