



EAST COOPER KNIGHTS

SEPTEMBER, 2026 THE VOICE OF COUNCIL # 9475 VOLUME 39 NUMBER 9



Grand Knight Message

My Brothers in Christ,

When I reflect on my life, I cannot help but feel deeply blessed.

- I was blessed with wonderful parents and siblings, and I was raised in the Catholic faith.
- I met my life partner, a Catholic woman, and we have been married for 40 years.
- We raised a beautiful daughter, who married a wonderful Catholic man.
- Best of all, they welcomed a baby boy last week—our first grandchild.

I could go on, but it would be more of the same, including how blessed I am to be part of this Council and to share in the brotherhood we have together.

What I struggle with every day, however, is this: How do I take all these blessings and use them to do what God wants me to do? How do I follow His will? This is something we all struggle with.

Yet we, as Knights of Columbus, have an incredible role model to follow: our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney. He always sought to align his will with God's through profound trust, patience, and obedience.

- Denied immediate entry to the seminary, he patiently worked in a factory to support his family until his father allowed him to continue his studies.
- He saw the pain of children losing their fathers, including his own, and responded with Christian charity by beginning a movement that would provide financial support to families in need.
- Father McGivney and the men he gathered recognized a higher calling, expressed in the Order's three main principles: charity, unity, and fraternity.
- The official prayer for his sainthood asks God to glorify him on earth strictly "according to the design of your holy will."

Brothers, let us keep Father McGivney's example of following God's will firmly in our thoughts and prayers. Let us seek his guidance as we strive to align our will with God's through profound trust, patience, and obedience.

Vivat Jesus
Kurt C. Denner
Grand Knight Council 9475

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 3:00 PM. ending with Benediction	
Pro-Life/Rosary	05
COK — 7:30 AM	
Labor Day	07
Regular Business Meeting	17
St. Benedict's Parish Hall 950 Darrell Creek Trail 29466 Rosary: 6:00PM Dinner: 6:30 PM Meeting: 7:15 PM	
Prayer Vigil at Abortion Facility	19
West Ashley Abortion Facility 8:00 AM (Corner of Hwy 61 & Fuseler Rd.) 1312 Ashley River Rd., Charleston, SC 29407	



Grand Knight's Report

Dear Brothers, we are off to a great start for the new fraternal year. I want to thank everyone for their contributions. Here are some items to note.

- We have developed a set of goals to guide us this year and presented them to the Council in July.
- The Officers and Directors are working hard to lead our council and make this a successful year.
- We've had our first Exemplification for the year and first two new members.

I also want to recognize and thank some of our Brothers for their efforts:

- Thank you to Brother Don Campbell and all the brothers who helped with another successful Camp Rise Above cookout.
- Thank you to Brothers Neil Whitman and Jim Veraldi for their work on the website development and additions.
- Thank you to Brothers Neil Whitman, Jim Veraldi, Jim Welsch, Derek McCoy, Tom Franzone and Bob Thetreault for the research and selection of a new email system for the Council.
- A special thank you to Brother Marion Wright for stepping up into the Community Director role.

Please continue the good work, and I encourage all Brothers to step up this year and find ways to contribute to our Council.



Rosary Pouches

"A special thanks to Brother Knight David Breen wife Marilyn and Brother Knight Jon Tirpak wife Angie for making Knights of Columbus Rosary pouches for our new members. The first ones were given at the Exemplification on August 20, 2026"



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



In the picture above are Brother Knights, who took the Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity August 20, 2026. Both are now 3rd. degree Knights left to right are Brother Gerard O'Sullivan received all 3 Degrees, and Timothy Vitollo who took his 2nd and 3rd degree.

Congratulations to both Brother Knights!!!



Family of the Month
August, 2026
Don and Kathy Campbell

Don and Kathy met as Lieutenants at Wright-Patterson AFB. Kathy had just graduated from the Air Force Academy with the first class of women, and Don from the Citadel. After dating for a couple of years they were married in the Air Force Base chapel with big expectations for the coming future. Looking back on Military careers that took them to five bases across the Country, both retired with distinctive careers. While in the Air Force, Kathy served 13 years at the Pentagon and was in the building on 9/11. Following the Air Force, Kathy continued serving as a Navy civilian in Cyber warfare. After Don retired from the Air Force, he worked as Civilian at the National Security Agency and at the House of Representatives select Committee on Intelligence.

