



KNIGHTS IN ACTION

March 2026

Our Lady of Victory Council 7968

&

Joseph R Perrone Assembly 2789



Monthly Highlights

Birthdays and Member Anniversaries

- | | |
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| 4 March | First Wednesday Rosary & Holy Hour |
| 7 March | 10 th Annual Emerald Coast Walk for Life |
| 9 March | Silver Rose Prayer Service |
| 10 March | Second Tuesday Food Van |
| 6-27 March | Lent Fish Fry #3, #4, #5, and #6 |
| 15 March | St Patrick's Day Feast at OLV |
| 19 March | Senior Bingo |
| 21 March | 4 th Degree Exemplification at St Mary's |
| 28 March | 1 st -3 rd Degree Exemplification at OLV |

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: Herb Fosman, Marty Mears, 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!

Happy Easter! Although Easter day has passed, we are still in the midst of the Easter season. Like some of you, I still have a little Easter candy left, and perhaps you too gained back a few of the pounds we lost during lent!

March was a very busy and very fruitful month for our Council, and it marks the end of our reporting year for the Florida State Council (FSC) with respect to the many activities we have accomplished. Your officers have pulled together all the activities and submitted several award packages to the Florida State Council. Fingers crosses, your State Convention Delegates – Dan Lesh and me – will be bringing home some awards from the convention being held 22-24 May. I am very proud of the contributions we made to local charities from our many fundraisers (Fish Fry's, Baby Bottles, Spaghetti Dinners, Golf Tourney, Christmas Card sales), the weekly Bingo nights, support to the Caring Coach and Catholic Care Center, the bread ministry, our Knights representation in OLV's hospitality ministry and Holy Eucharist Ministry, and our support to the many Parish youth and family activities (Renaissance Festival, Day of the Dead Taco Lunch, etc.).

Below are pictures of those who attended the March council meeting and enjoyed a 'chili' dog. It's always interesting what combination of toppings people will put on them! I am sorry for chopping off the tops of the heads of several of you when taking your picture (I was too focused on the dog).

God Bless and Vivat Jesus!

Martin Mears

Grand Knight



Faithful Navigator's Note

Brothers and Significant Others,

Happy Easter. Yes, I know this is our March 2026 Knights in Action Newsletter, but I am writing it Easter morning, April 5th. I attended the Easter Vigil Mass last night, as I was a sponsor for a candidate couple. I think it was the longest Mass I have ever attended, but that did not detract from the beauty and significance of it. And yes, I will wish y'all Happy Easter again next month.



Please, when you see James Busillo, Willie Davis, Arnie Fonseca, Ed Girard, Tim Hall, Byron Hewett, John Lane, Rob Ochsner, or Tim Williams, please congratulate them on becoming 4th Degree Sir Knights during the Patriotic Exemplification Ceremony on March 21st at St. Mary Catholic Church.

Our Region had the Silver Rose, honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe, from March 8th to March 15th. As a member of Knights on Bikes, I was privileged once again to participate in its route planning and transportation and in attending the District 5 Service at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Niceville. Thank you to all the Sir Knights that also participated.

And in March we wrapped up our Fish Fries. I missed the last two, one because I was ill and the last because Sandy and I were in Texas visiting our oldest son and his family and our oldest daughter and her family, to include our newest grandchild, Merrick, born, as I mentioned in February's Knights in Action newsletter, on February 17, 2026. God Is Good!! Per our brother Sir Knight Travis Robinson, this year's Fish Fry campaign may well have been a record-breaking season where the slowest Lenten Fish Fry this year was better than the best Lenten Fish Fry we had last year.

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,

Trying to achieve financial strength and stability can feel overwhelming, especially when life is already full.

This month, I want to share a simpler way to think about it: holistic financial wellness. You can work toward this goal by developing an overall financial strategy and determining how Knights of Columbus products can be a part of that foundation.

A good place to start is protecting your family through life insurance. Term life coverage can help with temporary needs, while whole life coverage can last your entire lifetime and build guaranteed cash value over time.

Next, let's think about retirement. Whether it's years away or right around the corner, having a strategy for income in retirement matters. The Knights of Columbus offers solutions that can be part of an overall plan you feel confident about.

It's also important to prepare for the unexpected. Thinking ahead about how your family would handle an extended care need or a disruption in income due to disability is part of protecting what you have worked hard to build. The Knights has products to help ensure your family's life will not be financially disrupted in either case.

Attaining financial wellness doesn't need to feel overwhelming. You can start right away by simply using our life insurance calculator at www.kofc.org/calculator. With a few key details, it will help you assess your insurance needs.

