



EAST COOPER KNIGHTS

FEBRUARY, 2026 THE VOICE OF COUNCIL # 9475 VOLUME 39 NUMBER 2



GRAND KNIGHT REPORT - GK Bob Brennan

Brothers- As we approach the season of Lent, let us pray for our mission:

*"We help Catholic men become better **husbands**, better **fathers** and better **men** by deepening their relationship with God, putting their faith into action, and leading and protecting their families."*

Looking at our recent accomplishments, **Brother Tom Franzone** along with many others, organized and ran a very successful Oyster Roast. Well done all.

Also, **Brother Mike Fabrizio** held another successful KOC basketball free throw contest at COKSM. To all who assisted, well done.

Now we turn our attention forward and prepare for our annual Fish Fry (organized by **Brother Marion Wright**). Check for the dates as Marion has selected dates after daylight savings to allow for more sunshine.

To all who participated from our council (**Brothers Bob Thetrault and Brother Joe Harkins Jr.** along with others) in the Jan 9th pro-life march in Columbia, thank you.

Look for the information for the coming Emmaus Mepkin Abbey Mini retreats starting Feb 28th. A half day experience of prayer and brotherhood that must be experienced.

Coming in March, **Brother Jon Tirpak** of Stella Maris is participating in Soups and Sandwiches post Stations of the Cross.

Our Membership Drives are being scheduled for March of this year at our four parishes.

I'll say more about these events at the council meeting.

See you there.

Vivat Jesus

CALENDAR OF EVENTS **FEBRUARY 2026**

Ultreya Meeting_____	03
Life Center Chapel — 6:30 PM	
Nocturnal Adoration_____	05
Stella Maris — 8 PM Thur. to 8 AM Fri.	
Officers Meeting_____	05
COK—Life Center—6:30 PM	
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament_____	06
COK — 7:30 AM to 6 PM	
Pro-Life/Rosary_____	07
COK — 7:30 AM	
St. Valentine's Day_____	14
Presidents' Day_____	16
Ash Wednesday_____	18
Regular Business Meeting_____	19
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_____	21
West Ashley Abortion Facility 8:00 AM	
(Corner of Hwy 61 & Fuseler Rd.)	
1312 Ashley River Rd., Charleston, SC 29407	

The following Brother Knights from Council 9475 have taken the 4th Degree Exemplification with Assembly 3243 on January 24, 2026 and are now **Sir Knights**:

Wayne Hutzel
Keith Keohane
Mark McCabe
Martin McNulty
Nicholas Monroe
John Myers
Vincent Pinnaro



Congratulations to all!!!

**Knight of the Month
January 2026
David Breen**

Dave was born and raised in Seattle, Washington.

At Age 21 he was drafted in the Army and spent his entire 2 year military career at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. He became an Honest John Rocket Specialist.

Then, using the GI bill, he spent the next four years at the University of Washington and graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

During this time he met a Catholic girl named Marilyn and they were married shortly thereafter. They have two children, a daughter Suzanne and a son Tom. (And now 5 grandchildren-4 are in college)

Upon graduating, Dave was hired by Union Oil Company where he spent 26 years. First in selling industrial products and then engineering various items in marketing like pipelines, oil tanks, drum filling stations and canning lines.

During his time with Unocal, the family moved from Seattle to Pittsburgh then Schaumburg Illinois, then Grand Junction, Colorado and Finally Los Angeles. After retiring from Unocal, Dave spent five years as a facilities engineer for The Aerospace Corporation in Los Angeles His biggest job there was to install a 5 megawatt generator to prepare for the **fear** of changing as the year 2000 approached.

When the family was in Schaumburg and just before his daughter Suzanne's first communion, Dave joined the Catholic Church.

Dave finally retired in 2002 and he and Marilyn moved to a new home near Knoxville Tennessee. What a change from California! There, Dave became more active with the Church and joined the Knights of Columbus. For the Church, Dave redesigned and maintained a complicated A/C system. He was also appointed to oversee the building of a new large family life center.

In 2025 Dave and Marilyn moved to Mt. Pleasant at the insistence of their children. (Tom lives near) That's when he joined the Knights here.

