



KNIGHTS IN ACTION

February 2026

Our Lady of Victory Council 7968

&

Joseph R Perrone Assembly 2789



Monthly Highlights

Birthdays and Member Anniversaries

1 February	Pregnancy Center Check Presentations
4 February	First Wednesday Rosary & Holy Hour
7 February	Quarterly Highway Clean-Up
10 February	Second Tuesday Food Van
20 February	Lent Fish Fry #1 for Council Charities
26 February	Social & Guest Speaker
27 February	Lent Fish Fry #2 for Biloxi VA Hospital Vets

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!

Happy St. Patrick's Day! As this issue gets published, we are right in the middle of Lent, and I hope you are meeting your fasting and spiritual goals. I know that for me, fasting from my usual vices/distractions can be difficult, but when I stay committed to it, I can feel that I am getting closer to God.

Although our newsletters may seem a month behind, I hope we are keeping enough current info to maintain your interest. If you have suggestions, or even better, time you could spend helping us make it better, please let me know. I think this newsletter is not only an enjoyable recap of the previous month, but it also provides a historical record of what we have accomplished and lives that we have touched.

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



St. Patrick's Day, March 17



St Patrick Prayer!

As I arise today, may the strength of God pilot me,
the power of God uphold me, the wisdom of God guide me.
May the eye of God look before me, the ear of God hear me,
the word of God speak for me.

May the hand of God protect me, the way of God lie before
me, the shield of God defend me, the host of God save me.
May Christ shield me today.

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit, Christ when I stand, Christ in the heart of
everyone who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone
who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

Amen

Saint Patrick pray for us!

Faithful Navigator's Note

Brothers and Significant Others,

Thank you to all the Joseph R. Perrone Assembly 2789 Sir Knights who supported the myriad events we had in February. Busy, busy, busy!! I missed a few events, like Highway Cleanup and the Catholic Charities Food Van since my arm was still not fully healed. I did see my surgeon at the six-week post-surgery point. He said everything looked good, and I should be able to resume normal activities by the end of March.



Sandy and I went to the Scally Brothers concert and saw a number of Sir Knights there. These young men truly love the Lord, and it shows in their music and their performance. And who doesn't like a good food truck dinner!! Lent began in February, and Sir Knights have supported our first three Lenten fish fries in strong fashion. As for yours truly – "We need more fries, Steve"! 😊 Of note, I think we may have set a record in terms of meals and pieces of fish sold with the fish fry on February 27th dedicated to the Biloxi VA.

On a personal note, Sandy's and my daughter Sarah who lives in Waco, Texas, gave birth to Merrick Werner Leppala on February 17th! 9 lbs 1 oz, 21 inches. And Sarah is a small woman! That makes eight grandkids for Sandy and me. What a blessing!

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

Vivat Jesus!

Stephen Malutich

Faithful Navigator



Insurance News

Brothers,

Tax season is here! Whether you're ahead of the game and done filing, or you're putting it off for another couple weeks, this time of year is a good opportunity to consider whether your tax rate or bracket has changed. If so, do you know the implications for your long-term financial strategy?

People can end up in a higher tax bracket than they anticipate when their income fluctuates — for example, if your salary changed, or if you retired and are drawing on different income sources. Paying a higher tax rate may mean less disposable income or less money to leave to your family as you planned.

You can protect yourself against these potential losses and build dependable cash value through permanent life insurance with the Knights of Columbus.

Permanent life insurance allows you to build cash value that you can access tax-free while you're alive. You can also create an income tax-free inheritance for your loved ones after you pass allowing permanent life insurance to be useful in a range of situations.

Of course, we always recommend that you work with a qualified tax advisor or CPA as well.

This might also be a good time to review your investment portfolio with a financial advisor from Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors. Investments have tax implications, especially with dividends, capital gains or losses, and required minimum distributions. By carefully understanding how your investments are taxed, you can work to reduce your overall tax burden while pursuing your long-term financial goals.

