

# KNIGHT ACTION



## Prayers for the Canonization of Father Michael J. McGivney

God our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request).

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father Hail Mary Glory be to the Father



**LENT: "JUST AROUND THE CORNER!"**

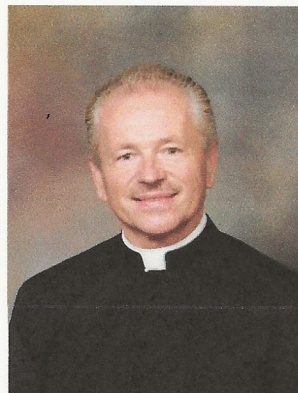
We are about to embark upon our Lenten season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving where we are to open our hearts and minds to hear the ways in which we are called to live out the Gospel.

In conversation we have probably all heard the criticism concerning our children possibly receiving a medal or trophy for "just showing up." We call these awards participation trophies, and they are criticized for lowering standards and cheapening the accomplishments required to gain appropriate recognition, similar to how we would perceive those who participate in the Olympic games to achieve Gold, Silver, or Bronze medals representing their serious training and competition skills. Of course, we ourselves create this situation if we teach children to expect high praise even for what they are supposed to be doing at a bare minimum. Note: be assured that recognizing a child who takes the initiative on their own should always be praised.

In many of the readings from the Prophet Isaiah, he speaks about the Israelites who are often behaving like a "participation trophy" generation. Pleased to have access to God, they ask him to declare what is due to them, saying, "Why do we fast, and you do not see it? afflict ourselves, and you take no note of it?" God's response: "you are doing the bare minimum you are supposed to be doing, and you are not even doing that right!" So, God spells out for them what "noteworthy" behavior would look like. It includes releasing the unjustly imprisoned and freeing the oppressed; sharing bread with the hungry and housing the homeless; and clothing the naked and not abandoning loved ones.

While the people of Isaiah's time eventually got better at following the Lord's commandments, there were still those like the Pharisees that seemed to forget the lesson plan from God. They were the ones who felt so comfortable in whatever they were doing, was also noteworthy of recognition. So, when Jesus was challenged by the Pharisees and asked why his disciples do not do things the way they do? Jesus answered them in much the same way God did in Isaiah's time. "You're missing the point!"

We can learn a lesson from this that probably needs repeating. We need to constantly relearn what God is calling us to do. It is a simple lesson. God has made available to us both law and love, and has given us instructions – specific ones at that! For what we need to do, is do things right in His Name; to be confident that all things work out when they are worked out through and with God. Personal agenda's looking for praise and recognition should be thrown out the window. So, in order to not "miss the point", let us therefore, particularly in the season of Lent, open our hearts and minds to hear the ways in which we are called to live out the Gospel; to be recognized by God ONLY, in what we do and say, with no medal, trophy, or recognition needed here on earth. The reward in heaven will surpass any trophy or accolade received here on earth. Happy Lent!



**Financial Secretary  
Quarterly Report  
As of 12/31/2022**

Brother Knight and Seminarian Timothy Sanchez came to our December meeting where our Council was proud to present Brother Timothy with a \$500 check for the Knight's Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP). It was great to see Brother Timothy and to hear how his time at the Seminary is going and was exciting to hear that he will be ordained a Deacon this Spring. Between Masses on November 27 at St. Stephen, Brother Timothy gave a very informative presentation on The Holy Eucharist.

Our strong fundraising over the summer at Sendik's and St. James allowed us to support the Keep Christ in Christmas and Veteran/Military initiatives. We again purchased yard signs, stickers, and magnets and distributed them to St. Stephen parishioners during December. Our expenses were partially offset by free will donations we received. We also made donations to Wreaths Across America and the Archdiocese of Military services that support Veterans and Active Duty Military personnel respectively.

