



# Kentucky State Council Newsletter

ISSUE NO.

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DECEMBER 2024



## Four New Knights Welcomed to Council #390

A 3rd Degree Exemplification at St. Patrick Catholic Church was held in the Council chambers of the Fr. Roy Dentinger Council #390 on October 27. Four new Knights were welcomed into the order with families and friends in attendance.

**PaulTadatada**  
District Deputy

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## VETERANS APPRECIATION SOCIAL

Bishop Flaget Assembly #307 of Northern Kentucky held their first annual Veterans Appreciation Social on November 9th at Fr. Bealer Council hall. All veterans and family members of the Northern Kentucky Knights of Columbus councils, past and present, who faithfully served our nation were invited to join this event. The social featured three guest speakers, including keynote speaker Retired U.S. Army Colonel Paul Kremer of Council 15211. Veterans were invited to bring display items of their military service and they brought plenty. The money was raised through donations and spilt-the-pot raffle tickets sales will be presented to the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA on behalf of Bishop Flaget Assembly. The event was held as an opportunity to honor our veterans and promote the patriotic degree.

### Dustin Reed

Faithful Navigator



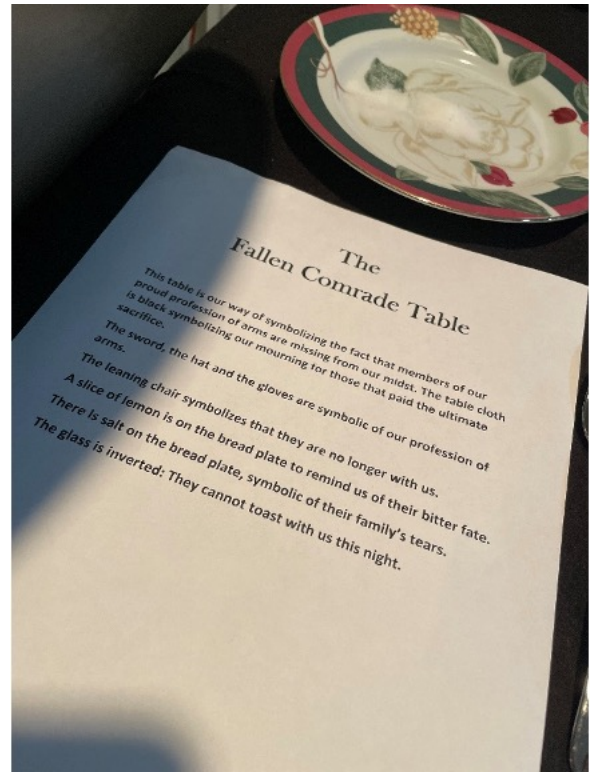


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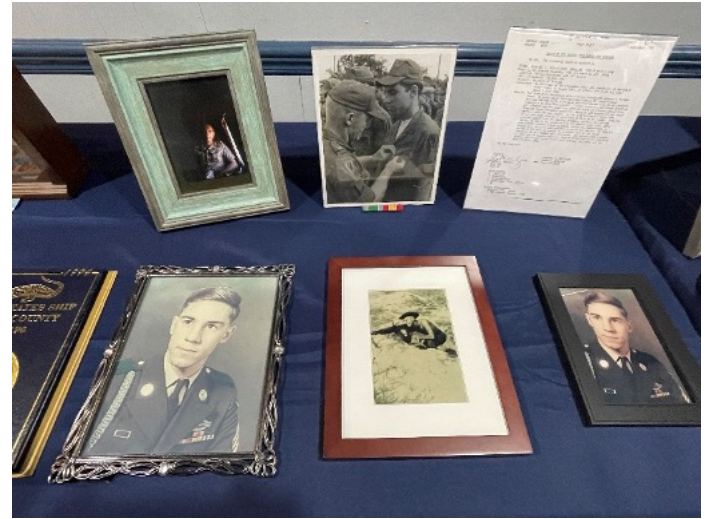


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## Council #13053 Coats for Kids

Bishop Flaget Council #13053 at St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Louisville, Ky took their Coats for Kids Drive to a whole new level this year. Using the Buy One, Get One promotion and through funds raised, the council purchased 1,500 coats this year. Catholic Charities in Louisville will receive 1,200 and the remaining 300 will go to St. Vincent de Paul and the Golden Arrow Center for Mothers and Children.

### PaulTadatada

District Deputy





## Council #14372 Coats for Kids

The Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary Council # 14372 of Lexington Kentucky conducted their 5th Coats for Kids event. The council voted to purchase 2 cases of coats and published in their church's Sunday bulletin for 3 weeks from Oct. – Nov. indicating that money was being collected for the Coats for Kids drive. Through the KY State Council's "By One Get One" initiative and the generosity of parishioners, the Mary Queen Council was able to distribute 28 boxes (336 coats) to 14 Fayette County schools/organizations and 10 boxes (120 coats) to the Missionaries of Charity (Mother Teresa's Sisters) in Jenkins, Kentucky.

### Steve Hernandez

Financial Secretary





## Council #11132 New Brother Knights

Please help us in welcoming two more members of the Knights of Columbus. Wilmer Deras and Charlie Dunn completed their exemplification to Third Degree Knights after the 10:30 am mass on November 17th. Congratulations to you both! Also, a thank you to our District Deputy Tom O'hagan for being in attendance. Please be sure to say a word of welcome to our new members when you see them. Rodger Moore and Steven Baker joined just 2 weeks prior.

### Ryan Burden

Financial Secretary



(L-R) Jud Caldwell, Joe Rocha, Ray Giardinella, Aaron Arnold, Tom O'hagan, Ryan Burden, Dan Smith, Jeffrey Wells. Second Row (L-R) Steven Baker, John Clark, Fr. Steve Hohman, Darren Chapman. Front Row (L-R) Russ Aston, Jim Donley, Wilmer Deras, and Charlie Dunn.



## KAPID Check Presentation

On December 4th, Tim Gahlinger, KAPID Chairman, and Charlie Baumbusch, KAPID Treasurer traveled to Mountaintop Comprehensive Care Center (a 501c3 organization) in Prestonsburg, KY to present them with a \$500 check from KAPID. While there, they toured the Mountaintop greenhouse where MCCC employs several local residents with intellectual disabilities. Not only does MCCC raise many beautiful varieties of poinsettias to generate revenue to support their operation, but also mums, ferns and other types of flora. Both Tim and Charlie were very impressed with the work being done there and with all the smiling faces.