By helping to secure your financial future and legacy with the Knights of Columbus, you're living out the vision of Blessed Michael McGivney, who founded our Order 144 years ago this month. His mission of protecting Catholic families is as important today as it was for the first members who gathered all those years ago.

I'd love to talk more if you have any questions. Please come chat with me and we can schedule a time to meet.

Thank You!



**Knights of
Columbus**
Asset Advisors®

Ivan Delabuere FIC,FICF,FSCP,WMCP,CLTC

Financial Advisor

Mobile: 850-516-2622

Office: 850-343-5333

6553 Lakeshore Dr

Millon, FL 32570

<https://info.kofc.org/Meet-Ivan-Delabuere.html>

Catholic Investing

Let your faith guide
your financial decisions

LEARN MORE >

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

Birthdays

These members are celebrating birthdays in March:

Sir Knights

- 4 March – Michael Carlozzi
- 4 March – William O'Donnell
- 5 March – Stanley Stuffbeam
- 10 March – Eugene Calabro
- 16 March – Lee Woledge
- 18 March – John Humphrey, Jr
- 21 March – Carlos Santos
- 27 March – Randolph Wooley
- 29 March – Michael Reiss

Brother Knights

- 4 March – David Harris
- 5 March – Edward Mlynarczyk
- 7 March – Norbert Engel
- 10 March – Ronald Brunell
- 13 March – Brian Nurmi
- 14 March – Daniel Pena
- 15 March – Chester Bush
- 15 March – Bert Salazar
- 20 March – Joseph Santoro
- 22 March – Glenn Moore, Jr
- 24 March – Daniel Jimenez
- 29 March – Robert Ochsner
- 31 March – Kyle Lesmes



Anniversaries

These members are celebrating their KofC anniversary in March:

4th Degree

23 Years – Eugene Calabro	12 Years – Patrick Stanley
23 Years – Lawrence Kime, Jr	5 Years – Jacob Allen
23 Years – Arnold Radowicz	5 Years – Samuel Jones, Jr
23 Years – Guy Stockton	3 Years – John Humphrey, Jr
23 Years – Richard Walcheck	3 Years – Steven Kerr
22 Years – Michael Martello	3 Years – Stephen Malutich
21 Years – Anselmo Gerard	3 Years – Joseph Masterson
21 Years – Rev Florencio Lagura	3 Years – Martin Mears
21 Years – Michael Quinlivan	3 Years – Michael Reiss
12 Years – Larry Johnson	3 Years – Logan Steele

1st - 3rd Degree

69 Years – Anthony Cozzie	13 Years – Mark Johns
49 Years – Msg Michael Tugwell	13 Years – Barry Candage
46 Years – Norbert Engel	9 Years – Brandon White
22 Years – Bert Salazar	7 Years – David Gudinas
16 Years – Robert Sellers	4 Years – Anthony D'Antonio, Jr



Pregnancy Center Check Presentation

On the 1st of February, Deputy Grand Knight Dan Lesh presented checks to the Crestview Pregnancy Center for \$3500 and the Defuniak Springs Pregnancy Support Center for \$1500. Dan also presented a 3rd check to the Majella House in Pensacola on 10 March for \$1500. This brings a grand total of \$7500 for Pregnancy Centers from our our baby bottle drive in November 2025. Additionally, each center will receive additional Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) matching funds from Supreme in the amount of \$100 for every \$500 our Council donated!



First Wednesday Rosary and Holy Hour

On Wednesday, the 4th of February, the KofC Monthly Rosary was said at our Lady of Victory Church. The Rosary began at 5:30 PM followed by Mass, adoration and confession. As always, the Wednesday Rosary was the Glorious Mysteries; led by Brother Arnaldo Fonseca reading the first mystery the Resurrection, followed by Brothers Marty Mears reading the Ascension, Travis Robinson reading the descent of the Holy Spirit, Tim Williams reading the Assumption and Steve Malutich reading the Crowning of Mary.

