



The Knights Lantern

The official publication of
Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen
Council 7547

1453 N. Road St., Elizabeth City, NC 27909
April 2024



Grand Knight's Corner:

Worthy Brothers,

A special Thank You to Deputy Grand Knight Ron Smith for filling in as Grand Knight at the March meeting. I apologize for missing that meeting, but I was feeling under the weather. I would like to thank the Edenton Council 11180 for bringing the traveling gavel that is passed council to council in order to bring unity and strength of brotherhood. I will be doing the same duty on April 8th when I take the gavel to the Kill Devil Hills council.

My, my, time has come and gone so quickly! I don't just mean this month, but the past two years. Now it's time to identify new council officers for the next two years. So the point is that the council *needs* a Grand Knight, a Deputy Grand knight, and an Advocate. The rest of the offices have volunteers identified at this time, but you know as well as I do that things can happen and change comes about again. These positions do take time, forethought and planning; however, you have a council that is willing to help and support you.

We need three good Knights to step up and work as a team and take the leadership roles for our council for the next two years. I'm reaching out early in the hope that you make my job and the trustees' job of filling the roster for the next two years easy.

A job well done to all who made the Saint Patrick's Day dinner on March 16 a huge success. I give my Deputy Grand Knight my sincere heartfelt thanks. Ron Smith is really the Grand Knight of Council 7547, I just held the position for the last two years. He organizes the details, sets up, and keeps everyone informed of everything going on at all times. So please acknowledge him as the real leader of this Council-Archbishop Fulton J Sheen Council 7547. He has done all the work in my name.

Also I would like to extend a heartfelt Thank You to my family for all of their hard work and dedication to ensure that the Saint Patrick's Day dinner was a success.

Vivat Jesus!

Brian Williams

Grand Knight

252-771-5321

brianwilliams7945@gmail.com



From our Chaplain:

As our Lenten journey comes to a close we prepare to follow Christ all the way to the cross and to witness His glorious Resurrection. Hopefully we have sacrificed and prayed so that we are now able to more fully reap the fruits of a well spent Lent. After our solemn commemoration of the last days and death of Our Lord we will spend the month of April celebrating. As Spring breaks forth even nature will join us as buds and blooms begin to surface and we spend this month basking in the joy of the Resurrection. We continue throughout the entire month our cry, "Christ is risen, Christ is truly risen."



The Feast of Divine Mercy offers us the opportunity to begin again as though we were newly baptized. The unfathomable mercy of God is made manifest today if we but accept His most gracious offer. Easter is the feast of feasts, the unalloyed joy and gladness of all Christians. This truly is "the day that the Lord has made." From Sunday to Sunday, from year to year, the Easters of this earth will lead us to that blessed day on which Christ has promised that He will come again with glory to take us with Him into the kingdom of His Father.

The Holy Father's Intention for the Month of April 2024: For the role of women: We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

(From www.catholicculture.org)



**From our Deputy
Grand Knight &
General Program
Director:**

Brother Knights,

Thanks to everyone who contributed and attended our annual Saint Patrick's Day dinner. It seemed to me that all had a good time. Next up is our Fish Fry on May 3rd. Your help selling tickets and working the event is important to our council's financial stability. And it is genuinely fun to greet and thank parishioners, friends, and neighbors for supporting the Knights of Columbus and local charities when they drive through our pickup area.

Our grounds-keeping crew, including Knights and parishioners, are hard at work. Most areas have been mowed twice and mulching has begun. As I write this, the front lawn needs a trim before Live Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, but rain may inhibit this being done. Faith Formation's Kasey Breaux advised that our Holy Family youth are participating in a workday to clear debris from behind the church, Family Life Center and rectory on April 6th. Grand Knight Brian Williams volunteered to sponsor a lunch for them.

Our council is getting closer to achieving Star Council and Columbian awards. The Star Council Award recognizes outstanding achievement in membership, insurance, and programming, and the Columbian Award recognizes excellence in our council's programming and charitable outreach.

Please participate in the next **Fraternal Benefits event on April 2nd at 8 PM**. The Webinar will be online and also be shown in Holy Family's Social Hall on the subject of Retirement Savings and Distribution Planning. All are welcome to attend. A link to the website to register is in the March 26 edition of *Knightline*: <http://tinyurl.com/kofcapril2> Please advise FS Buzz Savage or me if you and any family members were able to view the webinar.

We also need to double our efforts to attract at least four new members to achieve our membership goal for this fraternal year. Please talk to young Catholic men in our parish and encourage them to join our ranks.

Happy Easter,

Vivat Jesus!

Ron Smith
252-339-0799
heyronsmith@gmail.com



**From Our Faith
Director:**

In preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday (2nd Sunday of Easter) all Knights are encouraged to pray the Divine Mercy Novena with their families for nine days starting on Good Friday. Details about the Novena can be found on the Knights of Columbus Supreme website, kofc.org.



