

THE SHIELD

Official Publication of Fr. James B. Heary, O.P. - Council 7239 Knights of Columbus
30191 Dequindre, Madison Heights, MI 48071
Phone: (248) 588-3430
<http://www.kofc7239.org>



Vol. XL, No. 3 • March 2025

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

By Ghost Written by Darren Gray

Brother Knights,

Vivat Jesus!

On February 6th the Building Corp and Council held their monthly meetings.

The Building Corp discussed the usual issues with the building. The January cleanup went well, with 5 or 6 people helping. It was decided that the next cleanup will be pushed out until April, to give time for the snow to melt. At that cleanup, the plan is to try to get the moulding in the basement painted, continued cleanup of the attic space, and do some repairs to the chairs in the basement.

Thank you to Financial Secretary for running the February Meeting. It was finished in record time. Probably would have been done sooner, if it wasn't for the District Deputy rambling on.

Congratulations to the election of the Delegates to the K of C State convention.

We also votes on the resolution for give \$800 to each Delegate to help cover the costs of the convention.

Darren & Craig will give a report on the Poker Event, held in February. The next one will be March 28th-30th. Darren & Craig will discuss the workers needed and the plan moving forward.

St. Patrick's Day dinner will be held on Monday, March 17, hosted by Joe Miller and Marge McLaughlin. The corned-beef should be much better than it was last year, as it's being cooked by people who actually enjoy corned-beef.

We are still seeking ads for the Shield, both new and renewed. If you have any leads, please pass them on to me. The yearly ad will cost \$60.00.

The March meeting for both the K of C and the Building Corp will be held Monday, March 3rd. Deputy Grand Knight Dave Hopcroft will be running the meeting in the absence of our Grand Knight. Please join us and try to contact a Knight who may need assistance with transportation to and from the meeting and offer a ride. We need their support and wisdom!

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Darren Gray, PGK, DD

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT

By Darren Gray, PGK, DD

The St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be Monday, March 17th at the council. Come for Corned Beef and Cabbage, Potatoes, and all the sides. Thank you to Joe Miller and Marge McLaughlin for hosting the dinner. And the Ladies Auxiliary for helping me with the desserts/sides. Price will be \$7.00 per person.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, March 3rd, 2025

Building Corp Meeting – 6:15 p.m.

Membership Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

**** Meeting In-Person at Council ****

Thursday, March 13th, 2025

Ladies Auxiliary Meeting -- 7:00 p.m.

**** Meeting In-Person at Council ****

Monday, March 17th, 2025

St. Patrick's Day Dinner – 6:00 p.m.

**** at Council ****

\$7.00 per person

Shield Deadline:

Sunday, March 23, 2025

editor@kofc7239.org

(Usually 3rd Sunday of Month, but it's a 5-Sunday Month)

**** Find us on Facebook ****

OFFICER ROSTER**State Deputy**

Barry Borsenik (989) 295-1266

District Deputy

Darren Gray (248) 302-8918

Chaplain**Grand Knight**

Samual Lamerato (248) 885-1847

Deputy Grand Knight

David Hopcroft (248) 585-7771

Financial Secretary

Craig Massman (586) 506-8077

Chancellor

Ron Bertolini (248) 399-9261

Warden

Randy Carlisle (248) 585-8069

Advocate

Glain Guilmette, PGK (586) 419-4641

Treasurer

Ryan Thompson (248) 561-7122

Recorder

Robert Pasternak (586) 264-5994

Guards

Ken Witkowski (248) 546-0867

Mario Limon (248) 561-2269

Trustees

Duane McLaughlin, 1 YR (248) 855-3153

Ronnie Thompson, 2 YR (248) 561-3360

Joe Miller, 3 YR (248) 439-0441

Program Director

Darren Gray (248) 302-8918

Membership Chairman

Ron Bertolini (248) 399-9261

Church Activities Director

Joseph Miller TBD

Boysville Chairman

J. Turchin, PGK, FDD (248) 547-0854

Vocation P.R. Director**Youth Director**

Darren Gray, PGK (248) 302-8918

Mentally Impaired Drive Chairmen

Randy Carlisle

Ernie Scheid (248) 544-2739

Right-to-Life Chairman

Jim Morrison, PGK, FDD (248) 585-2324

THE SHIELD Editor

Darren Gray editor@kofc7239.org

Auxiliary President

Cindy Podgorski (810) 395-8926

General Insurance Agent

Benji Borrelli, FIC (877) 857-6237

BUILDING CORPORATION**President**

R. Carlisle C: (248) 703-4136 (248) 585-8069

Vice President

Ronnie Thompson (248) 561-3360

Treasurer

Tim Oparka (248) 585-7296

Recorder

Robert Pasternak (586) 264-5994

**LADIES AUXILIARY**

Hi Ladies!