Picture 1 - Arnaldo Fonseca leading off the Holy Rosary

Picture 2 - Our 4th Degree Faithful Navigator Steve Malutich and our Grand Knight Marty Mears both sitting behind Brother Doug and his wife Peggy. Peggy also read the Mass reading.

Picture 3 - Travis Robinson and Tim Williams sitting in front with his two daughters. Tim became a Knight on 22 January 2026, and the Knights sure appreciate him and his family helping out.

Picture 4 - Celebrating the Mass was Father Roy, Brothers Deacon Dan and Altar Server Brother Luke.

Thank you Arnie for providing the info and pictures.



Quarterly Highway Cleanup

On Saturday the 7th of February the KofC held its quarterly Highway Cleanup. We had sufficient help with a few new members showing up, which is SUPER seeing new members and their families getting involved and helping. Before heading out to do our job, everyone enjoyed donuts and coffee provided by Brother Travis. Highway cleanup was finished by 8:15 AM and everyone enjoyed a super breakfast with orange juice and coffee. If you have never helped with "Highway Cleanup", you need to try it; the super breakfast is well worth joining others to clean our two-mile stretch of highway.

Picture 1 - Our highway cleanup crew.

Picture 2 - Jeanine Robinson, Kathy Johns, Brother Dan Lesh & to the right Brother Herb's Shadow taking the picture. Those four cleaned the east side of highway 90 approximately 1/2-mile distance one way with two of us cleaning each side of the road.

Picture 3 - Tony Alcobia and Gabby Williams, the daughter of Brother Tim Williams are working the west side of highway 90 approximately 1 ½ mile distance one way with four helpers starting at the far end, two helpers on each side of the road walking eastward, and four more walking in the westward direction with two helpers on both sides of the road. When the opposite helpers reach each other, the job is done. Brother Marty Mears then drives around to a couple of different locations where the bags are picked up and placed where the city's garbage truck picks them up.

Picture 4 - Brother Tim Williams and his daughter Olivia working the west side of highway 90. Tim became a member of the KofC on 22 January 26, and we sure appreciate seeing Tim and his two daughters helping.

Picture 5 - Brothers Steve Kerr & Nathan Bielawski working the west side of highway 90. The sun, sorry to say, blocked the picture.

Picture 6 - Travis and Jeanine preparing a wonderful breakfast. Prior to helping Travis with breakfast, Jeanine picked up trash on the east side of Highway 90, WOW!





Catholic Charities Food Van

On Tuesday the 10th of February 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.

Wow, what a busy day. Forty-four customers showed up to pick up food delivered by Catholic Charities. The new procedure that began last month is working out very well. The Catholic Charity van arrives around 11:00 AM; and volunteers obtain driver's licenses and paperwork from those in the cars, which are processed through a Catholic Charity representative and returned to the drivers. The food bags are then issued to those in the cars starting at noon rather than at 1:00 PM. Volunteers also enjoy a super lunch courtesy of Care Center volunteers.

Picture 1 - Some of our brother Knights setting up the table and chairs for our Catholic Charity worker and helpers.

Picture 2 - Rosemary and Linda preparing the bags for the food.



Picture 3 - Brother Knights and two helpers unloading the van.

Picture 4 - Brothers Bill Marchand and John Libby bringing food into the Parish Hall.

Picture 5 - Separating the food brought into the hall.

Picture 6 - Helper Kristopher bringing food into the hall.



Picture 7 - Brother Bob Foley bringing personal identification to the Catholic Charity representatives.

Picture 8 - Needy people entering the area in their cars.

Picture 9 - Brother Deacon Dan and helper Kristopher bringing bags out to the issuing point.



Picture 10 - Filling the bags with many different items of food.



Picture 11 - Issuing the food to the people in the cars.



Lenten Fish Frys #1 & #2

The first Lenton Fish Fry was held on the 20th of February. The \$2,345 proceeds from that went into the KofC Charity Fund. The second Lenten Fish Fry took place on the 27th of February and netted \$2,201 that will be going to support the VA Hospital in Biloxi, MS.

