

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 85, Issue 3

March 2024

Renew and Enrich!

Greetings Brother Knights,

We are all embraced in the Lenten season. This is an opportune time for all of us, for reflection and restoration of our faith. From the "Into the Breach Series" - Prayer emphasizes that men need to make prayer a priority in their daily lives. Do you presently set aside time each day for personal prayer? If not, what are some ways you can arrange your day to spend some time with God?

Here are some things happening in March:

- March is dedicated to St Joseph.
- Our First Sunday Breakfast continues (March 3rd). See below for more info!
- March 19th is the feast of St. Joseph.
- March 22nd - 24th Spring MI Drive (Tootsie Roll) at our parishes
- March 31st is Easter

The First Sunday Breakfast has been off to a good start. We are gearing up for the next one on March 3rd (and subsequent one is April 7th). We will always need assistance for these events so we are not always relying on the same volunteers.

The menu will vary month to month depending on patron participation. On the 3rd we will serve: eggs, sausage, pancakes, French toast, and fruit, along with juice, coffee and milk. Our goal is to draw those present for the 8 am mass and invite the 11 am attendees, along with the St Mathews and St Mary's parishioners, to come a little early to participate before mass. The serving will begin after mass (about 8:50) and ending by 10:30 am. Look in the bulletins for announcements and information about the first Sunday Breakfast.

We have initiated plans for the first financial Benefits presentation to occur on April 9th. Details are still being developed as this may occur within our monthly meeting or prior to the meeting. There is good information to be presented that applies to all of our members and age groups. Stay tuned.

We are also still working toward having Council 8245 members transferred into our council as a group rather than doing it individually with each member.

We are always looking for new members, and they can still join for free! As we continue to celebrate Blessed Michael J. McGivney's Beatification, please enter the Promo Code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY to join online for free. If you know someone that would be a good knight let them know that they can sign up on line at KoC.org and the first year dues are free. They can list 695 as the Council that they have interest in joining and we will work out the entry process.

There are more raffle tickets available in my possession, if you would like to sell more or would like more chances to win. Note: that the seller of the winning ticket also receives a cash prize.

The Knights of Columbus State bowling tournament is going on from February 24 through March 24th, in Lansing.

Also, if you know of any young men that would be looking for a career as a field agent, there are several opportunities available throughout the diocese.

Please keep all victims in your prayers; pray for World Peace.

Vivat Jesu!



Joe Goergen
Grand Knight
810-922-0539

March 2024 Calendar of Events

- 3 Parish Breakfast, St. John Vianney Social Hall, 8:50 am - 10:30 am
- 7 Fourth Degree Meeting, Holy Redeemer Family Life Center, 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 12 Council 695 Meeting, St. John Vianney, 7:30 p.m.
- 17 - 19 Flint Deanery Mission at St. John Vianney
- 19 Feast of St. Joseph
- 19 First Day of Spring
- 24 Palm Sunday
- 28 Holy Thursday
- 29 Good Friday
- 31 Easter Sunday

Council Connection

Phone: 810-235-6333
Email: gk695@mikofc.org
Website: www.kofcflint.org
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PUBLICATION STAFF

EditorMike McCarthy
Advertising ManagerJoseph Goergen
Council Phone (810) 235-6333

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in your daily prayers*

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Bruce Bradley (deceased)

March into Lent

St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Brighton, 2201 S. Old US-23 Hwy, will be hosting our 88th Exemplification for entering the 4th Degree and becoming a Sir Knight. This will be held on Saturday, April 20th. If someone is considering becoming a 4th Degree Knight, keep in mind this is a short drive in comparison to the area our district covers. From the Flint area it is 40 minutes to commute. An incentive to the first five to sign-up: our Assembly pays the fee. Please ask a fellow third-degree brother to finish his journey of knighthood and join us. Let me know if I can help.