If you have any questions, please contact your agent to schedule a time to meet.

Thank You!



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Columbus**
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Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

Birthdays

These members are celebrating birthdays in April:

Sir Knights

- 6 April – Daniel 'Dan' Lesh
- 7 April – William 'Billy' Gartner, Jr
- 12 April – Edward 'Ed' Girard
- 15 April – Fr. Kurian Manikuttiyil
- 30 April – Anthony 'Tony' Jette

Brother Knights

- 6 April – Scott Bauer
- 8 April – Richard Emmons
- 9 April – Matthew 'Matt' Coleman
- 16 April – Jose' Candelaria
- 17 April – Michael Dunn
- 17 April – Jaime Feliciano
- 18 April – Raj 'Junior' Mulwani, Jr
- 20 April – Byron Hewett
- 22 April – Jay Villagomez



Anniversaries

These members are celebrating their KofC anniversary in April:

4th Degree

37 Years – Thomas 'Tom' Garrett

37 Years – David Herard

37 Years – Robert Huggins, Sr

23 Years – Raymond Quinones, Jr

23 Years – Charles 'Chip' Wells

16 Years – Dr Joseph Peter

1st - 3rd Degree

43 Years – Dcn Kenneth Mayfield

32 Years – Michael Carlozzi

30 Years – Dcn Timothy Taylor

18 Years – Anthony Albano

18 Years – Michael Graziano

17 Years – Patrick 'Pat' Quinn

15 Years – Kyle Lesmes

14 Years – John Benes

12 Years – Roy Piper

10 Years – James Busillo

4 Years – Dan Brabbins

4 Years – Scott Bauer

4 Years – John Humphrey, Jr

2 Years – William Stevens

2 Years – Ronald Burnell, Jr

2 Years – Dalton Gordon

2 Years – Justin Whitfield

1 Year – Matthew Klene

1 Year – John Lane

1 Year – Edward 'Ed' Girard

1 Year – Mike Buckner



First Wednesday Rosary and Holy Hour

The Knights of Columbus (KofC) first Wednesday Rosary was held on Wednesday 4 Mar 26 at Our Lady of Victory Church with Brother Arnie reading the Resurrection, the first decade of the Glorious Mysteries followed by Brother Travis reading the Ascension, the second decade followed by Brother Rob reading the Descent of the Holy Spirit, followed by Brother Tim reading the Assumption, and Brother Steve reading the Crowning of Mary.



Picture 1 - Arnie reading the first decade the Resurrection.



Picture 2 - Travis reading the second decade the Ascension.

Picture 3 - Rob reading the third decade the Desent of the Holy Spirit.

Picture 4 - Tim reading the fourth decade the Assumption.

Picture 5 - Steve reading the fifth decade the Crowning of Mary.



Thanks, Arnie, for taking the pictures!



Wednesday Night Youth Ministry

Brother Arnold Fonseca runs the Wednesday night Youth Ministry in the Parish Hall every Wednesday night with the help of Steve Malutich, and they have a very good turnout bringing the youth together to pray and worship God. On the first Wednesday in March Brother Steve Malutich led the youth in praying the Holy Rosary. Below you see Steve with several of the Youth Ministry members praying the Holy Rosary together.



10th Annual Emerald Coast Walk for Life

The following article was provided by Jane Witzman, the Emerald Coast Coalition for Life Director and wife of Brother Knight Tom Witzman.

The Walk for Life began with Bishop Wack providing an opening prayer, having already celebrated Mass at St. Joseph's. Our national speaker was Alison Centofante, a great speaker who involved the audience and invited all to be actively pro-life. Andrew Shirvell, founder of Florida Voice for the Unborn, spoke about the Florida legislature, encouraging people to be attentive and make their voice heard by contacting legislators on pro-life and other important issues. Bibi Reed spoke about being a help to mothers in unplanned pregnancies, accompanying them so they can choose life for their children and avoid a life of regret for themselves. Jane spoke about becoming actively pro-life for over 30 years after being commissioned by God through a 3-year-old handicapped child at a pro-life rally in Fort Walton Beach. The best part of the event was that everyone was engaged, especially the young people from Chesterton Academy (Catholic High School), Pensacola Christian College and others, including many families. We reminded people that Emerald Coast Coalition for Life still offers Sidewalk Advocates for Life training to any group that requests it because the information is useful in any setting. We especially thank the **Knights of Columbus Councils** who have given us unwavering support.



