



# Knights of Columbus

## All Saints Council 9709

### St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community

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**APRIL 2023**

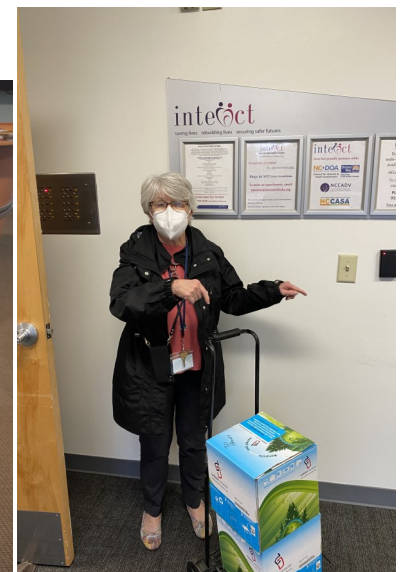
# CELL PHONE COLLECTION

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Thanks go to Brother Joe Azopardi for organizing a cell phone drive at St. Francis and the brothers who volunteered to collect 62 old cell phones for InterAct. The phones, although no longer setup with a service provider, can be used to dial 911 in case of an emergency. InterAct is dedicated to helping women who are subject to sexual and or physical abuse by distributing these phones to potential victims affording them some element of protection.



InterAct provides these services: 24-hour Crisis Hotlines, Community Outreach, Court Advocacy, Emergency Shelter and Group Counseling.

# TFS SPELLING BEE



On Tuesday, January 31, TFS and our council sponsored a school-wide Spelling Bee in Fellowship Hall. PGK Mike Wrzesien managed the Bee while PGK Steve Becker pronounced each word for the 20 participants, 3rd through 8th grade, who competed 23 rounds before 8th grader Isabel Canter-Melo won by correctly spelling "hurdy-gurdy." Second place was awarded to Sebastian Ramirez and third place to Lucas Ramirez. Each contestant received a participation certificate, and the winner received a gift card.



# PANCAKE BREAKFAST



**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**



On Sunday, February 19th,, a team of 23 council members (and several wives) arrived between 8 and 9 am in Fellowship Hall to begin preparing and cooking a Pancake Breakfast for the parishioners. The breakfast, which consisted of 3 pancakes, 2 sausage links, orange juice or coffee, donut or fruit for a price of \$5.00 (\$18.00 for a family of 4 or more), was widely accepted as over 170 breakfasts were served. DGK Shawn Bayle managed the event by both purchasing the food, and directing the serving area while Mike Wrzesien was appointed lead chef of the kitchen crew. Many compliments were received from the parishioners as well as from Monsignor Michael, Father Alex and Father Jim who not only enjoyed the tasty breakfast but also enjoyed the opportunity to intermingle with the parishioners.



# JIM WAHL, KNIGHT OF THE MONTH



A native of Southern California, James has been on staff at St. Francis since 2010. He is the Director of Music and Liturgy and has served as a pastoral musician since high school and professionally for over twenty years. Before moving to the East Coast, he ministered at parishes in California and Arizona, including the Cathedral of Phoenix. Aside from his role at St. Francis, James composes and presents children's music for World Library Publications. He holds a bachelor's degree in music and a master's degree in Liturgical Music Composition from St. John's University in Minnesota. He and his wife Tami have four boys, two still in the house!

Comments from PGK Mike Wrzesien:

- Jim is working on his doctorate. His continued quest for knowledge of our Catholic faith and our Catholic Traditions not only deepens Jim's faith, it also enables him to share his knowledge in thoughtful reflections with parishioners.
  - Jim speaks Spanish and has worked with the local Hispanic communities in recent years to celebrate special events and religious holidays.
  - During the global pandemic, Jim was instrumental in maintaining a connection with the parishioners, and the students of TFS, by hosting virtual lessons and on-line faith sharing events.
  - Jim was first inspired to write Catholic children's music when his two oldest children were in preschool. His desire to pass on the faith to his sons in a lively, energetic way led to the composition of his first original song, "Jonah". Fifteen years later, he is now recording and presenting.
- Jim has spent time in the recording studio producing music with Jenn Fiducia, writing and performing Christian music.

