



The Compass



A Publication of the Knights of Columbus Council 697 and Assembly 1207

Volume LXXI No. 5

Chartered 1902/1962

March/April 2025

Grand Knight/Faithful Navigator Message

Brothers, Sir Knights,

Hope you are enjoying the warmer Springlike temps as I write this. Many thanks to those who helped with/participated in our Winter Programs. We hope we can count on you for the Food for Families, ID Drive, Corporate Communion, Church Drives, Golf Outing and other events coming up in the weeks/months ahead!

With Lent squarely upon us, the “Family of 8” and “Family of 4” offer numerous “Faith Formation” and “Evangelization” and “Family Strengthening” opportunities that we don’t need to duplicate.

For example, in the “Family of 8” we have: Prayer: the Heart of the Disciple 3/9-10 at St. Lucy,

Monthly Marriage Gathering at Sacred Heart 3/30 and 4/12 at St. Lucy, Stations & Soup supper at St. Ed’s, St. Richard’s; Interactive Stations 4/4 at Sacred Heart, Called and Gifted Retreat 4/5 St. Richard’s, Food for the Journey: Walking with Jesus to Jerusalem 4/14 at St. Sebastians etc. For more info, see the Catholic Community of 8 in Racine Newsletter (sacredheartracine@1339886790.mailchipapp.com).

For the Family of 4 Themes: “Chew and Chat” 3/18 at St. Mary, Heart on Fire 3/19 at St. Paul, Lenten Ladies Study, Friday afternoons 1:30 at the Dish, Food Pantry Support – St. Mary’s, Medical Needs Collection (St. Rita’s) For more info. See: st.louisparishwi.com, stmarybythelake.org, st.paulracine.org and st-ritas.org

This of course doesn’t include Fish Frys (St. Rita, St. Lucy, Sacred Heart, St. Pat’s; and St. Patrick’s Day, St. Paul, etc.) all sorts of ways we can be a KC presence by attending, participating in these, wear your KC jackets/shirts/hats/pins. “Do all you can, wherever you can.”

Remember also, in April the Trustees will need to present slates of prospective nominees for ’25-’26 Council & Assembly Officers to be voted on in May. Prayerfully consider accepting one or more of those nominations. Your help and input are valued and needed.

Have a Wonderful Easter!

Vivat Jesus!

Fraternally,

Bill Frayer, Grand Knight

(SK Jim Sisak, Faithful Navigator, DD72)

Knight/Family of the Month

Brother Michael Langendorf & family

Brothers Duke, Joseph Meredith & families

Congratulations!

Sir Knight/Family of the Month

SK Gary Langendorf & family

SK Tom Meredith & family

SICK AND IN DISTRESS

If you want someone listed, please contact Bill Frayer promptly.

Prayers have been requested for Don & Rose Veselik, Stan Fortuna, Doc Strandell, Gale Poquette, Mike Sweeti, Dan Mercier, Tom McCarthy (Del’s Brother-in-Law), Cameron Chyla’s Aunt, Sandra Determan, Keith Vaculik’s mother, Chris Bernal’s cousin, Mary Miles, and Ken Sak’s brother-in-law, Harold Von De Bur’s Mom.

In addition, Past State Chaplain Fr. Peter Renard, PDD Bill Kartheiser, Therese Geishirt, PSA Don Schoenherr (all surgery) PSD Tony Felber and Phyllis Genthe (deceased.)

We also mourn the passing of Brother Knight Don Burant in January, former long time State Bowling Tournament participant and assisted with the Knowledge Contest. May he rest in the eternal Peace of Christ. We also join with the Willing family in mourning the January passing of Nancy (wife of the late Brother Paul). May she also rest in Christ's eternal peace.

Since we have so many Knights and family in ill health, we print this prayer for the sick:

Divine Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the sick, we turn to You in this time of illness. O dearest Comforter of the Troubled, alleviate our worry and sorrow with Your gentle love, and grant us the grace and strength to accept this burden. Dear God, we place our worries in Your hands. We place our sick under Your care and humbly ask that You restore Your servant to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge Your holy will and know that whatsoever You do, You do for the love of us. Amen.