Silver Rose Prayer Service

On the 9th of March, a Silver Rose Prayer Service was conducted by the Knights at the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Niceville. This ceremony was the only one conducted in our district and the Silver Rose was escorted and carried by the Knights On Bikes. The Silver Rose is one of eight roses that runs along different North American routes that include Canada, every US state, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and Mexico. This tradition spreads devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and embodies international brotherhood as jointly nurtured across the continent. This wonderful prayer service was led by Deacon Tom Elsesser; and included the Holy Rosary, the Liturgy of Word, and the Act of Consecration.

Picture 1 – Attendees participating in the prayer service.

Picture 2 – Deacon Tom carrying the Silver Rose upon conclusion of the service.



Picture 3 – Brother Tom Sajak, Florida State Council Program Director, and Brothers Juan ‘Rabbit’ Hernandez and Steve ‘Ranchero’ Malutich our Knights on Bikes Silver Rose escorts.

Picture 4 – Our Lady of Victory Knights and Parishioners in attendance – Brothers Mike Winner, Marty Mears, Steve Malutich, and Jason Merkel and his family.



Catholic Charities Food Van

On the 10th of March the Catholic Charities van arrived at 10:50 AM and volunteers began taking identification cards from the drivers of the cars and processing them through the Catholic Charity representative. A very smooth operation with the passing out of a wonderful bag of assorted food and bread to 34 customers that began at noon after all identification cards were checked and approved and ended after 1:00 PM. This monthly event is designed to serve the needs of community members requiring assistance, and the contributions of dedicated volunteers are greatly valued. The next 2nd Tuesday will be on the 14th of April, so come on out and enjoy a wonderful project that supports God's wishes in supporting those in need and enjoy a free lunch.

Picture 1 - Unloading the Catholic Charity Van

Pictures 2 & 3 - Separating the food



Pictures 4, 5 & 6 - Packing the bags



Picture 7 - Issuing bags to the cars

Picture 8 - A delicious free lunch purchased by a volunteer worker from the OLV Care Center



Lenten Fish Frys #3, #4, #5 and #6

Every Friday in the month of March the Council put on a Lenten Fish Fry. We sold a lot of fish dinners each week resulting in thousands of dollars in proceeds that went to several of our Charities. The money will be disbursed later based on approved recommendations made by the Council membership. We had an excellent turnout of volunteers, as well, and we want to thank our members, their wives and friends who came out and supported this great fundraiser for our council. Doing God's work earning money to donate to worthy charitable organizations and people in need is what it is all about and God will reward you abundantly for all the great things you do. God Bless you one and all! The pictures are from Friday the 20th.

Picture 1 - Brother Travis and his working crew doing a great job preparing fish and fries, bringing in fresh prepared fish and French fries to the serving area and bringing out needed pre-prepared fish and French fries, a well-organized staff.



Picture 2 - The serving line.



Picture 3 - Brother Pat selling 50/50 tickets.



Picture 4 - Brothers Bryon and Dennis bringing out prepared fish and fries.



Picture 5 - Brother John and his wife Neneth prepare the hush puppies and Brother Bill helping to prepare the fish.



Picture 6 - Brothers John, Mike and Marty working the in-processing line.



Picture 7 - Brother Dale selling sodas, Bryan helping to carry items to the grill area and Brother Richard preparing needed items.



Picture 8 - Two helpers on the serving line that wanted a picture together.



Picture 9 - Some of the guests. Herb was there and played some accordion music.



St Patrick's Day Feast

On Sunday the 15th of March, the Knights brought back an old fundraiser – Corned Beef and Cabbage! The Knights sold dinners of Corned Beef, Cabbage and vegetables as well as Spaghetti and meatball dinners at the Parish Hall. Brother Lee Woledge and his wife Irene procured all the fixings for the corned beef and started cooking at O-dark-thirty that Sunday morning. The money raised went toward the OLV Catholic Care Center.

Below is a collage our volunteers and customers – thanks for your support!



Senior Bingo

On Thursday the 19th of March, Rosemary held her every four-month Senior bingo event and it is absolutely unbelievable how the community loves Senior Bingo. The hall was packed and the volunteers had to put up another small table to accommodate two more people, WOW! There were plenty of very nice free bingo prizes and some beautiful raffle prizes for those interested in investing a buck or more. 50/50 raffle tickets were also available. The 50% and money from the raffle tickets that the Knights of Columbus (KofC) receives helps Rosemary fund future senior bingos. The meal was also enjoyed by all. Brother Travis, in addition to doing a super job calling bingo, also prepared a vegetable and meat stew that came with potatoes, salads, dessert, coffee and juice. The question asked by many of those in attendance was, when will the next Senior Bingo be and you could see participants adding the date to their smart phones. They are already looking forward to the next Senior Bingo scheduled for Thursday the 16th of July. Come and enjoy a wonderful event by adding the date to your calendar and be sure to get there early to get a good seat, the KofC door opens at 9 AM. Hope to see you there, the Senior Bingo crew.