The annual survey of Fraternal Activity is due each January 31 and details charitable disbursements made by the Council and hours of service provided by Council members in the prior year. I am proud to say that in 2022 our Council had charitable disbursements of \$13,241 and recorded 3,419 hours of service by Council Members. These numbers compare to \$8,858 in charitable disbursements and 2,529 hours of service in 2021. We had more money to contribute in 2022 because our baby bottle campaign and Sendik's grill events raised significantly more funds and after 2.5 years off due to COVID we were able to have a Pancake Breakfast in 2022. Also, the continued opening of society after COVID allowed members to be more comfortable being out in the community donating their time.

As of the end of 2022 we had 38 members of our Council which was up two from the beginning of our fiscal year (6/30/22). We have a goal of adding 3 new members this fiscal year, so we have some work to do. Let's all make a new year's resolution to try and recruit new members.

Our baby bottle campaign kicked off in January. The bottles were distributed after Mass on January 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>, and January 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> and will be collected the weekend of January 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>. I will have an update on how much we were able to raise in the next newsletter. All proceeds will go to support Pregnancy Centers in our area.

Dave Egan  
Financial Secretary



## Get to Know our Deputy Grand Knight, Ron Schwenn

Ron Schwenn has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for just over two years. We've seen Ron at Mass, at several of our knights activities and almost all of our council meetings, but I never had a conversation with him about his life outside of the knights.

Ron lives in Franklin with his wife Susan. They have been married 28 years and have three children and three grandchildren. Ron has been a member of St Stephen's parish for about 8 years. Previously Ron attended St. Alphonsus Church in Greendale. Ron grew up on the south side of Chicago where he attended St. Albert's grade school and St Laurence high school in Burbank, Illinois. He has three older brothers and a younger sister.

Ron has worked in the retail grocery industry since 1988. He was a store manager and worked in several Chicago area grocery stores. He transitioned to a national procurement role and spent about two years in Salt Lake City, Utah. He eventually moved back to Illinois and eventually was asked to move to Wisconsin. Ron has held many positions in the grocery industry. He is currently the Director of Dairy for Albertsons. The Albertsons Companies family of stores is comprised of more than 2,200 supermarkets operating under 20+ banners across 34 states and the District of Columbia.

When he's not working, Ron enjoys being "Pappy" to his three grandchildren. He is an enthusiastic fan of the Brewers, Packers and Bucks. Ron also enjoys his annual Canada fishing trip where he is an avid musky fisherman. Knowing Ron, this makes sense, it takes lots of patience to go after the "fish of 10,000 casts". Ron tries to live his life following the first principle that Dale Carnegie taught: "Don't criticize, condemn, or complain." This ideal teaches us to be kind and thoughtful when considering other peoples' feelings. Its about showing respect to get respect – treating others the way you want to be treated. Ron says that being a Knight has helped him to practice these principles.

We're grateful that Ron chose to join us at St. Stephen and to join the knights.

Bob Fischer



## Keep Christ in Christmas poster coloring contest Winners!

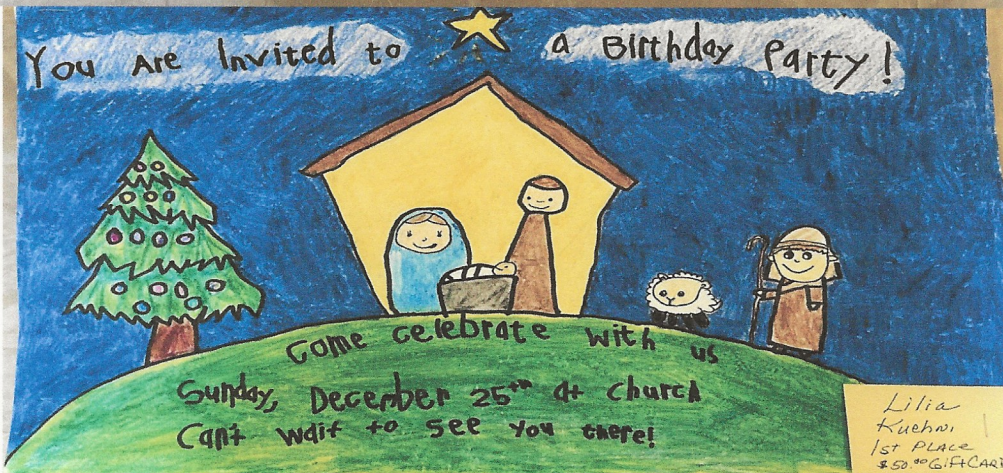
Each winner was awarded a \$50 gift card



