



# EAST COOPER KNIGHTS

FEBRUARY 2025 THE VOICE OF COUNCIL # 9475 VOLUME 38 NUMBER 2



## GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

My Dear Brother Knights,

As you all know, we had our Annual Oyster Roast on January 18th, 2025 at Gold Bug Island. It was a wonderful success! Thanks to Tom Franzone and all of the Knights and our Ladies who participated.

We have some really good upcoming events including the Free Throw Contest at Christ Our King- Stella Maris School for 6th 7th and 8th graders on January 24th from about 7:45a.m. till noon. Please come and participate or and/or observe the fun.

We have our Annual Super Bowl Party on February 9th at the Beach House on the Christ Our King campus from about 5:30 pm to the game is over. Set-up will begin around 4:00 p.m. please bring your Lady as well as side dish, appetizer or dessert.

We are going to have Fr. Libin give us a pre-lent talk with a film at the Council Meeting on February 20th. It will get us ready for Lent as will the Fish Fries put on by Brother Marion Wright on March 14th and 28th. These will be an "all hands on deck" event and we hope that everyone will participate in the fun of cooking and serving fish to our parish communities.

I am really pleased with how are year is going. We have set a number of goals and we are achieving each one of them. One was to reinstate some programs that had gotten off our radar. One was to have a float in the Mount Pleasant Christmas Parade. Led by Brother Matt Feltman and his eight elves, we built a beautiful float that had Bother Tate Hamilton, his beautiful wife Shea and their baby son Mark, serving as Jesus Mary and Joseph. We won second place in the Church Themed floats! Congratulations to Matt and his elves for a job well done.

We are rounding third and heading towards home. Let's finish this great year with as much participation as possible.

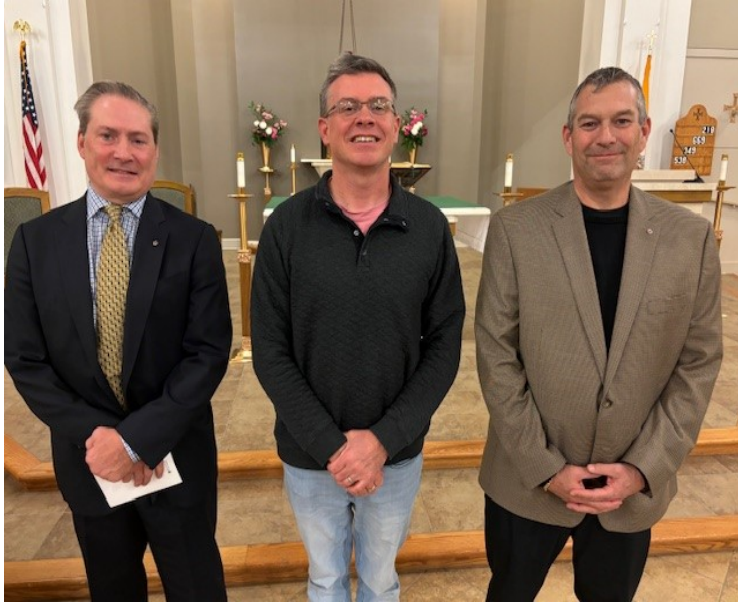
Deacon Kev

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FEBRUARY 2025

Pro-Life/Rosary_____	01
COK — 7:30 AM	
Ultreya Meeting_____	04
Life Center Chapel — 6:30 PM	
Nocturnal Adoration_____	06
Stella Maris — 8 PM Thur. to 8 AM Fri.	
Officers Meeting_____	06
COK—Life Center—6:30 PM	
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament_____	07
COK — 7:30 AM to 6 PM	
Super Bowl Party_____	09
At Christ Our King— Beach House	
St. Valentine's Day_____	14
Prayer Vigil at Abortion Facility_____	15
West Ashley Abortion Facility 8:00 AM (Corner of Hwy 61 & Fuseler Rd.) 1312 Ashley River Rd., Charleston, SC 29407	
Presidents' Day_____	19
Regular Business Meeting_____	20
St. Benedict's Parish Hall 950 Darrell Creek Trail 29466 Rosary: 6:00 PM Dinner: 6:30 PM Meeting: 7:15 PM	