I hope everyone is staying warm during this snowy winter. Our next monthly meeting will be on Thursday, March 13th at 7:00pm. The hostesses are Marge McLaughlin and Earlene Carlisle. We will be discussing the St. Patrick's Day Dinner, our next monthly dinner, and the charity raffle item for the Mackinac Island Convention.

We are still accepting donations for St. Vincent De Paul, please continue to bring non-perishable items and paper products to our meetings. The ladies are seeking old Ladies Auxiliary name badges with the logo button. If you are a former member and have these, please reach out to Amber Thompson.

Happy March Birthdays to Beth Carnes (04), Amber Thompson (17) and Marie Bessler (22)!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Amber Thompson
President

Convention Delegate Elections

At the February Meeting, we elected Delegates for the 2024 Michigan Convention. This is a very important election as these delegates are OUR voice at the State Convention.

Congratulations to our 2025 State Convention Delegates:1st Delegate – Sam Lamerato, GK2nd Delegate – Dave Hopcroft1st Alternate – Craig Massman2nd Alternate – Duane McLaughlin

Funeral Arrangements for Jean Witkowski

Visitation: Friday, February 28th, 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm (Rosary at 7:00 pm by Knights of Columbus) at Hopcroft Funeral Home, 31145 John R. Road, Madison Heights, Michigan.

Funeral: Saturday, March 1st, 10:30 am (Instate), 11:00 am Funeral Mass at St. Vincent Ferrer Church, 28353 Herbert Street, Madison Heights, Michigan.
Burial at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Detroit, Michigan.

Building Corp News

Several things in regards to the Building Corp:

1. Once again, if anyone has left over White or Off-White paint available that can be used to paint some of the outdoor items, please drop them off in front of the garage in the back.
2. The Building Corp will be holding a their next clean-up day on Saturday, April 19th. We are looking for any able-bodied Knights (and friends) that can come and spend an hour or two helping with various projects around the council. The general times are from 9am to noon.
3. There have been some questions about renting out the council for various events. Please note that only members of the Council and Ladies Auxiliary can rent the council. We will be putting together a formal "Rules of Conduct" for anyone renting the council, along with a formal "Requested Donation" amount. Once approved by the Building Corp, the "Rules" will be published in the Shield and posted upstairs.

PRAYER LIST

Deloris Bail, Gene Bosetti, Ann Brunk, Larry Bunting, Diane Emerick, Jessie Giszczak, Shirley Hopcroft (Dave's Mother), Heather Lang, Silvio Marchesi, Sharon McCoy (Ken Witkowski's Sister), Ron Ploskonka, Yvette Ploskonka, Stefanie Olszewski, Richard Salvatore, Ernie Schied, Tony & Jeanette Szeliga, Matt Ventimiglia, Ken Witkowski.

Prayers for the deceased:

Brothers, this last month has been rough for our council. John Claya's Grandson, Stephen, passed away due to complications from his brain tumor. We also lost Brother Knight, Doug Evans. And Jean Witkowski, mother of Brother Knight, Ken Witkowski, also passed away.

NOTE: I have cleared out the Prayer List for the new year, except for those who have been added at the last meeting. If you wish to have someone added to this list, please send an email to: editor@kofc7239.org

And please pray for all of the men and women of our Armed Services. Also please pray for the recently deceased.

NOTE: Just a reminder. Please make sure to write names clearly so that I can add them correctly to the sick and deceased list.



