



THE KNIGHT CAP

MARCH 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,

In the January newsletter I remarked how mild the winter had been so far hoping then that I did not jinx it. Well, unless you think even warmer weather was a jinx it is safe to say "what a mild winter we are having." Even though we have been very blessed in the Midwest, please remember in your prayers those experiencing less fortunate weather like California and Nevada where flood waters and mudslides are causing havoc.

I know we have all heard this a few times, but all of us go through peaks and valleys in our lives. It seems easy and fun when we are enjoying one of the peaks but many times very difficult to rationalize, cope and rise out when in a valley. When in a valley I thank God even more for what I have and pray even more for those that are homeless, starving, unemployed, substance abusers, intellectually challenged, recently losing a loved onewell you get the picture.

We never know when we interact with friends, coworkers, family or even strangers where they may be at in their lives. Also, they do not know where we may be in our lives. A peak or a valley? Either way, we should always treat each other with respect and dignity and lend each other a kind word, listen with an open mind and lend a helping hand.

Fraternally,

George Lamoureux

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2017

- 1 Ash Wednesday
- 2 Council Business Meeting – 7:15 pm
Rosary at 7:00 pm
- 4 2017 Polar Plunge
- 12 Bowling Event at Cherry Bowl
- 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

May 2017

- 4 Council Business Meeting – 7:15 pm
Rosary at 7:00 pm
Nominations of Officers for FY 2017-2018
- 7 Mother's Day Breakfast
- 14 Mother's Day
- 28 Ascension Sunday
- 29 Memorial Day

Clip & Post

FRATERNAL BENEFITS



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
Making a difference for life.

Did you know that you have Fraternal Benefits with the Knights of Columbus? Want to learn more? If you would like information on the Knights of Columbus Fraternal Benefits and/or Insurance program, please contact Jason Sturges, our Fraternal Benefit representative, and he will schedule a time to meet with you and 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;

Chuck Alfano's father, Dan Burd, Mike DeFrancisco, Linda Faber, Ann Gregorich, Heuring family, Alicia Huntley, Colleen & Bill Huntley, Stella Jacobs, Kate & Tony Kujawa, Chase Lamoureux, Dorothy Levine, Dave Liskey family, Markley family, Lauren McGovern, Kingsley Nevenhoven family, Bill Osborne, Sr., Jerry Pennington, Larry Peters, Jerry Pobjecky family, Frank Ridings, Pete Ruzevich, Joyce Stankiewicz, Robert Tanner (deceased), Jim Zwerzinski, 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 Alice Bederka and her family in your prayers. Alice was the widow of one of charter members, Paul Bederka. Alice attended many of our events and will be missed. Please keep her in your prayers.

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY!



Jerome Bender, Peter Bretl, Michael Cefaratti, Wesley Chapman, Patrick Clementz, Brian Flynn, Gregory Gates, Kevin Hunter, George Kujawa, Kyle Kulavic, Mike McMahan, Mark McNamara, Paul McNamara, Mike Ruzevich, James Scibona, Peter Smetana, Isaac Spanier, Steven Sproul, Jason Sturges, Ronald Van Kessel and Joseph Voss.

Happy Birthday!

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Worthy Officers, Dear Brothers,

I hope this letter finds you well!

Do you remember the excitement when, as a child, you geared up for your birthday? It's only once a year, but what a day!

What if we treated Easter like we treated birthdays as a child? I dare you. Spend a few minutes daily, thinking, "Easter's coming? Easter's coming. Easter's coming!"

I can't say it enough. For all you do for me, for the parish, and for the Church throughout the world, thank you

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.

Knight of the Month

Congratulations to our January Knight of the Month, Brother Bob Boyle. Brother Bob was selected by the Grand Knight for his stepping up to chair the Council's annual Free Throw competition. Thanks to Bob, boys & girls from the parish had the opportunity to shoot some hoops and check out their free throw skills. Eight contestants won their age divisions and advanced on to the District competition. Thank you to Bob for all of his hard work and efforts on running a successful Free Throw competition for the youth of our parish. Congratulations Brother Bob on being selected as December Knight of the Month.

Certificate of Merits

Congratulations to Noelle & Natalie Watson, daughters of Brother Knight Jim Watson. Grand Knight George Lamoureux presented them with Certificates of Merit from the St. Rita Council for their help with the Council Free Throw competition. Noelle & Natalie kept all the paperwork and certificates in order during the competition. We appreciate their volunteering and help. Thank you Noelle & Natalie!