## Four New Knights

Council 11470, St John St Francis in Georgetown, held a Charity, Unity and Fraternity Exemption ceremony on November 16th in the beautiful Cardome Chapel. The Exemplification team did an outstanding job. Three of the four new members were welcomed into Council 11470 and the fourth will be joining Frankfort Council 1483.

### Tom Johnson

IPSD



(L to R) – Lawrence Woodall, Harry Dadds, Roy Williams & Hector Fonseca



## Council #1264 Food Drive

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus, Will Knight, Jeremy Bowman, Jon Schooling, & Rick Whitley worked the 24-hour food drive. There were 1700 food items, and \$2,410 in donations collected for our local Community Service Center. Thanks to Everyone that Donated!!!

### Barry Brady

Grand Knight





## Racing for Alzheimer's

Brother knights with "Team Leo" at the Jingle Bell Jog in Standford, KY to benefit Alzheimer's research. Leo McMillin is a Lifetime Member of the Knights of Columbus and has run a race in every one of the 120 counties in Kentucky. Leo finished in 2nd place in his age group (85-89).

David Schnurr





## Pathway of Hope Donation

The following is a reprint of an article published in Leader-News November 26, 2024.

Pathway of Hope receives donation from Pickin' Life Project's bluegrass music festival

Pathway of Hope Pregnancy Resource Center in Greenville has been awarded \$4,514 from the proceeds of the "Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear" music festival, a fundraiser supporting life-affirming pregnancy care centers across western Kentucky. The October 12 event, held near Dawson Springs, allocated part of its funds to Pathway of Hope, marking the center as the fifth recipient of this annual charity effort, now in its 11th year. Other beneficiaries include Alpha Pregnancy Care Center in Hopkinsville, Door of Hope in Madisonville, and the H.O.P.E. Clinics in Benton and Eddyville.

The Pickin' Life Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the sanctity of life, connected with Pathway of Hope this year through the Knights of Columbus. At the time, the Knights were actively raising funds to help Pathway acquire a new ultrasound machine to expand its client services.



Half of the \$28,000 needed for the ultrasound machine was raised through contributions from local churches, businesses, and community members, as well as the Knights of Columbus Beaver Dam Council.



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## Pathway of Hope Cont.

The remaining funds came from the national Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative, a special matching program.

Pathway of Hope's new 3D ultrasound machine features state-of-the-art technology, including high-resolution imaging and sensitive sensors capable of detecting a baby's heartbeat as early as six weeks. Research shows that over 80% of abortion-minded women choose life for their babies after viewing ultrasound images and hearing the heartbeat.

In addition to its ultrasound services, Pathway of Hope offers a wide range of free support for children and families, both during pregnancy and beyond. The center's team of Christ-centered staff and volunteers provides compassionate, nonjudgmental care.

Located at 208 South Boggess Avenue in Greenville, Pathway of Hope operates Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 270- 377-0045 or visit their website at [pathwayofhopeprc.org](http://pathwayofhopeprc.org).





# Lexington's first Safe Haven Baby Box

## Box to be dedicated soon

This is a reprint of an article published on weku.org on November 22, 2024 by Stu Johnson

Final preparations are being made for the installation of a Safe Haven Baby Box in Lexington. A ceremonial check presentation took place Thursday night at City Hall.



Photo by: Stu Johnson

Lexington Knights of Columbus Councils raised and then handed over to City officials more than \$15,000 to pay for the holding box for newborns. The infants can be given up with no questions asked when a mother or couple feel it would be in the best interest of the child. Damon Sexton with Knights of Columbus says when a baby is first placed in the Safe Haven Box, a 9-1-1 notice sounds.



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## Baby Box Cont.

“Then there’s a bassinette that’s inside of a temperature-controlled, climate-controlled inside of that box when a baby is put. It’s pressure censored and so when they feel weight on the box, then a second alarm, we have a baby,” said Sexton.

A third signal comes once the box is closed and firefighters can then retrieve the baby. Sexton said with the third surrender in Kentucky, the response time was 90 seconds in Bowling Green. Lexington’s Safe Haven Box will be established at Fire Station 2 in the Eastland area.

Sexton said there are ways to communicate this option for mothers or couples who feel giving up the newborn would be best.

“Put posters in high schools in the state and around health departments and things to notify. So, the marketing part..we’re hoping that the City will really jump in on that and I’m sure they will,” said Sexton.

There is a significant amount of technology and notification signals included in the drop-off box. Sexton noted it must undergo seven consecutive days of appropriate testing. Sexton added more than two dozen Safe Haven Baby Boxes are now found in communities across Kentucky.

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# Special Olympics

## Thank You

As we prepare to close out the year, I want to take this opportunity to once again say thank you for the Knights' incredible support of Special Olympics Kentucky athletes again this year. Each year that we work together it seems like the Knights' relationship with Special Olympics gets stronger.

A few highlights from 2024:

Knights of Columbus once again provided hundreds of volunteer hours in 2024. Among the biggest drivers of volunteer hours once again was the Knights' involvement at the softball throw venue at the State Summer Games in June. Knights and family members from St. Mark Council #12852 and Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary Council #14372 worked Friday evening and Saturday throughout the day for a total of 250 volunteer hours. Two Knights – Mickey Ward of St. Lawrence Council #15681 and Tom Janoski from Holy Spirit Parish/Newman Center Council #15452 – provided hundreds of volunteer hours on their own as Special Olympics Coaches.

Those volunteer hours resulted in the largest annual donation from Supreme in our history with Supreme sending a check for \$3,600.

Knight across the state raised almost \$28,000 through statewide fundraising activities, including the Salute to Summer Games, Polar Plunges and Truck Pulls. This year 21 Councils participated in the Salute, raising more than \$9,000.

Three Knights groups in Owensboro – Owensboro Council #817, Fr. Connor Council #6101 and Owensboro Assembly #2074 – sponsored the State Softball Tournament as that event made its return to Owensboro for the first time in 17 years.

In all, Knights of Columbus Councils across the state raised or contributed \$34,737.14 to Special Olympics programs in 2024 as of Dec. 15. That includes money raised through all fundraising events, money donated to the state program and money donated to local programs throughout the state. This is the second most that Knights have contributed in support of Special Olympics Kentucky in our history.

