



KNIGHTS IN ACTION

January 2026

Our Lady of Victory Council 7968

&

Joseph R Perrone Assembly 2789



Monthly Highlights

Birthdays and Member Anniversaries

7 January	First Wednesday Rosary & Holy Hour
13 January	Second Tuesday Food Van
22 January	Exemplification Ceremony and Social
23 January	Pre-Lent Fish Fry for Special Olympics
24 January	Youth Free Throw Challenge
25 January	Black History Month Mass

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://olvnw.com/kofc>

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

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!

I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well. This new year has started off with a bang, and your OLV Council and Joseph R Perrone Assembly Knights have been busy.

You'll see throughout this newsletter all the different ways our Knights are positively impacting members of our church, the youth in our community, the special needs community in our state, and just as importantly all of us Knights and our families.



As this newsletter goes to 'print' we are fast approaching Ash Wednesday and the Lent season. For me, Lent brings to my mind the Friday Fish Fry Dinners, warmer weather and culminating in Easter dinner, but let us not forget the three practices of Lent are prayer, fasting, and abstinence. I hope those of you who wanted to participate in the Lenten CRUX program offered by OLV, were able to sign up and I look forward to seeing many of you at the small group meetings, at church and our Knights meetings and events.

It is Fish Fry Season, and starting on 20 February we will hold our weekly fish fry dinners at our Hall every Friday from 4:00-7:00pm. We ask for your help in volunteering at the fish fry, donating brownies for our desserts, and bringing your family and friends to enjoy a tasty dinner! For a little more motivation and encouragement here are the dinner dates and the charities, we are putting the proceeds towards:

20 Feb: **Council Charity Fund** (e.g., Walk for Life, FSC Helping Life, Catholic Charities FWB, etc.)

27 Feb: **Biloxi Veterans Administration Hospital** Donation Drive

6 Mar: **Assembly Patriotic Charities** (USO, Military Chaplains, Warriors to Lourdes)

13 Mar: **Elies Voice** (Black Bag Program)

20 Mar: **OLV Catholic Care Center (CCC)**

27 Mar: **Council Charity Fund** (e.g., Walk for Life, FSC Helping Life, Catholic Charities FWB, etc.)

In the next couple of months, we will be asking all Knights to consider filling officers positions, program positions, and project chairmanships for the current and upcoming fiscal year.

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

Brothers and Significant Others,

As most of you know, I ended 2025 with a minor accident and then, on New Year's Eve, surgery to reattach the distal biceps tendon in my left arm. Good Times!! But I still watched the ball drop in Times Square! As I write this short article, it has been five weeks and two days post-surgery. I can now shower by myself and drive the Z again! I am grateful for achieving those milestones in my recovery. Not sure when I will be cleared to ride the Harley again. I see my surgeon February 10th, and that will definitely be a question I will ask.



January is a special month for me for many reasons. We celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, the Epiphany of the Lord, and the Baptism of the Lord. We take down the OLV Nativity Scene (thank you Frank Battistelli and Steve Kerr!), and Grand Knight Mears and I have to submit Form 1728, Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity. And, oh yeah, I completed another orbit around the sun 🌞👍!

Joseph R. Perrone Assembly 2789 did not have a monthly business meeting, since the first Thursday was New Year's Day. We did have our February meeting early, on January 29th, to free up February 5th for those Sir Knights that would like to attend the Scally Brothers concert. Hope I see many of you there! Sandy and I plan to attend.

I would also like to use this newsletter as another opportunity to let all 1st, 2nd and 3rd Degree Knights that there will be a Fourth Degree Patriotic Exemplification Ceremony in Panama City on March 21st. I hope many more 3rd Degree Knights will take advantage of having this Patriotic Exemplification so close to home. We may not see another until 2028! Please contact me ASAP if you are interested in becoming a 4th Degree Sir Knight. I have to have all paperwork submitted by the end of February.

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,

Do you have goals in mind for this year?

It may be February, but the year is still fresh. Instead of new year's resolutions, I like to think in terms of setting concrete, actionable goals. I recommend that at least once a year, you make it a goal to take inventory of your financial health.

You can start by asking yourself if you've experienced any major life events in the last year that may call for an update to your insurance plan or to acquire a policy for the first time. If you've gotten married, welcomed or are expecting a baby, changed careers or purchased a home, these are good reasons to evaluate your life insurance coverage.

Don't forget that if your life insurance policy is dependent on your current employer, you could be underinsured and only protected while you are still working.

It's also important to consider whether you're on track to maintain the lifestyle you want in retirement. Do you know how much money you'll need to retire comfortably?