Certificate of Merit

Congratulations to David Carter, son of Brother Knight Chuck Carter. Grand Knight George Lamoureux presented him with a Certificate of Merit from the St. Rita Council for his help at the Christmas Breakfast. David helped from set-up to final clean-up that morning, pitching in wherever needed. We appreciate David's volunteering and help. Thank you David!

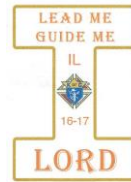


PROGRAM REPORT



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

State Convention & Alternate Delegates Elected



The Illinois State Convention will soon be here on April 21st-23rd. Our Council delegates are GK George Lamoureux and DGK Bill Osborne. Alternate delegates are PGK Craig Stear and PGK Dan Campbell. Should either George or Bill be unable to attend, the alternates will fill in for them and act as our voting representative(s). If you are interested in attending the State Convention, please contact GK George Lamoureux or Jeff Peters for more information.

Fraternal Dinner



The annual Fraternal Dinner was held on Friday, February 18th at Lino's with over 40 in attendance. The evening was an opportunity for Brother Knights and their ladies to spend an evening together enjoying good food, drink, and conversation. We were honored to have a number of widows of our deceased Brother Knights. Reports were that everyone had a good time. Grand Knight George Lamoureux emceed the evening's festivities and presented last year's Grand Knight, Craig Stear, with his PGK plaque. A slideshow program of the 2015-2016 Fraternal Year was presented that highlighted the past fraternal year's activities and programs. The evening was capped off by the announcement of the Council's "Knight of the Year" by PGK Craig Stear. Congratulations to John Mann as the Council's "Knight of the Year" for fraternal year 2015-2016. Per PGK Craig Stear, "Congratulations to John as recipient of this honor. John is a Past Grand Knight of St. Rita Council. During his term, the Council earned Star Council. John has served as the St. Rita Council Financial Secretary for 15-years! John also chaired the Cherry Valley Days BINGO for 15-years before retiring as Chairman. John has either chaired or participated in most of the events that the St. Rita Council has held over his time as a Brother Knight. As Financial Secretary, John has been a leader and a go to guy for information. Congratulations to John as the 2015-2016 Knight of the Year. Well deserved!

As if he hadn't done enough, Thank you to John Mann for chairing the dinner and taking care of reservations and food orders. It was a great evening.

Mardi Gras



The St. Rita Council Mardi Gras was held on Saturday, February 25th. Doors opened at 6 pm with a buffet style dinner at 7 pm. The band, "Can't Touch This" played from 8:30-11:00 pm for everyone's dancing pleasure! There was a coat check, photo booth, raffle drawings and party favors.

Everyone celebrated Mardi Gras St. Rita Council 7624 style! A full report and pictures in next month's letter!

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.

Deceased Knights Mass

The Deceased Knights Mass is scheduled for April 30th. If you would like to participate in any of the ministries, Eucharistic Minister, Lector, or Usher, please contact Chancellor Brian Soltys to sign-up. Thank you.

The Widow's Spring Breakfast will follow the Deceased Knights Mass. More information in the April newsletter.

CHARITIES REPORT



Knights of Columbus
CHARITIES
United in Charity.

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.

Newman Fund



The Newman Fund was Illinois' first charity and was developed to support Catholic Newman Centers on college campuses throughout the State of Illinois. At a time when a young person's faith is tested the most, Newman Centers provide a place for students to maintain their Catholic identity and strengthen their faith when they are away from their families for the first time.

The Newman program also recognizes those members who make a \$100 donation to the fund. It is called the Newman Century Club. With your donation, you will receive a Newman pin with numbers of years that you have contributed, a shadow box (for first time participants) and a year plate for each year participated.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Newman Fund this year. St. Rita's Newman goal is \$940.00. As of the latest report, we are currently at \$625.00. If you would like to participate, you can go on-line at the State website and get a form; or contact Gary Heidenreich for more information. Please consider making a donation to help our students away from home.

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.

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. A total of 10 young adults made the pilgrimage to Washington D.C. to participate in the March for Life on January 22nd. 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.