# DC MARCH FOR LIFE



## 2023 Right to Life March – Washington DC

Article written by Steve Becker and Kent Siefkes:

Every January, there is an important event for our nation where we have an opportunity to show our commitment for the Right to Life (RTL) movement. Many people think that last Summer's Supreme Court decision of overturning *Roe v Wade* was a complete victory for RTL. It was an important win, but the effort now has been thrown back to the state level. Therefore, continuing the focus for RTL on a national level has continued importance – to galvanize the support for saving the precious lives of the unborn children in this country.

In that spirit, once again on January 19th, representatives of our council made our annual trek to Washington, D.C. for this year's RTL March. On the trip were Brothers Brian Denison, Kent Siefkes, Steve Becker, Ed Rogosich (from Council 15551), and Joseph Chavez (GK from Kent's new Council 11103). There were a few others who had planned to attend but had to pull out for various reasons at the last minute.

Regardless, after a smooth drive to DC, we checked into our hotel at the Embassy Suites and enjoyed a nice dinner together near the hotel. The next morning, we left early to start the day at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine ([jp2shrine.org](http://jp2shrine.org)), which is 100% owned and operated by the Knights since taking it over in 2011. Even though we have been there several times, it is always a moving experience to be surrounded by and learn more about such a wonderful Saint – a gift to the world!

After the visit to the Shrine, we made our way to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the RTL Mass celebrated by Bishop Zarama. Brother SK's Siefkes and Becker joined our Area District Marshall Ed Rogosich to form the Honor Guard for the Bishop. It was a beautiful and moving mass.

# DC MARCH FOR LIFE CONTINUED

Once we left the Mass, we changed into our “street” clothes and made our way to the RTL walk. After figuring out where we needed to be with the newly reconfigured route for this year, we were able to catch up with the estimated 150,000 marchers. It was a great sight to see the enthusiasm and spirit of all the marchers, young and old to the RTL movement! We joined the marchers and made our way to the end of the march at the Senate buildings – no longer stopping at the Supreme Court since they finally got the message and did their job.

At the Senate office building, we visited the office of Senator Thom Tillis. Although Sen. Tillis was not there – it was another good experience. One of his staffers showed us Sen. Tillis’ actual office where we were invited to even sit at his desk! We were able to find out that he has thirty support staff in Washington and another twenty at his offices in North Carolina. Then we visited the temporary offices of newly sworn in Senator Ted Budd. His offices were in the basement while they were working on the assignment of his new office location. He was not there either, but it was fun talking with his staff.

We made it safely home and enjoyed a nice dinner on the way back. I hope next year we will have some more brothers sign up for the trip! I have been 10-12 times, and it never gets old for me! I think this event is a great example of the four principles of our Order – Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Between the beautiful scenes of the march and the mass, the ability to spend great moments with our brothers, and the beautiful scenes of Washington DC – these are moments not to be missed!



# BASKETBALL FREE THROW



## BASKETBALL FREE THROW CONTEST

On Sunday, January 8th, our council hosted a Basketball Free Throw Contest in the Community Center at St. Francis. There were 18 participants, boys and girls, who competed in 6 age groupings (9 to 14). Each candidate was given 15 free throw attempts. The final results produced 8 winners, who earned an invitation to compete in the State Championship held on March 11th in Burlington,

Age 9 Boys	Noah Hoffman*
Age 10 Boys	Lucas Karam
Age 10 Girls	Tabby McNamara
Age 11 Girls	Emily Carroll
Age 11 Boys	Tyler Simons
Age 12 Boys	Michael Hoffman*
Age 13 Boys	Jackson Werner
Age 14 Boys	Peter Hoffman*

The 3 Hoffman brothers won in each of their respective age groups. Their composite score of 37 made out of 45 attempts is an amazing 82%, which would delight any college coach.



# FREE THROW CONTINUED





# RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



Bryan,

Thank you for your leadership in planning the event, scheduling the drive, working with Red Cross personnel for staffing, recruiting donors, and working with the Brother Knights to fill critical volunteer roles for the Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, March 25th. I truly appreciate all the time and effort you put into the semi-annual blood drives. Your efforts, and through the work of the donors, is leading to life saving events.

