



THE KNIGHT CAP



FEBRUARY 2017



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

SAINT RITA COUNCIL 7624

Chaplain

Fr. John Evans

Grand Knight

George Lamoureux

Deputy Grand Knight

Bill Osborne

Chancellor

Brian Soltys

Recorder

Robert Collins

Financial Secretary

John Mann, PGK

Treasurer

Dan Campbell, PGK

Lecturer

Deacon John Huntley

Advocate

Ken Mattson, PGK

Warden

Mike Ruzevich

Inside Guard

David Haskell

Outside Guard

Jim Novak

Trustees

Craig Stear, PGK

Andy Schachtner, PGK

John Logli, PGK

From the Grand Knight's Pen

Dear Brother Knights,

What a mild winter we have had so far. I hope I did not just jinx it. Did you have the opportunity to see the Holy Family Icon that was in the church the weekend of January 21- 22? The Icon is on pilgrimage all across the state of Illinois and was on its way to Freeport.

February is a huge month for the Knights with three big events. I encourage all of us to try and attend at least one of these, if not all of these events in February. The Fraternal dinner is the evening of Feb 18th; Family Swim Knight the evening of Feb 19th; and, Mardi Gras the evening of Feb 25th. We do not need help with these events. We do need your attendance. Please read more about all three of these events in this issue of the Knight Cap. It's a great way to get out for an enjoyable time during the long winter month of February.

Finally Brothers, do you know of a Catholic man in our parish who is not a Knight and may be interested? If you do, please forward his name and contact information to me or Brother Craig Stear. Your name will be entered in a drawing.

Fraternally,

George Lamoureux

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2017

- 2 Council Business Meeting – 7:15 pm
Rosary at 7:00 pm
- 14 Valentine’s Day
- 15 State KCIC Poster Judging
- 18 Fraternal Dinner
- 19 District Free Throw Competition
- 19 Family Swim Night
- 20 President’s Day
- 25 St. Rita Mardi Gras

March 2017

- 1 Ash Wednesday
- 2 Council Business Meeting – 7:15 pm
Rosary at 7:00 pm
- 4 2017 Polar Plunge
- 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- 19 St. Joseph’s Day
- 20 Lenten Soup (K)night – KC Edition
- 20-26 Orderwide Admission Degree Week
- 29 Founders’ Day
- TBD Regional Free Throw Competition

April 2017

- 6 Council Business Meeting – 7:15 pm
Rosary at 7:00 pm
- 6 Council Blood Drive
- 9 Palm Sunday
- 9 Annual Council Easter Hunt Scramble
- 13 Holy Thursday
- 14 Good Friday
- 15 Holy Saturday
- 16 Easter Sunday
- 21-23 State Convention
- 23 Divine Mercy Sunday
- 26 Chapter Meeting
- 27 Officers & Directors Meeting
- 30 Deceased Knights Mass
- 30 Widow’s Spring Breakfast

Clip & Post

FRATERNAL BENEFITS



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
Making a difference for life.

Want to learn more?
Contact Jason Sturges to
discuss your fraternal

benefits opportunities. Call Jason at 815-222-7666.

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Please remember those Knights, their families, and friends in need of our prayers. Especially for;

Rev. Fr. Gerard Christiansen, Rev. Fr. William Collins, Mike DeFrancisco, Chelsie Dockins, Linda Faber, Edna Jacobson, Alicia Huntley, Stella Jacobs, Kate & Tony Kujawa, Jimmy Mann, John Mann, Jerry Pennington, Larry Peters, Ann Marie Ruzevich, end to violence in the city of Rockford, Fr. Evans intentions for St. Rita Parish, all Priests of the Diocese, Pope Francis, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, all deceased, sick or unemployed Knights, those with addictions, parents of unborn children, police, firemen, EMT’s, and those in the military.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Please remember Brother Charles Alfano and his family in your prayers. Brother Charles’ father recently passed away. Please keep them in your prayers during this time of loss.

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY!