Afina Alonso

Age group 11 to 14

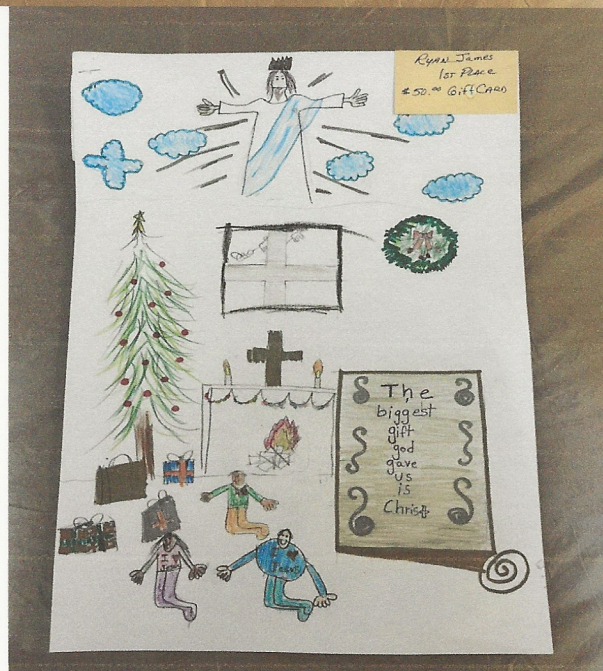
Grade 6 to 8



Lilia Kuehni

Age group 5 to 7

Grade K to 2



Ryan James

Age group 8 to 10

Grade 3 to 5

## Commemorative Brick Committee Report

Our commemorative brick campaign is moving ahead slowly but nicely. On January 3rd , we received our second delivery of bricks. Our fellow parishioner and friend, Randy Hamilton, helped us store this delivery.

Our combined profits from both deliveries is at \$18,976. We are currently starting a 3rd brick Order as of January 24th, we currently have a profit from that order of \$1,492 from 12 purchased bricks.

We still hear the question, “ Is it too late to order a brick?” If your asked that question please Reply, **We are still accepting orders!**

Vivat Jesus

## Our Council celebrated Carol Kitterman's Service to our council & Country



On Sunday January 21st after the 4:30 mass our knights gathered around Carol to thank her for volunteering at our parish and council. Carol is starting a new chapter in her life as she reports to active duty in the United States Air Force on Tuesday January 24th.

Father Robert gave her a special blessing during mass to keep her safe.

Knights respond to call to help feed the hungry with a Thanksgiving meal. On Friday November 18th & Monday November 21st a team of five knights filled Thanksgiving boxes and distributed them to over 70 low income families.



Robert Fischer



The whole crew celebrating a job well done!



Jim Lampe



Gary Kitterman



Chris Schneider

## Open Council Positions

Please consider volunteering to fill one of the following positions:

**Membership Director:** Works to grow membership through new and transfer members

**Family Director:** Responsible for family based council programs

**Lecturer:** Provides brief spiritual discourses and reflections during business meetings for the "Good of the Order"

## Archdiocese of Milwaukee Eucharistic Revival

**This is a three-year initiative aimed at renewing the Church by Enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist!**

**This campaign starts now and will run until Pentecost Sunday in 2025**

**There are four main pillars of this revival.**

- 1. Personal encounters:** Bring our people to Jesus
- 2. Reinvigorating Devotion:** Receive Jesus, Worship Jesus
- 3. Deepening Formation:** Learn and preach the truth about Jesus
- 4. Missionary Sending:** Go out and bring Jesus to the world

All parishes throughout the United States will be participating in this Revival. As Knights and leaders in our faith we will be asked to participate. More information will be made available as we kick off this very important initiative in our faith.