I also wanted to thank Tom DuPree for another amazing job in working with local restaurants to donate food for the canteen. There was an amazing assortment of food and drink available to the donors, Red Cross staff members, and the Brother Knights. We received many compliments from the Donors on the amazing assortment of food available.

Bryan, can you assist in preparing a bulletin article so the parishioners of St. Francis can read about the success of the Blood Drive, and perhaps support the local restaurants that donated food. Here is a list of the business that generously donated food:

Written by Mike Wrzesien:



- Brixx Pizza
- Bombay Curry Indian Food
- Carolina Ale House
- Domino's Pizza
- Jersey's Mike Subs
- Jimmy John Subs
- Handy Kitchen Chinese Restaurant
- Las Palmas
- Manchesters
- Mellow Mushroom
- Papa John's Pizza
- Pei Wei
- Pita Bowl
- Shiano's
- Wild Wings

## **BLOOD DRIVES AT ST FRANCIS**

Since 2006 to 2023, under the directions of SK Tom DuPree and PGK Bryan Kozak, there were 41 blood drives collecting over 4,200 units of blood.

## **STATE RAFFLE**



Monitored and directed by Brother Troy Chaput, the council's State Raffle event kicked-off in January. Team Captains were assigned with an incentive to exceed last year's performance of 1,100 ticket sales, which placed our council second best in the State. After a slow start ticket sales gained momentum in February/ March with impetus coming from Captains Brian Denison, Ralph Guenther, Steve Becker and Mike Darrow who were highly motivated to not only beat last year but also win the coveted GOAT (Greatest Of All Ticketmen) trophy as best Team Captain. We cleared the bar with 1,200 tickets sold or \$6,000 in revenue. What this means is our council receives its share of \$3,000 which will be added to the Philanthropy Fund.

# BASEBALL SEASON IS BACK



## Durham Bulls Baseball

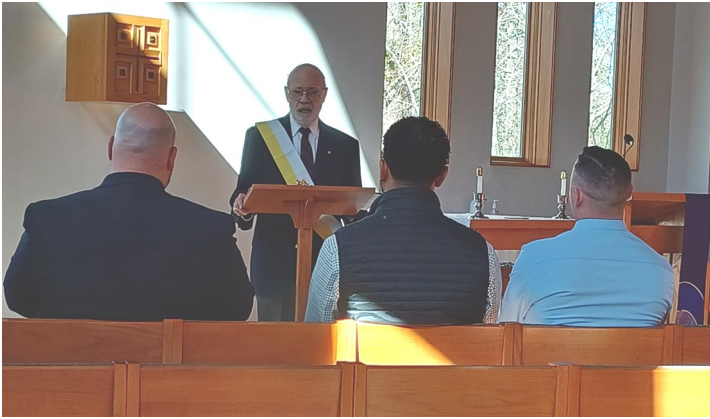
Spring is here ... it is time to get outside for yard work, walks around the lake, and cookouts. It is also time for BASEBALL -- specifically, Durham Bulls Baseball. Please sign-up to volunteer your time at the Durham Bulls games this season. Working side-by-side with your Brother Knights, you will meet the amazing fans of the Durham Bulls. Each game gives you the opportunity to share time with your Brother Knight, getting to know him better, and developing a deeper friendship. Your contribution of time (working a beer stand or a food stand) will raise much needed funds for local non-profit organizations that match the values of our Council and the Catholic church. These organizations need our support -- financial support and our prayers -- to continue to do the work of helping those in need. Please consider bringing your wife, adult children, or friends to help at the ballpark. Please help make our Council's largest fundraiser a success by volunteering: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45a4af22abfcce9-durham2#/#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45a4af22abfcce9-durham2#/)



Written by Mike Wrzesien:



# EXEMPLIFICATION CEREMONY TEAM



**Tony Anello, Presiding Officer**



**Bryan Kozak, Presenter of Charity**



**Tommy Dalton, Presenter of Fraternity**



**Bob Caron, Presenter of Unity**



**GK David Payne, Rosary Presentation**



**Warden Ralph Guenther,  
Pin Presentation**

## SOCIAL DINNER



### THE MARCH SOCIAL

One of the council's more popular socials was held at the Bahama Breeze Island Grill. In attendance were 34 council members and wives who experienced a lively social evening while savoring on specialty dinners such as Seafood Paella or Coconut Shrimp, and of course, a little merriment advanced by a Pineapple-Coconut Martini or Rum Runner.