Joseph Achino, Charles Alfano, John Berg, Dan Burd, James Coffey, Marco Delgado, Peter Domino, Patrick Fitzgerald, Robert Madden, Dave Morey, Martin Mosca, Jeff Peters, Anthony Sparacino, Kevin Taylor, Richard Wiermanski and Greg Zarembski.

Happy Birthday!

THE CHAPLAIN’S CORNER



Worthy Officers, Dear Brothers,

I hope this letter finds you well.

With the latest presidential inauguration, we must continue to thank God for the privilege of living in a country that has peacefully transferred supreme power, consistently for over 200 years. Let us keep praying for our great nation.

And remember, the next time we read this newsletter, we will be already in Lent. Consider your Lenten practice for this year.

Fraternally Yours in Christ,
SK Rev. John R. Evans, PGK



COUNCIL & MEMBERSHIP REPORT



Craig Stear is the Membership Director for the 2016-2017 fraternal year. If you have questions concerning membership or need help in the recruitment of a gentleman, please contact Craig at 222-9569.

Knights of the Month



Congratulations to our December Knight of the Month, Brother Dave Haskell. Brother Dave was selected by the Grand Knight for his work before, during and after the Christmas breakfast. Dave purchased, cooked and cleaned up during the Christmas breakfast helping to make it a

success. Dave also helped with the Nativity Blessing & Lighting by helping to put up the display and re-furbishing the Nativity figurines by replacing all the electrical components. Congratulations Brother Dave on being selected as December Knight of the Month.

Family of the Month



Congratulations to Jim & Lelia Novak as the Council's December Family of the Month. Brother Jim & Lelia and his family were selected by the Grand Knight as Family of the Month for their help at our recent event of parking cars at the Savant Christmas event. Jim and Lelia had to keep the keys of over 100

were being given to them from 17 Knights. They braved 4 hours of standing outside in the elements of freezing temperatures and constant snow without a break. Add to that standing on a frozen concrete floor and a heater that was not working. Great job Jim & Lelia! Congratulations to Jim & Lelia on being selected St. Rita Council's December Family of the Month!

District 48 Meeting



The District 48 meeting was held on Saturday January 7, 2017. Grand Knight George Lamoureux was in attendance for Council 7624. The Holy Family Icon was discussed as well as recruitment city wide. An example used was Theology on Tap where collectively the entire District can hold an event that Catholic men can come to and learn more about the Knights. We would have special speakers, beverages, etc. Also, the hope is that Council 7624 holds Initiation degrees in March and May and that our Council hosts a major degree sometime in April.

Officer & Director Meeting

The Officer's & Director's meeting was hosted by the Grand Knight on Monday, January 23rd at St. Rita. A review of the first half of the fraternal year and pre-planning for the second half of the year was discussed. There should be many fun events and activities coming up in the second half of the year. We look forward to seeing you and your families at some of them.

Chapter Meeting



The Rockford Diocese Chapter meeting was held on Wednesday, January 25th and hosted by Father Paul Kunkel Council 4739 in Byron. Mass was said by Fr. Howard Barch prior to the business meeting. Attending the Chapter meeting as the St. Rita representative was DGK Bill Osborne.

Fraternal Dues Reminder



You should have received your annual fraternal dues statement via email (or USPS mail). Please take a few minutes to fill out a check and pay your dues. Please know that your dues allow us as a Council to continue to meet our Supreme & State assessments and to help meet the requests of those in need and to sponsor the many Church, Council, Pro-Life, Family, and Youth activities that we do each year. A prompt response would be appreciated. Thank you.

PROGRAM REPORT



Bill Osborne is the Program Director for the 2016-2017 fraternal year. If you have questions concerning programming, please contact Bill at 540-9178.

Nativity Clean-up



With the Christmas season ended, it was time to take down the Nativity figures and creche and get them packed away. Thank you to everyone who helped.

CHURCH REPORT



Mike McGarry is the Church Director for the 2016-2017 fraternal year. Any news regarding Church activities should be directed to Mike. If there are any Knights in need of our prayers, please let Mike know at 398-0853.