3rd DEGREE NOTES

January 9, 2025:

Roll Call of Officers – All present

Grand Knight's Report

- New State Program Director – James Burkhardt. New General Agent for Southern WI – Ken Basel. No contact info at this time but should be coming out soon. (see GA message)
- GK will be unable to make next meeting. Will need DGK to cover.
- Brother Knights that have passed – Dave Poisl and Don Burant
- State Convention is 16-18 of May in Green Bay. Need to consider two delegates (GK and PGK) and two alternates (open). Delegates – Bill Frayer and Harold Von De Bur. Alternates – Tim Bartlett, Jacob Clearfield.
- Church Drive at Sacred Heart Jan. 18-19 and 25-26 with meet and greet on 1/30/25 (Wednesday). February possibly another meet and greet. In March, a drive at St. Ed's and St. Richard's. In April, a possible Taste and See event. In May, possibly a drive at St. Joseph and St. John's. If we get some new members, Bill will need help with the Exemp.
- Safe Haven Baby box has been completed and dedicated, and Fr. Juan blessed it. There was a good turnout and a picture in the paper. All expenses were already paid so we don't need to donate at this time, but there is talk of possibly putting one on the north side.
- ID Drive coming up in April. We will need to order more. We will be sending out letters to the stores soon for the stores and churches.
- Treasurer's Report: Noted – Christmas party, 50 people. Reminder that our new lease goes into effect next month – rent up to \$400/mo.)
- FS Report: Cards and Survey going out, return ASAP. Problem with the cards, so new ones had to be ordered, should be here soon. The P.O. Box does work and is active, but you must have the "0" (zero) at the front of the number (081453).

Charity Committee – Will be making a donation to the Kiwanis Concert group that played at the Christmas Party.

Golf – Reminders for dates, looking for golfers, donations, and sponsors. Spectrum will be coming back at a lower cost and adding a cellular forwarding service that will send voice messages to an individual TBD. New cost will be \$79.98. (Less than what we were paying. This would allow a contact means for other events besides the golf outing.

Round Tables – St. Rita's Festival is on and looking for volunteers.

Corporate Communion – 30 March, more info to come

Family -Memorial Mass – possibly end of May.

Community – Only took in about \$250 on KCIC. Possibly reaching saturation point? Maybe a different sign? Tim B. reported that some signs were being destroyed. We need to find a place to store the Christmas trailer so that we can do some renovation work on it over the summer. The location needs to be able to hold a 40-foot trailer and a door height of at least 12 feet high.

Christmas posters went well, coming in and winners were forwarded to State. Food for Families is coming up. 4831 Valentine's Dinner is Feb. 9.

Church – Consecration to the Holy Family program went well with several churches participating. Bill took about 1,000 cards in Spanish over to St. Patrick's.

New Business: Motion made and seconded that for the convention delegates the Council pay for the hotel rooms as well as \$50 food stipend for each delegate. Motion passed.

February 697 Notes

Due to weather and members conflicts there was no quorum present, so only an informal meeting of the Council took place.

Among items discussed were putting an Ad in the State Convention Book (consensus was for a ½ page ad, cost \$50.)

Communications were received. The charity Committee's list of 21 possible organizations to donate to in 2025 was received. There was also discussion regarding use of yard signs to promote the Golf Outing, possibly outside Churches, McGivney Hall, etc.

Other Agenda items tabled until March meeting include Audit (done and sent in) and also the History Book, Membership Initiatives, Food for Families, Corporate Communion (March 30), Holy Hill Ushering (July 6), Men of Christ (March 29), Informal Social change of days, ID Drive (April) [Tootsie Rolls were ordered], Child Safety Training and new Initiative from Siena Schools, Memorial Mass, Programs at Family of 8 & Family of 4 Parishes.



4th DEGREE NOTES

January 27, 2025

Roll Call showed Trustee Witt was excused, but all others present.

Communications: Thank you's from Christmas Coalition and the Kiwanis Youth Symphony, letter requesting ushers from Holy Hill for July 6, invite from Council 4831 to their annual Valentine's Ladies Appreciation Dinner, and two notices from Supreme, 1) to support the victims of the fires in LA, and 2) that there will be many changes to the upcoming Exemp with still more to come in the future.

FComp Frayer stated that the annual Fraternity Activities Survey is now in.

FN Sisak appointed SK Jim Corona as Commander of the Honor Guard. SK Corona then gave a plea to all to join the Guard and what a great honor it is to represent the Knights at various events.

SK Lasken will be emailing a list, on request, of activities at the Vet Center looking for volunteers to help.

Next meeting night is Feb.24; At 6:00 we will have "Info Night" for 4th Degree hopefuls followed by the regular meeting at 7:00.

Old Business: discussion on a drop box for flags to be retired, with a suggestion from SK Bordak to maybe have one in each of the Churches. SK Thad Barr gave a nice report on the March for Life in Washington, D. C. which he attended.