Finally, consider if you're missing an opportunity to grow your assets. With faith-based investment options through our affiliate, Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, you can pursue your financial goals with products that adhere to Catholic investment guidelines.

It's not too late to set goals for 2026.

I'd love to sit down with you and conduct a complimentary needs analysis. If you have any questions, please come chat with me and we can schedule a time to meet.

Thank you!

And before I go, I'd like to share with you the story of our late brother Knight Brad Wolf. Brad was a past grand knight in Texas who chose to protect his family with a Knights of Columbus insurance policy. That decision became a lifeline for his family — allowing his wife, Dena, and their daughter, Riley, to remain in their home, free from the fear of financial hardship.

[Click Here to PLAY Video](#)



**Knights of
Columbus**
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Catholic Investing



Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

Birthdays

These members are celebrating birthdays in February:

Sir Knights

3 February – Charles Black

6 February – Richard Connolly

8 February – Roy Piper

8 February – Robert Webster

11 February – Michael Winner

24 February – Douglas Block

Brother Knights

1 February – Wayne Harris

3 February – Joshua Raigoza

11 February – William Corino

11 February – John Lane

12 February – Timothy Williams

18 February – Jose Portugal I

23 February – Bret Lynch

27 February – Michael Aldrich



Anniversaries

These members are celebrating their KofC anniversary in February:

4th Degree

5 Years – Keith Carter

5 Years – John Dick

5 Years – Dale Piedlow

5 Years – Michael Winner

5 Years – Cliff Wolf

1st - 3rd Degree

38 Years – Jim Pazienza

13 Years – Chester Bush

37 Years – Andrew Raef

13 Years – Nathan Schrader

34 Years – George Liedel

10 Years – Steve Kerr

22 Years – Anselmo Gerard

10 Years – Antonio Aguilar

21 Years – Douglas Block

10 Years – John Dick

15 Years – Thomas Whalen



First Wednesday Rosary and Holy Hour

The KofC held its first New Year monthly Rosary at our Lady of Victory (OLV) on Wednesday 6 January at 5:30 PM with Mass beginning at 6:00 PM followed by Eucharistic Adoration and confession. We did not have a good turnout. We had members on vacation, and one of our readers Steve Malutich ruptured his biceps tendon a day after Christmas and had surgery New Years Day. But those who were there did a great job. Brother Arnie read the first Glorious Mystery, followed by Brother Tim who read the second and third mystery followed by Brother Rob who read the last two mysteries. Herb was there taking pictures, and two other Knights were there with their wives participating in the Rosary, Mass and Adoration.



Picture 1 - Arnie, reading the first Glorious Mystery.



Picture 2 - Tim read the second and third Glorious Mysteries. (The picture Herb took of Tim ended up being a video and so we are using a previous picture of him.)



Picture 3 - Rob reading the last two Glorious Mysteries.

Picture 4 - Mass with Father Roy and Brother Luke the Altar Server.



Catholic Charities Food Van

On Tuesday the 13th of January the "Catholic Charity Van" arrived at 11:00 AM at the OLV parish hall. After unloading the van, our Knights with some of their wives and parishioners began loading bags with food while a few Knights were obtaining required identification from the occupants of the cars in line. The Catholic Charities representative processed and verified people requesting food, and we began handing out food from Noon until 1:00 PM, placing the bags in the cars so they could then depart the area. In the past bags were scheduled to be distributed from 1:00 – 2:00 PM, but most clients were cleared within 20 minutes, with only a handful (if any) showing up for the remaining 40 minutes. This required some volunteers to remain with little to do, and the lines also interfered with student release at Bob Sikes Elementary. This new schedule, passing out bags from noon to 1:00 PM began in Jan, and it worked out really well, helping more people to come for food during their lunch time, and better utilizing the volunteers.



We would like to thank the volunteers who work at the Parish Care Center twice a week for purchasing the lunch (food) that volunteers eat at the "Second Tuesday" of every month.



Picture 1 - Linda, Jeanine and Neneth putting the food bags together.

Picture 2 - Brothers Bob and John helping to unload the van.

Picture 3 - Volunteers separating the food items received.



Pictures 4 & 5 - Loading bags with food.



Picture 6 - Brother Jim controlling the incoming traffic.



Picture 7 - Brother Bill and others getting ready to move the carts to the issuing station.

Picture 8 - Getting ready to process the vehicles through.



Vigil Mass

On Saturday, 3 January our Faithful Navigator Brother Steve Malutich arranged a Vigil Mass to be held for all our Fourth-Degree deceased members. There will also be a Vigil Mass for all deceased members of Council 7968 on Saturday 9 May. At next month's business meeting on 12 February there will be a discussion on whether we will have a Vigil Mass for both the council and assembly together every quarter, semiannual or annually. Remembering our deceased members occasionally is a wonderful idea and your thoughts at the next business meeting would be very much appreciated.

