



# knights of st. irene

**Vol. 34 No. 7  
January, 2025**

**Council 6710  
Warrenville, IL**



## **Jan. 18—Council to Take Down Outside Christmas Decorations at St. Irene’s**

We need a team of volunteers to help take down the outdoor Christmas decorations around St. Irene Church on Saturday, Jan. 18 starting at 8:00 AM. I will get an early start and have the coffee hot by 8:00 AM. The weather will determine how much can be done that day. I will bring poles and ladders.

Please call **PGK Bob Rauko** for information (630-337-1568), or email to: [rauko@comcast.net](mailto:rauko@comcast.net).



## **Jan. 25—Knights of Columbus Youth Free Throw Competition**

All boys and girls ages 9-14 are invited to participate in the 2025 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition at the St. Irene Activity Center Gym on Sat., Jan. 25. **Contestants can arrive at any time from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.**

Awards will be presented to the winners of each age group for girls and for boys. Winners will have the opportunity to progress to the District and then to larger area competitions.

A parent or guardian will need to sign an entry form before their child can compete. Entry forms will be available at the Activity Center Gym during the competition hours.

For all boys and girls ages 9-14 who would like to practice free throw shooting, the gym will be open from noon to 4:00pm on Sunday, January 12, and from noon to 4:00 pm on Saturday, January 18.

To ensure a great turnout, please inform others about these worthwhile events.

Please contact **Tom Nemo** at 630-808-1900 or at [tejn74@yahoo.com](mailto:tejn74@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.



## **Feb. 9, 2025—29<sup>th</sup> KC Super Bowl Raffle & Party**

You are once again invited to participate in the annual Knights of Columbus Super Bowl Raffle to be held on Feb. 9, 2025 during the Super Bowl game. The Raffle is a major fundraiser for the St. Irene Knights of Columbus

Council It is a 50-50 cash raffle with half of the proceeds awarded to participants, and the other half retained by the Council to be used for programs that benefit the St. Irene’s Parish, school scholarships, and community outreach programs. **Let’s do it again! All three pools were sold out last year, netting \$5,505 for our programs.**

Buy your raffle tickets early to take advantage of three early drawings. Early Bird drawings that cover the cost of a ticket will be held on Jan. 12, Jan. 26 and Feb. 2. Early bird raffle winners remain eligible for drawings on Super Bowl Sunday.

Download the ticket order form from this link: [2025 Super Bowl Raffle Tickets](#) or print the form on Page 5. Follow the directions on how to return your payment and tickets. Hard copies of the ticket order form will be

*(Continued on page 4)*



## **Sir Knight Sam Vitale Passes to Eternal Life Dec. 4**

The Knights of Columbus express our deepest condolences to the Family of Sam Vitale (age 87). Sam was born in Chicago, IL. Sam joined the Knights of Columbus in 2016, and became a fourth degree Sir Knight in 2017.

Sam had served as usher at masses at St. Irene's for many years. He was an Army Veteran and also a resident of Naperville, IL for many years.

Sam was the beloved husband of Carolyn Vitale (nee D’Orio) and the late Margaret “Peggy” Vitale (nee Bresnahan), loving father of John Vitale, Lisa (Brad) Graveline, Beth (Paul) Malik, Michele (Kevin) Drews and Brian (Cary) Vitale, loving stepfather of Patricia (Charles) DiGiovanni.



## **Gloria Wilger Passes to Eternal Life Dec. 25**

Gloria was a loving wife of 57 years until the passing of her Brother Knight husband Bernie in 2008. Gloria (nee Reising), age 95, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 25, 2024 in Naperville.

Gloria is survived by her seven children; Joyce (Ken) Scherzer, Mike (Debbie), Jean (Jon) Rebholz, Yvonne (Geoff) Babb, William (Jill), Loretta (Tony) Capone, and Jeffery (Jaye), her grandchildren; Miriah, Tara, Lauren, John, Rachel, Katya, Karl, Emory, and Cory.

## **What’s Inside**

- KC Business Meeting.....Pg 2
- New St. Irene Mass Schedule.....Pg 2
- 4th Degree Exemplification info...Pg 2
- Chili Cookoff.....Pg 3



### Council Business Meeting Jan. 9, 7:00 PM

The meeting will be held in the St. Irene Activities Center Lower Level.