**EXEMPLIFICATION  
OF  
CHARITY, UNITY, AND FRATERNITY**



In the picture left are two new Brother Knights, left to right are Craig Pugh and Tim Lynch who just went through the Exemplification making their 1st., 2nd., and 3rd. Degree. Right is Scott Migli a 1st. Degree and received the 2nd and 3rd. Degree.  
Congratulations to all three Brother Knights!!



**Our Guest Speaker  
Marie Elana Roland  
Executive Director  
Of  
The Navigation Center**



In the picture left our Grand Knight Deacon Kevin Campbell is presenting Executive Director Marie Elana Roland with a Knights cup for coming out and explaining how her facility supports the vulnerable and unhoused population.

**Knight of the month**  
**January 2025**  
**Neil Whitman**

Neil Whitman was born in Mineola NY in 1950 to Neil and Norma Whitman. As an Air Force brat, he lived in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Azores, Florida, back to New York, Japan, Hawaii ending up back in Florida. He attended high school in Japan, Hawaii and Florida. There he graduated high school, attended two years of committee college then the University of South Florida where he received his BA Marketing in 1972.

Neil met and married Melinda, his wife of 52 years and a cradle Catholic, while living in Tampa. Neil and Melinda have moved seven times settling in Mount Pleasant in 2000. They now divide their time between Mount Pleasant and Boothbay Harbor Maine where they have a summer cottage. They have 3 daughters, Laura deceased, Lisa and Katie, residents of James Island. They have been blessed with 3 grandchildren, Owen 13, Joe 12, and Vivian 10. Fortunately, they live close by so we get to spend a lot of time with them attending basketball, football, volleyball, recitals on and on!

Neil's work life began at a Belk-Lindsey store as a stock boy and janitor. Skills attained include washing windows, running a floor buffer and cleaning toilets! Enamored with retailing, he spent thirteen years in the business. Working for Sears while in college, he completed the management training program, ultimately working in several southeastern cities.

Neil made a career change to staffing in 1981, relocating to Greenville SC to join a company that provided contract engineers. He joined a larger company in 1998 relocating to Orlando where he oversaw the southeast territory with multiple branches and 1800 employees. In 2000 he moved to Mount Pleasant and opened a Dunhill Staffing Systems franchise. In 2005 he bought out the franchise and has since operated independently. Achievements include recognition as the #1 new franchise, numerous Roaring Twenties awards and recognition as South Carolina's fastest growing small business 2014. In 2020, he turned the reins of the company over to his daughter Katie. Since it's a family business he stays very involved by mostly getting in the way.

Realizing that something was missing in his life Neil began attending the Catholic church in 1981 and after much discernment was confirmed later that year. Melinda jokes that he's a better Catholic than she is, volunteering as an RCIA sponsor and RCIA core group, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, usher, altar server, parish council member and fund raiser.

Neil joined the Knights in 1998, becoming very active in 2000 when he moved to Mount Pleasant. He's a past grand knight, was recorder for many years, was part of the degree team, manages the council website and email list, serves on the golf committee, chairs the harbor cruise, mans the microphone at the oyster roast has worked the spaghetti dinners and fish fries and was a founding member of our 4<sup>th</sup> degree assembly.

Other volunteer activities include many years with the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce where he was on the board of directors, the executive committee, chaired the golf committee, Political Action Committee and East Cooper Area Business Council. He is currently on the homeowners' board in Hidden Lakes where he resides.

Thank you for this honor.



Left is our Grand Knight Deacon Kevin Campbell holding Neil's Knight of the Month Certificate with Neil for January 2025. Our Family of the Month Director right Kurt Denner just presented certificate and Grand Knight Deacon Kevin presented Knights cup.