As always, if you ever have any questions about how your Council can become involved with or increase your involvement with Special Olympics Kentucky or a program in your area, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can always contact me at [mbuerger@soky.org](mailto:mbuerger@soky.org) or 859-338-6075. I look forward to working with you all again in 2025.





## Special Olympics cont.



Knights and family members provide almost all of the volunteer support at the softball throw venue at the State Summer Games.



Owensboro Knights supported the return of the State Softball Tournament to that city in September.



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## Special Olympics cont.

### Please Report Volunteer Hours and Contributions to Supreme

If you did either volunteer or make a contribution to Special Olympics this year PLEASE have someone from your council fill out [Form 10784](#). Filling out this form lets Supreme know our involvement with Special Olympics throughout the year and has a bearing on the amount of the donation Supreme makes to Special Olympics Kentucky that is generally presented during the annual State Convention.

If you have any question about what needs to be reported please contact Mark Buerger at [mbuerger@soky.org](mailto:mbuerger@soky.org) or 859-338-6075.

### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering is a great way to get your Council or individual Knights involved in Special Olympics. There are several opportunities coming up just after the new year. Many don't require any special skill or certification.

**Jan. 26-28** – State Winter Games; Perfect North Slopes; Lawrenceburg Ind. – Ski Partners, Timers, Course Officials

**Feb. 1-2** – Region 1 Basketball Tournament; Bowling Green Parks and Recreation; Bowling Green – Scorekeepers, Scoreboard Operators, PA Announcers, Referees

**Feb. 1-2** – Region 3 Basketball Tournament; Bluegrass SportsPlex; Elizabethtown - Scorekeepers, Scoreboard Operators, PA Announcers, Referees

**Feb. 22** – Region 2 Basketball Tournament; All About Sports; Florence - Scorekeepers, Scoreboard Operators, PA Announcers, Referees

**March 8-9** – State Basketball Tournament; MidAmerica Sports Complex - Scorekeepers, Scoreboard Operators, PA Announcers, Referees

### Schedule Set for 2025 Polar Plunges

The schedule is now set for the Coolest Fundraiser in Kentucky – the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Kentucky. Several Councils across Kentucky have participated in the Polar Plunge over the years. In 2023 Councils raised almost \$10,000 for Special Olympics Kentucky in Plunges in Lexington, Louisville and Lake Cumberland. With five Polar Plunges across the state, there is one within a reasonable drive from your Council. For more information or to sign up, visit the site for the Plunge nearest you.

[January 25 – Cincinnati at The Banks \(There is an opportunity to raise money for Special Olympics Kentucky\)](#)

[February 8 – Lexington at Texas Roadhouse on Richmond Rd.](#)





## Special Olympics cont.

[February 22 – Louisville at Main Event](#)

[March 1 – Western Kentucky at Kentucky Dam Village](#)

[March 8 – Lake Cumberland at Lee's Ford Resort Marina](#)



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## Message from KAPID

Merry Christmas!

First the Officers and I would like to thank all of those Councils that have supported KAPID again this year with your Tootsie Roll drives and donations. While donations are appreciated, they cannot replace the Tootsie Roll drive. Some Councils go all out by going to various public venues, such as area Walmart stores, and one Council has been able to continue having roadblocks, but we have seen the number of Councils **not** involved in financially supporting KAPID continue to grow. One Council at their home parish with only 90 families, was able to generate \$350 during their most recent Tootsie Roll drive. If a Council doesn't even try, they will never know what is possible.



This year for the first time, we provided a quad-fold flyer that could be used as a hand out to assist in educating both parishioners and the public on what KAPID does. Councils that used the flyer feel like it was an asset. We only printed 1,000 of these flyers. We have yet to run out, because of an apparent lack of interest from our leadership. If we had needed more, we would have printed more. Obviously, that would have been a waste of money.

On the other side of the coin, interest in KAPID by agencies that work with the intellectual impaired has grown this year and I expect it to grow next year. This year these agencies include some old names as well as some new ones. They include as follows:

Mountaintop Comprehensive Care in Prestonsburg, KY / \$2,500

New Beginnings Therapeutic Riding in Bowling Green, KY / \$9,000

Down Syndrome of Southern Kentucky in Bowling Green, KY / \$10,000

Project L.E.A.R.N. in Elizabethtown, KY / \$3,558

Top Crops, Inc. in Bowling Green, KY / \$2,290

Woodland Lakes Christian Camp in Amelia, OH / \$1,750



## KAPID Cont.

Quest Farm in Georgetown, KY / \$3,000

Cedar Lake Foundation in Louisville, KY / \$20,000

The Hive in Bowling Green, KY / \$18,000

These grant request total \$70,098. In 2023 we were able to pay out a total of \$16,200 and we do not anticipate a significant change this year. In 2023, out of 101 Councils, we had 43 Councils that had Tootsie Roll Drives. This totaled \$86,950, of which KAPID kept 20%, or \$16,400. 11 Councils made direct donations to KAPID in the amount of \$3,100. This means that the Councils that had Tootsie Roll Drives provided on average \$2,022, while the Councils that made donations gave on average \$282. This is not to say that donations aren't appreciated and welcome, but only to show how much more successful Tootsie Roll drives have proved to be.

On a different note, our KAPID Treasurer has asked me to remind everyone that the Tootsie Roll drive reports can be found on-line under "Resources/Kentucky-Forms". These forms include the KAPID Tootsie Roll Fund Drives Report and the KAPID Tootsie Roll Funds Distribution Report. Instructions for both forms are available in the same area.

**Tim Gahlinger**

KAPID Chairman



# STATE DEPUTY LUKE WILLIAMS



Brother Knights,

The first Saturday in December brought the Kentucky State Council Officers, a large contingent of Kentucky District Deputies, many State Council Service and Program Directors and Chairman, a good showing of Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries and many others who are interested in how all this Knights of Columbus stuff comes together. The 2024 Midyear Meeting was held at the Wingfield Inn & Suites in Elizabethtown.