Here, Dave has attended meetings and has been involved in the Christmas Parade float.



Left our Deputy Grand Knight acting Family Director Kurt Denner just presented Knight of the Month David Breen with certificate and our Grand Knight Bob Brennan right is presenting David with Knights cup.

**Our Guest Speaker
Kristina O'Neill
"Vice President of Lowcountry Veterans' Home
on James Island"**

Kristina gave a great talk explaining the mission to provide safe, stable and supportive housing for the homeless United States military veterans in the Charleston area.

Through their partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, they are able to serve about 60 veterans a year, offering a drug and alcohol free environment that fosters healing, stability, and growth.

Kristina also explain in addition to lodging, they provide daily meals, transportation, and wrap-around support services, while also connecting veterans to educational opportunities, employment resources, and community volunteers. The goal by the end of their stay is to help each veteran secure permanent housing and lasting stability.

Kristian made it clear every contribution makes a difference. 100% of every tax-deductible donation directly supports their mission, helping them continue to serve those who have served our country.



Above is a picture of our Grand Knight Bob Brennan presenting Kristina O'Neill Vice President of Lowcountry Veterans' Home with a Knights cup in appreciation of her coming out and giving our council 9475 the talk.



A FEW PICTURES FROM OUR 2026 OYSTER ROAST



Here we have our parking attendants left to right Marion Wright, Ron Davis, and Tom M. Franzone. They did an outstanding job getting everyone safely parked.



Above our hot dog cookers left to right Mark Kennedy, Chris Momeier, John Mahoney, and Luke Lapierre didn't make the picture. They did a great job keeping up with the demand. We never ran out of hotdogs.



Here are the ladies that ran the hot dog and chili distribution counter with great smiles. Left to right Cindy Feltman, Fran Franzone, Doris Wright, and Ginny Holmes. They did an awesome job serving the hot dogs and chili.



Standing above is our bake sale chairman Diana Barnett and standing with her is hubby Jerry. Diana did outstanding job running bake sale with a little help from hubby Jerry when he wasn't doing his job of greeting folks as they came in the door.

Oyster roast pictures continue



Here we have left Jeff Pulaski and Joe Harkins Sr. they had the task of collecting the tickets or the money as you entered the oyster roast. Behind them is our silent auction tables that Brother Knight Don Campbell chaired.



Above we have our ticket sellers far end is Mary Denner wife of Kurt Denner next, then in pink is Susan Welsch, then was Bill Shoemaker missing, and last is Bob Fintak.



Here's Bill Shoemaker we got him back.



Above manning our beverage table are left to right Danny Mckay, Mark Lazo chairman of the beverage, and our Past Grand Knight Deacon Kevin Campbell pouring glass of wine. All did a great job keeping up with thirsty customers.

Oyster roast pictures continue



Here we have Jim Welsch in charge of the fish stew.



In this picture you can see everyone enjoying each others company.



Hot fresh oysters being dumped onto table.



This is the heart of the operation. The hot steamers cooking the oysters.

**Free Throw Competition
Held At Christ Our King/Stella Maris School
January 23, 2026**



Above are the COK/SM students filling out their competitions forms before shooting baskets.



Here you can see action shot of young lady shooting basket with Brother Knight Carlos Araiza keeping score on her score sheet in hand. In back ground is Brother Knight Manning Bolchoz in white doing the same.



Here we have full court shot using 6 baskets being monitored at one time.



Above are the ten Brother Knights that ran the Free Throw contest. Left to right are Tom Franzone, Bob Thetreat, Jim Seney, Michael Fabrizio who chaired the Free Throw contest, Stephen Fallon, Carlos Araiza, Bill Shoemaker, Jim Welsch, Manning Bolchoz, and Joe Nesbitt.