**Our Council 9475 supported Bingo night at Stella Maris Church Hall  
under the leadership of Brother Knight Jon Tirpak**



In the picture left are the Bingo operating team. Left to right are Brother Knight Jon Tirpak, and wife Angie, Jim Seney, Brother Knight Bob Thetreat, Brother Knight Jerry Barnett, and wife Diana, and our Grand Knight Deacon Kevin Campbell. All smiling and ready to get the game started.



Left you can see Bingo team in action, at the head table in front of altar, Brother Knight Jerry Barnett and wife Diana sitting calling the numbers, Brother Knight Jon Tirpak calling what game they are playing standing left, Worthy Grand Knight Deacon Kevin Campbell far right and Jim Seney left of him appear to be supervising this game. Also notice the young folks attending and concentrating on numbers being called.



Here in picture left you can see they had a nice size crowd participating and everyone having a good time.

## A FEW PICTURES FROM OUR 2025 OYSTER ROAST



Above are our hot dog cookers left to right Chris Momeier, John Mahoney, and Luke Lapierre did a great job keeping up with the demand.



Here we have our parking attendants left to right Coleman Franzone, Marion Wright, Tom M. Franzone, and Ron Davis. Rain, snow, mud or flood they get the job done. Thank You!



Above we have our ticket sellers front is Mary Denner wife of Kurt Denner next, standing is Joe Nesbitt, sitting is Dr. John Maize, then Bill Shoemaker, and Bob Fintak way in the back in turquoise shirt.



Standing above left is Jerry Barnett our forever greeter at the door and standing with Jerry is Shawn Massago.

## Oyster roast pictures continue



Standing above are our two bake sale chairman left is Diana Barnett and Debbie Pulaski did a great job coordinating the bake sale.



Lined up above our the ladies that ran the hot dog and chili distribution counter. Left to right Doris Wright, Cindy Feltman, Jane Kenzik, Regina Franzone, Sue Fintak, and Fran Franzone. They did an awesome job serving the hot dogs and chili.



Here is our fish stew table with Jim Welsch ready to serve our next taker.



Above manning our beverage table are left to right Mark Lazo chairman of the beverage, Danny Mckay and our Grand Knight working hard opening a bottle of wine, all did a great job keeping up with thirsty customers.

## Oyster roast continues



In this picture you can see everyone enjoying the oysters and beverages!



### ***HAPPY ANNIVERSARY***

Carlos and Trish Araiza  
Gerald and Carmela Baty  
Stan and Lisa Blalock  
William and Jo Ann Cary  
Cass and Patricia Cibelli  
Daniel and Mirian Corcoran  
Michael and Kay Fabrizio  
Tom and Fran Franzone  
Fred and Faye Koch  
Jeff and Debbie Pulaski  
Joe and Hilda Rosenberger  
Joe and Jeannie Scheirman  
Jim and Susan Welsch



### ***HAPPY BIRTHDAY***

Leo Albano  
Deacon Robert Boackle  
James Buzzelli  
Mark Chiarizio  
Cass Cibelli  
Cam Comire  
Richard Douglas  
Jesse Furlano  
Brian Headley  
Robert Jackson  
Keith Keohane  
Al Kravchuk  
Mark Lazo  
Michael McDermott  
Thomas McKenna  
Frank O'Neil  
Robert Pyle  
William Reid  
JP Saleeby  
Deacon Jonathon Santilli  
Joseph Schill  
Bryan Schultz  
Warren Tawes  
Robert Thetreault  
Richard Williams





# **Knights of Columbus**

**East Cooper Council # 9475**

## **3rd Annual Fish Fry & Benefit**



**March 14th and March 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Tickets \$15.00 per Person, Children under 12 yrs. Old \$5.00  
Available @ Door. Dine In or Carry Out.**

**Time 5:00 PM**

**Christ Our King - In Grace Hall**

**Call Marion Wright 843-509-6512 or 843-270-3299**





*Has Someone You Loved Died?  
Has Your Life Changed Forever?  
Are You Carrying the Burden of Grief*

St. Benedict's Grief Ministry is in its fifth year of providing help, comfort & support for those struggling with the challenges that come from the death of a loved one?

