



# EAST COOPER KNIGHTS

JANUARY 2025 THE VOICE OF COUNCIL # 9475 VOLUME 38 NUMBER 1



## GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

My Dear Brother Knights,

We had some fabulous ways to finish calendar year, 2024, which has been an incredible year for our council and I am so looking forward to finishing a successful council Year in June

Our annual Christmas party on December 14th was well attended and so much fun. After a delicious meal, Joe Harkins Sr.'s family was presented with the family of the quarter award, Joe Hawkins Jr was presented with the Knight of the Month for the Month for November and Jim Veraldi was presented with the Knight of the Month for the Month of December and Neil Whitman led in signing Christmas carols that were sung by all who attended.

Earlier that day, Matt Feldman and his eight elves put together a beautiful Christmas float for the Mount Pleasant Christmas parade. Brother Knight Tate Hamilton, his wife Shea and their baby, Mark, served as Jesus, Mary, and Joseph on the float.

We have some exciting things coming up in 2025 including a Bingo Knight at Stella Maris Church Hall, led by Brother John Tirpak on January 10th, the Annual Oyster Roast led by Brother Tom Franzone on Gold Bug Island on January 18th, a free throw contest at the Christ Our King-Stella Mary School led by Brother Mike Fabrizio on January 24<sup>th</sup>, a Super Bowl Party on February 9<sup>th</sup> at the Beach House and fish fries led by Brother Marion Wright at Grace Hall on March 14th and March 28th.

Please get involved, join the fun.

My prayers are for you to have a holy, blessed and prosperous New Year.

Deacon Kevin

PS Let us all keep Lynda Franzone in our prayers

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY 2025

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God _____	01
Officer's Meeting _____	02
COK Life Center—6:30 PM	
Nocturnal Adoration _____	02
Stella Maris –8PM to 8AM	
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament _____	03
COK — 7:30 AM. Fri. to 6:00 PM.	
Pro-Life/Rosary _____	04
COK — 7:30 am	
Ultreya Meeting _____	07
COK Grace Hall 7:30 PM	
Bingo Knight _____	10
Stella Maris Hall	
Regular Business Meeting _____	16
St. Benedict's Parish Hall	
950 Darrell Creek Trail 29466	
Rosary: 6:00 PM	
Dinner: 6:30 PM	
Meeting: 7:15 PM	
Prayer Vigil at Abortion Facility _____	18
West Ashley Abortion Facility 8:00 AM	
(Corner of Hwy 61 & Fuseler Rd.)	
1312 Ashley River Rd., Charleston, SC 29407	
KofC Annual Oyster Roast _____	18
Gold Bug Island - 6:30PM to 9:00PM	
Martin Luther King, Jr Day _____	20



**Council 9475 and Assembly 3243 Christmas Party  
at  
Christ Our King Beach House Saturday Dec. 14**



Brother Knight Jim Veraldi and wife Carolann with Joe Harkins Sr. working on meal are watching festivities.



Left Brother Jim Veraldi is being recognized by front Grand Knight Deacon Kevin Campbell and Family Director Kurt Denner as Knight of the Month for December 2024. See Bio page 3.



Left Family Director Kurt Denner and right Grand Knight Deacon Kevin Campbell are recognizing Joe Harkins Sr. and wife Peggy for Family of the Quarter December 2024. See Bio page 3.



Center Joe Harkins Jr. being recognized by left Family Director Kurt Denner and right Grand Knight Deacon Kevin Campbell for being Knight of the Month for November 2024. See Bio page 3.

Knight of the Month  
November 2024  
Joe Harkins Jr.

Born in Philadelphia in 1965 to Peggy and Joe Harkins the oldest of 4. Enjoyed a typical middle class upbringing excelling in sports and music. Both interests were attractive as a means to support myself but as the realities of life began to take shape, I found skilled labor was more readily available and of course, realistic. After a couple decades lost in a fog I found myself broke, busted and not to be trusted.

In 2014, after the cobwebs cleared and a newfound relationship with my savior, Jesus Christ, I decided to relocate to Mt. Pleasant where my parents and my sister and her family live. I'm a member of St. Benedict, usher at the 8am mass and joined the Knights after being asked by my dad to come along the Friday morning after Thanksgiving to help set up the wreath tent. That was 10 years ago and haven't missed since. I met my girlfriend Lizzy 5 years ago and although I was pro-life, she wanted to have more impact in the prolife mission, and in doing so, rejuvenated my desire to help exterminate the human sacrifice industry known as abortion. Our previous prolife advocate, John Danko, Jr. was super inspiring that when he left, I jumped at the opportunity to be the advocate and have engage the challenge.