## COUNCIL AWARDS

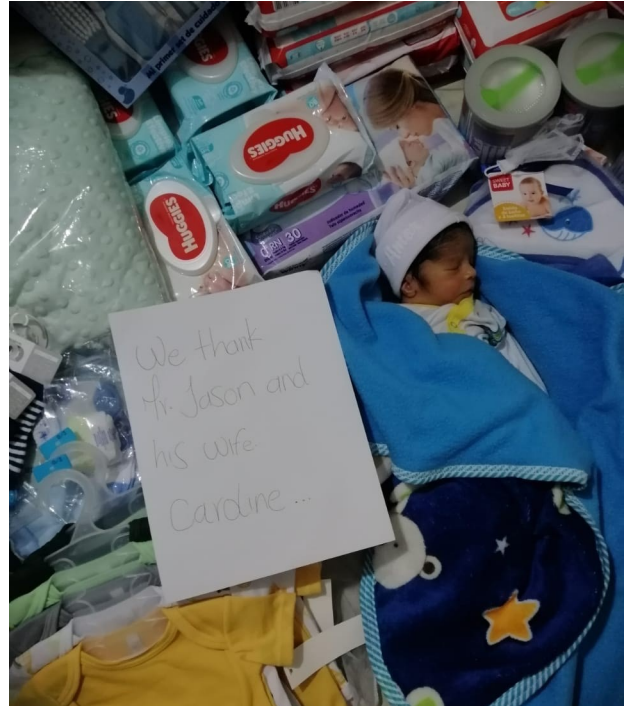
### **Knight of the Month-**

John Price (January),  
Ralph Guenther (February),  
Howard McKinley {March}

### **Family of the Month-**

Mike and Jan Wrzesien (January),  
Pete and Charlotte Segnere (February),  
Bryan and Kathleen Kozak (March)

## SPECIAL THANKS



Father Jairo reached out to Brother Jason Riddle seeking financial assistance for a family who was surprised and delighted to be blessed with twins!

### **A THANK YOU NOTE FROM JASON RIDDLE TO THE COUNCIL**

Thank you for the very generous gifts to Father Jairos family! We have raised \$520 to help this family in need.

The family sent a heartfelt thank you in the following pictures and video. The video is especially touching.

Thank you brothers, your kindness to these babies and family are a testament to the sanctity of life we hold dear as brother knights.

Your brother in Christ,

-Jason



## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE



### Grand Knights Message

March 2023 *“Fear kills more dreams than failure ever will”* – author unknown  
When I first read this quote, I had to really think about what it is saying and how it applies to my own experiences. How often have each of us had to overcome our fear to take that first step toward our dreams and goals?

The dictionary says that the opposite of fear is faith – and courage. The news these days do not always paint a positive picture of what’s going on in today’s world. It could be easy to succumb to fear if it were not for our faith.

The media in all its forms focus on the sensational. I propose that the sensational lies in God’s creations. Take a walk. Enjoy the world around you through your own eyes and experiences. Today, my walk allowed me to take in the blooms on our Dogwood trees and Azaleas. I have many blessings to carry me through life and provide me with peace. Stop for a moment and focus on your blessings.

As Knights of Columbus, we share a rich legacy of bold, Christian men who may have had some fears or concerns about the unknown of where, or even if, Father McGivney could truly take this mission. But their faith, not fear, kept their eye on the prize – the dream of a future where Knights would become examples of Catholic leadership in our Parish and in our communities. Father McGivney held true to his faith.

The future is now and it is you! Commitment to serve is bold and is part of a Knight’s DNA. There is nothing to fear. Getting involved does mean taking those next steps to sign up and then show up. We do not do this for recognition. Let us not rest on our laurels of past achievements, of which there are many. Today and every day forward we must discover new ways and new communities to serve. Where will your faith and courage take you? Please consider your next step by volunteering on one of the many opportunities sponsored by YOUR Knights of Columbus.

*“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.”* –Helen Keller

GK Dave