



EAST COOPER KNIGHTS

DECEMBER, 2025 THE VOICE OF COUNCIL # 9475 VOLUME 38 NUMBER 12



GRAND KNIGHT REPORT - GK Bob Brennan

Brothers may all be well with you and yours, and may your journeys be safe.

We now turn our attention to the Christmas season with our Mt. Pleasant Parade planning efforts. **Brother Matt Feltman** is heading up the **Mt. Pleasant Parade council**, and we are challenged to stand up to and maintain our consecutive 2nd place finishes.

Brother Mark McCabe is organizing our Christmas party. This event is scheduled for **Friday night at 6:30 pm Dec 12th at COK Beach House.**

Brother Scott Scherer & Wife Katie are heading up the Christmas wreath planning and production tasks this year.

Brother Tom Franzone is kicking off our **annual oyster roast evening** and is beginning to sell tickets for this event. Get them while you can since the facility imposes a strict limit of attendance.

Finally, we welcomed four Brothers Knights that took the Exemplification of Unity, Charity, and Fraternity last November meeting. As all four expressed deep interest in the Knights of Columbus organization, I mentioned that it has been in existence for 142 years running. The history and honors that have been presented in honor of our founder, blessed Fr. Michael McGivney, can be easily looked up and referenced. The 143rd year is yet to be written. Because it will be made up from the efforts of our existing council members.

Where possible, please participate in our council activities. Remember – Unity / Charity / & Fraternity are our guiding principles.

Merry Christmas to all.

Vivat Jesus



CALENDAR OF EVENTS DECEMBER 2025

Ultreya Meeting	02
COK Grace Hall 7:30 PM	
Nocturnal Adoration	04
Stella Maris - 8PM to 8AM	
Officers Meeting	04
COK-Life Center- 6:30 PM	
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	05
COK — 7:30 AM. Fri. to 6:00 PM.	
Pro-Life/Rosary	06
COK — 7:30 AM	
Decorate float for Mt. Pleasant Christmas Parade	06
11 AM in COK grounds yard. Please donate one set of lights for the Float.	
Immaculate Conception	08
Knights of Columbus Christmas Party	12
Christ Our King - Beach House, 1122 Russell Dr. Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464. 6:30 PM -10:00PM. Bring a side dish or dessert.	
Mt. Pleasant Christmas Parade	14
Parade starts 5:30 PM	
Regular Business Meeting	18
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	20
West Ashley Abortion Facility 8:00 AM (Corner of Hwy 61 & Fuseler Rd.) 1312 Ashley River Rd., Charleston, SC 29407	
Christmas Day	25
Feast of the Holy Family	28
New Year's Eve	31



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



In the picture right are Knights that took different degrees of the Exemplification. Left to right Brother Destry Jeter took all three of the Exemplification, Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. Brother Thomas Gibbons is a 2nd degree transfer Knight and took his 3rd degree. Brother Miguel Maria Garralda had taken all three degrees virtually online and tonight took them in person. Brother Nicholas Monroe as well took all three degrees online virtually and tonight took them in person.

Congratulations to all four Brother Knights!!!



In the picture left Past Grand Knight Deacon Kevin Campbell right was just presented the Star Council Award from our District Deputy Matt Feltman center. Left is our present Grand Knight Bob Brennan.

To receive the Star Council Award you must meet the following 3 requirements that are on the plaque:

1. Achieve Columbian Award requirements.
2. Achieve Father McGivney Award requirements.
3. Achieve Founders' Award requirements.

Congratulations Council 9475!!!

Our Guest Speaker
Joe Elmore
President & CEO
of
Charleston Animal Society

Joe gave us a great talk on:

Ending Unnecessary Euthanasia
Pet Adoption

Found families for 5,040 homeless animals.

Lost & Found

Reunited 698 lost animals with love ones.

Foster Homes

Cared for 2,616 helpless animals through volunteers foster homes.

Emergency Rescue

Rescued 598 animals from harm's way
Through 63 emergency rescue operations.

Ending Overpopulation of Dog & Cats

Spaying / Neutering

Spayed or neutered a record breaking
15,406 animals to prevent the birth of
Countless unwanted litters.

Ending Animal Cruelty

Advocacy & Investigations

Provided forensics investigation support to
law enforcement agencies in 85 cruelty cases.

Community Medicine

Provided 2,442 dogs and cats with veterinary
care, pet food, and emergency veterinary
assistance to help keep them safe and
healthy with their families.

Teaching Compassion

Taught 34,384 compassion lessons to 11,671
students, helping to reduce violence to people
and animals while reinforcing humanitarian
values.