Please welcome our newest members who joined December 12: **John Marotto, Joseph McGown, Anthony Naccarato, and Frank Naccarato.**

### New St. Irene New Mass Schedule :

- Saturday Confessions - 3:30 PM
- Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:30 PM
- Sunday Mass - 8:00 AM
- Sunday Mass - 10:00 AM
- Monday Daily Mass - 8:00 AM
- Tuesday Daily Mass - 8:00 AM
- Wednesday Daily Mass - 12:00 PM
- Thursday Daily Mass - 7:00 AM
- Friday Daily Mass - 7:00 AM



### Fourth Degree Assembly 3044 News

**Jan. 8**—The next meeting will be held at the St. Scholastica Parish, Woodridge. The Rosary begins at 6:30 PM. Fraternity begins at 7:00 PM, with the meeting beginning promptly at 7:45 PM.

### Mar. 1—Fourth Degree Exemplification

**The Fourth Degree is the patriotic degree that reminds us of our duty to God and country.**

The next Exemplification of the Fourth Degree will be held on Sat., March 1, 2025 at Jacob Henry Mansion Estate Old Central Church, Joliet, IL.

To qualify you must be at least 18, citizen of country you reside, be a practical Catholic in union with the Holy See, and a 3rd Degree member in good standing. There is no wait period after the 3rd to become eligible.

The deadline for candidate's application Form 4 is Sat., Feb. 15. The initiation fee is \$90 which includes a banquet ticket. Sir Knights, Ladies, and guest banquet ticket is \$50. [Download a fillable Form 4 here.](#) You may give the form to **Council 4th Degree Captain Ken DiIulio** to send it in. [Download the exemplification Packet here](#) to receive further instructions and attire requirements.

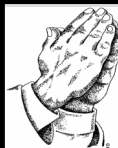


### Membership Drive Ever Present! We cannot let up.

Ask the man next to you at Mass. You will be surprised when he responds by saying no one has asked me before!

Urge prospects to join electronically. The QR code shown here with the KC insignia at its center can be used. The web page requests your name, contact information, parish name, and Council number: 6710. A notice will be sent to the Grand Knight and financial Secretary.

A council Trifold of our activities can be found [here](#). There are no fees or dues required to join.



### Pray for Our Loved Ones

Pray for the health & recovery of **Ken DiIulio, Bill Hughes, Alan Jarasius, Rachel Jarasius, George LaRocco, Rosemary Maher, Andrea Olson Martin, Tyler O'Malley, Rich Planek, Beverly Scott, Mary Ann True, Deacon Bob True, and Fr. Ger-**

## St. Irene Knights of Columbus Council 6710, Warrenville, IL

Council Officers 2024-2025	
Chaplain	Fr. Gregory Rothfuchs (630-621-6730)
Grand Knight	Patrick McGowan (630-863-8708)
Dep. Grand Knight	Paul Burgermeister (630-877-1574)
Financial Sec.	James Halama (630-433-6240)
Treasurer	Mark Spiotta (847-980-2461)
Chancellor	Tom Nemo (630-808-1900)
Recorder	Bob Rauko (630-337-1568)
Advocate	Joshua Bates (630-836-0223)
Warden	Patrick O'Connor
Inside Guard	James McDermott
Outside Guard	Joe Kubal (630-470-3807)
Lecturer	Jeffrey Schmitz (630-917-2002)
3rd Yr. Trustee	Michael Bates (630-836-0223)
2nd Yr. Trustee	Ken DiIulio (630-747-3673)
1st Yr. Trustee	Marc Alleruzzo (630-269-2754)
<b>Insurance Agent</b>	<b>Matthew Kling (630-485-8705)</b>
District Deputy	Bruce Klecker (630-995-0764)

**Business Meetings:** 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM  
**Meeting Location:** St. Irene Activities Center

Committee Directors	
Program Director	Paul Burgermeister (630-877-1574)
Membership Director	Jeffrey Schmitz (630-917-2002)
Community Director	Bob Rauko (630-337-1568)
Church Director	Joe Urso (630-853-2070)
Family Director	Michael Bates (630-836-0223)
Youth Director	Tom Nemo (630-808-1900)
Public Relations Director	Joe Kubal (630-983-6159)
Blood Drive Director	Ken DiIulio (630-747-3673)
Life Director	Jack Gorski (630-393-4742)
Vocations	
Support our Troops	Kevin Looby (630-329-1316)

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to all Catholic gentleman over 18 years of age. To join or obtain further information, contact GK Patrick McGowan at 630-863-8708.