### **Grief Support Program**

The next session of the Ministry's "Grief Support Program" starts February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ St. Benedict's Catholic Church, Mt. Pleasant. **Enroll now!**

"Understanding Your Grief" is a structured 12 week Grief Support Program where Grievers are guided by trained "Companions" working together to reconcile into their new lives by understanding their grief and how it impacts them.

To register or ask questions, contact ministry leaders at [griefministry@stbenedictparish.org](mailto:griefministry@stbenedictparish.org)

### **Comfort Café**

Comfort Café is another Grief Support opportunity offered by the Ministry. The Cafés are 90 minute, casual drop-in sessions that meet at the Church where discussions are facilitated by Grief Companions. There Grievers may "share" their loss & burdens they carry with others having common experiences. **Just drop by!**

Comfort Cafés are available every week of the month:

@ 12:45pm on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday AND  
@ 10:00am on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays

Additional information and questions can be addressed to:  
[griefministry@stbenedictparish.org](mailto:griefministry@stbenedictparish.org)

Note: The Ministry's services are available to all in need.  
Participation & discussions in the Ministry's programs are strictly confidential!

## Monthly Meditation - February 2025

Dear Brother Knights,

As we step into February, a month often associated with love and compassion, let us reflect on the divine love that binds us as brothers in Christ. This is not merely a romantic or sentimental love, but the profound, self-giving love that Christ exemplified on the cross. In our daily lives and activities, especially as members of the Knights of Columbus, we are called to embody this love through our actions, service, and commitment to our faith and community.

In this month, we also observe the season of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 26. Lent is a sacred time of repentance, fasting, and prayer. It offers us an opportunity to examine our lives, turn away from sin, and recommit ourselves to following Jesus more closely. As Knights, we are called to lead by example, showing others the path of holiness through our actions and our service.

Let us focus on three key aspects during this Lenten season: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

First, deepen your prayer life. Set aside dedicated time each day to converse with God, meditate on His Word, and seek His guidance. Remember that prayer is the foundation of our relationship with God, and it empowers us to carry out our mission as Knights.

Second, embrace fasting as a form of sacrifice and self-discipline. Fasting helps us to detach from worldly pleasures and to focus more on spiritual nourishment. It is a reminder of our dependence on God and our need for His grace in all aspects of our lives.

Lastly, engage in almsgiving with a generous heart. Look for ways to serve those in need within our communities. Whether it's through financial support, volunteering your time, or simply offering a kind word or gesture, every act of charity reflects the love of Christ and brings us closer to His heart.

As we journey through February and prepare our hearts for Lent, let us be mindful of our calling as Knights of Columbus. Let our actions, prayers, and sacrifices be a testament to the love of Christ that dwells within us. May we grow in faith, hope, and charity, and may our service inspire others to seek the kingdom of God.