February 24, 2025

The evening started at 6:15 with an "Info Night" for new candidates of which 2 were present; Dylan Scharding and James Casey.

After pizza and beverages were served, SK Frayer gave a short history of the 4th Degree. At 6:55 we all went up to the chamber for the regular monthly meeting. There was a good turnout.

We had a special guest, SK Chris Kachur, the Eastern District Marshal for the Milwaukee Archdiocese.

Communications: Letter from our Worthy District Master called for us to prepare for Holy Week and participate in as many of the services as possible and to be sure to pray for Pope Francis. There are new 4th Degree shirts available. Purser report was given. No

Trustee Report by they were reminded to submit a slate for officers for next year by the April meeting to be voted on in May.

Committees: SK Lasken reported that Fr. Hugo from Union Grove will be the new Chaplain at the Vet Center.

Corporate Communion will be on March 30, location TBD; Flag Placement at Holy Cross will be May 24; Flag retirement at St. Louis is tentatively set for June 22 pending approval from Fr. Thomas; ushering at Holy Hill will be July 6; and Donations for Veterans Drive is November 11.

New Business: St. Robert's in Union Grove will have Fish Frys every Friday during Lent and St. Mary's in Kenosha's will be every other Friday starting February 28.

Area Coordinator SK Mich mentioned The "Men of Christ" Day at St. Joseph in Kenosha on March 29.

Fraternal Benefits Message

Bishops, Priest & Deacons, State Families and Membership,

Hello, my name is Kenneth A Basel, ("Ken" for every occasion where I am not getting scolded by my mother.) I am proud to serve as the General Agent for the Knights of Columbus Insurance covering Southern Wisconsin market. It is an honor to be part of an organization that truly values community, faith, and service, and I am excited to share a bit about myself, my family, and my role here.

With a background in the insurance and financial services industry for the last 11 years, I have dedicated my career, which I consider my vocation to helping individuals, families, and businesses achieve their financial goals. I am also a licensed Investment Advisor Representative (IAR), which allows me to offer Catholic-approved mutual funds through Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors. This unique combination of roles enables me to provide our members with financial products that are not only secure but also aligned with their values and beliefs. An important aspect of my position is recruiting and training new agents, as well as nurturing and growing our existing team. I am passionate about mentoring new talent, sharing my experience, and ensuring that each team member is equipped to provide the best service possible to our members. Together, we can strengthen our community and enhance the lives of those we serve.

On a personal note, I am fortunate to share my life with my wonderful wife, Tammy. We've been happily married for 15 years and are the proud parents of two daughters and twin stepdaughters, all of whom are now adults. As empty nesters, our house feels a bit quieter, but that quiet has been replaced by the love and energy of our two dogs, Banx and Hattie.

I believe that being involved in our community is essential, both personally and professionally. I am eager to connect with our members and parishes through workshops, seminars, and community events, where we can discuss financial strategies and the values that unite us as Knights of Columbus. My goal is to create and nurture an environment where families feel empowered to make informed decisions about their financial futures.

As I embark on this journey as the General Agent for Knights of Columbus Insurance in Southern Wisconsin, I am committed to serving our members and helping them navigate their financial paths. I am excited about the opportunity to build lasting relationships, recruit new talent, and create a thriving team that is focused on our mission of recruiting new members, promoting financial security and enhancing lives.

Thank you for welcoming me into this remarkable community. I look forward to meeting all of you and working together to secure bright futures grounded in our faith and shared values! *Vivat Jesus!*

Ken Basel, General Agent
608-531-8311
kenneth.basel@kofc.org

Field Agent assigned to Racine area:
Derek Kalscheur (Germantown)
262-293-3061 derek.kalscheur@kofc.org