Exemplification Ceremony & Social

Thursday, 24 January, the council held an Exemplification and brought in three new members, WOW! We still have till the end of June to bring in two more members to obtain Double Star Council, and we still have plenty of time to bring in 13 more new members and obtain Triple Star Council. Let's see what we can do, fellow knights, to make that happen. The last and only time Council 7968 obtained 300% is when Herb was Grand Knight and Guy Stockton was the Membership Director back in 2004. Our council and one other council in Florida obtained 300%. As a result of that, Herb received a jacket that reflects the 300%, and he wears it quite often. The jacket should have gone to Guy, but it would never have fit him, as it barely fits me!

The Exemplification event and social were SUPER! The families of the new members were all there; getting to meet them and talk with them was very nice. Following the Exemplification was a wonderful meal brought in by a few of our members and their wives: Chicken, meatballs, noodles, vegetables, dessert and drinks. The food was delicious.

Picture 1 - Brother Deacon Dan starting the event with a prayer. Dan also did the Lesson on Unity and recited the final prayer.



Picture 2 - Brother Mark reading the Lesson on Fraternity.



Picture 3 - Brother Herb reading the lesson on Charity and later reading the lesson on the Discourse on the Rosary.

Picture 4 - Brother Travis was the Presiding Officer of the event. To profess our commitment to our principles, the Presiding officer, Travis, had the members and Brother Knights rise and respond, "I do" to a few questions.



Picture 5 - The Team Warden, Brother Tim providing the new incoming third-degree members a thin fiber that they were asked to break facing the audience. Tim then showed them a very thick fiber and said when the separate fibers are bound together, they become a strong cable that you cannot break; showing the strength men possess when united in pursuit of a common purpose.



Picture 6 - The new members were asked by the team's Investing Officer, Brother Marty Mears, to present their hands as joined in prayer facing the audience to receive the Rosary of Mary our Queen. Marty also presented the new members with the Emblem of the Order.



Picture 7 - After Deacon Dan ended the ceremony with a closing prayer; Marty, our Grand Knight, spent a few minutes welcoming our new members followed by Brother Bob Gualtieri, our District Deputy, who spent a few minutes telling the new members how great our council is and what they could do to help make it better.



Picture 8 - The Exemplification team, members in attendance and our three new members; Byron Hewett to the right of Deacon Dan, Arnaldo 'Naldi' Fonseca Alvarez to the right of Byron and Timothy 'Tim' Williams, the tall fellow behind Byron.



We thank Brother Arnie for providing the wonderful pictures.

Pre-Lent Fish Fry for Special Olympics

On Friday, 23 January, the KofC held its annual Pre-Lent Fish Fry Dinner. Like all our past fish fry dinners, it was a success earning us \$1,115 in profit. The parishioners and Crestview locals love the KofC fish fry dinners. Money earned from this fish fry will be donated to Special Olympics. Ash Wednesday falls on 18 February, and 20 February will be the first of six fish fry dinners the KofC will be having every Friday during Lent from 4 to 7 PM. The KofC works very hard and does wonderful things. The money earned from each of these dinners will be donated to various charitable organizations.

I am sorry to say that I was not at the fish fry, so I didn't get any pictures of the event. I was attending the wedding of Garrett Braun. I am his Godfather. He married in a new church in Miramar Beach and later had a reception in Baker. There were plenty of helpers at the fish fry and I know of a few who were there helping, but I wouldn't want to miss any names, so none are mentioned. You all should know who normally worked the fish fries in past years. It is the same ones who worked this one plus many more.

We hope to see you all at our first Lenton Fish Fry on Friday 20 Feb. Until then you all take care and God Bless!

Youth Free Throw Challenge

Saturday, 2 January 26, Brother Mike Martello held the Knights of Columbus annual Free throw competition at the Crestview Highschool Gym. Competition is between boys and girls aged 9 through 14. The winning certificates were presented by Brothers Marty Mears (KofC Grand Knight) and Mike Martello (Contest Chairman). The competition results are as follows:

<u>Ages</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
9	1 st – Curtis William	None
10	1 st – Roman Narvato 2 nd – Syllas Grey 3 rd – Nicholas Nurmi	None
11	None	1 st – Demi Smith 2 nd – Evangeline Nurmi
12	1 st – DJ Grey 2 nd – Clayton Geldernick	1 st – Sydney Grace 2 nd – Olivia Williams 3 rd – Adelynn Sowell
13	None	1 st – Cora Smith 2 nd – Katherine Nurmi 3 rd – Bryn Hardin
14	None	1 st – Gabriella Williams

Picture 1 - Brother Mike providing Free Throw Competition instructions to the 15 boy and girl competitors.