Picture 1 - Brother Travis in the middle prepared the fish. Brother Robert to the right of Travis prepared the French Fries, Steve on the end along with Jim and Bill delivered the fish and fries into the hall serving line and helped in the kitchen as needed, bringing more fish and fries to the grill area.



Picture 2 - The working serving line with Brother Pat, Melanie, Sally, Karen and Jeanine.



Picture 3 - Brothers John and Frank preparing the hush puppies and coleslaw.

Picture 4 - Brother Byron and Keagan preparing the fish for frying.



Picture 5 - Brother Matt helping Brother Marty sell 50-50 tickets.

Picture 6 - Brother Herb playing the accordion.



Picture 7 - Rosemary resupplying the serving line with hush puppies, coleslaw and desserts.



Picture 8 - Linda helping in the kitchen.



Picture 9 - A very busy crew.

Picture 10 - The in-processing line with Brother Dan selling the tickets and Brother Jim Paziienza (who is blocked by the lady in front of him) writing down the number of meals ordered and Brother Luke taking the orders to the serving line for processing.



Monthly Social & Guest Speaker

At our KofC social held on Thursday the 26th of February, we had Susie Ferguson, a guest speaker from Gentiva Hospice, who gave a detailed briefing on a program called "Five Wishes". She did a super job educating our KofC families on the topics relating to health care, living wills, and hospice. The event began at 6:30 PM with a delicious meal consisting of a sandwich platter with various types of sandwiches, chicken finger platter, salads, chips, and dessert. Susie spent over an hour providing her detailed talk and answering numerous questions asked by the audience.

Pictures 1, 2 & 3 -
Enjoying a good meal.



Picture 4 - Herb was so upset because his hearing aids were not working and he couldn't hear anything, so he forgot to take a picture of Susie briefing the audience; Herb is sorry about that. To the right is Susie talking to Maryann Girard after her briefing.



Knight of the Month

Brother **Timothy 'Tim' Hall** was selected as Knight of the Month for **February**. Brother Tim has only been a member of the Knights since October 2025, but he has been a super contributor by volunteering for many of our events. In just February alone, Tim attended our business meeting; helped with both Fish Frys, the Saturday morning fish fryer draining and cleaning, the highway clean-up, and filled-in as camera man for Family of the Month presentation and photo.

Tim continues to participate and volunteer in most of our activities, and the Grand Knight sure does appreciate all his efforts and can't wait to see all the great things Tim will do!

Grand Knight Marty Mears presents Brother Tim Hall with a certificate and coin.



Family of the Month

For the Month of **February**, a very worthy family was nominated and selected. **Heather Happel and her sons** serve as an astounding inspiration to our Parish, Community, and Council by supporting and strengthening Catholic Family Life. As a mother and wife, Heather showed true love and fidelity to her husband during his illness and eventual passing, and she demonstrates amazing resilience raising two young men – Blaze and Auggie.

Heather helps with the 2nd Tuesday Catholic Charities Caring Coach food distribution by helping to unpack and sort food into bags to serve dozens of grateful recipients. She hands out paperwork & collects ID cards from recipients to support the Catholic Charities administrative paperwork. Heather fills a key role in many young men's lives as an Assistant Scoutmaster, she graciously donated hay for the Christmas Nativity Scene and afterwards spent precious time removing it all from the scene making the disassembly much easier.

Blaze is active in the youth ministry, a member of the boy scouts, and an outstanding witness for the faith. Auggie is following his brother's footsteps through the sacraments and youth ministry. This family has teams up every year to help with Cross Catholic food packing events and they helped organize a flag retirement ceremony with their Scout Troop and our Knights.

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



Prayer of the Month



An Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at
your back.

May the sun shine warm upon
your face,
The rains fall soft upon your
fields.

And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm
of his hand.



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