Committees are forming for our next events; let us know how you would like to participate. June 14th is Flag Day. We are planning to retire flags at a place and time to be determined. In July, we plan to have another golf tournament with the leadership of Lenny Accardo. A possible car-show in the Fall, with Jack Massimino as the chairperson; more details to come. I know it's early, but Veteran's Day Dinner is scheduled for November, so invite your fellow veterans early to attend.

What are the 40 days of Lent? We all know it, but do we? Most of us know about the 40 days as the time the stubborn Israelites, after disobeying God's command, wandered in the desert to become purified before reaching the Promised Land. The number forty appears throughout the Bible with significant events. Do you recall when we read the Bible about Noah, that the earth was cleansed and purified in a period of 40 days and 40 nights of rain, during the great flood (Gen 7:4 and Gen 8:5-6)? Do you recall that Moses spent 40 years as a shepherd in the desert, in the land of Midian, prior to the burning bush on Mt Sinai (Acts 7:29-30)? When Moses went up on Mt Sinai to receive the tablets of the covenant, he fasted for 40 days and 40 nights with God (Ex 34:28). The prophet Elijah also spent 40 days in the desert until finding God on Mt. Horeb. (1 Kgs 19:8). Jonah began his journey through Nineveh proclaiming, "Forty days more and you shall be destroyed." (Jon 3:4-5). So as Paul Harvey used to say, "Now you know the rest of the story". Finally, the Knights of Columbus New Haven Headquarters has started to send out, in e-mail, the 40 days in the desert series for Lent, hope you're enjoying it.

Don't forget to spend some focused time in prayer with your family during Lent. Maybe even have fun! Yes, fun can be a suitable idea for a Lenten penance. Holiness should not be glum.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, March 7th at 7:30 p.m. in the Holy Redeemer Life Center. We meet the first Thursday of every month. Hope to see you there.

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

PGK Jack Tylus
Faithful Navigator
Patrick R Dunigan Assembly #510
JTylus505@gmail.com
810 938-2778



March Birthdays

- 1 Benjamin J Hutchins
- 4 Ryan J Liwak
- 5 Stanley B Blood
- 5 Richard J Fox
- 7 Angelo A Disena Jr
- 10 Thomas J Sutter
- 12 Joel R Cuttitta
- 13 Andrew M McCarthy
- 15 Ethan P Sperla
- 16 Mark A Williams
- 17 Patrick N Palmeri
- 20 Dr Harvey K Yee
- 21 Jerome Sysko
- 26 Edward G Bruff
- 28 Andrew Cocagne
- 29 Ronald W Klocek
- 30 Connor Owen
- 30 Spencer Owen
- 31 Dennis A Kellett

Anniversaries

- 3 Raymond & Juliana Rust
- 12 Angelo, Jr. & Carlota Disena
- 12 Ronald & Linda Klocek

Council News from February Meeting

The February 13th meeting was called to order by Grand Knight Joe Goergen at 7:35 pm in the Social Hall at St. John Vianney. Thirteen council members were in attendance, plus one online. GK Goergen reported our Lenten Challenge from the State is to recruit new members every weekend in March. We have a new online prospective member. Council made about \$250 from the February breakfast. There was discussion about reengaging with St. John Vianney (SJV) school to hold K of C sponsored youth programs. Financial Secretary and Treasurer reports were accepted. Council member Ethan Sperla reported on his experience at the SEEK conference. A full story is in the March Crusader. Assembly #510 reminded council that the next

Exemplification is scheduled for Saturday April 20 in Brighton. Interested members should contact FN Jack Tylus. Old Business: Council formally appointed GK Joe Goergen as our delegate to the State Convention being held in May at Mackinac Island.

New Business: members voted to waive the annual member dues for our deacons and seminarians. FS Mike McCarthy will communicate to them. A donation of \$250 was approved to St. John Vianney Catholic School Vianney Nights fundraiser.

Worthy Warden and Lecturer Bob Ragnone read from the Gospel of the day for our spiritual reflection. After Prayer for Vocations the meeting concluded at 9:00 p.m.

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m.



Ethan Sperla (l) poses with friends at the SEEK24 conference in St. Louis, MO.