Don and Kathy have been married for nearly 44 years and have two wonderful sons (Chris and Miles), two grandkids (Cam and Kennedy), and are expecting Grandchild number three in the early Spring. Seeking a slightly slower pace of living, they moved from Alexandria, Va to Charleston in 2010 and immediately joined Christ Our King parish. Following his term as President of the Mount Pleasant Exchange club, Don joined the Knights of Columbus and was super impressed by the leadership of then Grand Knight - DJ Thatcher. Don committed to be as good a Knight as possible and was elected first as Deputy Grand Knight and Grand Knight. Currently, Don just finished being a trustee for the Council and Purser for the Assembly and is looking forward to getting hip surgery so he can continue working hard for the Knights.

Kathy also couldn't sit still with the status quo and enrolled at the College of Charleston and in two years was awarded a Masters' degree in computer science, focusing on cyber warfare. She worked seven years with the Navy and now considers herself, retired! Kathy has been a long term member of Christ Our King choir and an ambassador for the Lady Knights. She has participated in many Bible and spiritual events at the Church, the most recent being Mary Women of Joy.

After spearheading another successful cook out for Camp Rise Above, Don is taking a break, including usher duty to get his health back, and he looks forward to getting back on the duty roster.

Kathy and Don are honored by this recognition and plan to be a key part of the Knights for years to come.



Here's a great picture of Kathy and Don looks like a date night. Kathy was out of town and they will receive certificate at a later date. **Congratulations Kathy and Don!!!**

Knight of the Month
August, 2026
William Graves

Bill Graves was born in Iowa, raised in New Jersey and educated in California. After wandering the earth for 34 years, Bill married his childhood sweetheart from 4th grade. A few years later he was he was the father of identical twin boys.

After many years of lapsed catholic faith Bill joined the Knights of Columbus. After 75 years he and his wife Patricia just celebrated the birth of their first grandson.

Bill has just officially retired and looks forward to spending time with his grandson and volunteering for Knights of Columbus events.

Congratulations Bill!!!



Above left Lector Mark McCabe just presented center our Knight of the Month for August 2026 Bill Graves with a certificate and right our Grand Knight Kurt Denner presented Bill with a Knights cup.





2 WEEKS LEFT TO GET
EARLY BIRD TICKETS FOR

Charleston Pink & Blue Gala

SAT 26 SEPT

6:00 pm at the Charleston Marriott

Help us support the St. Clare's Home located in Charleston! St. Clare's Home is a maternity home for expectant mothers who choose life. There will be dinner and a live & silent auction!

If interested, in becoming sponsor or donating auction items please contact us below.



Scan for Tickets & More

or go to <https://PBGC2026.givesmart.com>

TICKET SALES END ON SEPT 14th

Regular Ticket: \$175

For questions, contact Patricia Duffner
PDuffner@charlestandiocese.org
714 512-0893

(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>

The Saint Joseph Project



This image was commissioned by Fr. Donald Calloway and used here with his permission

Please help us bring Saint Joseph, Protector of the Holy Church, to the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist.

With the permission of our Bishop, Jacques Fabre-Jeune, [Carolina Catholic Professionals](#) are raising funds for the installation of a statue of Saint Joseph in our Diocesan Cathedral, Saint John the Baptist. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 for the project and for installation to occur in time

This time in which we live is crying out for Saint Joseph; the perfect model of humble strength, spousal devotion, loving fatherhood, faithful service, chaste obedience, prudent work, in short, Catholic manhood.

In this age when our families and our Holy Mother Church are under relentless assault, Our Lady shows us our Protector and Intercessor, Saint Joseph. In her memoirs, Venerable Sister Lucia of Fatima wrote that immediately following the Miracle of the Sun she saw, "Saint Joseph with the Child Jesus and Our Lady robed in white with a blue mantle, beside the sun. Saint Joseph and the Child Jesus appeared to bless the world, for they traced the Sign of the Cross with their hands."