A job well done by all!!!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Carlos and Trish Araiza
Stan and Lisa Blalock
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
Brian Headley
Destry Jeter
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



Honor & Heroes Classic Charity Golf Tournament

Supporting Lowcountry Veterans Home
March 25, 2026 9am at Dunes West GC
More info and registration at link below or scan QR code below
<https://lowcountryveterans.charityproud.org/EventRegistration/Index/25967>

Sponsorship or volunteering contact Michele at treasurer@lowcountryveteranshome.org



CALENDAR OF EVENTS MARCH 2026

Ultreya Meeting_____	03
COK Grace Hall — 7:00 PM	
Officers Meeting_____	05
COK Life Center— 6:30PM	
Nocturnal Adoration_____	05
Stella Maris — 8 PM Thur. to 8 AM Fri.	
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament_____	06
COK — 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM.	
Pro-Life/Rosary _____	07
COK — 7:30 AM	
Daylight Saving Time Begins_____	08
Knights of Columbus Fish Fry_____	13
Grace Hall — 5 PM to 7 PM	
St. Patrick's Day_____	17
Stations of the Cross w/Soup/Sandwiches/Bread _____	18
Stella Maris—have your soup and sandwich at Hall 6 PM. Stations start 6:15 PM	
Regular Business Meeting_____	19
St. Benedict's Parish Hall 950 Darrell Creek Trail 29466 Rosary: 6:00 PM Dinner: 6:30 PM Meeting: 7:15 PM	
Pray Vigil at Abortion Clinic_____	21
West Ashley Abortion Facility 8:00 AM (Corner of Hwy 61 & Fuseler Rd.) 1312 Ashley River Rd., Charleston, SC 29407	
Knights of Columbus Fish Fry_____	27
Grace Hall — 5 PM to 7 PM	

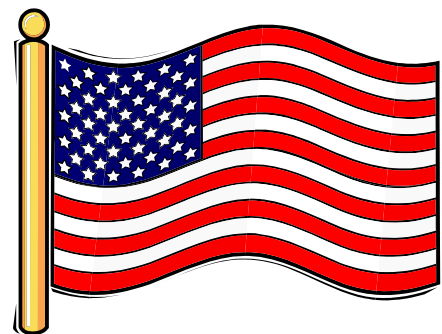
Knights of Columbus



**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. 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



GOD BLESS AMERICA



Knights of Columbus

East Cooper Council # 9475

4th Annual Fish Fry & Benefit



March 13th and March 27th

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

Time 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Christ Our King - In Grace Hall

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

Monthly Meditation February, 2026

February 2026 Meditation - “Faith, Family, and Patriotic Witness”

February is a short month, but it carries great spiritual depth. It gently leads us from the ordinary rhythm of life into the sacred season of Lent, which begins this year on February 18. As Knights of Columbus, this month invites us to reflect on three pillars that define our vocation: faith, family, and patriotic witness.

Our **faith** is the foundation of everything we do. February prepares our hearts for Lent, a season of conversion and renewal. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are dust and that our lives are gifts entrusted to us by God. Lent is not about gloomy sacrifice, but about returning to what truly matters. Through prayer, fasting, and charity, we allow God to reshape our hearts. As Knights, let us lead by example. Make time for daily prayer, frequent the sacraments, and encourage one another to walk this Lenten journey faithfully. A Knight rooted in faith becomes a steady witness to Christ in the world.

February also calls us to renew our commitment to **family**. In the midst of busy schedules and responsibilities, Lent offers an opportunity to refocus on the domestic church. Pray together as families, especially during Lent. Simple practices like grace before meals, Scripture reading, or the Stations of the Cross at home can strengthen bonds and deepen faith. As husbands, fathers, and brothers, our presence, patience, and love speak louder than words. A strong family life is one of the most powerful testimonies we can offer to a world longing for stability and hope.

Finally, February challenges us to live out our **patriotic witness**. Love of country is not blind loyalty, but a commitment to justice, freedom, and the dignity of every human life. As Catholic men, our patriotism is guided by the Gospel. We are called to pray for our nation, its leaders, and all who serve in uniform. We witness to our faith by standing for truth, defending the vulnerable, and promoting unity rather than division. Faithful citizenship begins with moral integrity and concern for the common good.

As Lent begins on February 18, let us enter this sacred season with purpose. May this month strengthen our faith, deepen our family life, and renew our commitment to serve God, Church, and country with courage and humility. United as Knights, may we be men of prayer, men of conviction, and men of hope.

In Christ,



Vivat Jesus!

Rev Libin Augustine CMI

Parochial Vicar, Christ Our King Catholic Church