

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 11809



**at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
and Mission at Lake Pleasant Parkway
Sun City West, Arizona**

NEWSLETTER January-February 2025



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Message from the Grand Knight

Brothers All, as we embark on the new calendar year there are many opportunities and challenges ahead of us in order to carry out Blessed Michael McGivney's vision when he founded the Knights of Columbus, A little more than four years after being assigned as an assistant priest to St. Mary's, he gathered a handful of men in the church basement to establish a new fraternal association dedicated to helping men and their families with spiritual and temporal needs.

The Order was formed as a fraternal benefit society, but Father McGivney and the men he gathered saw a "higher calling," that was expressed in the Order's three main principles of charity, unity and fraternity. Father McGivney saw them as three legs of a stool, each one dependent on the other, and each one critical to helping the Catholic men of Connecticut keep the faith while supporting also their personal, civic and social needs.

We have food drives, water drives, coats for kids, Keep Christ in Christmas, Arizona State Raffle sales, and, in all likelihood a Lenten Fish Fry as well as Bernadette's Brew and other opportunities ahead of us to help full-fill our mission.

In order to be successful, it will take the combined efforts of all of us to carry out his Vision.

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GK Message, Cont. from Page 1

Please make sure you have completed the Diocesan Safe Environment Training and the County's/States Safe Handling (Food Safety) Certification. Working together we can serve our Parish family; help address our community's needs and each other.

Vivat Jesus! **Robert "Bob" Conen, Grand Knight**

Congrats New Financial Secretary

The Council has a new Financial Secretary. **Jake Kluch**, Past Grand Knight, has been appointed by the Supreme Grand Knight to serve in this position for three years. This the only Council position not elected by the members but appointed by the Supreme Grand Knight.

The Financial Secretary's (FS) duties include financial records and membership records. The FS collects and receives all moneys that come into the council from any source. He then turns that money over to the Treasurer for deposit in the council account. The FS is accountable for collecting member dues. He sends out billing notices and initiates retention measures to prevent members from being suspended for nonpayment of dues.

The keeping of accurate membership records is an important role of the FS. He ensures that new members sign the constitutional roll of membership at the time of their First Degree. The FS also applies to the Supreme Council office for honorary and honorary life membership cards for qualified members. In addition, the FS handles supply orders for members with the Supreme Council Supply Department; filing the "Report of Officers" with the Supreme Council office; and reporting all membership/insurance transactions to the Supreme Council office in a timely and correct manner.

It's a BIG JOB and thank you Jake for stepping up and taking this important role in our Council!

Brother Knights,
A new year is upon us and it's time to rekindle the spirit of charity that inspired us to become Knights of Columbus. We have a number of charitable initiatives planned and your participation is crucial. By volunteering your time and talents you'll not only contribute to essential causes but spread hope and compassion within our community. Stay tuned for announcements as we prepare to make a lasting impact together.

Hank Gorski, Faith in Action Life Program Director and PR Chair.



From the Deputy Grand Knight

As we begin a new year, 2025, we also celebrate the beginning of the Year of Jubilee proclaimed by **Pope Francis**. The theme of the Holy Year is “Pilgrims of Hope.” Pope Francis has written, “... uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt,. Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. “

As Knights we embrace the message of hope, confidence and courage. Through our charitable programs and service we extend the message of hope to those in need. Through our focus on the Right to Life of every unborn child we inspire courage and confidence to expectant mothers and fathers. As a “band of brothers” we offer one another good will and heartfelt support. All this and more is our special calling in Jubilee 2025.

There are many Catholic men we all know who would find that sharing Fraternity with us is a new source and sense of hope, rewarding service and brotherhood. Continued, page 6.

Patriotic Degree News

The **Msgr. Irvin F. Lampe** Fourth Degree Assembly, 1673 will celebrate its 50th Anniversary with a dinner and social at 5:00 pm on February 12, 2025. All Sir Knights, interested Third Degree Knights and their spouses are invited to attend at no charge. Dinner will be at I and J Fountain Restaurant 1221 W. Bell Road, Surprise, AZ. For more information contact **Greg Jude**, slj1972@yahoo.com.

It is anticipated that there will be a Fourth Degree Exemplification in late January or early February. All Third Degree Knights are encouraged to sign up and join the Patriotic Degree.

Coats for Kids-Success Again in 2024

Coats for Kids 2024 distributed a total of 192 children's coats through Santa Teresita Parish and Valley View Food Bank. A big thanks goes to Father Bill and Joe Kowalkowshi for their leadership again this year. Along with the coats recipients received a gift card and Advent Calendar. Scarves and mittens were also available. It truly warms our hearts to know that we warm all those little bodies!!