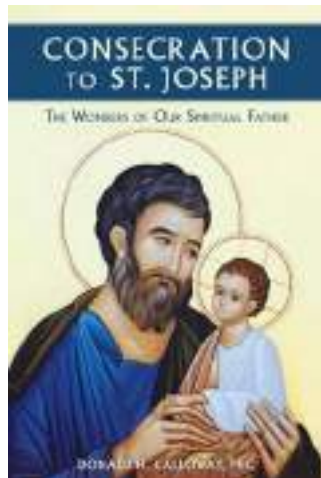
This is the time for Saint Joseph. Saint Teresa of Avila wrote that, "knowing by experience Saint Joseph's astonishing influence with God, I would wish to persuade everyone to honor him with particular devotion."

Catholic men in particular need Saint Joseph. Pope Leo XIII wrote, "In Saint Joseph, heads of the household are blessed with the unsurpassed model of fatherly watchfulness and care." Pope Benedict XVI called on, "fathers, (to be) like Saint Joseph, (and) respect and love your spouse; and by your love and wise presence, lead your children to God."

Catholic men must stand as pillars to defend and support Holy Mother Church. Catholic men must strive to be beacons of virtue. Saint Joseph shows us the way. As Saint Therese of Lisieux wrote, "Each day I recited the prayer, 'O Saint Joseph, father and protector of virgins.' It seemed to me that I was well protected and completely sheltered from every danger."

The Saint Joseph we need today is universal, the Head of the Holy Family, ordained by God the Father to be the earthly protector of His only Son Jesus. Saint Joseph leads us to God. Pope Saint John Paul II wrote, "It is precisely the intrepid faith of Saint Joseph that the Church needs today in order to courageously dedicate herself to the urgent task of the new evangelization."

All Catholics will benefit from a deeper relationship with Saint Joseph. His statuary presence in our Cathedral will remind Catholics of the virtues he embodies and help concentrate their prayers through him and his earthly spouse Blessed Mother Mary to his foster son, Jesus. As Saint Teresa of Avila wrote, "Those who are devoted to prayer should, in a special manner, cherish devotion to Saint Joseph."



All funds collected for the Saint Joseph Project in excess of the installation will be used to purchase copies of **Consecration to Saint Joseph; The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father** by Fr. Donald H. Calloway, MIC. The books will be made available to parish men's groups that wish, with their pastor's permission, to facilitate the Consecration to Saint Joseph.

[Please make your donation HERE](#)



Thank you and may God bless you and your families.

Knights of Columbus Present:

Spaghetti Dinner

Spaghetti, Meatballs/Sausage,
Salad, Bread, Beverage
and Dessert



DINE IN
or
TAKE OUT

*Tickets are available from a Knight
or at the door.*

WHERE: Christ Our King Church
Grace Hall, Mt. Pleasant

WHEN: Thursday, Sept. 24th, 5 to 7:30 pm

PRICE: Children under 6 are FREE
6 – 11 years old is \$7
Adult Ticket is \$10

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

*Jerry & Diana Barnett
David & Marilyn Breen
Joe & Kathy Bustos
Philip & Janice DiBlasi
Tom & Debbie Dolecki
Kristopher & Kerry Gholson
Victor & Loriann Giancola
William & Patricia Graves
Joseph & Peggy Harkins
Matthew & Stacy Kiefer
Todd & Sarah Kravchuk
John & Heidi Mahoney
Matthew & Susan McCoy
Derek & Carolyn McCoy
Mike & Beth McGinty
Thomas & Cathy McKenna
Mark & Jennifer McMahon
Larry & Elaine Miller
Kevin & Kathleen O'Donnell
Craig & Denise Pugh
Yusuf (PJ) & Sharon Saleeby
Jon & Angie Tirpak
Jim & Carolann Veraldi*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Rev. Libin Augustine
Francis Budds
Joe Bustos
Gary Cademartori
Kenneth Clair
Gerry Corriveau
David Creaturo
Alexei DeCastro
John Devaney III
Stephen Espinoza
Guido Evangelista
Francis Fallon
Michael Ferri
Michael Fischer
Thomas M. Franzone
Justin Gaeta
Miguel Garralda
Kristopher Gholson
Tate Hamilton
Joseph Harkins
Joseph Harkins Jr.
Robert Holmes
Vincent Hoover III
Joshua Hulen
Wayne Hutzel
Mark Kennedy
Matthew McCoy
William Murphy
Edward Murray
Jeff Pulaski
Greg Raven
Stephen Raynor
Joe Scheirman
George Seese III
Frederick Sieber
William Simons
Don Slowek*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS
OCTOBER 2026

