



# ***EAST COOPER KNIGHTS***

**AUGUST, 2026 THE VOICE OF COUNCIL # 9475 VOLUME 39 NUMBER 8**



Grand Knight Message July 16, 2026

My Dear Brothers in Christ,

When Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 to help poor immigrant families, he probably never imaged that the organization would grow to more than 2.2 million members in 17,000 local councils worldwide. His vision has produced an army of Catholic men willing to help their families, parishes and communities following the virtues of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.

The Knights of Columbus have never been needed more than they are today. In this divided, secular, social media crazed world in which we live in, Brother Knights have a tremendous opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

My question to you Brother Knights is, are you fully engaged in our Council and doing everything you can to make a difference?

On the road to Emmaus, two disciples encountered the risen Lord, but did not recognize him. Later, when he was at the table with them, He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, then He disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Our hearts, Brother Knights should be burning with the opportunities to serve in our Council and to give thanks our Lord for the Precious Blood He spilled for us.

Let us renew our vows to uphold and strengthen the virtues of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. Let us grow in our commitment to each other, our families, the parishes we worship with and the communities we serve.

Vivat Jesus

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** **AUGUST 2026**

|                                                                                                                          |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Pro-Life/Rosary_____                                                                                                     | 01 |
| COK — 7:30 AM                                                                                                            |    |
| Ultrya Meeting_____                                                                                                      | 04 |
| COK Grace Hall — 7:00 PM                                                                                                 |    |
| Nocturnal Adoration_____                                                                                                 | 06 |
| Stella Maris — 8 PM Thur. to 8 AM. Fri.                                                                                  |    |
| Officers Meeting_____                                                                                                    | 06 |
| COK—Life Center —6:30 PM                                                                                                 |    |
| Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament_____                                                                                 | 07 |
| COK —After 7:00 AM Mass to 6:00PM<br>ending with Benediction.                                                            |    |
| Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary_____                                                                               | 15 |
| Holy Day of Obligation                                                                                                   |    |
| Prayer Vigil at Abortion Facility_____                                                                                   | 15 |
| West Ashley Abortion Facility 8:00 AM<br>(Corner of Hwy 61 & Fuseler Rd.)<br>1312 Ashley River Rd., Charleston, SC 29407 |    |
| Regular Business Meeting_____                                                                                            | 20 |
| St. Benedict's Parish Hall<br>950 Darrell Creek Trail 29466<br>Rosary: 6:00PM<br>Dinner: 6:30PM<br>Meeting: 7:15PM       |    |



**Family of the Month**  
**July 2026**  
**Mark and Jennifer McMahon**

**Mark & Jennifer McMahon** are active members of Christ Our King. Jennifer serves as a greeter and volunteers as a chaperone with high school youth at the parish, including at the Diocese Matthew 25 Service Camp, held each summer at St Clare. Mark is a third-degree Knight and serves as a Lector at Christ Our King, and together Mark & Jennifer are active on the Parish Newcomers and Garden committees. Mark is currently in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 3-year online program through St Vincent College and Seminary in Latrobe, PA where he is pursuing completion of a Certificate in Catechesis. Mark and Jennifer assist with Christ Our King's OCIA program and in January, they represented the parish, with two other couples, at a Diocesan-wide Evangelization Rally in Columbia that was organized under the Bishop's Via Fidelis pastoral program. As a result of attending that Rally, under the direction of Father Spencer and Father Libin, and with the help of other parishioners, in April of this year, Mark and Jennifer organized and hosted a Parish Evangelization Rally.

In June, as a follow-up to that event, they designed and delivered a four-session evangelization series for parishioners titled **Ordinary People / Everyday Disciples**. Over the course of four weeks, participants explored the call of the Holy Father, Pope Leo, and our Bishop for all baptized Catholics—especially the laity—to become missionary disciples and share the Gospel as followers of Jesus Christ. The program combined lectures, videos, and small-group discussions, offering participants a practical understanding of what it means to live as missionary disciples in daily life. It also invited reflection on the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit—received at Baptism and strengthened in Confirmation—helping each person recognize their unique gifts and how they can bear fruit in proclaiming the Gospel through both word and action.

**Congratulations Mark and Jennifer!!!**



In the picture above center are our Family of the Month for July 2026 Mark and Jennifer McMahon, left is Mark McCabe our Lector who just presented the Family of the Month certificate to Mark and Jennifer, right is our Worthy Grand Knight Kurt Denner who presented Mark and Jennifer with Knights cups.



## **Knight of the Month July 2026 Bennett Wyse**

Ben Wyse was born in 1959, in beautiful downtown Burbank, California, and he spent the first half of his childhood growing up in Studio City, California, where he was known as “Casey Wyse,” as a professional child actor and model (since the age of five), and he appeared in numerous national and regional television commercials, as well as in radio, movies, professional theatre and print advertising – although in none that anyone under 50 would remember at this point in time.