### Archbishop William E. Lori Supreme Chaplain's monthly Challenge.



This month, I challenge you to mindfully practice curbing your tongue, particularly avoiding taking the Lord's name in vain. Second, I challenge you to seek to grow in your respect for God as a Catholic man by participating in Faith in Action Into the Breach program.

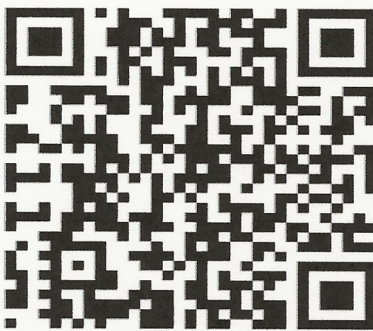
#### Questions for Reflection:

Do you pay much attention to what you say and how you say it? Do you notice what you hear around you, whether from the people in your life or from media you consume? What are some specific ways you can try to avoid speech that fails to show respect for God?

## Recruitment Tool



**ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR  
COUNCIL 16821**



The above QR Code can be used to view the council website **using your cell phone.**

From there the viewer can access much about the council and even ***join the Knights of Columbus.***

# 2023 is a Great Year to be a Knight of Columbus

Hello Brother Knights and welcome to 2023. You might be familiar with some special **anniversaries** taking place during the year. To highlight a few; Warner Bros., producer of entertaining movies and funny cartoons turns 100 on April 4<sup>th</sup>. This is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of world renown artist Pablo Picasso. Watch for his remarkable works of art to receive additional attention during the year, especially on the anniversary of his death which is April 8<sup>th</sup>. Walt Disney is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> year of being a storytelling and entertainment company. Watch for some new adventures with all your favorite Disney characters especially around their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary date of Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>.

All those anniversaries are unique, but an even more important event to support in 2023 is the National Eucharistic Revival. We are currently unifying in the first of three-year special and spiritual years with the "Living Eucharist". It's an event that dates back 2000 plus years. Throughout the 2023 Revival year, events are planned to encourage participation with the goal of growing our understanding and belief in the Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. This is a chance for all to participate firsthand within our families, friends and parish rather than watching from the sidelines. As a Knight of Columbus, our missions are to educate others and share our missionary spirit through our words, actions and events.

One of my favorite homily stories is the tale of a young boy making a difference with a Twinkie. On a beautiful summer day, a boy about 5 years old is packing two lunches in his family's kitchen. His mother asks, "why are you making two lunches my son". The boy eagerly shared, I am making one for myself and one for my picnic with Jesus Christ".

After finishing the boy headed out to the park to meet Jesus for lunch. After walking around the park for **several** minutes, he met up with a homeless women sitting alone on park bench. He sat next to her and the two exchanged greetings. The boy then opened his lunch bag and shared a sandwich, a juice box and a Twinkie dessert with the women. The two had a conversation and some laughs as the young boy made a difference in someone's life with a simple Twinkie and the spirit of the Eucharist.

Upon returning home, the boy's mom asked, how was your lunch? The boy answered, "mom it was a lot of fun. I learned that Jesus has a nice smile and a lot older than I thought". Back in the park, the lady was still smiling when another homeless person asked her, "what are you smiling about?" She replied, "I just had lunch with Jesus, and he's a lot funnier and younger than I thought."

What a neat story about a simple act of kindness making a difference in the life of others. Without any doubt, this young boy will make a great Knight of Columbus in a few more years.

There will always be a Super Bowl to cheer for and an Oscar winning movie to attend during the year. Consider this year a wonderful opportunity to revive our faith and participation in KOFC or parish supported events. Whether you're stocking food in the St. Stephen pantry, singing in the choir, volunteering at a fish fry or collecting coin-filled baby bottles after Mass, all acts of participation make a difference in the revival of life and The Holy Eucharist.

Good Health and Best Year Ever to all our Brother Knights,

Mark Missurelli –  
GK – Council 16821