The 2023 Fraternal Survey of Faith, Family, Community and Life Activities results were reviewed with the Midyear meeting attendees. It was pointed out that for the 2023 charitable disbursements for faith activities reported, Church Facilities and Catholic Schools and Seminaries topped the most given list by our KY Councils. Food for Families had the most disbursements in the family activities reported, and the most charitable disbursements were given to the Physically and Intellectually disabled activities as reported in the community activities. Pregnancy support activities received the largest disbursements for the life activities contributions. I reported that the total reported charitable disbursements for 2023 was \$1.4 million dollars and over 284 thousand volunteer hours of service were performed by our Kentucky Knights of Columbus local councils. This compares with the 2022 reported numbers of over \$461K of charitable disbursements and over 65 thousand volunteer hours. This increase was in part due to two things, the great leadership that our Immediate Past State Deputy Tom Johnson provided to encourage better reporting of the local council activities and that our councils are getting back to pre-pandemic levels of activities. I challenged our District Deputies to



# WILLIAMS CONT.

encourage our local councils to collect even more accurate reporting for the 2024 Calendar Year Fraternal Survey. I am encouraging all councils to report so that we have better than the 2023 surveys sent in that equaled 77% of our local councils.

There are now a “Council Resource Guide” and a “New Council Leadership-frequently asked questions” documents that will be great reference documents for all of us. Don’t think for a minute that just because the link says “new council” that it won’t help you. Check out this link and you will see all the resources available at your disposal.

## Resources For New Councils | Knights of Columbus

Did you know that there are 27 Catholic High Schools in Kentucky? I am excited to promote a High School Student initiative that will promote service to others and the opportunity to earn a Knights of Columbus cord to be worn at the student’s graduation (with the school’s permission). The program will be open to boys and girls high school seniors at our catholic high schools and if possible, all the Catholic students who are attending public schools. Details are being worked out now, but more information will be sent out to the District Deputies, Grand Knights and councils as soon as the program details are completed.

## **FY 2024-2025 Upcoming Important Dates for your Council Calendar**

January, 2025	Councils order Church Drive kits for March
January, 2025	District Meetings with DD and other GK’s in District
February 12, 2025	Kentucky March for Life – Frankfort-State Capital
February 15, 2025	Awards/State Per Capita/State Convention Stuff
March, 2025	Councils have Church Drive
March 15, 2025	State Award Submissions due to Program Director
March 29, 2025	Founders Day – Have a Membership Drive on 3/30/25
April 10, 2025	KY State Per Capita Due
May 2-4, 2025	122nd Annual Knights of Columbus - KY State
Convention	

**Reminder** – The Kentucky March for Life date is different than previous State Deputy calendar listings, please put February 12th on yours and plan to attend.



# WILLIAMS CONT.

## **2024 Kentucky State Council Black Friday Coats for Kids BOGO (Buy One Get One) Opportunity**

We had 17 councils across the state that participated in the Kentucky State Council Buy One Get One (BOGO) opportunity for this year. The total # of cases that will be distributed by KY Councils using the BOGO incentive will be 282 cases or 3,384 coats. These coats were delivered to 5 locations in the Commonwealth... the Louisville area, the Lexington area, the Northern Kentucky area, the Hopkinsville area, and the Beaver Dam/Morgantown area. Overall, in the State, there were 315 cases (3,780 coats) that will be distributed to those in need this winter because of this program.

## **Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784)**

A reminder that Councils need to submit Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784) for each program that has been conducted since July 1, 2024

## **The Fraternal Year 2024-2025 Strategic Plan**

**1.Membership Intake Goal** Since the last newsletter report, I have sent out a letter reporting how the membership intake had been “sluggish” for the first 4 months of the fraternal year. In that letter, I requested two things.

- “Invite Every Catholic Man in Kentucky to join the Knights of Columbus”
- All 99 Councils in KY be at least 60% or better of your membership growth goal by December 31, 2024.

Here are some of the ways to achieve our membership goals

- Promote recruitment at Roundtable Parishes.
- Schedule Regular Charity/Unity/Fraternity Exemplifications – Recruit towards that regular date/ if no candidate, practice the CUF exemplification.
- Have a Church Drive for each Parish (host council or roundtable) to recruit
- Catholic men to join with us. Please let our State Membership Director Tom O’Hagan, your District Deputy or any State Officer to help with a Drive in the coming months. All you have to do is invite them!
- Fishers of Men - Renew our culture of invitation.

From the beginning, Father Michael McGivney created a culture for the Knights — a “culture of invitation,” in which Catholic men ask other Catholic men to join our fraternity and put their faith in action. And so, they went out and invited others. One by one, council by council, our Order grew.





# WILLIAMS CONT.

There is now a “Becoming Fishers of Men” Webinar that you can watch on the Supreme Webinar Training page. The Fishers of Men Guidebook and other new items are listed on the final pages of this agenda. You can now go online to purchase and download these items to add to your Church Drive kits and assist you in extending a personal invitation to future Knights:

**2.COR** - Faith Formation Goal = At least 3 Holy Hours & Appointment of Council Evangelization Faith Formation Director

Expansion in our Parishes: “To be whom God has called us to be-We must encounter Christ”

### **3.Star Councils Goal = 25**

We have 39 councils that are currently SEP compliant. 10 councils have 3 positions compliant. Take a close look at the most recent Star Tracker report and see what your council needs to be another step closer to being able to say you are a part of a “Star Council”

Work together and help develop councils so that all can achieve the distinguished goal which is Star Council Status.

### **4.Partnership with KofC General and Field Agents**

- “Genuine” Partnership with our General and Field Agents of the Knights of Columbus Insurance Program
- Continue to inform and include our KofC Field Agents about any exemplifications or membership drives.
- Always support our Knights of Columbus Field Agents

Advent wishes and Merry Christmas from the Williams!

**Vivat Jesus,  
Luke Williams  
KY State Deputy**

# STATE CHAPLAIN FR. JOHN LIST



“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.”  
(Isaiah 9:1, from the Mass of the Nativity during the night)

As I write this, it is the memorial of St. Lucy, whose name shares the root of the Latin word for “light” (Lux, lucis). As I write this, the news is full of the unfolding new reality in Syria. Will it be for the people, hard pressed for these fifty-plus years, a new dawn, or will their nation descend once more into the tyranny of autocracy?

I speak of these two events in a kind of tandem. We celebrate St. Lucy because she was a virgin martyr; she clung to her faith and her consecration to Jesus through the sacrifice of her life. Perhaps because eyes are considered the channels through which light comes into the body (cf. Matt. 6:22), one legend is that she sought to dissuade a suitor who told her that her eyes sparkled like the stars by plucking out her eyes. She is often portrayed with two eyes on a platter. I know, gruesome, but the point is that she chose to forego earthly security for the ultimate good of eternal life.