Feral Cat Sanctuary

Prevented suffering & cruelty for 152 dis-
placed or threatened outdoor cats through
permanent sanctuary.



Left to right Grand Knight Bob Brennan, speaker Joe Elmore holding Knights cup just received from Chancellor Mark McCabe for taking the time to give us the talk.

Knight of the Month
November 2025
Carter Brand

Carter Brand is a native South Carolinian from Florence. He attended the University of South Carolina (Go Gamecocks) where he met his wife, Megan. Carter was baptized Catholic and then, with his family for his adolescent years, Carter attended a Presbyterian church. Upon meeting Megan and moving to Charleston in 2017 they became members of Christ Our King and immediately felt at home. Carter was excited to be back and part of a Catholic Church.

They were married at Christ Our King in 2021, and still attend. He is a part of a long lineage of Citadel Graduates, and although he chose not to pursue his undergraduate degree there, he ultimately ended up receiving his Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from there in 2023.

He is currently working at MUSC in the finance department where he has worked for the past 8 years. Carter and his wife have no kids (at this time), but do have a French bulldog and enjoy going on the boat, golfing, traveling, attending oyster roasts, trying new restaurants, and everything else the Lowcountry has to offer. He has enjoyed his first year as a Knight and continues to try and find ways to get involved more with the church and Knights of Columbus, including but not limited to the fish fry and annual golf tournament.

Congratulations Carter!!!



Above left to right Grand Knight Bob Brennan, our Knight of the Month Carter Brand holding Knights cup just received from Grand Knight Bob Brennan and certificate received from Chancellor Mark McCabe.

**Council 9475, St. Benedict Women's Club,
and Walking with Moms in Need,
2025 Diaper Drive**

Knights Carlos Araiza, Matt McCoy, and Bob Thetreatult delivered diapers from the 2025 Diaper Drive to Birthright Charleston and Bundles of Joy. Sir Knight, Joe Nesbitt (who is not pictured) also helped with the delivery. The Knights held the drive at St. Benedict Church in conjunction with the St. Benedict Women's Club and Walking with Moms in Need. In total we collected over 14,500 diapers, 340 packages of wipes, and 157 sleepers for Bundles of Joy, Birthright of Charleston, St. Clare's Home, and Newborns in Need.



This is what 14,500 diapers, 340 packages of wipes and 157 sleepers look like in a dining room.



Above left to right are chairman of diaper drive Bob Thetreatult, helpers Carlos Araiza, Matt McCoy, and Joe Nesbitt not in picture are standing along side of Society of St. Vincent DePaul truck that was used to make deliveries.

A Great Job Done By All!!!

Cooked Dinner for Veteran Families at Fischer House November 11, 2025



In the picture left are the Brother Knights of our Council 9475 and wife that cooked dinner for the families at the Fischer House on November 11, 2025. From left to right are Frank Greis, Manning Bolchoz, Jim and Toni Seney, Michael Fabrizio, Bob Thetreault, Steve Fallon, Mike McDermott, and chairman Don Campbell. On the trays are chocolate chip cookies out of the oven ready to be served.



Our 2025 Christmas Wreath Sales Fund Raiser Underway



Wreaths arrived and wives of Knights, and friends are hard working decorating wreaths. In picture above right to left are Jean deGruyl, Marilyn Groble, Katie Scherer, our new Chairman and daughter Kaitlin, Lilly, and Fran Franzone.



In the picture above left to right are Tom Franzone, Dr. John Maize, Scott Scherer wreath chairman, Lillie and her mom Mary Ann Free selling Christmas trees for school.

Brother Knights that erected the tent are Joe Harkins Sr., Joe Harkins Jr., Marion Wright, Carlos Araiza, Jeff Pulaski, Tom Franzone and Scott Scherer.

Knights of Columbus Essay

This year's Council 9475 winner for the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest is **Lisa Baur**, Christ Our King/Stella Maris 8th grader. The contest encourages today's youth to be more connected to their community and their faith. The goal of this program is to involve young Catholics in grades 8 to 12 in civic discourse and instill in them religious and life-affirming values. This year's topic was **"The office of the papacy was established by Jesus Christ nearly 2000 years ago. Out of the 267 popes that have led the Catholic Church, who are your favorite popes and why?"**.