His family (of six) moved to Texas in 1969, when he was ten years old, and his father Don Wyse became an accomplished professional character actor, and his mother became the first Screen Actors Guild and Actors Equity Association talent agent in the State of Texas.

The Wyse family was a “show-biz” family and it was not uncommon for “stars” of television, theater, and movies, to come over to their home for dinner, from time to time, when they were in Dallas, appearing in a play or filming a movie.

Ben has had a varied professional life. At 17 years of age, in the middle of his senior year in high school, he enlisted into the United States Air Force, on delayed enlistment, and entered into service soon after graduation. After basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, he was assigned to the Defense Language Institute – Foreign Language Center, in Monterey, California, where he was awarded his diploma in the Russian Language. He served a total of four years in the Air Force and obtained the rank of Sergeant. For two of those years, he was stationed at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and worked in Top-Secret Telecommunications in the Headquarters, United States Air Force Europe.

He then resumed civilian life and worked as an actor and as a talent agent in Dallas, Texas. He received an Associate’s Degree in computer science from El Centro College in Dallas, Texas, and then received a Bachelor of Art’s Degree in Russian from the University of Texas at Arlington, Texas. He worked as a public high school teacher, a university lecturer (in Russian Scientific Translation), and also worked as the “Pitt Boss” for a just-for-fun casino where he met Suzanne, all before giving up that life and entering law school in his late 30’s. He then received his law degree from Texas Tech University School of Law in Lubbock, Texas. Ben also studied law at Leningrad State University in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Shortly after graduating from law school and having passed the state bar exam, and becoming a licensed attorney, Ben made the best decision of his life and married his wonderful and lovely wife, Suzanne.

Suzanne spent her career, spanning 40 years, in serving seniors. Beginning her career in nursing homes, Suzanne eventually expanded to Alzheimer’s Specialty Care facilities, assisted living facilities and independent living communities. She was active with the Alzheimer’s Association, Dallas Chapter, in Dallas, Texas, and various senior housing associations. For nearly 25 years, she traveled throughout the U.S., coaching and leading teams for multiple communities.

Ben served the Dallas, Texas community as a pro-bono volunteer attorney with the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program with Legal Aid of Northwest Texas.

Ben and Suzanne moved to Mount Pleasant, from Frisco, Texas, in 2017, so that Suzanne, as Vice President of Operations for Merrill Gardens, could lead the opening of the local “Merrill Gardens at Mount Pleasant, a Senior Residential Community,” located here in Mount Pleasant, near the Costco. Subsequently, she opened two more Senior Communities in South Carolina, one in Columbia, SC, and the other in Greenville, SC. Suzanne retired in 2024. Both Ben and Suzanne remain active in 40 Days for Life.

Ben and Suzanne took dance lessons, off and on, for many years, and they weekly engaged in social ballroom dancing at several venues. Ben loves the “cha-cha swing,” which he says that he “invented.”

Ben greatly enjoys collecting and reading books, limited to the select areas of reference books, foreign languages and literature, religion and apologetics, political economics and strategic forecasting, science fiction, and alternate history.

Ben has extensive knowledge of creditors’ rights, real estate, foreclosure, evictions, probate, and estate planning; as well as municipal law, and he served as an assistant city attorney for nine home rule and general-law cities.

Ben has been a Knight of Columbus in several councils for about 20 years.

**Congratulations Bennett!!!**



Center is our Knight of the Month for July 2026 Bennett Wyse, Left in picture is our Lecturer Mark McCabe who just presented Bennett with Knight of the Month certificate and our Worthy Grand Knight Kurt Denner presented Bennett with a Knights cup.

**OUR COUNCIL 9475 ON JULY 27, 2026 GRILLED LUNCH FOR  
CAMP RISE ABOVE AT JAMES ISLAND COUNTY PARK**



In picture above are the Brother Knights that came to help. Left to right chairman Don Campbell, Marion Wright, Rocco Falcone, Jim Seney, Bob Thetreat, Bill Graves, Craig Pugh, and Tom Franzone. We had great crew and it was a fun day.



In picture above these Knights weren't late but just didn't make the above picture. Left to right Jim Morini, Richard Garcia, and Warren Tawes



Now we are getting serious burgers and hotdogs are on the grill. Warren is about to close the grill.

## Grilling continues



Here we have left Bob Thetreat and Jim Seney having fun cutting up watermelons. They are in a air condition kitchen probably chuckling at Brother Knights out in the heat doing the grilling. Ha!!



Here we have the serving line. Jim Veraldi in red cap is heading up the line, then is Rocco Falcone, Jim Morini, and Bob Thetreat serving the watermelon.