Holy Family Icon

The Holy Family Icon sponsored by the Knights of Columbus was at St. Rita Church the weekend of January 21-22nd. The family prayer was recited during all of the Masses. We hope everyone had the opportunity to see this beautiful Icon.

Ash Wednesday



Reminder
Ash Wednesday is March 1st

Confirmation



Congratulations to the children of Brother Knights who recently Confirmed. Please continue to pray for them as they continue on their journey as a Catholic son or daughter.

Mia Berg
Elle Eshleman
Juliana Logli
Sarah McLaughlin
Virginia Speltz

CHARITIES REPORT



Knights of Columbus Gary Heidenreich is the Charities Director for the 2016-2017 fraternal year. If you have questions regarding charitable activities please contact Gary at 229-3146.

General Assistance Fund (GAF)

This month we would like to focus on the General Assistance Fund or GAF as it is commonly referred to. The General Assistance Fund exists to provide financial assistance to alleviate human suffering, especially to Knights of Columbus members and their families; support Knights of Columbus organizations and related like-minded organizations in times of sudden and catastrophic need or extraordinary loss; and to foster the principle of charity within the Illinois jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus. Our Council GAF goal is \$204.60 or \$1.10 per member. As a means to meet its goal, the St. Rita Council "passes" a GAF collection can around at each business meeting and members are asked to contribute any pocket change or a dollar if they can. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the GAF collection.

COMMUNITY REPORT



Ed McMahon is the Community Director for the 2016-2017 fraternal year. Any news or ideas regarding community activities can be directed to Ed at 399-1717.

Council Blood Drive



The Council's annual Blood Drive will be here sooner than you think. The Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday, April 6th. (First Thursday of the month).

PRO-LIFE REPORT



George Kujawa is the Pro-Life representative for the 2016-2017 fraternal year. Questions regarding Pro-Life activities should be directed to George at 222-4068.

Baby Shower Crib

The baby crib for the recent Spiritual Adoption Baby Shower was a gift from the St. Rita Council on your behalf.

March for Life



In October, the St. Rita Council helped sponsor a Respect Life breakfast to help out the 8th grade students attending the March for Life in Washington D.C. The young adults made the pilgrimage to Washington D.C. to participate in the March for Life on January 27th. The students have been invited to share their experience with the Council prior to the March 2nd business meeting. Pencil in the evening to come out and hear these young people witness about their trip and experience.

FAMILY REPORT



Bob Collins is the Family Director for the 2016-2017 fraternal year. If you have questions regarding charitable activities please contact Bob at 332-7979.

FAMILY SWIM (K)NIGHT



That's right; the Family Swim Night sponsored by the St. Rita Knights of Columbus is back! The Family Swim Night will be held on Sunday, February 19th at the Dolphin Swim Club. Swimming is from 6 – 8 pm and is open to ALL families of St. Rita School and Parish. Following swimming, there will be Pizza, Pizza, and more Pizza for those who like to eat Pizza! There is no cost for swimming, it's on us; however, if you would like to stay for pizza, a good will donation of \$10 per family is suggested to help out.

For more information, contact
Dan Campbell at 621-0747
Bob Collins at 332-7979

Come chase away the mid-winter blues and join us for an evening of swimming, pizza, and fun!



YOUTH REPORT



The Youth Director for the 2016-2017 fraternal year is Mike Ruzevich. If you have questions or ideas for youth activities, please contact Mike at 262-7445.

Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest



There were a lot of great essays submitted for this year's contest from students of St. Rita. Because all of the essays were so good, the three panel judging committee had a hard time selecting a winner; but, Congratulations to 1st place winner Cierra Peter.

Council Free Throw Competition



The annual Council Free Throw Competition sponsored by the St. Rita Knights of Columbus took place on Sunday, January 22nd. Winners of each age division now advance to the District competition. Thank you to all of the Brother Knights who came out and helped to register, score, rebound, and do other assorted duties. A special thank you to Robert Boyle for chairing the Free Throw competition.