Knights of Columbus Essay Winner Lisa Baur - Three Favorite Popes

The Catholic Church has had 267 popes who have led through many different challenges, struggles, and highlights. For some popes, it was important to keep the focus on traditions, while others tried to make changes and reform the Church, but to all of them it was important to spread the Catholic faith. While all of them had different ways of doing it, the decisions of three popes have stood out to me the most. Pope John XXIII, Pope John Paul II, and Pope Francis are my favorites because of their incredible leadership, their willingness to reform traditions without changing the doctrine, and, most importantly, their openness to the whole world.

Pope John XXIII was pope from 1958 to 1963, during the post-WWII era and the Cold War. What makes him one of my favorite popes is how he responded to this difficult time with dialogue, peace, and openness. He wrote the *Pacem in Terris* encyclical on human rights and peace, and he convened the Second Vatican Council to reform the Church by allowing the liturgy to be held in the vernacular. To me, this is significant because doing so opened the Catholic Church to the entire world, allowing everyone to take part. What also impressed me was his openness and engagement with other Christians and world religions. Acceptance of others is a value that I hold very highly, and I think Pope John XXIII demonstrated that value better than anyone. So much so that one of his main priorities was to focus on Christian unity and world peace, which is why he is often referred to as the pope who "opened the windows of the Church to the modern world." I believe that this is what made him stand out during that time period. His commitment to Christian unity was honored not only by Catholic Church during his canonization but also by other Christian churches worldwide.

Pope John Paul II is one of my three favorite popes because he actively continued the mission of the Second Vatican Council. He was Pope from 1978 to 2005. For him, strong traditional teachings were important, but to spread them, he focused on evangelizing through media and pilgrimages. I think this is important because spreading God's teachings to as many Catholics as possible should be our highest priority. Our world today is so connected through the media, and Pope John Paul II's reforms allowed the Church to spread the Good News like God intended. His legacy also includes the foundation of World Youth Day, where he continues to inspire young Catholics, like me, to this day. In my opinion, it's very crucial to engage the youth in Catholic traditions, but it's also important to inspire them to be open to the world.

Pope Francis was pope from 2013 to 2025. He focused on mercy, social justice, and ecological responsibility, responding to some of the most urgent crises of our time, such as growing inequality, the refugee crisis, and climate change. He visited refugee camps, urged Catholics to go to the "peripheries" where people are forgotten or suffering, and spoke against economic inequality. One personal trait I truly admire about him is that he didn't judge others and constantly emphasized the importance of mercy and inclusion which is so important in our diverse and divided world. This is something that I continuously strive for in my own life, and Pope Francis has acted as a role model for me. Another quality that stands out to me is his humility. He lived a very simple life, was very close to the people, and his focus on outreach to the poor became one of his central missions. In our materialistic and consumer-oriented world, I see Pope Francis as a significant leader who emphasizes that the Church must be a "Church of the poor and for the poor."

These three popes are my favorites because I see them as true bridge-builders who guided the Church in meaningful ways. Pope John XXIII opened the Church to the modern world. Pope John Paul II brought that openness into the bigger picture, making the papacy global and visible for all Catholics. Pope Francis was able to incorporate his global vision of climate, poverty, and refugees into today's challenges. All three of them showed courage, compassion, and a commitment to making the Church more open and connected to the world. Their teachings and legacy continue to impact me as I attempt to incorporate their values into my everyday life.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

*Michael & Kathleen Eovino
Anthony & Phyllis Francin
Jackey & Lauren Frye
Richard & Mary Garcia
James & Rose Gatto
Michael & Eileen Joyce
Mark & Debbie Lazo
William & Helen Lewis
Gregory & Carol Loss
James & Eileen Morini
Joseph & Dawn Myers
Francis & Kristen O'Neil
Greg & Kathy Raven
Stephen & Ann Raynor*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Robert Brennan
Michael Carter
Michael Clarkin
Robert Condon
Jeffrey DeCapua
Charles Drouillard
Derek Dunn
Robert Fintak
Joseph Frick
Jay Hardy
Patrick Hunkler
Michael Joyce
Deacon Brian Justice
Thomas Kenzik
Gene Knisley
Frederick Koch
Brenden Lo
John McAuliffe
Daniel McKay
Martin McNulty
Larry Miller
Benjamin Minister
Michael O'Connor
Patrick O'Hara
Wesley Perich
MG Michael Regner
Matthew Ridenour
Leo Russo
William Shoemaker
Matthew Story
Marco Vasquez
James Wasson
James Welsch*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY 2026

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God _____	01
Nocturnal Adoration _____	01
Stella Maris –8PM to 8AM	
Officer's Meeting _____	01
COK Life Center—6:30 PM	
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament _____	02
COK — 7:30 AM. Fri. to 6:00 PM.	
Pro-Life/Rosary _____	03
COK — 7:30 am	
Ultreya Meeting _____	06
COK Grace Hall 7:00 PM	
Regular Business Meeting _____	15
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 _____	17
West Ashley Abortion Facility 8:00 AM	
(Corner of Hwy 61 & Fuseler Rd.)	
1312 Ashley River Rd., Charleston, SC 29407	
KofC Annual Oyster Roast _____	17
Gold Bug Island - 6:30PM to 9:00PM	
Martin Luther King, Jr Day _____	19
4th Degree Exemplification _____	24
At Divine Redeemer Church in Hannahan.	