As I observe the developments in Syria, my prayer is that the powers that be there now will forego a short-sighted (pun intended) play for political hegemony, a sad repetition of the Assad family example, and fulfill the assurances being given of tolerance for all minorities in their country. It will require an enlightened sacrifice of sorts, a determined self-discipline not to clench with an iron hand the present supremacy. Could there be



# LIST CONT.

such grace in the hearts of Islamic revolutionaries once allied with al-Qaida? One can only hope and pray so, but it would indeed be a light in a land of gloom...

The contrast of light and darkness, so evident in our seasonal transition, speaks to the condition of our lives as well as that of the world. Our celebration of the nativity of our Savior instills in us the hope of a brighter future. But it also prompts within the question of what we are doing to promote that hope, to build that future. Perhaps we participated in the “Coats for Kids”. Perhaps we donated to a local food bank at Thanksgiving. But how am I stirring up the “light within”? Often we get so busy with the “doing” that we neglect to tend to the “being”. Or maybe that just me.

Every Christmas holds out the invitation to rebirth, the hope of the fullness of life in eternity. Even as we celebrate the birth of the Son of God into our humanity, may we honor his incarnation with a renewed sense of and commitment to “a community of belonging and solidarity worthy of our time” (Pope Francis.) I wish you the peace of the Christ-child.

**Vivat Jesus!**  
**Fr. John List**  
**State Chaplain**

# IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY TOM JOHNSON



## **Mid-Year Meeting:**

This year's December Mid-Year meeting was held in Elizabethtown on Saturday Dec 7th. I was particularly happy to see the many DDs and GKs that attended the meeting. Thank you for taking the time to support the KY KofC Jurisdiction.

Our State Chaplain Father John List began the morning session with a simple question: Why did you join the Knights of Columbus? As he stated...because my father was a member of the Knights of Columbus and while a young boy, he and the other young boys in the parish were always around the Knights and helping the Knights.

Father had to leave after lunch, pastoral duties were calling, so at the end of the meeting, I asked the same question to reiterate the importance of Father's question...Why did I join the Knights of Columbus.

Brothers, I joined because I was asked not by just one member but by several members. These were fellow parishioners that were excited about the Knights of Columbus and wanted me to join them. How many of you rely on someone else to do the asking? I have been a member of the Knights of Columbus for over 27 years. In that time, I have grown as a Catholic man. The friendships are lifetime and the financial planning that I've received from the Knights of Columbus will ensure that I will be able to provide for my wife and myself throughout our golden years and that I'll be able to leave funds for my children and our favorite charities.



# JOHNSON CONT.

Father McGivney's vision for all Catholic Families was simply to strengthen our Catholic men and to provide for the widows and orphans. The Knights of Columbus has done that for me and it can do it for you.

**Reflections:**

Do you believe that you are a disciple of Christ? Do you believe that God has touched your life? Do you believe that Jesus Christ wants you to serve His people?

If you don't believe that God has touched your life or that Jesus Christ hasn't called you to serve, then I ask...What do you believe?

Let us, as Men of Faith, reach out to our neighbors and offer a kind word. Let us pray to Mary, Queen of Heaven, and Earth, and ask for her intercession for peace within our land and throughout the world. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit and ask him to help us choose our words carefully to build up the Kingdom of God and not alienate those in need.

Let us thank God for all that He has given us and done for us and let us pray for all that He may do. Pray that He may continue to bless our families and watch over His people and pray that He may continue to bless the United States of America.

May you have a Blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! Father McGivney...watch over us.

**Vivat Jesus,  
Tom Johnson  
Immediate Past State Deputy**



# STATE SECRETARY DICK BURNS



Brothers Knights,

## **Celebrations!**

Congratulations to:

- Sts. John and Francis Council 11470 in Georgetown who celebrate their 30th anniversary on December 1st
- St. John the XXIII Council in Louisville who celebrate their 60th anniversary on December 6th
- And a very hearty Well Done! to Elizabethtown Council 1355 who celebrate their 115th anniversary on December 12th. (That should be an easy one to remember since it's the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe!)

I'm sure they all have many more years of service ahead of them.

## **Tempus Fugit!**

We just started a new Liturgical Year and the First week of Advent. Our late State Chaplain Fr. Mario Tizziani was always sure to tell us we shouldn't wish anyone a Merry Christmas until Christmas season, so I wish all your families a most blessed Advent season, an opportunity to prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Then, Keep Christ in Christmas!

## **Memento Mori!**

Our Former State Chaplain, Father John Deatrick passed away last month on All Souls Day. He served as State Chaplain from 1994-1996 and had been the Chaplain of Assumption Council 4473 in Louisville since 1977.



# BURNS CONT.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## **Membership**

State Deputy Luke Williams has our recruiting so far this year as “sluggish”. At the end of November, we’re 42% through the fraternal year. Less than a quarter of our councils have reached 42% of their Quota.

The great news is that 6 of our 99 active councils have already met or exceeded their New Member quota!

The good news is that 48 other councils have recruited at least one new member this year. Which leaves the very disappointing news that 45 of our councils have yet to recruit a new member. Still, that’s 10 fewer than last month.

The State is 39 new members behind where we should be at this point. At this rate, we’ll be 80 members under our State Quota of 500.

How do we make that up?

There are 99 active Councils in the state. There are 323 Parishes in the state. That gives us over 200 opportunities to grow the Order!

We have a 3 part plan to meet the state’s new member Quota:

### **1) Recruit!**

If those 45 Councils who haven’t recruited yet had just one new member, we’d be ahead of our YTD goal!

The Order’s new outreach program to recruit new members is called “Fishers of Men / Renewing our Culture of Invitation”. You can download a guidebook here

<https://dbcimages.blob.core.windows.net/item-media/14825345/c49892f1-e456-49ed-bc92-7acec78ca5e5.pdf> I strongly urge you to download it and review it. It’s a powerful



# BURNS CONT.

resource to help you and your council develop a great program of one-on-one invitations for the men of your parish.

I encourage Grand Knights and Council Membership Chairmen to support this invitation process by giving recognition to those members who've made that invitation to someone to join the Knights. Put the inviters' names in your newsletters, incentivize the process - maybe with something from Knights Gear like a mug. Just make it a Council priority.

