



EAST COOPER KNIGHTS

JANUARY, 2026 THE VOICE OF COUNCIL # 9475 VOLUME 39 NUMBER 1



GRAND KNIGHT REPORT - GK Bob Brennan

Brothers- As we turn the calendar, here is wishing you a Happy New Year.

We closed the books on another successful and enjoyable 2025. Our council #9475 is strong and vibrant. We maintained our four-parish profile with continued support for our Catholic faith and community.

Many thanks go out to the Mt. Pleasant Christmas parade team (Led by Brother Matt Feltman) who struggled with rain altering conditions. Also, Brother Mark McCabe organized our Christmas party. It was well attended and all had a good time singing along. Brother Scott Sherer and his wife successfully headed up the Christmas wreath sale and sold out.

Now, we ring in the new year for 2026:

Brother Franzone is also 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.

February will include the KofC basketball free throw contest (led by brother Mike Fabrizio). Also, Brother Marion Wright will again be leading the Fish Fry events during lent.

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

Happy New Year to all. – To all you good Knights

Vivat Jesus

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 Hanahan.	



**Council 9475 and Assembly 3243 Christmas Party
at
Christ Our King Beach House Saturday Dec. 12**



Setting up the dining room left to right Joe Harkins Sr., Fran Franzone, Bob Pyle and his fiancée Christine, Grand Knight Bob Brennan supervising, our chairman of Christmas party Mark McCabe, and Tom Franzzone taking picture after helping cover 2 tables up front.



As guest arrive the food table is filling up with covered dishes. You may recognize a few folks by the table left to right Marion wright, Kathy Campbell, Martha Campbell, Doris Wright, Don Campbell, in blue sweeter Joe Harkins Sr., and Past Grand Knight Frank Osage who we haven't seen in a long time. It was good to see Frank!



Now it's dinner time. You can see our party chairman Mark McCabe slicing the delicious spiral honey ham, there was lasagna, Italian bread, salads, lots of side dishes, and you can see the many desserts. It was an outstanding meal.



Award presentation, left Our Deputy Grand Knight Kurt Denner presented our council Chancellor, and party chairman Mark McCabe center with the Knight of the Month award certificate, and right is our Grand Knight Bob Brennan. You can read Mark's Bio on page 4.

Christmas Party continued



Award presentations continues. Here we have left to right Council Chancellor and Family Director Mark McCabe presented the Family of the Quarter Award Certificate to Joe and Jeannie Scheirman center and Grand Knight Bob Brennan is right. You can read Joe and Jeannie's Bio on page 4.



Then came the fun of singing Christmas carols as Carolyn McCoy our council Recorder Derek McCoy's wife played the flute.



Left is Carolyn McCoy playing one of many Christmas carols which we had fun singing along. Thank You Carolyn for adding the entertainment playing the flute.

A good time was had by all!!!

**Knight of the Month
December 2025
Mark McCabe**

Mark McCabe is a Third Degree Knight. He is from New Rochelle, New York where he was born and raised. His Father, a WW II Navy veteran attended Iona College (now Iona University) on the GI Bill. He eventually became the Registrar at Iona College. His Mother and Father were devout Catholics heavily involved in the Pre-Cana movement. Iona College invited his Mother to lecture the Men of Iona about Marriage in the late 1960's. She eventually got a Master's in Theology from Manhattan College and became a full time Theology Professor at Iona teaching the Judeo Christian Tradition and Electives in Marriage and Death and Dying.

Mark met his wife of 43 years while at Iona (she attended The College of New Rochelle) and they settled in New Rochelle and raised four beautiful children there. Mark and Beth found Mt. Pleasant while their daughter Emily attended the College of Charleston from 2009-2013. They moved here during the Pandemic in July 2020.

Mark is still working full time as an Institutional Municipal Bond Salesperson from his home. He was looking for a way to share all the good things in his life and a good friend from Iona introduced him to the Knights of Columbus. He came to believe the Knights and their Good Works would be a good place to give back and to Honor God.

Congratulations Mark!!!



**Family of the Quarter
December 2025
Joe and Jeannie Scheirman**

Joe and Jeannie Scheirman graduated from the same college, Morris Harvey, in Charleston, WV but did not meet until 3 years later on a blind date. They married on Valentine's Day 1976 and will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary on FEB 14, 2026. They are the proud parents of Jo Ellen, Jennifer, and Jeff. (All practicing Catholics.)