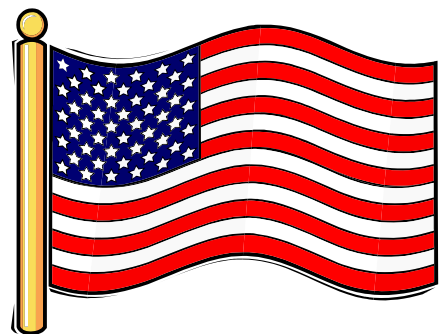
COUNCIL OFFICERS

Co-Chaplain	Rev. Robert A. Spencer	843-884-5587
Co-Chaplain	Rev. Msgr. Lawrence B. McInerney	843-883-3109
Spiritual Director	Rev. Libin Augustine	843-884-5587
Grand Knight	Bob Brennan	315-729-8652
Deputy Grand Knight	Kurt Denner	843-323-0981
Chancellor	Mark McCabe	914-216-2031
Financial Secretary	Jeff Pulaski	843-813-1732
Recorder	Derek McCoy	719-200-3041
Warden	Jim Veraldi	973-945-5770
Treasurer	Jim Welsch	843-849-1979
Lecturer	Ron Davis	843-856-4950
Advocate	Scott Migli	202-329-5579
Inside Guard	Joe Scheiman	843-737-1642
Outside Guard	Marion Wright	843-509-6512
3 Yr. Trustee	Deacon Kevin Campbell	843-729-5602
2 Yr. Trustee	Don Campbell	843-471-1085
1 Yr. Trustee	Matt Feltman	513-374-1994
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	Mark McCabe	914-216-2031
Culture of Life Directors	Joe Harkins Jr.	267-974-6534
	Robert Thetreault	860-836-5740
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	Scott Friedman	443-243-2260
District Deputy	Matt Feltman	513-374-1994
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

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 17, 2026 starting at 6:30 PM

PRICE: Ages 12 & Older: \$40.00 in advance \$45.00
at the door

All children under 12: \$10.00

No Coolers



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

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

Monthly Meditation December, 2025

December always arrives with a sense of beauty and anticipation. The Church gives us a month filled with light, hope, and profound reminders of God's love. As we begin this holy season, I invite you to slow down, breathe, and let these feasts draw you deeper into the mystery of Christ.

We enter December in the heart of Advent, a season of waiting and preparation. Advent calls us to make room for Christ with quiet reflection, prayer, and renewed hope. It reminds us that God comes to us gently, often in the ordinary moments of life, if we are willing to listen.

On December 8 we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**, a Holy Day of Obligation. This feast reminds us that Mary was prepared by God from the first moment of her life, conceived without original sin, so she could freely give her yes to His plan. Her purity, trust, and courage are models for us as Knights as we seek to follow God's will with generous hearts.

Just a few days later, on December 12, we honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, a beloved feast especially in the Americas. Mary came as a mother close to her children, speaking words of comfort and mission. Her message still invites us to look after the vulnerable, defend life, and bring Christ to others with tenderness.

The Third Sunday of Advent, **Gaudete Sunday**, lifts our spirits with the call to rejoice. Even in a world marked by struggle, God's joy is real and available. We pause to remember that Christ is near and that His presence is our strength.

Our joy reaches its fullness on **Christmas Day**, the Nativity of the Lord. On this holy day we celebrate the astonishing truth that God became one of us. The Incarnation is the heart of our faith, the light that no darkness can overcome.

This year of Evangelization, Bishop Fabre invites us to **Evangelize with the Symbols of Our Faith**. Use the beauty of the season - Advent wreaths, Nativity scenes, Marian feasts—to invite someone to church or a parish celebration. A simple invitation can open a heart to grace.

May this month draw us closer to Christ and strengthen our mission as Knights. Merry Christmas, and may God bless your families with peace and joy.



Vivat Jesus!

Rev Libin Augustine CMI

Parochial Vicar, Christ Our King Catholic Church