I'm fortunate to be able to work for myself operating a handyman service here in Mt. Pleasant where everyone doesn't have deep pockets and long arms. My motto is to provide a service at a fair price and you just might have me back or refer me to a friend.

I'm very simple minded and believe in truth and transparency and have great confidence that in the next 4 + years, our community and our country as a whole, will see the greatest cleansing of evil from government in our lifetime. Thanks for the recognition.

Knight of the Month  
December 2024  
Jim Veraldi

Jim was born and raised in Birmingham, Michigan (just north of Detroit). He attended Catholic elementary and high school. He has a brother, John, a sister Ann Marie and two deceased brothers, Bob and Frank. His parents are deceased and his Mom passed away in 2023 at the young age of 98 years old.

He attended the University of Notre Dame and received his engineering degree. He relocated to northern NJ and worked at Exxon where he started a family at age 22! After five years he went back to get his MBA at the University of Michigan. He ran a startup computer company with his partner for 20+ years, and then spent his last ten years working at a large technology distributor.

He has four children, James in Portland, OR., Dana in Bantam, CT., Amanda her husband Brett and blessed with two grandchildren, Reese and Finn, also in CT, and his youngest, Robbie who splits time between NYC and SC.

He is married to his beautiful wife, Carolann Kelly, a bit Irish, for over 25 years! They are both retired and moved from NJ to Mt. Pleasant in 2020.

Jim likes to stay busy and in addition to the Knights of Columbus activities, he is a EMHC at St. Benedict's; helps coordinate the annual Men's EMMAUS Retreat; leads the Habitat for Humanity program with the Notre Dame Club of Charleston; serves on the Dunes West ARB board; and is a volunteer business mentor at the Harbor Entrepreneur Center, and the SBA SCORE organization. While he does play some golf, his passion is ice hockey which he still plays a couple times a week – when his not recovering from injuries.

And a couple things that are not typical – he caddied in the 1974 PGA golf tournament and was interviewed by the FBI for the Jimmy Hoffa case!

He is thankful to have the opportunity to serve fellow brothers and their families as a Knight.

Family of the Quarter  
December 2024  
Joe and Peggy Harkins Sr.

Originally from Philadelphia, PA Joe and Peggy have lived in Mount Pleasant for 31 years. They have been married for 60 years, have four adult children: Joe, a Brother Knight living in Mount Pleasant; Colleen and her husband, Eddie, parents of seven children, living here in Mount Pleasant; Matthew, who resides in California; and, Megan, parent of two boys, living in Pennsylvania. Through their daughter Colleen, they also have seven great-grandchildren.

Joe received his first three degrees in Manassas, VA in 1978 and received his Fourth Degree here in 1998. Joe has held many offices in our council including being elected Grand Knight in 2000-2001 and again in 2004-2005; Treasurer; and Financial Secretary from 2008 to 2014. He served as Grand Knight of our first degree team for 14 years. He is currently our Membership Director. Joe was nominated for State Knight of the Year in 2006 and again in 2015.

Joe has been extremely active in our council events and fund raising projects either as a leader or willing participant. Prior to being active in the liturgy at St. Benedicts as a Mass Coordinator, Usher, Extraordinary Minister and Lector; he was active at Christ Our King church for six years as an usher and lector. Since St. Benedict's church was dedicated, Joe has been an integral part of the growth and maintenance of the church building and grounds, having being employed from 2014 - 2017 and again from 2022 until his recent retirement.

Peggy has been active at Christ Our King and St. Benedict's as a Eucharistic Minister and RCIA sponsor. She has been active in the St Benedict's Women's Club and participates as an active member of a Faith Sharing group. She has also been a volunteer at Birthright and a caregiver for elderly residents.

Joe enjoys sports, including walking, jogging, swimming and golf. Peggy has continued her career as a "domestic engineer" and enjoys touring, playing cards, and MahJong; and, reading as part of her participation in a book club

OUR CHRISTMAS FLOAT ENTERED THE MT. PLEASANT CHRISTMAS PARADE  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024



Above are the Brother Knights that put our Christmas float together.