Winners of the Council Free Throw Competition;

Age	Boys	Girls
9	Joe McNamara	Ella Faught
10	Ryan Tucker	N/a
11	Vaun Green	Taylor Paulson
12	Frank Koopman	N/a
13	Joe Flynn	Annmarie Ruzevich
14	N/a	N/a

Congratulations to all of the winners and good luck at District!



The District contest is scheduled for February 19th at Holy Family Meilinger Center. Registration will be at 12:30 pm with the competition beginning at 1:00 pm.



After the Free Throw Competition was over, Brother Knights held their own Free Throw Tournament to determine who would be the 2017 "King of the Council." Out-shooting the competition and winning the title of "King of the Council" for 2017 was Tom Clausen making 7/10 shots. Congratulations Tom, You get the BIG Crown!



FOURTH DEGREE



The St. Rita Council belongs to Bishop Muldoon Assembly 190. Wayne Jacobs is our Council contact for the Fourth Degree. If you have questions concerning the Fourth Degree, please contact Wayne at 399-2563.

The January Fourth Degree business meeting was hosted by St. Rita Council 7624 at Lino's. There was a good turnout of Knights for the evening. A business meeting followed dinner.

Watch your Fourth Degree letter for upcoming Honor Guard dates.



COUNCIL FRATERNAL DINNER

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!



The annual Fraternal Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 18th at Lino's. The dinner is an excellent opportunity to treat your wife or lady-friend to a night out and to spend some fraternity time with Brother Knights. Grand Knight George Lamoureux will update the Council on the current fraternal year's past and upcoming events. Past Grand Knight Craig Stear will be announcing the 2015-2016 Council Knight of the Year. Consider joining your Brother Knights in an evening of Unity and Fraternity. More information to follow in next month's newsletter. Call John Mann at 332-2496 for reservations and dinner selections. Selections include Chicken or Veal Parmigan, Lasagna or Chicken-ala-Lino. Cost of the dinner is \$25.00 per person and includes the full meal.



MARDI GRAS



It's coming! The St. Rita Council Mardi Gras is Saturday, February 25th. Doors open at 6 pm with a buffet style dinner at 7 pm. The band, "Can't Touch This" will play from 8:30-10:30 pm for your dancing pleasure! There will also be a coat check, photo booth, raffle drawing and party favors. All of

this for only \$50 or \$45 if you buy your ticket before February 12th. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses. Come have some fun with fellow parishioners and celebrate Mardi Gras St. Rita Council 7624 style!

POLAR PLUNGE

The 2017 Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics is Saturday, March 4th at Rock Cut State Park. Our SO Bowling chairman, Bill Osborne is again leading a team of "Plungers" into the icy waters of Olsen Lake. This year Brother Knights & participants thus far are; Bill Osborne, Mike Ruzevich, Jim & Natalie Watson and Adam Wykes. If you would like to participate, let Bill know. They are asking for your support in sponsoring their PLUNGE. If you would like to make a donation, please contact one of them. They are also inviting you to come out and cheer them on as they take the PLUNGE



POLAR PLUNGE
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Monday, February 20th, 2016

KNIGHT SCENES – FREE THROW CONTEST



HOT SHOTS!



ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE

For the month of December, the drawing for the Attendance Prize saw Antonio Lasquety's chip pulled from the can. Unfortunately, Antonio was not present to win. Come join us at the monthly meeting and you could be the next big winner

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

If you would like to read or see the pictures of this newsletter in color, please send your e-mail address to Grand Knight George Lamoureux at GrandKnight7624@gmail.com and you will be placed on the electronic newsletter distribution list. See us on Facebook! For Illinois State Council information, log onto the Illinois State website, www.illinoisknights.org. For Supreme information, log onto www.kofc.org. If you have any items for the newsletter, please let Jeff Peters know by phone (520-8277) or e-mail at jptp7481@comcast.net.