Jo Ellen graduated from West Virginia University and lives in Charleston, WV with her husband Jay and their two daughters: Jaylen age 12 and Canyen age 9. Jennifer graduated from James Madison University and lives in Tampa, FL with her husband Dave and their three children: Caleb, a senior at Sickles High School, Caitlin, a Senior at University of New Hampshire, and Jeffrey, a graduate of Rhodes College and is now employed as a computer programmer. Jeff graduated from Ben Franklin, taught Learn-to-Swim and was a lifeguard. As a lifeguard, Jeff was credited with saving 3 lives. One of the girls he taught in Learn-to-Swim, became a lifeguard, too, and she also saved someone's life. After two different battles with cancer, on May 21, 2001, Jeff left his earthly home and is now in Heaven.

Joe retired from the Department of the Army as a Sergeant Major and as a Supervisory Staff Administrator for the 80th Division. Jeannie retired after 38 years of teaching, all of which were at the same elementary school.

Both Joe and Jeannie are Cursillistas and attend weekly Group Meetings at St. Benedict. Each of their days begin with a reading from Jesus Calling and the scriptures that accompany the reading. Every day, they pray the Rosary together, and the day ends with their nightly prayers together. In their spare time, they enjoy watching movies, listening to 60's music, and if possible, watching their grandchildren in their sports even if it's through live streaming. Going on cruises is their favorite vacation activity. Jeannie is a Lector and a Religious Education Teacher at St. Benedict. She is also the newly elected President of St. Benedict Women's Club and has overseen their Prayer Tree for the Woman's Club for over seven years. She enjoys reading and playing Mah Jongg.

Joe has spent many hours on his children's genealogy. He has researched 36 surnames so far in his children's genealogy. Their ancestry has at least one person served from the Cold War, World War II, World War I, the Spanish-American War, and the Civil War. Joe has also self-published eleven books, with the first one self-published in 1978 and the last one this year.

Joe joined the Knights of Columbus in 2006 in Charleston, WV and became a Sir Knight in 2011 as a Founding Member of Assembly 3243 in SC. In 2013-14 he was the Faithful Navigator of Assembly 3243. In 2020 he was named Knight of the Year for Council 9475.

Congratulations Joe and Jeannie!!!

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 McInerny
Louis Milone
John Myers
Henry Rogers
David Semenoff
James Sheehy
Fr. Robert Spencer
Anthony Stelluti*



**OUR CHRISTMAS FLOAT ENTERED THE MT. PLEASANT CHRISTMAS PARADE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025**



This was the first work party, assembling our Christmas float that is in the back ground. Left to right Brother Knights Bill Graves, Nick Monroe, Jim Welsch, Matt Feltman our float chairman, Vince Terranova and taking selfie Tom Franzone.



Second work party, Brother Knights that put lights on our Christmas float above were Bill Graves and his wife Patricia, Jim Welsch, Tom Franzone, and our chairman Matt Feltman. One more work party and it will be ready for the Christmas parade. Just needs manger scene, a couple signs that we have. Matt feels we can do that Sunday before parade.



Above is our float, after finishing decorative touches, entered in the Mt. Pleasant Christmas parade.

Which received first place in church category.

Thank you and congratulations to our chairman and designer Matt Feltman and his working team mentioned above and aft.



The Brother Knights that participated in the parade are left to right Vince Terranova, Nick Monroe, David Breen, float chairman Matt Feltman, and not in the picture Joseph Thatcher how drove truck son of Brother Knight DJ Thatcher whose truck we used.

A great job done by all who worked on float!!!

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
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	

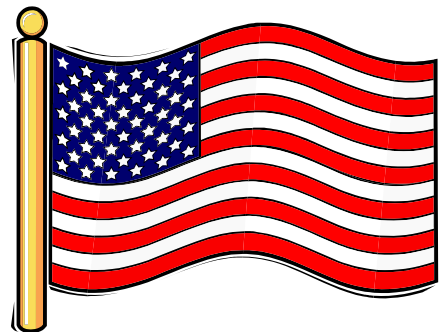
COUNCIL OFFICERS

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 January, 2026

January 2026 Meditation for Knights of Columbus- “Called to Begin Again”

Brothers in Christ,

As we begin a new year, the Church invites us to pause, reflect, and renew our commitment to God, our families, and our mission as Catholic men. January opens not with resolutions based on our own strength, but with grace—grace given through Christ and entrusted to us through His Church.

On **January 1st**, we honor **Mary, Mother of God**, and observe the **World Day of Peace**. Mary teaches us that true strength is found in obedience to God’s will. As Knights, husbands, fathers, and brothers, we place the coming year under her maternal care, asking her to guide our leadership in our homes, parishes, and communities. Peace begins in the heart, grows in the family, and is carried into the world by men who live their faith with courage.