Knights of Columbus “BENEFITS NEWS”

Update Your Beneficiaries

Sometimes it is easy to overlook the simplest of things. Take, for example, the beneficiaries on your life insurance policies. If your policy was applied for and issued several years ago, it may very well be that the person you originally selected as the beneficiary is no longer the person you would want to receive the policy proceeds. If you bought the policy when you were single, for example, you may have named your parents as beneficiaries. If you have since married, your policies should be updated to reflect your spouse as beneficiary. Maybe you’ve had children since, who are not named on the policies.

Most people list a primary beneficiary, who is specifically designated as the first in priority to receive policy proceeds. We also encourage the naming of a contingent beneficiary, an alternate person designated to receive policy proceeds, usually in the event that the original beneficiary pre-deceases the insured.

I routinely call all of my policyholders for annual review appointments, usually near the anniversary date of your policy – that is, the date it was originally issued. One of the matters that I’ll discuss during this review is the status of your beneficiary designations. If they need updating, and they often do, I can complete the paperwork during that appointment.

I look forward to meeting with each of you to discuss your family’s needs.

**Receive a complete Family Needs Analysis at my expense.*

Ask about our GUARANTEED LIFE INSURANCE, ANNUITIES,
LONG TERM CARE & DISABILITY INSURANCE

In Christ,

Benji Borrelli, FIC

General Agent

Knights of Columbus Supreme Council Insurance

113 W Michigan Ave, #846, Jackson, MI 49204

Office: 877-857-6237

E-mail: benji.borrelli@KofC.org

THE ROSARY

An Editor’s Request

COVID, Flu, and RSV season is still very active this time of year. Please consider praying the Rosary for all of those who are sick.

Darren Gray, PGK, FDD

The Shield Editor
editor@kofc7239.org



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/04 Peter Miles

03/04 Michael Niemasz

03/07 Zachary Parton

03/08 Duane McLaughlin

03/09 Glain Guilmette

03/12 Donald Wesierski

03/18 Claude Fiori

03/20 Ryan Thompson

03/22 Patrick Allen

03/25 Francisco Camarillo

03/31 Thomas Laurencelle Jr

LADIES AUXILIARY

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/04 Beth Carnes

03/17 Amber Thompson

03/22 Marie Bessler

**If we missed your birthday
or the date is wrong, please email
me at editor@kofc7239.org .
Thanks.**

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 <i>6:30pm Building Corp</i> <i>7pm Member Mtg</i>	4 Happy Birthday Peter Miles Michael Niemasz Beth Carnes	5	6	7 Happy Birthday Zachary Parton	8 Happy Birthday Duane McLaughlin
9 Happy Birthday Glain C. Guilmette	10	11	12 Happy Birthday Donald Wesierski	13 <i>7pm Ladies Mtg</i>	14	15
16	17 <i>6:00pm</i> <i>Corned Beef Dinner</i> Happy Birthday Amber Thompson	18 Happy Birthday Claude Fiori	19	20 Happy Birthday Ryan Thompson	21	22 Happy Birthday Patrick Allen Marie Bessler
23 SHIELD DEADLINE	24	25 Happy Birthday Francisco Camarillo	26	27	28	29
30	31 Happy Birthday Thomas Laurencelle Jr.					

HOPCROFT FUNERAL HOMES

ART HOPCROFT, FOUNDER

HAZEL PARK
23919 JOHN R.
(248) 543-6687

MADISON HEIGHTS
31145 JOHN R.
(248) 585-7770

DAVID HOPCROFT, Owner

DANIEL FINLEY, Director

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED
PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITY
FOR OVER 50 YEARS
Family Owned and Operated



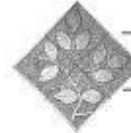
FUNERAL HOME

30351 Dequindre
Madison Heights, MI 48071

Edward C. Swanson

Dennis C. Swanson

Marlow Family Dental



Christopher T. Gorecki, D.D.S.
Michele M. Tulak-Gorecki, D.D.S.

**"come and experience
a true family practice"**

1905 Marlow
Warren, MI 48092
(586) 751-7777

The office is located on Dequindre
@ 12 1/2 Mile

Career Opportunity:

The Knights of Columbus is seeking a Field Agent for a career opportunity representing their insurance program. They offer a complete benefits package with this full-time position. In order to qualify, one must be eligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus. For more information, please contact, Benji Borrelli, General Agent, at 877-857-6237, or Benji.borrelli@kofc.org