Calendar of Events

March 2025

Wed.	5	<u>Golf Outing Committee Meeting</u>	7:00 P.M.
		Charity Committee Meeting	8:00 P.M.
		(McGivney Hall)	
Thurs.	13	697 Officers/Directors Meeting	6:15 P.M.
		<u>697 Council Meeting</u>	7:00 P.M.
		(McGivney Hall)	
Tue.	18	Informal Social	
Sat.	15	Archdiocesan Knowledge/Free Throw Contests	
		(Milwaukee)	10:00 A.M.
Sun.	16	<u>Church Drive</u>	
		(St. Ed's – 8:30 A.M., St. Richard's - 10:00 A.M.)	
Mon.	17	<u>St. Patrick's Day</u> (Join in the Wearin' o' the Green)	
		Planning Committee Meeting	7:00 P.M.
		(McGivney Hall)	
Wed.	19	Feast of St. Joseph	
Thurs.	20	In-person Exemp.	7:00 P.M.
		(McGivney Hall)	
Sun.	23	<u>Church Drive</u>	
		(St. Ed's – 8:30 A.M., St. Richard's - 10:00 A.M.)	
Mon.	24	<u>Assembly 1207 Meeting</u>	7:00 P.M.
		(McGivney Hall)	
Tue.	25	Feast of the Annunciation (KC Day for the Unborn)	
Wed.	26	Fraternal Benefits Night	7:00 P.M.
		(McGivney Hall)	
Thurs.	27	<u>Open House & Info. Night</u>	6:15 P.M.
		<u>697/1207 Social Meeting/COR</u>	7:00 P.M.
		(McGivney Hall)	
Sat.	29	Men of Christ Conference (Kenosha)	
Sun.	30	<u>Corporate Communion</u> (St. Joseph's)	
		9:00 A.M. Mass, Continental Breakfast to follow	

April 2025

Wed.	2	<u>Golf Outing Committee Meeting</u>	7:00 P.M.
		Charity Committee Meeting	8:00 P.M.
		(McGivney Hall)	
Sat/Sun	5-6	ID Drive (churches)	
Thurs.	10	697 Officers/Directors Meeting	6:15 P.M.
		<u>697 Council Meeting</u>	7:00 P.M.
		(McGivney Hall)	
Sat.	12	Eastern District of Wis. 4 th Degree Exemp	
		(St. Mary's, Kenosha)	2:00 P.M.
Sun.	13	Palm Sunday	
		ID Drive (churches)	
Thurs.	17	Holy Thursday	
Fri.	18	Good Friday	
Sat.	19	Holy Saturday	
Sun.	20	Easter Sunday (All Praise & Honor to Our Risen Savior & Lord, Fly Your Flag Proudly)	
Mon.	21	Planning Committee Meeting	7:00 P.M.
		(McGivney Hall)	
Tue.	22	Informal Social	
Thurs.	24	<u>697/1207 Social Meeting/COR</u>	7:00 P.M.
		In-person Exemp. (McGivney Hall)	
Fri/Sun	25-27	ID Drive (stores)	
Mon.	28	<u>Assembly 1207 Meeting</u>	7:00 P.M.
		(McGivney Hall)	
Wed.	30	Fraternal Benefits Night	6:00 P.M.
		"Taste & See" Open House & Info. Night	

For Future Reference

May 2-4 – End of ID Drive
 May 3 – State K/FT Contest (Wis. Rapids)
 May 11 – Mother's Day
 May 17 – Armed Forces Day
 May 16-18 – KC State Convention (Green Bay)
 May 26 – Memorial Day (Set up Display at Cemeteries – May 24)
 June 13 – 7th Annual KC Charity Golf Outing
 June 14 – Flag Day
 June 15 – Father's Day
 June 22 – Flag Retirement
 June 26 – Recognition Night
 June 28-29 – Corporate Communion, Civic Parade - Kenosha

Ongoing Events Update

** 2025 Dues Notice – FS Jim Sisak is now accepting payments for the 2025 Calendar year for Council 697. They are \$50 for the year (\$12.50 for a quarter). You may also include \$3.25 for Penny-a-Knight-a-day (PKD) which goes to the Archbishop for Catholic Education and \$3 for the Culture of Life Fund if you wish. Send your check to KC Council 697, P.O. Box 081453, Racine, WI 53408.

Assembly 1207 dues are now also payable to KC Assembly 1207 at the same P.O. Box address as above! They are \$25 for the year. Remember that Honorary and Honorary Life members are strongly urged to make a donation toward the Council and/or Assembly expenses though you are exempt from ordinary dues payments. Thanks! -Bill Frayer (Faithful Comptroller)

697 Charity Golf Outing – 7th Annual will be **Friday, June 13, 2025**, at **Ives Grove Golf Links**. Now is the time to start lining up sponsors, 4-somes, raffle and auction items, gift bag donations. Set aside the date now to help out and/or play in the event, come out for dinner and the raffles/fraternity, etc. Next committee meeting – Wed. April 2, 7 P.M. at the Hall. Watch for a letter and update soon. Get forms and all info. You need from birdease.com/kofc697racine.

***Corporate Communion** – The next Corporate Communion will be **Sunday, March 30** at **St. Joseph's Parish, 9:00 Mass, Continental Breakfast to follow**. All 697, 1207 members from all our Area Councils are invited including family, guests, prospects! We'll have reserved section in front. Plan to be there. Let Bill F. or Harold V. know so we can plan properly. Thanks!