Helping Our Sisters—Catholic Daughters

DID YOU KNOW
 The Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) was founded in 1903 by the Knights of Columbus as a charitable, benevolent and patriotic sorority for Catholic ladies. CDA's tagline is "Unity and Charity and there are 27 Courts in Arizona including the one at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and Mission at Lake Pleasant Parkway



Five Knights turned out to serve, and clean up after, the Catholic Daughters catered Advent Luncheon on December 18th. **John Melcarek Greg Werner, Jeff Gallagher, Carlos Alexander** and **Mike Ward** in their white aprons treated the ladies to service extraordinary. Great appreciation was expressed by the ladies who could just relax and enjoy their festive event.



Left, John Greg and Jeff.

Right, Carlos



Star Council Award

For the second year in a row our Council 11809 received the prestigious Star Council Award for



2023-2024, The Star Council Award

McGivney, Founders and Columbian Awards.

Jake Kluch who served as Grand Knight for both years from 2022-2024 received the award from **District Deputy Joe D'Andrea.**



recognizes outstanding achievement in membership, insurance and programming. In order to achieve the Star Council Award, a council must also earn the Father



Success-Keep Christ in Christmas Magnet Campaign

Our Keep Christ in Christmas car magnet campaign was a great success again this year. We sold out of magnets on the third Sunday of Advent and raised \$2627 for First Way Pregnancy Center. First Way is initiating a new family education and support program in 2025 and our donation will help it get underway. Thanks to a great team who made this happen...**Hank Gorski, Jim Michel, Jeff Boas, Chris Waller, Jake Kluch, Ken Blink, Mike Ward, Sue Ward, Colette Hoover and Ed Hoover.**

Also a big thank you to our two favorite Priests...**Fr. Shea and Fr. Bill** who made great pulpit announcements and gave us their support. Most importantly, THANK YOU to the **parishioners** of Our Lady of Lourdes and Mission at Lake Pleasant Parkway for their extraordinary generosity and participation.

Recognitions

We are very pleased to announce the following new members of our Council. WELCOME Brothers!

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tito Carpio | Samuel Pechkurow |
| Philip Schroeder | Christopher Waller |
| Thomas Sloan | |
| Robert Burnett | |



New Third Degree Members following the Exemplification Ceremony led by District Deputy **Joe D'Andrea**

Family of the Month

- December—**Jim, Pat & Devon Michel**
- January—**Bill, Ginger and Virginia Nesbitt**

Past Grand Knight **Jake Kluch** was recognized with appreciation for his service and dedication as Grand Knight 2022-2024. Current Grand Knight **Bob Conen** presented the award.





Catholic Daughters—Coming Events

The **40th Anniversary** of OLOL CDA Court is in January 2025 and the committee is preparing a very special celebration!!

In November, 6 students from ASU who are members of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students are missionaries working with students raised Catholic, but left the church, to bring them back and then turn them into missionaries.

Bingo is 1st Thursday each month Madonna Hall 1-3 pm

Calendar

Never wonder again what your Council is up to. Access the monthly events and activities calendar and other news at:

KofC11809.org/news/

Please join us at our monthly member meetings on the second Thursday of the month.

5:45 pm Rosary
6:15 pm Meeting

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We're on the Web
KofC11809.org

The Knights of Columbus are not part of and not acting on behalf of the parish or Arch/Diocese.

Women's Guild—Coming Events

Our Lady's Guild is sponsoring a special event and all are welcome.

“SCAMS AND FRAUDS”

A presentation by **Lisa Gill**, First Citizens Bank

Monday, January 6, 10:30 am (right after 9:30 regular meeting)

Madonna Hall

Come, Listen, Learn

Turkey Drive 2024 Results

Our two day Turkey Drive produced outstanding results. We collected a total of 160 turkeys, 5 hams and \$3255 in contributions. Many families were able to celebrate thanksgiving .

A check was presented to

Jesse Ramirez, Valley View

Food Bank by **Jim Michel** and **Joe Kowalkowski**..

Thanks to all who helped with this great endeavor.



DGK Message, cont. from page 3

A recent study found that over 50% of those who don't attend church cited “not being invited” as their reason. Let's not let that be the reason any Catholic man gives for not being a Knight. Vivat Jesus!

Ed Hoover, Deputy Grand Knight