



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PIEDMONT COUNCIL 939

### DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

“The Official Publication of Piedmont Council 939 Knights of Columbus”

### GRAND KNIGHT’S MESSAGE

Good day brother Knights!

I hope that life is going well for you this Advent (and soon to be Christmas) season. Let us celebrate this month by enjoying each other’s fellowship on December 18<sup>th</sup> with a Christmas dinner. Please see the rest of the newsletter for upcoming activity details and pertinent information.

May each of you have a joyful Advent season and Merry Christmas.

Grand Knight Evan Smith

### DEVOTIONAL: BUILD ON A SOLID FOUNDATION

In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus teaches, “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

What do we build our lives on? What are the beliefs, assumptions, passions, and loyalties that shape our decisions and actions? If we do not base our life on Jesus Christ and His One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, then our lives will be unstable and unhappy. The cornerstone (Jesus Christ) and the rock that our Church is built on (Peter and his successors) give us the foundation we need for life’s tumults and trials. Those who seem to prosper in this life without Christ may find themselves falling on their face sooner or later. Let’s pray they humble themselves and repent before they are plunged into the next life unprepared.

May God grant us all the virtues of faith, hope, and love so that our lives will be ordered toward the source of truth and love itself.

## OUR COUNCIL IN THE SPOTLIGHT

On Thanksgiving this year, a collective act of spiritual mercy was done at St. Benedict's Catholic Church in Greensboro. Reviving an old tradition that is supported by the Knights bylaws, this Thanksgiving Day mass intention was for the repose of the souls of Piedmont Council 939 Knights that have perished since 2020. The Grand Knight read the names of all the men who have achieved their eternal reward in a ceremony following the homily. Father Duong was especially accommodating and welcoming. The Knights who attended felt a sense of relief knowing that our fallen brothers have finally gotten the acknowledgment and prayers they deserve.



## NOVEMBER IN REVIEW

- November 6<sup>th</sup>: Officers and Directors Meeting, 7pm, Our Lady of Grace Parish Life Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor
- November 20<sup>th</sup>: Council Business Meeting, 7:30pm, St. Benedict's Church
- November 23<sup>rd</sup>: Memorial Mass for Council 939 Knights from Past Year, 9:00am, St. Benedict's Church
- November 29<sup>th</sup>: Performance of the Messiah, 7:00pm, Carolina Theater. Reception at Natty Greene's Followed the Performance.

## DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

**December 1<sup>st</sup>** – Troubadour’s Christmas Concert, 7:00pm, Carolina Theater, Fundraises for Room at the Inn

**December 4<sup>th</sup>** – Officers and Directors Meeting, 7:00pm, Our Lady of Grace Parish Life Center, 2nd Floor

**December 6<sup>th</sup>** – St. Nicholas Feast Day Event, ~6:30pm, Our Lady of Grace Parish Life Center, Banquet Hall

**December 8<sup>th</sup>** – Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** – Council Business Meeting Followed by Christmas Party, 6:30pm, St. Benedict’s Church

## DISTRICT DEPUTY INPUT

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FOUNDED – AN EARLY HISTORY

Late-19th century Connecticut was marked by the growing fraternal benefit societies, anti-Catholic prejudice and dangerous factory working conditions that left many families fatherless. Recognizing a need in his community, Father Michael J. McGivney, the 29-year-old assistant pastor of St. Mary’s Church in New Haven, Conn., gathered a group of men at his parish on Oct. 2, 1881. He proposed establishing a lay organization to prevent Catholic men from entering secret societies antithetical to Church teaching, uniting Catholic men and helping families of deceased members.

To demonstrate their loyalty to their country as well as their faith, these men took Christopher Columbus — recognized as a Catholic and celebrated as the discoverer of America — as their patron. The Knights of Columbus elected officers in February 1882 and assumed corporate status on March 29.

In addition to the Order’s benefits, Catholic men were drawn to the Knights because of its emphasis on serving one’s Church, community and family with virtue. Fraternity and patriotism were added to the Knights’ founding principles of charity and unity in 1885 and 1900, respectively.