The Knights' News is published monthly by Council 6710. For contributions and corrections contact James Halama at 630-433-6240. Please make submissions by email at [jrhalama@comcast.net](mailto:jrhalama@comcast.net) prior to the 21st day of each month.



### Grand Knight's Corner

Welcome to a new year, Brother Knights! For the next few weeks, we'll be backspacing over "2024" and replacing it with "2025" in all our emails.

Both the secular and Catholic liturgical calendar start in the dead of winter, a time of quiet, nothing growing, darkness. But not all cultural or religious calendars are so close to the winter solstice. The Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah) is in the middle of fall, and Lunar New Year is generally in early February. The Muslim faith will celebrate it's new year, al'Hijra, in July of 2025.

But regardless of cultural or faith tradition, a new year gives us all a chance for renewal. Fresh calendars are brought with the hope of staying organized. New year resolutions are set for self-improvement or self-care and goals like fitness, reading more, or working on relationships. Everything centers around leaving behind the person we were in 2024 and becoming a better one in 2025.

That's really at the core of our faith, isn't it? An ongoing effort to leave behind the person we are and (with grace) becoming a better version of ourselves.

Here's to achieving all your goals in 2025.

**Vivat Jesus,  
Patrick McGowan**



### ProLife

This time of year, we are always optimistic that the generosity of friends like you will set Illinois Right to Life up with much of what we need

to run our programs in the coming year. Most years, we were not disappointed!

In 2025, however, marks a new beginning: it's the year that we (Illinois Right to Life Organization) will be solely responsible for the costs associated with the [Illinois Pro-Life March](#) (formerly the Illinois March for Life). Last year, we shared these costs with another organization as we got our footing under us. In 2025, however, we are taking full responsibility for this awesome event – and that comes with a price tag!

This opportunity is an incredibly special one, and we are honored to be the organization behind the planning and execution of our state's largest and longest-running pro-life march. But we need your help to make it happen!

So, as we begin 2025, I have to ask: will you make a gift to support the planning and execution of the 2025 Illinois Pro-Life March?

If you've attended this event in the past, you know how powerful it is to witness thousands of pro-lifers coming together on behalf of the unborn. And if you've not attended – we hope that you will this year! That's why we are humbly asking you to consider financially supporting this incredibly special and important event.

We hope you'll consider making a generous end-of-year donation. To make your very best gift and support the work that our team is doing to make this event a success, [click here](#). You are the reason we're able to do this incredibly important work.

**Jack Gorski  
ProLife Chairman**



### Feb. 22, 2025

The planning has begun on our 34th annual St. Irene Chili-Cook

Off, which will be held on February 22, 2025, after the 4:30 Mass. This event is not only a great monetary resource for the parish, but is a major social event bringing the Warrenville Community together! **Our Council has offered its support by becoming a \$250 sponsor.**

If you are wondering how you can help, here are some options:

1. Attend the event.
2. Volunteer to help
3. Become a contestant. Compete for the best Chili and Booth Decoration. You get \$100 towards expenses.
4. Become a sponsor or donate items for baskets to be auctioned during the event.

If you have any questions regarding donations, sponsorships, volunteering, or being a contestant, please contact Jeff Schmitz at [lcschmitz1@comcast.net](mailto:lcschmitz1@comcast.net).



### Help Our Neighborhood Pantry

Our Neighborhood Pantry serves all of Warrenville.

Drop donations off at 29W260 Batavia Road, on Tuesdays 11:00-1:00pm or Sundays 1:00-3:00pm.