Above we have the staff and special needs youth enjoying their meal sitting at the tables.



Here we have a thank you picture with staff, and all the youth, and Brother Knights on the left. The thank you sign is in the middle front row just a little to the right. It was a fun day for all.

# **((SAVE THE DATE))**

## **THE KofC HARBOR CRUISE IS BACK AGAIN**

**Come join us for this fun, fun, fun filled event**

**All are welcome so bring your friends and neighbors**

**We sail Saturday October 24th, 2026 - Board @ 6:30 pm Cruise from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm**

**Note: (New location marina) Seabreeze Marina, 50 Immigration Street, Charleston 29403**

Onboard the beautiful **Charleston Princess**

Three decks, including seated dining, bow and aft observation decks and dance floor



**\$110 per couple - \$55 single**

Includes

Music by Eddie Lukow - back by popular demand.

Appetizers, light dinner, dessert,  
soft drinks, water, beer & wine served by on board staff.

Cash bar available for mixed drinks and cocktails.

For tickets E-mail

Neil Whitman

ngwhitman@yahoo.com

843-270-9834 - please leave a message on my voicemail

**To pay online scan this QR code. Enter \$0 in the tip request box.**



<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/harbor-cruise--2026>

## ***HAPPY ANNIVERSARY***

*Leo and Wendy Albano  
Joseph and Jerilyn Bandiera  
Robert and Catherine Brennan  
Thomas and Elizabeth Cullen  
Kevin and Deanna Cunnane  
Francis and Anne Fallon  
Robert and Danielle Geberth  
Patrick and Sarah Hunkler  
Kevin and Patricia Kerley  
Chris and Janet Kerrigan  
Raymond and Ann Marie Manfredi  
Martin and Helen McNulty  
Louis and Susan Milone  
Patrick and Victoria O'Hara  
Michael and Pamela Rausa  
Jonathon and Beth Santilli  
Richard and Joan Schiliro  
Jim and Katy Sheehy  
Francis and Claire Sherman  
Warren Jr. and Kristin Tawes*



## ***HAPPY BIRTHDAY***

*John Bride Jr.  
Anthony Certa  
Kevin Cunnane  
Steven Deveau  
Mark Dickson  
Michael Eovino  
Rocco Falcone  
Richard Happe  
Robert Humphrey  
Matthew Jensen  
Hugh McLoughlin  
Richard Morales  
Paul Nash  
Peter Paloni  
Michael Rausa  
Stephen Roberts  
Adam Russo  
Scott Scherer  
Joe Tarr  
Vince Terranova Jr.  
Paul Zubel*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS SEPTEMBER 2026

|                                                                                                                          |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Ultreya Meeting_____                                                                                                     | 01 |
| COK Grace Hall — 7:00 PM                                                                                                 |    |
| Nocturnal Adoration_____                                                                                                 | 03 |
| Stella Maris — 8PM Thu. to 8AM. Fri.                                                                                     |    |
| Officers Meeting_____                                                                                                    | 03 |
| COK—Life Center—6:30 PM                                                                                                  |    |
| Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament_____                                                                                 | 04 |
| COK — 7:30 AM . Fri. to 6:00 PM.<br>ending with Benediction                                                              |    |
| Pro-Life/Rosary_____                                                                                                     | 05 |
| COK — 7:30 AM                                                                                                            |    |
| Labor Day_____                                                                                                           | 07 |
| Regular Business Meeting_____                                                                                            | 17 |
| St. Benedict's Parish Hall<br>950 Darrell Creek Trail 29466<br>Rosary: 6:00PM<br>Dinner: 6:30 PM<br>Meeting: 7:15 PM     |    |
| Prayer Vigil at Abortion Facility_____                                                                                   | 19 |
| West Ashley Abortion Facility 8:00 AM<br>(Corner of Hwy 61 & Fuseler Rd.)<br>1312 Ashley River Rd., Charleston, SC 29407 |    |