1882: The Knights of Columbus is born on Feb. 6, 1882, when the first members choose Columbus as their patron. Immediately after the Order’s March 29 incorporation, Father McGivney sends a diocesan-wide appeal for new members to priests.

1886: By the end of his four-year term as supreme knight, James T. Mullen presides at the institution of 22 of the first 38 councils. John J. Phelan is elected and is the first supreme knight to see the Order’s future as a national society.

1890: Father McGivney dies Aug. 14, 1890.

1892: The Order passes laws allowing noninsurance (associate members) to join.

1892: 6,000 Knights march in the New Haven Columbus Day parade to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Columbus’ discovery of the New World.

1895: The Vatican’s first acknowledgment of the Knights comes when Archbishop Francesco Satolli, apostolic delegate to the United States, writes a letter extolling the “merits of this splendid Catholic organization” and giving the Order his apostolic blessing.

1897: On Nov. 25, 1897, Canada’s first council — Montreal Council 284 — is chartered.

John Joyce (dd24@kofcnc.org).

## **RECRUITING OPPORTUNITIES:**

Whenever and wherever a Knights of Columbus meets a practicing Catholic man, eighteen years of age or older, there is an opportunity for recruiting a new Knights of Columbus. Wear your K of C nametag proudly, never reluctantly, and advertise for the Council.

## **SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Brother Knights:** Our council has open positions that need to be filled. Please investigate your hearts and ask the Lord if any of these opportunities would be right for you.

**COMMUNITY DIRECTOR:** Coordinates the "First Responders" Awards Presentation and Dinner program. Coordinates the management of the 3<sup>rd</sup> hole at the Wyndham Golf Championship, along with other Community programs. Expert training will be available.

**FAITH DIRECTOR:** Coordinates the RSVP program (Seminarians), Holy Hours, Rosary Handouts, and various other events related to our Catholic faith and parish. Expert training will be available.

**Please contact the GK.**

For further information or to volunteer please contact me:

Grand Knight Evan Smith    SmithE7219@gmail.com    336-391-1114

## **WIDOWS PROGRAM:**

We do not forget the widows of our fallen Brother Knights. Widows are invited to Council 939 social events as our guests.

## PRAYERS REQUESTED

IF YOU HAVE SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS, PLEASE PASS PRAYER REQUESTS TO THE GRAND KNIGHT AT HIS NUMBERS BELOW. APOLOGIES TO ANYONE OVERLOOKED IN THIS COUNCIL 939 NEWSLETTER.

THIS LIST HAS NOT BEEN REVIEWED IN A WHILE. IF ANY LISTED PEOPLE ARE NO LONGER NEEDING OUR PRAYERS, PLEASE CONTACT THE GK TO MAKE THE LIST MORE COMPACT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

### Please keep the following in your prayers

Wachter Family – death of Mike	Jim Keaney, Sr.	Sylvia Byrd
Dick Morrison – In Hospice	Lawrene Kirwan	Ben Malikowski
Eastwood Family – death of Mary (widow of Bill)	Roy Berninger	Eveland Family
Chris Frank – death of mother, father undergoing cancer treatment	Jack Kealey	Brunozzi Family
Lyle Family – death of Lura (widow of John)	Brian Dubicki	Grabasky Family – death of Bob
Flanagan Family – death of Bob	Gary Chapman	Rick Stepnowski – recovery from cancer
Kenneth Markowski – knee surgery recovery	Kathy Chapman	Dcn. Rohan Family – death of Dcn. Tim
Jerry Byrd – recovery from surgery	Bob Englert	Fr. Coleman Family – death of mother
Fr. Joseph Wasswa – death of father (Henry Wasswa)	Kitty Heath	Peter Marzullo
Schmidt Family – death of Alice	Antionette Cerrito	Brian Garrett
Bishop Jugis – poor health	Perry Family	Parker Hahn
Dcn. Larry Lisk	Lysiak Family	Barbara Ovittore
Polchowne Family – death of mother	Edwards Family	D’Amelio Family
Joyce Family	Fr. David Hyman	

Names in red mean a new entry from the past month

DECEMBER IS DEVOTED TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