If you would like to volunteer for 2 hours on a regular basis, please contact Bill France at [france74usma@yahoo.com](mailto:france74usma@yahoo.com). Thank you!



### Dec. 14—27 Pints Blood Collected at KC/VFW Blood Drive

The drive was held at the VFW Hall Warrenville from 7:00 AM until Noon. Knights who helped were **Bill Lintner, PGK Ken Dilulio, PGK Bob Rauko, and James McDermott.**

The American Legion offered four \$50 gift certificates for Al's Pizza to lucky blood donors.



### Support our American Legion

#### Spaghetti Night—Jan. 13

The Monday spaghetti dinner serving from 5:00—7:30 PM.

#### Burger Night—Jan. 22

Serving hamburgers & bratwurst from 5:00—8:00 PM.



## Newman Apostolate Charity Fund Drive

The fund helps Newman Centers at colleges and universities in Illinois provide a Catholic faith-based environment for college students. Your support means that Newman Centers around the state can do spiritual and social programming to help students remain as one with their faith while they are away from their home parish.

For over 100 years, the Brother Knights in Illinois have joined "Together as One" with strong support for our college-age family members and I hope that you will continue to do so this year and help us reach the state goal of 210,145. Our Council goal is \$5.00 per active member, or \$675.

Please consider a gift this year. Donate online at [www.illinoisknights.org/charity/newman](http://www.illinoisknights.org/charity/newman) (or scan the QR Code) above, or send a check. Consider becoming a \$100 Century donor and receive a commemorative pin. With a check, you must send it along with the Donation Card (print from the online screen). You may also look for the donation card to be sent to you from the state. Indicate your level of giving from \$5 up to \$100. Mail in your donation to Illinois State Council KofC Charities, Inc., P.O. Box 681, Kankakee, IL 60901. Please write Newman Fund, Council number (6710 for St. Irene's) and your Membership number on the memo section of your check.



## Program Awards for December 2024

**PGK Jack Gorski Knight of the Month**—The Knights of Columbus Council #6710 would like to recognize the relentless and continuous efforts of **PGK Jack Gorski as our Knight of the Month for December 2024**. For many, many, years Jack has been serving as our Council's Pro-Life Chairman. Jack is the voice on behalf of the unborn that will not be kept silent. Even when the political climate was totally against him, Jack continued to speak out about the atrocities to the unborn. As a result of Jack and others vehement fight, we have seen monumental progress towards change, especially with the June 24, 2022 overturn of the Roe v Wade decision. As well as the recent law suit filed against Governor Pritzker by the Illinois Right to Life Organization which stands against Illinois law requiring an insured to be forced to comply with health care regulations that funds abortion which is in direct opposition to the insured's moral beliefs. Even though the political and public sentiment is changing there is still a lot of work ahead.

**Pamela & Patrick Keating as the Family of the Month**—The Knights of Columbus Council #6710 would like to acknowledge the **Keating Family as our selection for Family of the Month** for December 2024. Patrick and Pamela Keating have been long time members of our St. Irene's Parish. They raised their children through St. Irene's school and now are blessed to be grandparents. Over the years Patrick and Pamela have help out at numerous St. Irene events. As of late, Patrick can be seen proudly carrying in the crucifix during Sunday Mass, and helping out at cooking events such as the cook out hosted by our council when Father Clive was leaving our parish. Most recently Patrick filled the enormously big boots of Bill Hughes with regards to breakfast with Santa also hosted by our council. Currently Pamela serves as our 'Parish Life and Liturgy Coordinator'. In this ministry Pamela assures that all aspects of the church, and every mass runs in a smooth, efficient, and professional manner. Our council would like to extend to the Keating family a heart felt thank you for all their years of dedicated service to our parish.

## Dec. 8—Knights Host Breakfast with Santa

Knights cooked and served pancakes, sausage links, scrambled eggs, and fixings after the Masses on Sunday Dec. 8 in the St. Irene Activities Center.

This was our first time hosting the event. Thanks to **Chairman PGK Kevin Looby**, and Knights who helped including **PGK Mike Bates, Bob Heipp, Deacon Brad Hentz, Jim McDermott, Rick Nagode, Tom Nemo, Patrick O'Connor, PGK Erich Pavel, Jeff Schmitz, PGK Mark Spiotta, Jeffrey Wombold, and Deacon Joe Urso**, and guest **Paul Ernst**.