SAINT RITA **Students For Life**

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 Night



The Family Swim Night sponsored by the St. Rita Knights of Columbus was held on Sunday, February 19th at the Dolphin Swim Club. A total of 45 kids and 35 adults enjoyed 2-hours of swimming and then pizza, pizza and more pizza! In fact, 26 pizzas! A BIG thank you to co-chairs Dan Campbell and Bob Collins for a successful family swim night. We look forward to doing this activity again next year.



Pizza, Pizza, & More Pizza after Swimming

YOUTH REPORT



The Youth Director for the 2016-2017 fraternal year is OPEN. If you are interested in the position, please contact GK George Lamoureux at 222-9569 for more information.

District Free Throw Competition



The District Free Throw Competition was held on Sunday, February 19th at Holy Family. Representing St. Rita Council 7624 and winning the District competition were Ella Faught (Age 9), AnneMarie Ruzevich (Age 13) Ryan Tucker (Age 10) and Frank Koopman (Age 12). Ella, AnneMarie, Ryan and Frank will now move on to the Regional competition. Congratulations to Ella, AnneMarie, Ryan and Frank; and Good Luck at Regional's!

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 February Fourth Degree dinner & business meeting was held at the Hoffman House in Rockford and was hosted by Holy Family Council 13123. There was a good turnout of Knights for the evening.

There was an Honor Guard and a couple of Confirmations in February. Thank you to those gentlemen who came out and served in the Honor Guard. Please watch your March newsletter for upcoming Honor Guard events.



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



FAMILY BOWLING

SAVE THE DATE!
FAMILY (K)NIGHT OF BOLWING
at the Cherry Bowl



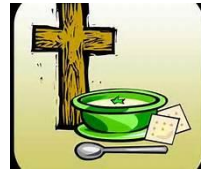
The event will take place on March 12th, 2017 with check-in at 2:30 pm with bowling from 3-5 pm.

Adults: \$13 Kids (12-under): \$11

Fee includes 2-hours of bowling, shoes, raffle baskets, trivia & games. Join us for friendship & fun.

Contact Mike & Lisa Ruzevich at 630-441-8967

LENTEN SOUP



On Monday evening March 20th after the 5:30 pm Mass, the St. Rita Council will be hosting the Lenten Soup. Our Chaplain, Fr. Evans has asked us to help out. Soup arrangements have all ready been made. We just need YOU to make a crockpot of your favorite soup and bring it to Wahl Hall that evening. We also need 8-10 volunteers to help serve and clean-up. Please contact Grand Knight George Lamoureux if you would like to help and bring soup.

EASTER CANDY SCRAMBLE & EGG HUNT



The annual Easter Egg & Candy Hunt will be on Palm Sunday, April 9th at 1:00 pm. The committee is gearing up to purchase and test candy and surprises for the event. The Hunt will tentatively be held in the field adjacent to the school near the cafeteria parking lot. Please mark the date and bring your children and grandchildren to the event. There will be some activities for young and old alike. It's a great afternoon of fun. Don't forget to bring a basket to collect your candy and a smile to help brighten the day! Let's pray for a nice bright sunny day!

In case of inclement weather, the alternate site for the Hunt will be the St. Rita gymnasium with the same start time.



Saint Rita Knights of Columbus Council 7624
6254 Valley Knoll Drive
Rockford, IL 61109

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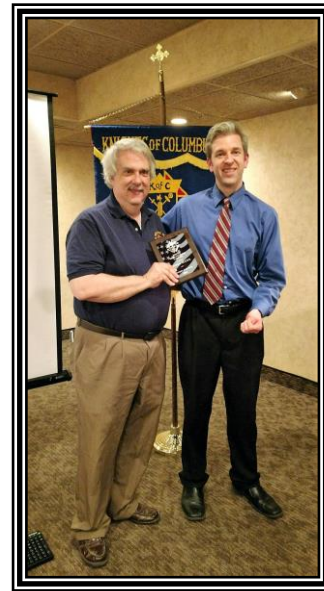
HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



KNIGHT SCENES – FRATERNAL DINNER



**2015 - 2016 Past Grand Knight
Craig Stear**



**2015 - 2016 Knight of the Year
John Mann**

ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE

For the month of February, the drawing for the Attendance Prize saw Aaron Fast's chip pulled from the can. Unfortunately, Aaron 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 jtp7481@comcast.net.