In Christ's love,



In Christ,

**Rev Libin Augustine CMI**

Parochial Vicar, Christ Our King Catholic Church

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
MARCH 2025**

Pro-Life/Rosary _____	01
COK — 7:30 AM	
Ultreya Meeting _____	04
COK Grace Hall — 7:00 PM	
Ash Wednesday _____	05
Officers Meeting _____	06
COK Life Center— 6:30PM	
Nocturnal Adoration _____	06
Stella Maris — 8 PM Thur. to 8 AM Fri.	
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament _____	07
COK — 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM.	
Daylight Saving Time Begins _____	09
Knights of Columbus Fish Fry _____	14
Grace Hall — 5 PM	
Pray Vigil at Abortion Clinic _____	15
West Ashley Abortion Facility 8:00 AM (Corner of Hwy 61 & Fuseler Rd.) 1312 Ashley River Rd., Charleston, SC 29407	
St. Patrick's Day _____	17
Stations of the Cross w/Soup/Sandwiches/Bread _____	19
Stella Maris—have your soup and sandwich at Hall 6 PM. Stations start 6:15 PM	
Regular Business Meeting _____	20
St. Benedict's Parish Hall 950 Darrell Creek Trail 29466 Rosary: 6:00 PM Dinner: 6:30 PM Meeting: 7:15 PM	
Knights of Columbus Fish Fry _____	28
Grace Hall — 5 PM	

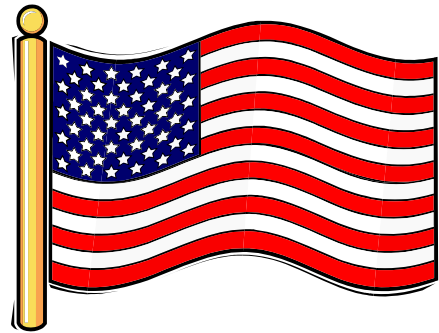
**COUNCIL OFFICERS**

Co-Chaplain	Rev. Robert A. Spencer	843-884-5587
Co-Chaplain	Rev. Msgr. Lawrence B. McNerny	843-883-3109
Spiritual Director	Rev. Libin Augustine	843-884-5587
Grand Knight	Deacon Kevin Campbell	843-729-5602
Deputy Grand Knight	Bob Brennan	315-729-8652
Chancellor	Kurt Denner	843-323-0981
Financial Secretary	Jeff Pulaski	843-813-1732
Recorder	Derek McCoy	719-200-3041
Warden	Carlos Araiza	480-352-7679
Treasurer	Jim Welsch	843-849-1979
Lecturer	Ron Davis	843-856-4950
Advocate	Martin McNulty	201-747-1223
Inside Guard	Marion Wright	843-509-6512
Outside Guard	Joe Scheiman	843-737-1642
3 Yr. Trustee	Don Campbell	843-471-1085
2 Yr. Trustee	Matt Feltman	513-374-1994
1 Yr. Trustee	Joe Nesbitt	843-297-9873
Program Director	Tom A. Franzone	843-729-7734
Church Director	Tom A. Franzone -COK	843-729-7734
	Jon Tirpak - SM	843-480-5784
	Joseph Nesbitt - SB	843-297-9873
	Leo Albano - SC of A	843-216-1710
Vocations Chairman	Deacon Kevin Campbell	843-729-5602
Community Director	Bill Shoemaker	843-884-1378
Health Services	D. J. Thatcher	843-513-0214
Public Relations	Neil Whitman	843-270-9834
Family Director	Kurt Denner	843-323-0981
Culture of Life Director	Joe Harkins Jr.	267-974-6534
Youth Director	Mike Flato	843-973-1409
Admission Chairman	Kevin Cunnane	843-216-5354
Membership Director	Joe Harkins	843-881-5768
Recruitment Committee	Joseph Scheirman	843-737-1642
	Carlos Araiza - SB	480-352-7679
	Marion Wright - COK	843-509-6512
	Robert Brennan-SC of A	315-729-8652
Retention Chairman	Robert Fintak	803-917-1530
Insurance Promotion	Paul Harrington	706-338-7924
Columbus Hope Chairman	Bill Shoemaker	843-884-1378
Newsletter	Tom Franzone	843-729-7734
State Chaplain	Rev. Robert Higgins	843-249-2356
State Deputy	Jeffrey Crouch	864-430-0938
District Deputy	Joe Nesbitt	843-297-9873
Insurance Agent	Paul Harrington	706-338-7924
Supreme Fraternal Services		203-772-2130

**Knights of Columbus**



**A catholic fraternal organization dedicated to  
charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism**



**GOD BLESS AMERICA**