Picture 1 - Participants checking out the bingo prizes.



Picture 2 - The gals setting up the food tables.



Picture 3 - Brother Dan helping people find seats.

Picture 4 - Brothers John and Dan verifying bingo winners.



Pictures 5 - Time for the guests to eat a wonderful free lunch.



Pictures 6 - Rosemary and her team of volunteers have to eat too.



4th Degree Exemplification

On Saturday the 21st of March, a new 4th Degree Exemplification Ceremony was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Walton Beach. A historical event where families could be in attendance and pictures could be taken of the 4th Degree 1 1/2-hour Exemplification event. A beautiful event no longer classified as secret, a wonderful change.

Picture 1 - Knights from numerous assemblies attending the new 4th Degree Exemplification.

Picture 2 - This picture includes our assembly participants in regalia, Father Lawson in the middle our 4th Degree Assembly Priest and the 9 new members of the 4th Degree. Congratulations fellows and WELCOME ABOARD!



3rd Degree Exemplification

On Saturday after the 4PM Mass at OLV the Knights held a Third-Degree Exemplification. We had a good turnout, and the Exemplification Ceremony was enjoyed by all present. We had three new candidates Raj 'Junior' Mulwani, Luke Lewis-Brown, and Jose Candelaria. The Third-Degree Exemplification Team consisted of Brother Travis Robinson as the Presiding Officer, Brother Deacon Dan, Brother Herb reading the lesson on Charity and Discourse on the Rosary, Brother Bill Marchand reading the lesson on Unity and Brother Mark Johns reading the lesson on Fraternity. The Warden was Brother Tony Jette, and the Investing Officer was Marty Mears.

Picture 1 - Travis the Presiding Officer leads the Exemplification by introducing each reader and getting the three candidates and all-brother Knights to profess their commitments to our principles by standing and reciting "I do" to the questions asked.



Picture 2 - Deacon Dan reciting the opening and later the closing prayer.

Picture 3 - Herb reading the Lesson on Charity.



Picture 4 - Bill reading the Lesson on Unity with Tony the Warden demonstrating after the three candidates break a piece of string that when individual fibers are bound together, they become a strong cable.





Picture 5 - Mark reading the Lesson on Fraternity.

Picture 6 - Marty the Presiding Officer along with Tony the Warden presenting the candidates who have their hands as if in prayer and facing the audience to receive the Rosary of Mary our Queen and the Emblem of the Order.



Picture 7 - Marty, the Grand Knight addressing and welcoming the three new Third Degree Knights.



Picture 8 - Brother Bob Gualtieri the Fifth Chore District Deputy addressing the new members.



Picture 9 - A wonderful picture of our three new members in the front, Exemplification Team and fellow Knights.



Bread and Pastry Ministry

Since Publix opened on the south end of town back in 2001, the Knights of Columbus (KofC) have been picking up Bread and Pastries and delivering to different locations throughout Crestview, FL. Since 2001 Brother Herb has been running this operation.

Every Monday, Bread and Pastries are picked up by Brother Bob Foley who delivers them to the Crestview Shelter House. It was previously picked up by Frank Martin, but unfortunately, he has since passed away.

On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Bread and Pastries are picked up by Brother Joe Lakatos and delivered to the OLV Parish hall. On Tuesdays some of the Bread and Pastries are provided to the OLV Care Center for distribution to their clients (10:00 AM – 12:30 PM). The remaining Bread and Pastries are given out on Wednesday mornings by Herb and his help from 7:30 to 8:30 AM. Any leftovers are provided to the Care Center for their operation that runs from 8:00-10:00 AM. Bread and Pastries left over are brought to a nursing home on Wednesdays. Joe has been picking up Bread and Pastries since 2007.

Thursdays Bread and Pastries are picked up by Herb and delivered to Sharing and Caring the Charitable Organization that supports the community with food.

Friday's Bread and Pastries are picked up by Jerry Scheid and delivered to the parish Hall and placed in freezers for the following week. Jerry is the son of Joe Scheid who passed away five years ago. Joe had picked up bread and pastries every Friday since 2001 and as he got older, he continued to pick up bread with the help of his son Jerry, and Jerry has been picking up the bread every Friday since his dad passed away. Joe was quite a guy and when he was younger, he used to prepare super breakfasts during quarterly highway cleanup. We have been trying to get Jerry to follow in his dad's footsteps and join the KofC, but he is a busy guy and does a lot of out-of-town tasks.