Picture 2 - Free Throw Competition getting ready to begin with Brother Frank keeping score and Brother Tim retrieving the balls.

Picture 3 – Brother Mike looking on as one of the competitors shoots.

Picture 4 - Brother Richard keeping score and Brother Brian Nurmi retrieving the balls.



Picture 5 – Brother Richard reading the end results and Mike standing by.

Picture 6 - Group picture of competitors and KofC helpers.



Picture 7 - Boy age 9 first place Curtis William.

Picture 8 - Boy age 10 first place Roman Narvato

Picture 9 - Boy aged 12 first place DJ Grey.



Picture 10 - Girl age 11 first place Demi Smith.

Picture 11 - Girl age 12 first place Sydney Grace.

Picture 12 - Girl age 13 first place Cora Smith

Picture 13 - Girl age 14 first place Gabriella Williams.



Black History Month Mass

On Sunday 25 January 26, Brothers Travis Roberson and Tony Jette members of our Joseph R Perone fourth Degree Assembly 2789 and the John Lesh Assembly (Niceville) Honor Guard attended the Black History Month Mass held at Christ Our Redeemer Catholic Church in Niceville. We must really respect Travis and Tony for all the great things they do for both the third-degree council and fourth-degree assembly. For many years now these two Knights have dedicated themselves to everything our council and assembly get involved in, and we thank them for all they do. Both Travis and Tony, because of all they do, have been selected twice as the Council 7968 Family or Knight of the Year, and Travis back in Fraternal Year 2012/2013 won the Council Family of the Year Award and was selected as Runner Up Family of the year in the state of Florida.

Picture 1 - The participating Knights along with the Pensacola-Tallahassee Bishop William A. Wack, CSC and Mass attending priest.



Picture 2 - The participating Knights Tony and Travis along with the John Lesh Assembly Honor Guard.

Knight of the Month

Brother **William 'Bill' Marchand** was selected as Knight of the Month for January. Bill is a long-time member and currently the Worthy Advocate for the Council and Past Faithful Navigator for the Assembly. Bill is one of our hardest working Knights as he is an active Bingo Team member, a big supporter of the Senior Bingo events, and he always helps at the 2nd Tuesday Food Van. Bill is a critical member of the Biloxi VA donation drive, through his help with collecting items and offering his time to drive the donations to the Biloxi VA Hospital and spending several hours with the war veterans.

Most recently, Bill has distinguished himself with his patented and trademarked breeding of our fish for our pre-Lent fish fry. He has been doing it for years and has even trained several other knights on the fine art of a good breeding! All kidding aside, Bill 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 Bill Marchand with a certificate and coin.



Family of the Month

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

Danny and Brittany are long-time parishioners who have five young children: Owen (13yrs old), Oliver (9yrs old), Ozlow (7yrs old), Olsen (4yrs old), and Orellia (2yrs old). Despite his long commute to Pensacola, Danny makes time for this very Sporty Family by coaching baseball, supporting his kids' athletics in the local area, and leading his family to church every week. Brittany is dedicated to raising and homeschooling their children, as well as their religious education here at OLV. She has been leader and supporter to many young mothers, even helping run a meal ministry for new moms in the parish. She has been the right-hand woman to Brittany White as they organized craft market events, and most recently they outdid themselves with the St. Nick's Marketplace in December.

This family's children are following their parents' example as the oldest is involved with the Middle School youth ministry, the 2nd oldest is an active alter server, and all the children are participating in the Restored Order program. This family is always there for people in need, are very selfless in their acts of service, and to top it off – they're warm and welcoming to everyone they meet.

Grand Knight Marty Mears recognizes the Family of the Month for January 2026



Prayer of the Month

Prayer to Saint Valentine

Dear Lord, who art high in the Heavens,
Giver of Love and Passion,
And He who strings the heart's cords,
Lead the Lovers this day, February ten plus four.
The day during the month of two,
When the date is the perfect number of God
Greater two souls and two hearts.
Some Loves are fleeting ,
But that which is built on you will never fail.
So guide the Lovers to know what is to be.
Your truths the Lovers' mouths should speak,
For Your truth is that which is honest to the heart.
Only this, then, should pass over the red lips of the Lovers.
Your art, the Lovers simply a medium.
It is only with True Hearts that You can create a
Masterpiece,
So let the Lovers remember that their Soul's Desire
Is the one for which You light their Fire.
And let it be You who creates the Art of the Lovers;
The art of two into one.
Amen.

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