***If each Knight asks 4 men a year to join the Order, and only one of them says yes, you'll still double the size of your council. If you don't ask, you don't grow!***

## **2) Round Table Development!**

Bl. Fr. McGivney's vision was to have a Knights of Columbus council in every Parish. We recognize that not every parish can support a council of its own, so we are rephrasing that to have a Knights of Columbus presence in every parish. A Roundtable can accomplish that, and it connects your Council to a nearby parish with no council. It provides the Pastor with manpower and leadership for programs he selects. It gives their men the opportunity to join and get all the benefits of the Order. And it gives you a new recruitment point! It can also grow into a new Council if the parish is large enough to sustain it.

We currently have 5 Round Tables active in the State. Our Quota is 15 and I'm sure there are opportunities for many more.

## **3) New Council Development!**

Experience is that a parish with over 200 families is a good candidate to sustain its own council. We have many of those all over the state. 3 new Councils would really help us make our Quota, and we have several in progress.

As we form a District by District plan, I ask the DDs and GKs to please be receptive and open to ways that you can help grow the Order.



# BURNS CONT.

## ***KPAL***

**K**nights **P**rotecting **A**ll **L**ife is a recognition program established by our State Culture of Life Director, PSD Rick Arnold to encourage participation in Pro-Life programs. A description of the program and an application are available on the State website at <https://kykofc.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Culture-of-Life-Program-Guide-2024-25.pdf>

At the recent Midyear Meeting, I was honored to have Rick present me with the award and pin it on my lapel. As you can see on the website the qualifying activities are things that most of our councils are already participating in. I'd love to see more people wearing star shaped pins to encourage others to join in these activities!

## ***Quote of the Day***

Circle of Honor is for states the equivalent of Star Council for councils.

Two of the metrics for the Circle of Honor are the performance of Councils in filling out Supreme Forms, and the number of Star Councils. We know there are many councils out there who could qualify for Star Council, but they don't get it, just because they didn't submit their required forms. When we ask why, some say "we're not doing it for the awards".

Our State Chaplain, Fr. John List, shared a scripture passage with us at the Midyear meeting that's particularly appropriate for this. Matthew 5 starts with the Sermon on the Mount and tells us we are the Salt of the Earth and the Light of the World. 5:16 says "In the same way, your light must shine so that it can be seen by others; this will enable them to observe your good works and give praise to your Father in heaven."





## BURNS CONT.

So, a plea to all our Councils. Please strive to receive the recognition you deserve for your good works so that your community and other councils can be inspired to follow your example of service to the Lord.

**Vivat Jesus,  
Dick Burns  
State Secretary**

*Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works. James 2:18*



# STATE TREASURER GARY DYKHUIS



**Worthy Brothers,**

**Have a Blessed Advent and New Year!!**

This is the month that we celebrate Advent, the waiting to celebrate the birth of Christ. With Christmas a short time away. A time to be with family and friends, a time for little ones.

With the New Year, we need to Goals that we need to be accomplished. One goal is to be a Star Council, start to discuss COR in your Parish.

It is time also to remember that attack on the U.S. Navy base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 83 years ago, by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over an hour and killed 3,000 Americans, on December 7th, 1941.

Have you welcomed that new Family to your parish and to your council? If your council is struggling and is in the need for help, please contact any of the state officers, your District Deputy. We are just a phone call away, but you need to ask.

Remember that for all your hard work you done this last month, please have someone in your file a **Fraternal Programs Report form #10784.**

# DYKHUIS CONT.

## **State Mid-Year Meeting!**

A Big Thanks to Grand Knight Duane Kristensen and the members of Elizabethtown Council 1455. Great Meeting was held in Elizabethtown December 6-7, 2024, Great accommodations, great Dinner. A good meeting with lots of information for District Deputies, Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries.

Our Supreme Representative was our Regional Growth Director Brandon Brown. He reviewed our results for the first six months of the Fraternal year.

Membership Chairman Tom O'Hagan will give a very an inspirational message for recruiting new Members.

## **Recruit and Retain**

Have you asked that new member of your Parish, to join your council? This is the sixth month of the Fraternal Year; we need to recruit New Members and Families. Use you iPhone, and search for "Join Kofc" and Promo **Code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY**. The new Young Members and Families have the Best Ideas and know some of best practices. Make sure you are checking your "Prospect Report" for new online members, call them and invite them to your council meeting.

Please remember, there are three ways to have Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity on line, or you can read the ceremony, the best way is to hold an Exemplification after a Sunday MASS. You can invite the congregation to be a part. This is a Great way to have a New Third-Degree member, with some Great New Ideas and can help with our projects the Council has.

Please welcome former members to come back to the order. Ask any Affiliate Member to come back.

May you have a Blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!  
Father McGivney, Pray for Us,

**Have a Blessed Day!**

**Vivat Jesus!!**

**Gary Dykhuis**

**State Treasurer**





# STATE ADVOCATE MIKE KUCHENBROD



Worthy Brothers,

Happy Advent! And may you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New year as we complete the month of December. There is still time to recruit this year, do your part to make a fellow parishioner a Knight before Christmas. Remember the code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY to let them join online for free.

For those who have turned in their Form 365 (Service Program Personnel Report), Thank You. Please watch for the invitation from Praesidium Academy to meet the Safe Environment Training for those who need to complete this training. If you have completed this training in the last 2 years, the training is good for three years.

Reports as of today still show a lot of councils not submitting their 185 or 365 successfully. This can result from either not submitting at all, or not filling in one of the required positions. These could be Youth Protection required Directors or your Membership Director as that position also needs to be filled for the 365 to be complete. Please review your status and add those missing position assignments.

We need to achieve our “Safe Environment Training” goals. This means, Grand Knight, Program Director, Family Director, and Community Director need to complete the training. If you have completed this training in the last three years, you are good to go. It is on line training and takes

# KUCHENBROD CONT.

about an hour to complete. The Councils that sponsor youth events like Free Throw Competitions, Soccer Challenge, Keep Christ in Christmas Poster, etc. “Safe Environment Training” (SET) is a must. You must have at least two SET Knights at these events (one must have a background check). If you cannot meet this requirement, you should not conduct this event. The same requirement is for youth helping you in your events (Fish fries, pancake breakfast, chicken cooks).