Culture of Life Essay Contest – The information on the Contest has been sent to area Middle and High Schools. Open to all 7th – 12th graders. Topic this year has to do with living your Catholic Values. Essays are to be written in Jan./Feb.; **due to us by March 15**. **For more information, check with me!**

***Charity Raffle Tickets** – return soon, **no later than May 10**. We have received about \$800 worth back so far. If you need more, contact Bill F. or Jim Sisak. Thanks.

***ID Drive** – The “Tootsie Roll Drive” will be held once again **April 5-6, 12-13, May 3-4** at the Churches and **April 25-27** at the stores. Start to plan now as to which weekend to hold it at your parish, and let Bill know. We'll then need to get a few KC's lined up to work that weekend. Be sure to confirm the dates with the Parish office. We'll start to line up KC's for the stores as soon as we know which ones we can do. The list keeps going down as more and more go corporate and allow no outside solicitations. If you'd like to help organize the stores for the Drive and the workers' schedule, let me know. Thanks!

Upcoming Events of Note:

Church Drives -The Feb. Church Drive at Sacred Heart went smoothly but yielded only 1 transfer member (**Welcome Deacon Ed Benvegra**) and a couple prospects. There will be a new effort at St. Ed's and St. Richard's in March and St. Joseph/St. John's in May or June. We'll look at St. Rita, St. Mary's and St. Pat's in the summer/fall.

Charity Donations – Donations of \$500-750 have been approved for Grove Club, My Harmony club, Habitat for Humanity and Women's Resource Center. 4 more will be announced at the March Council Meeting. Next Committee meeting is set **for April 2, 8:00 P.M. at the Hall**.

Food for Families – The Drive is underway at St. Ed's (Feb. 23 – April 6). Other Parishes can join in. It's just a matter of collecting the donated food and working with Bill F. to get it to the SVDP Pantry. SVDP Easter Baskets will also be created and given out from St. Ed's on April 21-22. Details TBA

Fraternal Benefits Night – I don't yet have details on the March, April FBN's. They'll **likely be March 26 and April 30**. Will send out Viewing details/links when I get them. We'll have sessions at the Hall and possibly at parish sites if they can be arranged. The April one will likely have “Taste and See” Open House aspects as well.

Social Nights – The 697/1207 **Social Nights (3/27 and 4/24)** will be in March tied to an Open House/Info Night and a follow-up to the Day for the Unborn (3/25) observance with Rosary and Prayer. The 4/24 Night may have an In Person Exemp and Video/Discussion on Evangelization.

The “Informal Social” – (Sheepshead Night) was not working on the 1st Thursdays due to numerous conflicts, so we are going to try different evenings instead. In March it'll be **Tuesday, March 18**, and in April it'll be **Tuesday, April 22**. We may also try Monday or Wednesday. 7:00 at McGivney Hall. All are welcome – veteran players or “newbies”.

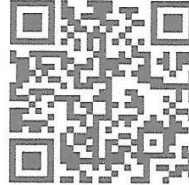
Men of Christ Conference – **March 29 in Kenosha** – This is our “Spiritual Reflection” for 2024-25 FY. See the attached flyer to register.

4th Degree Exemp – Saturday, April 12 in Kenosha. 3rd Degree Members, Help celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the 4th Degree by becoming a Sir Knight if you are not yet one! See the attached info. For details. Applications and fees are due by March 30th to Bill F. or Jim S. all SK's and Ladies are urged to attend the Exemp and observers and the Banquet that follows. Check with Bill F. or Jim S.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

12:30 - 1:30 PM REGISTRATION
2:00 PM - EXEMPLIFICATION
4:00 PM - MASS
5:30 PM - RECEPTION
6:00 PM - BANQUET



LINK TO PRE-REGISTER (CANDIDATES ONLY):

<https://forms.gle/JnTKzMog8NYagUw19>

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATE

- Candidate fee to participate is \$90.00
Includes 1 meal ticket (additional meal tickets \$25)
- 4th Degree Membership Pin
- Challenge coin
- Certificate suitable for framing



PLEASE NOTE:

IN ORDER TO ENSURE CERTIFICATES AND PROGRAMS ARE CORRECT, WE ASK THAT ALL
COMPLETED FORM 4s AND FUNDS BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS PRIOR:

March 12, 2025

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

ASSEMBLY 1207

AND MAIL TO: KC 697/1207, P.O. Box 081453, Racine, WI 53408