In the **Feast of the Epiphany**, we see the Magi—men who searched, sacrificed, and followed the light until they found Christ. Their journey mirrors our own. We are called not only to seek the Lord, but to bring others to Him by the example of our lives. Our witness—quiet, faithful, and consistent—is one of the strongest evangelizing tools God has placed in our hands.

The **Baptism of the Lord** reminds us who we are. Through baptism, we are claimed by God and sent on mission. Being a Knight of Columbus is not just belonging to an organization; it is living out our baptism as Catholic men who stand for truth, charity, and life, even when it is difficult.

Midway through the month, the Church observes the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. Unity is not uniformity; it is love rooted in truth. As Knights, fraternity is one of our founding principles. We are called to be brothers who support one another, pray for one another, and walk together toward Christ, strengthening the Church by our unity.

On **January 22nd**, we observe the **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**. This day calls us to reflect deeply on the sanctity of every human life. Our pro-life mission is not political—it is profoundly Gospel-centered. We defend life because every person is made in the image of God. As Knights, we stand with the vulnerable, speak for those who have no voice, and witness to the dignity of life from conception to natural death.

Brothers, January is not just the beginning of a calendar year; it is a call to begin again. Let us move forward in **Charity**, grounded in love; in **Unity**, strengthened by fraternity; in **Fraternity**, supporting one another as brothers; and in **Patriotism**, serving our Church and country guided by faith.

May Christ be our light, Mary our guide, and the Holy Spirit our strength throughout this new year.

In Christ,



Vivat Jesus!

Rev Libin Augustine CMI

Parochial Vicar, Christ Our King Catholic Church



Assembly 3243 Highlights for December, 2025

The Assembly remains very active in our parishes and community. Some highlights include:

- Assembly 3243 earned the Star Assembly Award for the fraternal year of 2024-2025. Only 5% of all Assemblies earn this award, which will be presented on a later date.
- Members from Assembly 3243 celebrated Christmas with Veterans of the Armed Forces on December 21, 2025 at the Lowcountry Veterans Home. See additional information in the newsletter.
- Upcoming 4th Degree Exemplifications include January 24, 2026 at Divine Redeemer in Hanahan, SC & March 14, 2026 at Corpus Christi in Lexington, SC.

The theme for the year is **America250**. In 2026, the United States of America will commemorate the 250 Anniversary of our founding and Declaration of Independence. **America250** is a nonpartisan initiative working to engage every American in the 250th anniversary of the United States. See <https://america250.org>.

Faithful Navigator, Kurt Denner



**LOWCOUNTRY
VETERANS HOME**

At **Lowcountry Veterans Home**, our mission is to provide safe, stable, and supportive transitional housing for homeless United States military veterans in the Charleston area.

Through our partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, we are able to serve approximately **60 veterans each year**, offering a drug- and alcohol-free environment that fosters healing, stability, and growth.

In addition to lodging, we provide **daily meals, transportation, and wrap-around support services**, while also connecting veterans to educational opportunities, employment resources, and community volunteers. By the end of their stay, our goal is to help each veteran **secure permanent housing and lasting stability**.

Every contribution makes a difference. **100% of every tax-deductible donation directly supports our mission**, helping us continue to serve those who have served our country.



Reverend Vincent Robert Capodanno Sir Knights

December 2025 Virtue of Patriotism Assembly 3243 Volume 2 Number 5



On December 21, 2025, Sir Knights from Assembly 3243 celebrated Christmas with Veterans staying at the Lowcountry Veterans Home on James Island. A meal of hand-made pasta, ham, mac & cheese, green beans, bread, salad, drinks and multiple deserts were prepared and wonderful meal was enjoyed. The Sir Knights then presented Christmas gifts to the Veterans, who all appreciated the warm new clothing items. Afterwards, the Veterans and Sir Knights mingled and got to know each other. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas and support some great men who have sacrificed so much for us to live in Freedom. This will be a start to a long and lasting relationship between Assembly 3243 and the Lowcountry Veterans Home. Thank you to the Sir Knights who helped prepare the meal, donated clothing items or money and gave their time on December 21 to help celebrate Christmas with the Veterans.



Upcoming Events

- Council 9475 Oyster Roast at Gold Bug Island at 6:30PM on January 7, 2026.
- Exemplification of the 4th degree at Devine Redeemer in Hanahan, SC on Jan. 24, 2026.
- Assembly 3243 meeting at 6:30pm at COK Beach House on January 28, 2026.

Capodanno Corner

- He earned "The Grunt Padre" nickname for his deep connection with the enlisted "grunts" by sharing their dangers.
- All Sir Knights are encouraged to join The Father Capodanno Guild at www.capodannoguild.org.