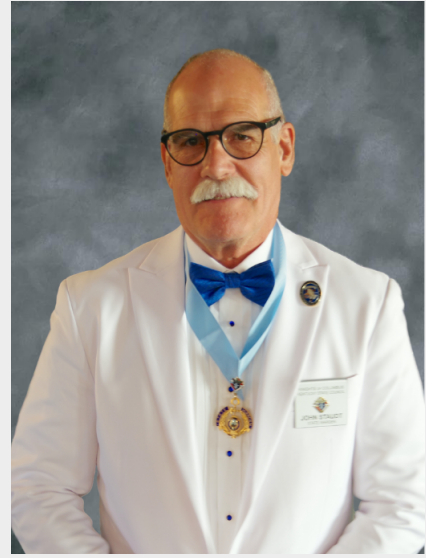
Gather that information for the Fraternal Survey, the 1728 will be due in January and your Financial Secretary will need that info to fill out the form with any accuracy. This form not only helps us capture the scope of efforts by our Knights but also helps us comply with requirements from the US Government to maintain our tax-exempt status so get that data in.

Resolutions for the State Convention will need to be submitted in the next few months so take some time to consider if your council will submit one and get started on writing it up. We review them at the State convention and there is some work to be done before that time so we typically finish them up mid-February and collect the required signatures at that point. The actual deadlines should be available in the January.

**Vivat Jesus,  
Mike Kuchenbrod  
State Advocate**



# STATE WARDEN JOHN STAUDT



Worthy Brothers,

I hope you and your family and friends had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and weekend.

The Supreme Chaplain article titled, “Sunken Treasure”, in the November 2024 Columbia magazine is a must read for all of us, including those who may have stepped away from our faith. As we enter the Advent season, it is a time to renew and dive deep into our soul to connect or reconnect with our faith. By doing so, we reflect our faith by example of charity, unity and fraternity with friends, family, community and our brother Knights. The “Cor” initiative is a way of evangelizing our faith with other Catholic men who are looking for some way of connecting and seeking support with our faith. Materials for the Cor program can be ordered through Supreme. Contact David Ladonne, our Evangelization & Faith Formation (EFF) Director at [dledonne83@gmail.com](mailto:dledonne83@gmail.com).

The Football Frenzy has ended its eight-week run. We sold 2,740 Tickets and distributed \$7,608.13 to the councils who participated. Your council will or has received \$2.78 per ticket sold by your council. Congratulations to all the winners. Thank you to all the councils who participated. For those who won, I hope you enjoyed your winnings.



# STAUDT CONT.

The next charity fund raiser will be the Basketball Slam. The 2,500 tickets were distributed at the Mid-Year Meeting December 7th. The sale of the 2024-2025 Basketball Slam Sweepstake tickets is the only fundraiser for the Kentucky Knights of Columbus Disaster Relief Program. The funding for this program will assist in the implementation of resource and distribution centers, first responder support and staging, points of distribution, emergency volunteer personnel support for shelters and food distribution, and parish preparation support. All sold ticket stubs and checks, with unsold tickets, are to be turned-in to me by the deadline of March 8, 2025. Self-addressed envelopes are part of the distributed Basketball Slam packets.

Speaking of basketball, it is that time of year to plan for your Basketball Free Throw Contest for 9 – 14 year old boys and girls. Typically, January is the council's contest, February the District and Regional and finally the State competition in March. Details of running the contest can be found in the Basketball Free Throw Contest Kit. The kit can be ordered from Supreme by your council's Financial Secretary.

Have a Blessed Advent season, a very Merry Christmas, and a safe and Happy New Year with your family and friends.

**Vivat Jesus,  
John Staudt  
State Warden**



# MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR TOM O'HAGAN



## KY MEMBERSHIP GROWTH INCENTIVE

### Incentives for 2024 – 2025 Fraternal Year

Everybody deserves a little reward for doing a good job. We hope that you will find a reward that is marginally worthy of your work to grow the Jurisdiction and the Order and to get more Catholic Men involved in our charitable good work.

To reward those great advocates for the Knights of Columbus, who work all year long, we have a couple of incentives to reward their efforts. Let's celebrate those members and even those non-members that are constantly helping more Catholic Men participate in Catholic charity and work for the betterment of the Church.

### District Deputies

Every District Deputy who earns Star District Award for Fraternal Year 2024-25 in addition to the Supreme award will receive a 7X9 Portfolio and 2 pc Pen set with KofC logo.

### Council – July 1st thru March 31st

Award to be presented at the 2025 State Convention to the Grand Knight

Those councils that reach:

- **200% Membership Growth of Quota** or better will receive a liter bottle of Woodford Reserve Bourbon inscribed with KofC logo.
- **150% Membership Growth of Quota up to 199%** will receive a mounted Louisville Slugger baseball bat inscribed with KofC logo.
- **100% Membership Growth of Quota up to 149%** will receive a Wood 3-pc Oak set inscribed with KofC logo.

# O'HAGAN CONT.

Brothers we are at the end of month 2 of the 2nd Quarter of this Fraternal Year.

- 42 councils have welcomed 176 new members. Congratulations! Where are the other 57 councils in Kentucky? Remember you have to ask them to join your council.

## **CONGRATULATIONS to Councils for reaching or surpassing their membership quota!**

- **200% - none**
- **150% - 2282, 15914**
- **100% - 702, 1055, 12965, 18126 and 18284**
- **Council 390, 707, 4665, 5634, 7847, 12923, 13304, 14604, 15525, 15841, 15931, 15979 have reached SET, Founders Awards - CONGRATULATIONS!**
- **Councils 12965, 15914, 18126 have reached SET, McGivney, and Founders Awards - CONGRATULATIONS!**
- GKs have you scheduled your Council Church Membership Drive? – Order Church Drive Kits - [how-to-order-delta-church-drive-kit.pdf](https://www.kofc.org/how-to-order-delta-church-drive-kit.pdf) (kofc.org)
- There are over 90 'Assigned' candidates/prospects that want to be in your council. Please review your council list, contact these e-members and invite them to your next CUF Exemplification. We are not growing fast enough. We are not conducting CUF Exemplifications fast or often enough. Each council should be scheduling a CUF monthly. They want to help your council succeed, contact them.
- Is your council using the State Council Recruitment Card? Your membership team should be handing them out to every prospective man. They are easy to use and effective. Use your Phone and Promo Code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY. Be sure to add your Council number to the front of the card to avoid the dreaded 'Unassigned' prospect list
- Be Fishers of Men! – Watch the Training Webinar

