

# The Columbus Crusader

Msgr. Patrick R. Dunigan Council No. 695, Knights of Columbus



ONE NATION UNDER GOD



COUNCIL MEETING 2ND TUESDAY

FOURTH DEGREE 1ST THURSDAY

Volume 86, Issue 12

December 2025

## Thanksgiving Hope

### Brother Knights,

I want to first say that I hope you all had a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving! Though by the time this column reaches you, Thanksgiving will be over, I wanted to share a bit of history that helps us to reflect on the meaning of this holiday and how it prepares us for the season of Advent.

When children are taught about Thanksgiving, they are often taught that the "first" Thanksgiving in the US was between Pilgrims and Native Americans eating together in an act of fellowship. Though an iconic story, this was not the actual "first" Thanksgiving. While celebrations of gratitude have been held in the US since Colonial times, what we know of as Thanksgiving actually came about during the Civil War.

In the early 1860s, a divided America was caught amidst a bloody and seemingly endless war that pitted countryman against countryman. Before all this, however, Sarah Josepha Hale, a prominent writer and columnist (who also wrote Mary Had a Little Lamb, strangely enough) had been campaigning for nearly 20 years for a national day of thanksgiving to be offered. Beginning in 1846, Hale petitioned every President year-by-year to establish this holiday in the hopes of having a day where Americans would be united under a common purpose. Ironically, it was only during the Civil War, when the country was at its most fractured, that her idea gained traction.

Inspired by her many letters, in 1893 President Lincoln called for a national day of thanksgiving to be observed the last Thursday of November, not only to

celebrate the recent victories by the Union Army but to acknowledge that even amidst the war's blood, death, and strife, there was still much to be thankful for. Vice President William Seward said, in part, "No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Highest God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy."

As we approach the season of Advent, let us not dwell on our troubles but instead on what God has given us amidst our troubles. It is easy in our world to focus on the bad and the ugly; most of our news is bad news and we are seemingly always on the brink of total collapse. Let us not forget that even when it feels like we have been abandoned, God has given us the grace to move forward. As we enter this season of Advent, let us prepare ourselves by meditating on God's greatest gift of all: His Son.

I want to thank those who came to help with the Coats for Kids distribution on the 8th! We gave many coats to many kids, and I count this as a success! In December, we are distributing our Christmas wreaths on the first weekend of December, so contact Bob Ragnone or Matt George for questions. We will also be announcing the winners of the Keep Christ In Christmas Poster Contest for SJV, so stay tuned!

Have a wonderful Advent and a very Merry Christmas brothers! Remember the continual prayers both I and our council say for you.

In Christ,

Ronan Streby, Grand Knight



## December 2025

### Calendar of Events

- 4 Assembly 510 Meeting, Holy Redeemer Family Life Center, 7:30 p.m.
- 7 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
- 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- 8 Feast of The Immaculate Conception
- 9 Msgr. Dunigan Council 695 Meeting, St John Vianney Parish Center, 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 13 Wreaths Across America - Holly, National Cemetery
- 20 Angel's Outreach Christmas Event SJV Gym, Noon
- 21 First Day of Winter
- 25 Christmas Day
- 27 Feast of St. John, Apostle
- 28 Feast of the Holy Family
- 31 New Year's Eve

### Council Connection

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Email: [gk695@mikofc.org](mailto:gk695@mikofc.org)  
Website: [www.kofcflint.org](http://www.kofcflint.org)  
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and phone number? What about
your birthday or
wedding anniversary? Do you have a
seasonal address that we don't
know about?

Please send updates to Financial Secretary
Mike McCarthy at fs695@mikofc.org or
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in your daily prayers*

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The Souls in Purgatory

## Tears of Joy

A report from the Faithful Admiral for Fourth Degree Assembly #510

On December 13<sup>th</sup> we have our annual Wreaths Across America, in Holly, at the Great Lakes National Cemetery. If you can make it, great! It's one way to show our support for our Veterans. We need to thank them for our freedom. It's smart to be at the Henry Ford Ascension Hospital at 10:00 a.m. From the hospital you will be shuttled, by a courtesy bus, for free, to the Cemetery.

On Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have our annual Admirals Ball at the Family Life Center at Holy Redeemer. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights and wives are all invited. Have fun and fellowship with music, drawings, dinner and lots of entertainment. We are hugging on your heart to come (it's also St. Valentine Day)!

There is a legion of the Christmas Rose I would like to share with you. During Christ time, there was a poor shepherd girl that had nothing to give to the newborn Jesus. She cried outside the stable. As her tears dropped onto the dirt they miraculously bloomed and turned to white roses, even though there was snow on the ground. She quickly gathered them and placed them at the manger. God works in wonderful ways. May your tears yield beautiful things in your life through God's blessings. Merry Christmas!

Our next regular meeting is on Thursday December 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. in the Holy Redeemer Family Life Center. We meet the first Thursday of every month. Come and join the fellowship.

Blessed Michael J McGivney and Monsignor Patrick R Dunigan, pray for us!

Jack Tylus, PFN, PGK  
Admiral  
Patrick R Dunigan Assembly #510  
[Jtylus505@gmail.com](mailto:Jtylus505@gmail.com)  
810 938 2778



### Christmas Wreath Order Pickup

Saturday December 6 and  
Sunday December 7  
after Masses at  
St. Mary, St. Matthew,  
and St. John Vianney

Questions: Contact Bob Ragnone  
at 810-919-0823 .