Council 695 recommends that members, families, and parishioners support Fish Fry Fridays offered by K of C Councils in the area.

Good Shepherd Parish, Montrose: Council 8669
Holy Redeemer Parish, Burton: Council 10170
St. John the Evangelist, Fenton: Council 7418
St. John the Evangelist, Davison: Council 4090

See parish bulletins online for times, dates, menus, and prices.

Brother Knight Attends National Catholic Conference SEEK24

Ethan Sperla is deeply grateful for the support of Council 695 and others which allowed him to attend the SEEK24 conference in St. Louis, Missouri in January. In a letter to Council 695, he wrote "your support played a crucial role in what became a transformative experience for me, both spiritually and personally."

Sperla, who attended the SEEK conference for the first time, is a 2023 graduate of Stanford University with a degree in Economics. He became a member of Knights of Columbus Council 695 in 2018 and graduated from Powers Catholic High School in 2019. Ethan has a long connection with 695. While in high school he would frequently lead a group of Powers' students assisting with the council Fish Bake on Fridays of Lent.

The SEEK24 conference is organized by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), an organization that formed in January 1998 according to John Zimmer, FOCUS vice president of apostolic development, as reported in a January 3, 2024 story in OSV News. Its purpose is to galvanize young people to deepen and share their Catholic faith. FOCUS now numbers nearly 1,000 full-time missionaries across more than 200 campuses and dozens of parishes.

"The conference offered many speaker sessions, including keynotes from figures like Fr. Mike Schmitz and Sr. Mary Grace, whose insights into faith, discipleship, and the pursuit of Christ's call were both inspiring and challenging. These sessions provided not just knowledge, but a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper understanding of what it means

to live a life of faith in today's world," according to Sperla.

Ethan continued, "This gathering of over 20,000 college students was not just an event; it was an invitation to step away from everyday distractions and immerse myself in an environment dedicated to spiritual growth and reflection." In concluding, he said, "Thank you once again for your generosity and for the vital role you play in supporting the faith journey of individuals like myself. I am truly blessed to have the support of the Knights of Columbus Council 695."

And, Council 695 is truly blessed to have young members like Ethan Sperla.

Note: Ethan expects to complete a Masters in Management Science and Engineering at Stanford this spring.

Annual Tootsie Roll MI Drive Coming

Council #695 is proud of its long history of supporting organizations that work with the mentally impaired members of our Flint area community. On Palm Sunday weekend, March 23-24, the council will be holding the annual Tootsie Roll Drive. This year, Brother Knight Ronan Streby will be leading the program for the council. He will be contacting members to help collect funds after Masses.

There will be six opportunities for members to assist after Masses. The drive will take place at St. Mary, Flint after the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. At St. Matthew, members are needed after two Masses on Sunday: the 11:00 a.m. parish Mass and the 1:00 p.m. (Extraordinary Form, i.e. Latin) Mass. St. John

Vianney will host the drive after three Masses: Saturday, 4:00 p.m., Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Members can attend the Mass they are working.

Last year, Council was able to contribute \$3500 to support Michigan Special Olympics, Area XIII Special Olympics, Vocational Independence Program, and the Elmer Knopf Learning Center through funds raised through this program.

Please be generous with your time when Ronan calls. You can also leave a message at the council phone or Grand Knight email if you would like to volunteer. We need three to four workers at each Mass.



Bob Ragnone whips up the next batch of eggs as Ronan Streby (l) and Jack Tylus (r) wait to serve the next diner.

First Sunday of the Month
BREAKFAST
March 3rd

St. John Vianney Social Hall
8:50 am - 10:30 am

Sponsored by Council #695

Everyone Welcome. Free Will Donation.

Rest in Peace

Bruce Bradley

Born: October 18, 1948

Died: January 12, 2024

Member since January 1971

Lent Programs

St. Matthew, St. Mary, and St. John Vianney are offering many opportunities to enhance your lenten experience through prayer and learning. See your parish bulletin for details.

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