Paul Ernst.



*(Super Bowl Party Continued from page 1)*

made available separately by Council members. You may also contact **PGK James Halama** at [jrhalama@comcast.net](mailto:jrhalama@comcast.net) or at 630-433-6240.

As in previous years, the raffle is based on purchasing squares in three separate football pools. For the Faith and Hope Pools the tickets are \$25 per square, and for the Charity pool the tickets are \$50 ticket per square.

# Super Bowl 2025 Raffle—Order Your Tickets Now!

Use the ticket forms below to order your tickets. Early bird drawings will be held Jan. 12, Jan. 26 & Feb. 2, 2025. Please make check out to St. Irene Knights of Columbus and send to below:

**James Halama**  
27W100 Galusha Ave.  
Warrenville, IL 60555



## St. Irene Knights of Columbus Football Raffle

### \$25 Raffle Ticket

2-\$250, 2-\$125, 6-\$50, 7-\$25 Cash Prizes

Cash prizes based on 100 tickets sold  
See below for details

**Super Bowl Sunday**  
**Feb. 9, 2025**

**Early Bird Drawings Jan. 12, Jan. 26 & Feb. 2**

St. Irene Parish  
28W441 Warrenville Rd.,  
Warrenville, IL

Proceeds Benefit Knights of Columbus Programs

## Faith

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

St. Irene Knights of Columbus  
Super Bowl Raffle Feb 9, 2025



## St. Irene Knights of Columbus Football Raffle

### \$25 Raffle Ticket

2-\$250, 2-\$125, 6-\$50, 7-\$25 Cash Prizes

Cash prizes based on 100 tickets sold  
See below for details

**Super Bowl Sunday**  
**Feb. 9, 2025**

**Early Bird Drawings Jan. 12, Jan. 26 & Feb. 2**

St. Irene Parish  
28W441 Warrenville Rd.,  
Warrenville, IL

Proceeds Benefit Knights of Columbus Programs

## Hope

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

St. Irene Knights of Columbus  
Super Bowl Raffle Feb.9, 2025



## St. Irene Knights of Columbus Football Raffle

### \$50 Raffle Ticket

2-\$500, 2-\$250, 6-\$100, 7-\$50 Cash Prizes

Cash prizes based on 100 tickets sold  
See below for details

**Super Bowl Sunday**  
**Feb. 9, 2025**

**Early Bird Drawings Jan. 12, Jan. 26 & Feb. 2**

St. Irene Parish  
28W441 Warrenville Rd.,  
Warrenville, IL

Proceeds Benefit Knights of Columbus Programs

## Charity

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

St. Irene Knights of Columbus  
Super Bowl Raffle Feb. 9, 2025

**Early-Bird Drawings:** Drawings will be held Jan. 12, Jan. 26 & Feb. 2. Each entry can only win once during the early-bird drawings, but remains eligible for the drawings on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025.

**Raffle on Super Bowl Sunday:** Prior to the start of the football game, for each respective pool 100 number pairs will be randomly assigned to each raffle ticket holder, from (0,0) through (9,9). During the football game, one cash prize will be awarded to the person holding the winning number pair each time a team scores; a touchdown plus points after constitutes one score. The winning number pair is comprised as follows: the least significant digit (right most digit) in the NFC team score constitutes the first number, and the least significant digit of the AFC team constitutes the second number in the pair. The cash prize amount is determined by a random drawing from the available cash prize pool. The remainder, if any, at the game's end will be awarded by random drawing of those raffle tickets not having a winning combination during the football game.

The pool of 17 cash prizes are based on 100 tickets sold for each pool. The number of cash prizes and the total cash amount awarded may be reduced to maintain the same winning odds (0.17) and 50% payout of ticket receipts. In the event of multiple raffles being conducted, cash prizes may be pooled. Fifty percent of the raffle ticket receipts will be used to support St. Irene Knights of Columbus programs.