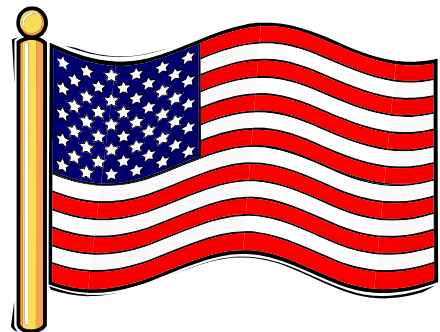
## COUNCIL OFFICERS

|                            |                        |              |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Chaplain                   | Rev. Libin Augustine   | 843-884-5587 |
| Faith Director             | <b>Open</b>            |              |
| Grand Knight               | Kurt Denner            | 843-323-0981 |
| Deputy Grand Knight        | Jim Veraldi            | 973-945-5770 |
| Chancellor                 | Scott Migli            | 202-329-5579 |
| Financial Secretary        | Jeff Pulaski           | 843-813-1732 |
| Recorder                   | Derek McCoy            | 719-200-3041 |
| Warden                     | Mark McCabe            | 914-216-2031 |
| Treasurer                  | Jim Welsch             | 843-849-1979 |
| Lecturer                   | Mark McCabe            | 914-216-2031 |
| Advocate                   | Ben Wyse               | 214-616-3260 |
| Inside Guard               | Carter Brand           | 843-468-0050 |
| Outside Guard              | Steve Fallon           | 401-266-1695 |
| 3 Yr. Trustee              | Bob Brennan            | 315-729-8652 |
| 2 Yr. Trustee              | Deacon Kevin Campbell  | 843-729-5602 |
| 1 Yr. Trustee              | Don Campbell           | 843-471-1085 |
| Program Director           | Jim Veraldi            | 973-945-5770 |
| Church Directors           | Tom A. Franzzone -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         | Martin McNulty         | 201-747-1223 |
| Health Services            | D. J. Thatcher         | 843-513-0214 |
| Public Relations           | Neil Whitman           | 843-270-9834 |
| Family Director            | <b>Open</b>            |              |
| Culture of Life Directors  | Joe Harkins Jr.        | 267-974-6534 |
| Youth Director             | <b>Open</b>            |              |
| Membership Director        | Scott Migli            | 202-329-5579 |
| Recruitment Committee      | Joseph Scheirman - SB  | 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         | Steve Fallon           | 401-266-1695 |
| Insurance Promotion        | Paul Harrington        | 706-338-7924 |
| Columbus Hope Chairman     | Bill Shoemaker         | 843-884-1378 |
| Meals Director             | Ron Davis              | 843-437-2030 |
| Newsletter                 | Tom Franzzone          | 843-729-7734 |
| State Chaplain             | Rev. Robert Higgins    | 843-249-2356 |
| State Deputy               | Patrick Noone          | 704-534-2890 |
| 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**

## Monthly Meditation August, 2026

### Faithful Citizens, Faithful Disciples: Serving God and Country with the Immaculate Heart of Mary

#### Brother Knights,

As we enter the month of August, the Church invites us to deepen our devotion to the **Immaculate Heart of Mary**, the traditional spiritual focus of this month. Mary's heart was completely open to God's will, filled with faith, humility, and love. As Knights of Columbus, we look to her as our model of discipleship, asking her to help us place Christ at the center of our families, our parish, our community, and our nation.

August also falls between **Independence Day** and **Labor Day**, making it an appropriate time to reflect on our responsibilities as faithful Catholic citizens. Our love for our country is expressed not only by displaying the flag or celebrating national holidays, but by living the Gospel in public life. We are called to protect the dignity of every human person, defend religious freedom, care for the poor and vulnerable, and work for justice and peace. As Knights, we witness to Christ by serving our neighbors, supporting our parishes, and strengthening our communities through charity, unity, and fraternity. Authentic patriotism always begins with faithful discipleship.

This month is filled with beautiful feasts that inspire our Christian vocation. On **August 4**, we celebrate **St. John Vianney**, the patron saint of parish priests. His life reminds us that holy priests are a priceless gift to the Church. Let us remember to pray daily for our Holy Father, our bishops, and all priests, especially those who faithfully serve our own parishes. May God strengthen them with wisdom, perseverance, and joyful hearts as they shepherd His people.

On **August 15**, we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, a Holy Day of Obligation. Mary's Assumption reminds us of the hope that awaits all who remain faithful to Christ. She now shares fully in the glory of the Resurrection and continues to intercede for us as our loving Mother. Let us entrust our families, our Council, and our nation to her maternal care.

Toward the end of the month, we honor **St. Monica** (August 27) and **St. Augustine** (August 28). Monica's persistent prayer and unwavering faith led to the remarkable conversion of her son, Augustine, who became one of the Church's greatest saints and teachers. Their story reminds us never to lose hope in God's grace. Through patient prayer, loving witness, and trust in God's timing, hearts can be transformed.

As we continue Bishop Fabre's **Year of Evangelization**, let us remember that the most convincing proclamation of the Gospel is the witness of a faithful life. May our words, actions, and service draw others to Christ.

May the **Immaculate Heart of Mary** guide us, **St. John Vianney** inspire our prayers for priests, and **Sts. Monica and Augustine** encourage us to persevere in faith. Together, let us continue to serve God, our Church, and our country with generous hearts.



**Vivat Jesus!**

**Rev Libin Augustine CMI**

Parochial Vicar, Christ Our King Catholic Church