***There are less than thirty (30) growth days left in the 1st half of the fraternal year. As we charge towards the 50% mark, seeking that ever so important additional 2.5% intake goal reduction, let us encourage our brothers everywhere to ensure meaningful programs are being conducted in our councils. Meaningful programs keep our brothers engaged and active and meaningful programs also entice new men and their families to want to join our esteemed Order.***

***As Fishers of Men, let's prioritize asking a Catholic man to join the Order today. Some of you know this, some may not, but research tells us that 7.5 million Catholic men would join the Knights of Columbus, if they were asked. It is now time to ask...***





# O'HAGAN CONT.

	Actual v Quota MTD	Actual v Quota YTD
<b>New Members</b>	<b>57 v 41</b>	<b>176 v 500</b>
<b>Councils With No YTD Adds</b>		<b>53 v 99</b>
<b>Form 365 Not Submitted (99)</b>		<b>40</b>
<b>Form 185 Not Submitted (99)</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>Roundtable</b>	<b>0 v 13</b>	<b>5 v 13</b>
<b>Form 1295 SA Audit (108)</b>		<b>29 Delinquent</b>

The Knights of Columbus offers every man the chance to live his faith and be an example for others to follow. We owe it to all Catholic men to provide them this opportunity. The opportunity to be a better Catholic, the opportunity to be a better man, the opportunity to be a better husband, father, grandfather, brother or son and friend.

**Vivat Jesus!**  
**Tom O'Hagan**  
**KY State Membership Director**



# DISTRICT MASTER JIM WHARTON



Wishing everyone a safe and blessed Advent season.

I am not conducting much business during this Advent season, we are planning on scheduling exemplifications, hopefully later in January. Any Assembly requesting exemplifications get in touch with me.

**Vivat Jesus!**  
**Jim Wharton**  
**District Master**

Continued on next page:

# WHARTON CONT.

## Fourth Degree Knights

### Purpose

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. Fourth Degree members must retain their membership as Third Degree members in the local council to remain in good standing.

### Color Corps

The Color Corps is an elective division of the Fourth Degree, whose distinctive presence in parades, wreath-laying ceremonies, Confirmations and other Catholic functions is a visible reminder of our service to the community. The ceremonial sword symbolizes Christian Knighthood, and is carried to signify reverence to Church, Eucharist, country and freedom. The Color Corps uniform is ordered through the website [KofCuniform.com](http://KofCuniform.com). Swords are sold separately from The English Company.

Memo on new uniform (effective 01-JUL-2019). Memo from Uniform Supplier (The Supply Room) February 2020.

### Membership

The Fourth Degree ritual added patriotism to the three original principles of the Order: charity, unity and fraternity. Any Third Degree member in good standing, with at least six months membership in the order, is eligible for membership in the Fourth Degree. 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. Fourth Degree members must retain their membership as Third Degree members in the local council to remain in good standing.



# GENERAL AGENT DANIEL SCHACHLE



## **Knights of Columbus – Keep Christ in Christmas**

Brothers, as Knights, we emphasize the importance of keeping Christ in Christmas. In fact, keeping Christ at the center of everything we do is a year-round mission. Whenever we serve our parish or community, we serve Christ. I also see our service to Catholic families as a way to honor him. When our K of C Field Agents sit down with a family and help them ensure their financial protection, they are serving his Church. I think about this often, and as I look back on the year – reminiscing on all the relationships our Field Agents and I have made with our members. Also, the security we have helped provide them and their families, we are incredibly grateful.

Now, I ask you – as we close out 2024 and as you spend additional time with your family, even joyous occasions like buying a new house or sending either a son or daughter to college this fall can impact your insurance needs. A few questions to ask are:

- Are you certain your current protection is adequate and up to date?
- What would your family's financial situation be this time next year if the unimaginable happened to either you or your spouse?



# SCHACHLE CONT.

If your answers to these questions are not certain, I encourage you to set up time to meet with your Field Agent. Let's all work together to create a plan that would not only help protect your family but give you the peace of mind and security you and your family deserve.

Meanwhile, may you have a holy and peaceful Christmas season with your loved ones. Let's continue to focus on Jesus through the end of this year. And let's pray for one another — especially for those who may be struggling during the holidays. If there is any way that our K of C Field Agents and me can offer help, please reach out to me. Thank you.

**Merry Christmas,  
Dan Schachle, FICF, PGK  
Knights of Columbus, General Agent  
(615) 589-8848  
Daniel.Schachle@KofC.org**

# STATE HISTORIAN BILLY HANCOCK



**Knights of Kentucky Newspaper December 1984**



## A Christmas Prayer



*Help us nightly to remember the birth of Christ, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the Wise Men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desire with every greeting. May Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thought, forgiving and forgiven. Amen.*



# HANCOCK CONT.

**Wishing all my brother Knights and their families a  
Blessed Christmas**



**And a**



**Submitted for the December 2024 Newsletter by:  
Billy R. Hancock, PSD  
State Historian**



## Local Events

# Archdiocese Of Louisville Annual Mass for Life



**January 18, 2025, 10:00 AM**  
**St. Gabriel Church**  
**5505 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY**



Join Archbishop Shelton and more than 150 parishes, schools and organizations as we celebrate and stand witness to the dignity and sanctity of all human life, from conception to natural death!

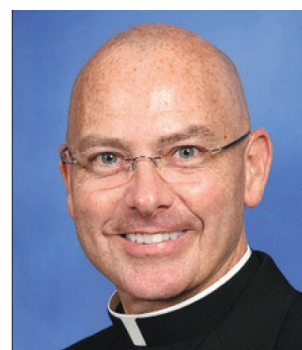
To register your organization to be recognized at the event, contact Celesta Arnold at [celesta.arnold58@gmail.com](mailto:celesta.arnold58@gmail.com) or (502) 439-6276.



**Special Guests:**

**The St. Martin de Porres Swahili Choir**

## All Are Welcome!



**Featured Homilist**  
**Father Jeff Nicolas**





# CALENDAR

## December

Christmas 25

## January

KY March for Life 23

## March

Founders Day 29

## May

State Convention 2-4

## KENTUCKY STATE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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