#### December Birthdays

5 Steve Buszek  
9 Paul Busque  
19 Thomas Henthorn  
22 Joseph Gildner  
25 Nicholaus Josey

#### December Anniversaries

10 Laurence & Carolyn Macdonald  
11 Mark & Amy Plunkey  
28 Mark & Wanda Davidek  
30 Joel & Sharon Cuttitta  
31 Greg & Aleta Alunit

## Council News from November Meeting

Council 695 met on Tuesday November 11 in the Knights of Columbus Council 695 chambers in the basement of the rectory at St. John Vianney. The meeting was called to order by GK Streby at 7:35 p.m. with an opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. Ten members were in attendance.

GK Streby thanked members who participated in hosting the Clergy and Religious Appreciation Dinner on October 22 and the Coats for Kids coat distribution on November 8 at Catholic Charities Center for Hope. He also reported that a Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest will be held at St. John Vianney School. Two requests for donations have been received: one from Pregnancy Help Clinic and the other from Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Finally, GK Streby is requesting volunteers for the annual Salvation Army Ring the Bell council event on Saturday November 29.

Treasurer Greg Frixen reported status of council and building company accounts. Financial Secretary Mike McCarthy reported council membership at 274, including three recent transfers from other councils. Options for moving the Building Company account from Morgan Stanley are still being evaluated. Take Ten for Charity payment of \$810 is being sent to State Secretary.

Assembly 510 reported on the Veterans Appreciation Dinner. About 100 people attended and \$2000 is being donated to Sacred Heart Veterans Village. Wrap a Vet

donations are requested. The American Legion will be joining the Wrap a Vet program. A blood drive is scheduled for November 24 at Holy Redeemer.

Christmas Wreath program reported sales with a profit of approximately \$1000. Wreaths will be distributed on December 6 and 7. Help is needed on 12/6 to attach ribbons to wreaths. Contact Bob Ragnone. Ring the Bell for Salvation Army will only have one kettle at Sam's this year. GK Streby is scheduling volunteers. St. Luke NEW Life Center gift distribution will take place 12/15-17. Contact Mike McCarthy if you can help. The KCIC poster contest will offer prizes for best posters to several age groups. Council discussed how to support events at St. Matthew, specifically the monthly Sunday breakfast. It was agreed we did not have resource available for a December 7 event. Goal is to recruit more members at St. Matthew so that the parish can be more self-supporting.

In new business, a \$100 donation was approved for Pregnancy Help Center on Flushing Road. A \$100 donation was approved for the Angels Outreach Christmas Party.

For Good of the Order, Dale Wangler presented the council with a donation of \$610 from memorial contributions made in honor of his wife, Cheryl. Lecturer Bob Ragnone read from today's Gospel.

The meeting adjourned approximately 8:50 p.m.

### March for Life

The annual Michigan March for Life took place on Thursday November 6 at the State Capitol in Lansing.

Thousands gathered for the event sponsored by Right to Life - Michigan and supported by the Knights of Columbus. The Michigan State Council Board and councils from across the state were well represented. State Deputy Barry Borsenik led marchers in the Pledge of Allegiance. Prior to the march, Bishop Earl Boyea presided over a Mass for Life at St. Mary Cathedral. Knights of Columbus members assisted with march logistics and safety, and distributed Love Life, Choose Life posters.



Discussions are underway regarding how to support monthly or occasional breakfast events by Council 695 at St. Matthew Church.

We plan to make the summer brats and hotdogs cookout a regular event at St. John Vianney.

What other events or programs would you like to see sponsored by the council? These could be fundraisers or simply fraternal/social events.

### Detroit Red Wings Hockey

Michigan State K of C Council is sponsoring a Fraternal Night on Saturday, January 31, 2026 at 1:00 pm at Little Caesars arena. Tickets are \$85. 695 members contact Mike McCarthy (810-620-5117) if interested.

## Councils Unite and Support Coats for Kids

On Saturday November 8, 2025 several councils in the Flint area held an annual coat giveaway at Catholic Charities Center for Hope in Flint. According to Rick Perry, Lansing Diocesan Program Director- North, 308 childrens coats and 47 adult coats were given away that day. The coats were purchased with contributions from several local councils, including Council 695, and matching contributions from Supreme Council. Some local councils also sponsored coat drives which added to the supply.

In addition to coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and blankets

were also distributed. After the event, all leftover coats were provided to local parish outreaches and schools for distribution in their communities.

Council 695 participated by making a \$500 donation to purchase coats and several members helped with the giveaway at Center for Hope. Program Director Perry gave "a very special thanks to all councils and our brother Knights who joined us for this annual event and Catholic Charities for their support."



Left: members from Flint area councils gather at Center for Hope to distribute coats. Above: Racks of coats and tables of blankets and other items.

Help is needed for morning and afternoon shifts at the **Annual Christmas Gift Distribution** at St. Luke NEW Life Center on Lawndale in Flint. Dates: December 15, 16, 17. (Mon-Wed) Contact: Mike McCarthy to sign-up. 810-620-5117 or [mjmone@chartermi.net](mailto:mjmone@chartermi.net).

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Council member, Deacon Tony Verdun and his wife, Susan, organize the Angels Outreach Christmas Party for area children every year. It's December 20<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 2:30 pm. Donations accepted. Help is needed.

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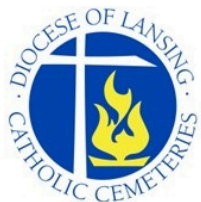
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