A great scene of a shepherd on the back of our float with our Knights of Columbus banner



Here we have our theme **Keep Christ in Christmas**. Above are the Hamilton family as Joseph is Tate, Mary is Shea and baby Jesus in manger is Mark.



Above we have Joseph and Mary holding baby Jesus .

Job well done by all!!!

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

*Thomas and Donna Brown  
Benjamin and Beth Byrnes  
Michael and Mary Fischer  
Melvin and Elnora Lands  
Paul and Cynthia Nash  
Matthew and Cynthia Ridenour*



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

*Curtis Bakle  
Edward Bernard  
Stan Blalock  
Martin Bogdan  
Robert Bohnstengel  
James Cafaro  
David Dolan  
Coleman Dunne  
Edward Fitzpatrick  
Jackey Frye  
Wilson Gautreaux  
Robert Geberth  
Francis Greis  
Thomas Jerger  
Luke Lapierre  
Raymond Manfredi  
Derek McCoy  
Gerald McCully  
Msgr. Lawrence McNerny  
Louis Milone  
John Myers  
John Napolitano  
Henry Rogers  
David Semenoff  
James Sheehy  
Thomas Siwarski  
Fr. Robert Spencer  
Anthony Stelluti*



**Stand –Up for Life**

**Adoption  
not  
Abortion**

**Knights of Columbus Present:**

# **Annual Oyster Roast & Benefit**

**Includes All You Can Eat Oysters, Fish Stew,  
Hot Dogs, Beer and Wine**



**WHERE:** Gold Bug Island (At the foot of Ben Sawyer Bridge)

**WHEN:** Saturday, January 18, 2025 starting at 6:30 PM

**PRICE:** Ages 12 & Older: \$35.00 in advance \$40.00  
at the door

All children under 12: \$8.00

**No Coolers**



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

**Contact Tom Franzone for tickets:  
Tzone1941@aol.com**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
**FEBRUARY 2025**

Pro-Life/Rosary _____	01
COK — 7:30 AM	
Ultreya Meeting _____	04
COK 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	
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	

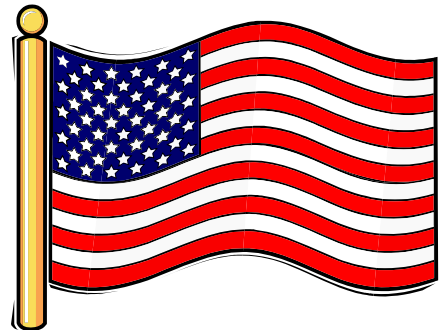
**Knights of Columbus**



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

**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



**GOD BLESS AMERICA**

## Monthly Meditation - January 2025

Dear Brother Knights,

As we welcome the new year of 2025, January presents us with an opportunity for reflection and renewal. In this season, we are invited to contemplate the meaning of new beginnings and the journey of faith we embark upon as followers of Christ.

January is traditionally a time of resolutions, where we set goals for personal and spiritual growth. As Knights of Columbus, our commitment to charity, unity, and fraternity should be at the forefront of these resolutions. Let us take this moment to renew our dedication to living out these principles in our daily lives.

The Feast of the Epiphany, which we celebrate this month, reminds us of the journey of the Magi who followed the star to find the Christ Child. Their journey was one of faith, perseverance, and seeking the truth. Similarly, we are called to be seekers of truth and bearers of light in our communities. The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to honor the newborn King. We too have gifts to offer—our time, talents, and treasure—to serve those in need and to support our parishes and communities.

January also marks the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, which signifies the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. This event calls us to remember our own baptismal promises and the mission we have received to be witnesses of Christ's love. It is a time to reflect on how we can more fully live out our faith in action, bringing the light of Christ to those around us.

As we embark on this new year, let us be mindful of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Let us draw strength from our brotherhood and from the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, which nourishes us for the journey. In our councils and in our personal lives, let us strive to be men of prayer, men of action, and men of service.

May this month of January be a time of spiritual renewal for each of us. May we grow closer to Christ and to one another as we live out our vocation as Knights of Columbus. Let us move forward with hope, trusting in God's providence and inspired by the example of the saints who have gone before us.



In Christ,

**Rev Libin Augustine CMI**

Parochial Vicar, Christ Our King Catholic Church