Officers Meeting_____	01
COK—Life Center — 6:30 PM	
Nocturnal Adoration_____	01
Stella Maris — 8PM Thu. to 8AM. Fri.	
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament_____	02
COK — 7:30 AM. Fri. to 6:00 PM. ending with Benediction	
Pro-Life/Rosary_____	03
COK — 7:30 AM	
Ultreya Meeting_____	06
COK Grace Hall —7:00 PM	
Columbus Day_____	12
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	
Harbor Cruise_____	24
See flyer page 3 for a fun, fun event information.	
Halloween_____	31

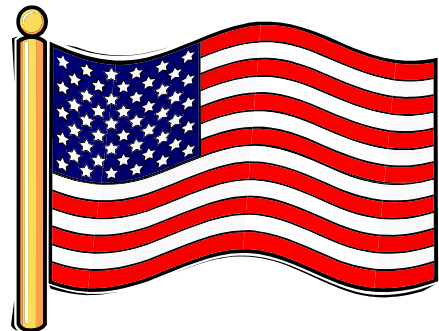
COUNCIL OFFICERS

Chaplain	Rev. Libin Augustine	843-884-5587
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. 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 Director	Deacon Kevin Campbell	843-729-5602
Community Director	Marion Wright	843-509-6512
Public Relations/Website	Neil Whitman	843-270-9834
Family Director	Open	
Life Director	Joe Harkins Jr.	267-974-6534
Membership Director	Scott Migli	202-329-5579
Faith Director	Open	
Retention Director	Steve Fallon	401-266-1695
Fraternal Benefits Promotion	Paul Harrington	706-338-7924
Columbus Hope director	Bill Shoemaker	843-884-1378
Meals Director	Ron Davis	843-437-2030
Newsletter	Tom Franzone	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
Field Agent	Paul Harrington	706-338-7924
SC State Secretary	Joe Nesbitt	843-297-9873
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 September, 2026

Faith, Patriotism, and Service to the Common Good

Brother Knights,

September invites us to reflect on the connection between our Catholic faith and our responsibility as citizens. As Knights of Columbus, we are called not only to grow in holiness, but also to love our country, respect those who serve it, and work for the common good. True patriotism is not simply pride in our nation. It is a commitment to serve, to participate responsibly in civic life, and to seek what is good and just for all.

The traditional spiritual focus of September is the **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, celebrated on September 8. Mary's birth reminds us that God works through ordinary human lives to accomplish His extraordinary plan of salvation. Her life of humility, obedience, and service challenges us to ask: *How is God calling me to serve Him and others?* Like Mary, we are called to say "yes" to God and allow our lives to become instruments of His love.

Labor Day also gives us an opportunity to reflect on the dignity of work. Every honest profession contributes to the well-being of society. Let us pray for workers, especially those who labor under difficult circumstances, and remember that our work can become a form of service when it is done with integrity and love.

We also celebrate **Grandparents Day**, a beautiful reminder of the importance of family and the gift of generations. Grandparents often pass on faith, traditions, wisdom, and memories that strengthen families. Let us honor and pray for our grandparents and elderly members of our communities, recognizing their valuable role in building a faithful society.

On **September 21, the International Day of Peace**, we are reminded of Christ's call: "*Blessed are the peacemakers.*" Peace begins in our hearts and homes and extends to our communities and nation. As Knights, we can be instruments of peace by rejecting hatred, practicing charity, listening to others, and working for justice.

Our love of country should always be rooted in our love of God. We pray for our elected leaders, military personnel, first responders, teachers, workers, and all who serve our communities. Civic responsibility is one way we live our Catholic vocation to serve the common good.

As Knights, let us continue to live our principles of **Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism**. May our faith make us better citizens, and may our love for our country lead us to greater service rather than division.

Finally, let us pray for **Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly**, asking the Holy Spirit to guide him and asking God, if it is His will, to open the way for him to serve the Church in a Vatican role dedicated to engaging Catholic laity and families. May God grant him wisdom, humility, courage, and a heart always faithful to Christ and His Church.

May Our Lady, Queen of the Knights, guide our families, bless our country, and inspire us to be faithful Catholic men who serve God and the common good.



Vivat Jesus!

Rev Libin Augustine CMI

Parochial Vicar, Christ Our King Catholic Church