From our Life Director

Pope Saint John Paul II wrote his Encyclical on Life March 25, 1995. His words bear repeating nearly 30 years later.

Governments and international institutions promote both abortion and euthanasia as markers of progress and freedom, John Paul wrote.

“To proclaim Jesus is to proclaim life itself,” the Pope countered.

Jesus’ gift of his life on the cross, which we celebrate during Holy Week, reveals the preciousness of life, and gives us strength to build a culture of life, he said.

“Society as a whole must respect, defend and promote the dignity of every human person, at every moment and in every condition of that person’s life,” John Paul said.

On March 26, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a case that could impact the widespread accessibility of abortion pills. The US Council of Catholic Bishops invites us to offer this special prayer to St. Joseph daily for the end of abortion and for the protection of women and pre-born children, starting today and continuing through June, when a decision is expected.

Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life

Dearest St. Joseph, at the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God’s humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child.

We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God’s most precious gift of life.

Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life —especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things. Amen.

Doug Gardner PJK
252-330-3535
gardnerdougstuart@gmail.com



From Our Community Director:

Brother Knights,

We need a dedicated Knight to serve as Community Director. If you want to help the Council and the community, please contact Grand Knight Brian Williams.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat can always use more helpers. Please contact Jane or **Frank Elfring** for further information, 703-801-6106 or 703-967-4572.

Albemarle Hopeline

The **2024 Run for Hope 5K walk/run** will be held on Saturday April 20 starting at Charles Creek Park in Elizabeth City. We Knights have volunteered in the past to serve as marshals on the course. Sign up at albemarlehopeline.org.

Don’t forget the Knights’ box in the gathering area at Church. Keep filling it with clothing and household items, especially coats for needy kids, for Hopeline’s Clothesline on Halstead Blvd.

Brian Williams JK



From Our Family Director:

Monthly coffee and donuts will be held after the 11:00 mass on April 14 in the Family Life Center.

Ryan Windham



From Our LAMB Director:

He is risen – He is risen indeed! - Orthodox Easter greeting.

Here are the final numbers for the 2023 LAMB campaign. I want to thank everyone who manned the doors after mass as well as those Knights who made personal contributions.

Total amount raised: \$2,586.02
Contribution to State: (\$370.35)
6 cases of Tootsie Rolls from Council 8759: (\$117.00)
Total available for distribution: \$2,098.67

Disbursed to Benjamin House : \$1900.00
Disbursed to Camden County – Geanine Bulloch: \$198.67

Again, thank you for your generous support of this program.

Vivat Jesu!

Frank Elfring



From Our Membership Director

Congratulations to new 3rd Degree Knight **James White**, who joined our council and participated in the Exemplification Ceremony at our March 6 meeting.

Talk to the men you see at mass who are not already Knights and ask them to join. Form 100s and other literature are in the Knights box outside the church office and on the table in the gathering area.

1st and 2nd Degree Knights can advance to 3rd Degree merely by watching a 30 minute exemplification video on the Supreme website. Check it out at kofc.org.

Ron Foreman PJK



Fish Fry

Our next Fish Fry is scheduled for May 3rd from 4 to 7 PM. We have almost 100 tickets sold so far. We need to sell 100 more. Volunteers are needed to sell tickets after masses in April. I can't do this alone...

Mike McKeon



From Our Trustees

Nominations are open for officers and directors for Fraternal Year 2024-2025. If you are interested in serving in any of these important positions please contact the Grand Knight or one of the Trustees. The Trustees will present their slate to the Council in May and the Council will vote for next year's officers and directors at the June meeting.



From the Financial Secretary:

Thanks to the many faithful who donate cans; donations are always welcome. Aluminum Cans: All copper and aluminum accepted but **NO tin foil** and **NO Food Trays.**

Dues: Dues second notices for 2024 were sent out in mid- January. Please pay your dues promptly. We still have 22 Brothers who have not yet paid their dues. Those who are 18 months or more behind in dues may be recommended for affiliate status and removed from the council roster.

Fund Raisers

The Council projects clearing \$750.00 from the State raffle ticket sales, more than ever before! We also cleared about \$300.00 from the St. Patrick's Day dinner. Next up is the Fish Fry May 3rd. Fish fries have been our largest fund raiser the past three years. Help Brother Mike McKeon sell tickets!

If you change your address, phone number or email, please notify the Financial Secretary so that we can keep our and Supreme's records up to date and we can be sure that you are notified of important KofC information.