Saturday's Bread and Pastries are picked up by Brother Bert Salazar and shared between the Crestview Shelter House and the Nazarene Baptist Church.

Sunday's Bread and Pastries are picked up by Brothers John or his dad Sam Jones and placed in the freezers at the Parish Hall for the following week as needed.

We also have Back up help when needed, Brother Tony and Rosemary Jette, Herb, Joe Lakatos and Brother Dan Lesh. Tony & Rosemary are always available when needed and have often helped.

Picture 1 - Brother Bob and his truck that he uses to pick up bread and pastries on Mondays.



Picture 2 - Brother Joe who picks up bread and pastries from Publix on Wednesday.



Picture 3 - John & Linda help pass out bread and pastries at the Parish Hall from 7:30 to 8:30 AM and left over items they take to a nursing home.



Picture 4- Brother Herb delivering bread and pastries to Sharing and Caring on Thursday.

Picture 5 - Don & Mark, Sharing & Caring volunteers, are getting ready to offload Herb's vehicle.



Picture 6 - Jerry and his truck that he uses to pick up bread and pastries on Fridays.



Picture 7 - Brother Bert who delivered some bread and pastries to the Crestview Shelter House and will now be on his way to the Nazarene Baptist Church.



Picture 8 - Brother Sam and his son John share the picking up of Bread and Pastries on Sundays. Sam who picked up Bread and Pastries is being helped by Brother Mike who was in the hall working another KofC project to load the freezers in the Parish Hall with the bread and pastries.



Picture 9 - Brother John picked up bread and pastries and is getting ready to load the freezers in the Parish Hall.



Knight of the Month

Brother **James 'Jim' Nelson** was selected as Knight of the Month for **March 2026**. It is unbelievable what this 91-year-old Knight does for our Council. He lives in DeFuniak Springs and travels over 30 miles to work dollar bingo every Tuesday night at the KofC Hall and helps as needed in the kitchen and has been doing that for many years. He has been working the Friday Lenten Fish Fry Dinners every Friday night for the past six weeks and departs for home close to 8:00 PM after he helps get the hall cleaned up. On 19 March he worked out in the KofC kitchen helping the ladies set up to feed about 70 seniors attending Senior Bingo. Jim also works every quarter helping Brother Travis prepare and serve breakfast during Highway Cleanup. Jim is an amazing Knight and well deserving of being selected Knight of the Month for March 26.

Brother Knight Tony Jette surprises Brother Jim Nelson with special announcement at Tuesday Bingo letting all the patrons know that Jim was selected as the Knight of the Month



Family of the Month

For the Month of **March**, a very worthy family was nominated and selected. **Travis and Jeanine Robinson** serve as an astounding inspiration to our Parish, Community, and Council by supporting and strengthening Catholic Family Life. They are longtime parishioners of OLV - since 1991 and have 3 adult children and 1 grandchild. Travis is one of our most active Knights and has held all significant leadership positions in our Council, 4th Degree Assembly, and was the District Deputy covering most of the Councils in Okaloosa County. He currently holds a mentor position as Chancellor, leads our new member Exemplification Team, is our 4th Degree Color Corps Commander, and one of 3 Bingo team captains. And wherever Travis is, his wife can usually be found working alongside him.

This couple routinely supports the Catholic Care Center, the 2nd Tuesday Caring Coach food handouts, cooking meals for Senior Bingo, Highway Clean-ups, youth retreats, our Fish Frys, Spaghetti Night, church picnic, and socials. Travis is an usher, Jeanine is a lector, and both are Eucharistic Ministers. This past month was one of our most demanding times as we held weekly Fish Frys, and this couple has been the anchor of that operation by cooking fish and managing meal packing line for our 7 highly successful fish frys since January. This is just the tip of the iceberg for what this family means to the church & the Knights.

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



Prayer of the Month

PRAYER TO ST. PETER

O Holy Apostle, because you are the Rock upon which Almighty God has built His church; obtain for me I pray you, lively faith, firm hope and burning love; complete detachment from myself, contempt of the world, patience in adversity, humility in prosperity, recollection in prayer, purity of heart, a right intention in all my works, diligence in fulfilling the duties of my state of life, constancy in my resolutions, resignation to the will of God and perseverance in the grace of God even unto death; that so, by means of your intercession and your glorious merits, I may be worthy to appear before the chief and eternal Shepherd of souls, Jesus Christ, Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever.

Amen.



St. Peter

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