## Knights' Calendar

Jan. 1		<b>Happy New Year</b>
Jan. 8	7:00 PM	Bishop Blanchette Assembly meetin—St. Scholastica, Woodridge
Jan. 9	7:00 PM	Council Business meeting—St. Irene Activities Center
Jan. 12	11:00 AM	First early draw for KC Super Bowl Raffle
Jan. 13	5:00 PM	American Legion Spaghetti dinner, - Warrenville VFW Hall
Jan. 18	8:00 AM	Take down Christmas decorations at St. Irene's
Jan. 22	5:00 PM	American Legion Burger Night—Warrenville VFW Hall
Jan. 25	10:00 AM	Youth Free Throw Contest—St. Irene Activities Center
Jan. 26	11:00 AM	Second early draw for KC Super Bowl Raffle
Feb. 2	11:00 AM	Third early draw for KC Super Bowl Raffle
Feb. 9	4:00 PM	KC Super Bowl Party & Raffle—St. Irene's Activities Center
Feb. 13	7:00 PM	Council Business meeting—St. Irene Activities Center
Feb. 14		<b>Happy Valentines Day</b>
Feb. 15		4th Degree Form 4 applications due
Feb. 22	6:00 PM	St. Irene Chili Cookoff—St. Irene Activities Center
Mar. 1	10:00 AM	Fourth Degree Exemplification -Jacob Henry Mansion Estate, Joliet



**Knights of Columbus**  
**INSURANCE**  
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

**Matthew A. Kling, FICF**  
630-485-8705  
303 East Main Street  
Saint Charles, IL 60174  
matthew.kling@KofC.org



**Life Insurance • Long-Term Care Insurance**  
**Retirement Annuities • Disability Income Insurance**  
Protecting Catholic families since 1882.

### Checkout Our Products and Services

#### Knights of Columbus Insurance

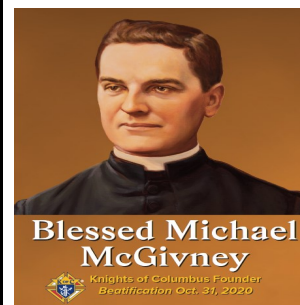
The Knights of Columbus offers a complete portfolio of top-quality products to our members and their eligible family members.

- [Permanent Life Insurance](#) – *Insure Your Life*
- [Term Life Insurance](#) – *Affordable Protection for Temporary Needs*

- [Retirement Annuities](#) – *Give Yourself a Paycheck for the Rest of Your Life. Guaranteed.*
- [Long-Term Care](#)

## January Birthdays

Katie Augustynowicz	Jan. 3	Filomena Jarosz	Jan. 15
Cathy Kott	Jan. 3	Mark Jarosz	Jan. 16
Marian Dunn	Jan. 4	Paula Polkow	Jan. 17
Teri Lindeman	Jan. 4	Denise Hoshell	Jan. 19
Kevin Dunn	Jan. 6	Susan Constable	Jan. 20
Terri Kussman	Jan. 7	Cathy Fladeland	Jan. 20
Truman Stevens	Jan. 8	Tom La Rocco	Jan. 22
Jeffrey Bollweg	Jan. 9	John Muhlenfeld	Jan. 22
Gary Dyas	Jan. 9	Clare Barry	Jan. 23
Karen Leonard	Jan. 9	Andrew Dina	Jan. 24
Kenneth Ulanowski	Jan. 9	Connie Dyas	Jan. 26
Yolanda Schwarts	Jan. 11	Dianne Urso	Jan. 26
William Higgins	Jan. 12	Kathleen Planek	Jan. 27
Mike O'Hare	Jan. 13	Nick Battaglia	Jan. 30
Liz Pittman	Jan. 13		



## February Wedding Anniversaries

Patrick & Laura McGowan	Jan. 11	Tom & Jackie La Rocco	Jan. 18
Richard & Margaret Doucette	Jan. 12	Andy & Angelita (Lita) Yusi	Jan. 28
Charles & Caren Burchett	Jan. 16	Gary & Paula Polkow	Jan. 30

\*\*\* If your birthday or anniversary date is missing or incorrect, contact **PGK James Halama** at 630-433-6240 or jrhalama@comcast.net to make the corrections.