Buzz Savage

703-801-4511

buzzbarb@aol.com



Fourth Degree Activities

The Assembly will hold a business meeting at Holy Family Catholic Church at noon on Thursday, April 4th. Pizza will be provided; please bring your own drinks. RSVP at 252-339-1976 or Ronald.d.foreman@gmail.com

The meeting will cover the replacement of our Faithful Captain and other outstanding items and we need as many Sir Knights as possible to attend.

If you are a 3rd Degree Knight and want to join the Patriotic Degree and become a Sir Knight, contact **FN Ron Foreman** at 252-339-1976 or ronald.d.foreman@gmail.com or ask any Sir Knight.

Ron Foreman, FN



Please Pray for:

PLEASE KEEP ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS, ESPECIALLY:

Seth Soria, Joanne Dorsey, Charlie Strassle (J.Brown son-in-law), Pam Lucas, Laura Rentkewicz, John Carpenter, Nancy Doherty, Patricia Kurz, Mike McKeon, Dan and Esther Hutchinson, Pauline Torchia, Mike Torchia, Carlton Deonanan, Pete Schwartz, Don Cormicle, Joanna Woodard, Darlene Allgauer, Deborah Krausa, Joe Markle, Brian Williams and Fr. Nick Cottrill.

SEMINARIANS: Keep our Seminarian, **Keegan Moloney**, in your prayers. Keegan is studying at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, 10701 S. Military Trail, Boynton Beach, FL 33436.

Congratulations:

March Knight of the Month – Richard Royals
March Family of the Month – Jake and Nancy Brown



Coming Events:

Apr 02	Fraternal Benefits Night 8 PM, Social Hall
Apr 07	Divine Mercy Sunday
Apr 08	Annunciation of the Lord
Apr 14	Coffee and Donuts after 11:00 AM mass, FLC
Apr 20	Albamarle Hopeline 5K Run/walk
Apr 25	St. Mark, Evangelist
Apr 29	St. Catherine of Siena

NEXT MEETINGS:

Apr 03	Council Meeting, 7 PM, Social Hall
Apr 04	4 th Degree business meeting, Noon, Social Hall
Apr 17	Officers and Directors Meeting, 7 PM, Social Hall



April Member Birthdays:

- 02 Jeffrey Hale
- 02 Robert E. Wetzel PGK
- 08 John L. Carpenter
- 09 Paul Estella
- 13 John C. Purcell PGK
- 13 Al Hughkong
- 28 Charles Murray



April Wives Birthdays:

- 02 Rachel Davison
- 03 Pam Watts
- 06 Nancy Oliver
- 13 Prudentia Ngwainmbi
- 17 Mary Kesterson
- 23 Zulma Johnson
- 23 Patricia Kurz



April Anniversaries:

- 01 Dr. Carlton & Dr. Venus Deonanan
- 08 LD & Catherine Mathews
- 21 Godwin & Virginia Umzurike
- 26 Alberto & Sylvia Delos Reyes
- 26 John & Angie Lamberson

Council Officers:

- GK: PGK Brian Williams
- Chaplain: Fr Alex Gonzalez
- DGK: Ron Smith
- Chancellor: PGK Rob Wetzel
- Financial Secretary: Buzz Savage
- Treasurer: Tom Ponte
- Recorder: PGK Doug Gardner
- Advocate: PGK John Purcell
- Warden: Carlton Himelwright
- Lecturer: Bob Krausa
- Inside Guard: Mike McKeon
- Outside Guard: Jack Martin
- 1st Year Trustee: PGK Ed Power
- 2nd Year Trustee: PGK Brad Gardner
- 3rd Year Trustee: PGK Jack Ireland

Directors:

- Faith: Deacon Ron Soriano
- Family: Ryan Windham
- Community: GK Brian Williams
- Life: PGK Doug Gardner
- LAMB Director: Frank Elfring
- Membership: Ron Foreman
- Spaghetti dinners: Vacant
- Fish Fry: Mike McKeon



From Our Field Agent:

Assistant General Agent Michael McDonough has retired. If you have questions or want to discuss the Knights of Columbus insurance programs, please contact Chris Mahoney's assistant **Joe Carcaterra at 919-719-2715.**

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All Knights are welcome to contribute to the monthly LANTERN. Please submit articles/photos to editor Buzz Savage (buzzbarb@aol.com) by the 20th of each month.

Also, any Knight who would like to take on the duties of LANTERN newsletter editor can contact Buzz.

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PHOTOS:
(Photos by Buzz Savage and Ron Smith)



DGK Ron Smith presenting February Family of the Month award to Brother SK Rich Bovie



GK Brian Williams at St. Patrick's Day dinner



DGK Ron Smith presenting February Knight of the Month award to Brother Knight Pete Ferland



Table decorations for St. Patrick's Day dinner were provided by GK's daughter Christina Elmore.



SK Mike Hammond and his wife Mary Ann were in charge of the bar at St. Patrick's Day dinner.