

# THE SHIELD

Official Publication of Fr. James B. Heary, O.P. - Council 7239 Knights of Columbus  
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<http://www.kofc7239.org>



Vol. XL, No. 2 • February 2025

## DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

*By David Hopcroft*

Brother Knights,

Vivat Jesus!

On January 6<sup>th</sup> the Building Corp held their monthly meeting before our K of C meeting. There was also a decent turnout of the cleanup on January 11<sup>th</sup>. The next one will be in March.

Knight of the month was Craig Massman for December.

Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> the 9:00am mass was said for the living and deceased members of the Knights. We will be continuing to have a monthly mass said for this intention.

We voted on the resolution for the time allowed for the funds pulled to doing repairs on the building to be used. The Building Corp will have until the end of 2025 to use the funds to repair the retaining wall, which is the only big-ticket item left.

We held nominations for the 2025 State Convention. We will take nominations and vote on these at the February meeting.

A resolution was put forth to increase the stipend for the delegates to \$800. We will also vote on that during the February meeting.

I attended the Diocesan Meeting with our District Deputy, representing our council. It was a very informative meeting. Thank you, District Deputy for driving.

***February's meeting for both the K of C and the Building Corp will be held Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The meeting will be lead either by Craig Massman, FS, or our District Deputy Darren Gray, PGK, as I will be out of town also. There will not be hot dogs at this meeting. Sorry.***

Fraternally yours in Christ,

David Hopcroft, Deputy Grand Knight

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT

*By Darren Gray, PGK, DD*

No article this month, but we do have to decide if we're going to hold a St. Patrick's Day dinner and when, given Lent.

The big thing for February, however, is the Poker Event, Feb. 21-23<sup>rd</sup>. Please contact me if you are able to help.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, February 3, 2025  
Building Corp Meeting – 6:15 p.m.  
Membership Meeting - 7:00 p.m.  
**\*\* Meeting In-Person at Council\*\***

**Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Swedish Meatball Dinner**  
**7:00pm at the Council**  
**\$6/person**

Thursday, February 13, 2025  
Ladies Auxiliary Meeting -- 7:00 p.m.  
**\*\* Meeting In-Person at Council \*\***

**Shield Deadline:**  
**Sunday, February 16, 2025**  
**It's a short month, so get your**  
**articles in early!!**  
**editor@kofc7239.org**  
**(Always 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Month)**

**OFFICER ROSTER****State Deputy**

Christopher Kolomjec

**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

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Cindy Podgorski (810) 395-8926

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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 would like to welcome our newest member, Beth Carnes, into the Ladies Auxiliary. We are excited to have you! We are continuing to pray for our member, Mary Lou Stema, and hope that she is recovering well. At our last meeting, Pat from Madison Family Planning came to speak about the center, the services provided, and volunteer opportunities. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact her at 313-520-0202. The ladies also made a donation towards Amber's fleece blanket making event through "Fleece and Thank You". Save the date! The next monthly dinner hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary will be on February 7th at 6:00p.m. The menu for the dinner is Swedish Meatballs with mashed potatoes, salads, vegetables, and other fixings. The cost is \$6 per person and there will be a 50/50 raffle. I hope to see you there!

Our next monthly meeting will be on Thursday, February 13th at 7:00p.m. The hostesses are Lisa Gray and Janice Pollan. We are still accepting donations for St. Vincent De Paul, please continue to bring non-perishable items and paper products to our meetings. We are also accepting donations for the pregnancy center (diapers, baby wash, diaper rash ointment. etc). 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 February Birthdays to Mary Lou Stema (11th), Meg Lamerato (12th), Cindy Podgorski (16th), and Stefanie Olszewski (18th)!

Please continue to pray on our Prayer List and Happy Valentine's Day!

Amber Thompson-President

**Next Upcoming Poker Event**

The next poker event at Diccico's will be February 21-23<sup>rd</sup>.

Friday – 6:30pm – 2am

Saturday – 11am – 6pm

Sunday – 6:30pm – 2am

We will need workers.

If you are able to work, please contact me:

Darren Gray – cell: 248-302-8918

Email: darren\_gray@fytek.com

### FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

*By Craig Massman*

None this month..

### February Meeting Elections

At the February Meeting, we will be electing Delegates for the 2024 Michigan Convention. This is a very important election as these delegates are OUR voice at the State Convention. And this is an election year for the State Council.

Here are the current nominations:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Delegate – Sam Lamerato, GK
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Delegate – Dave Hopcroft
- 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate – Craig Massman
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate – Duane McLaughlin

### 2025 RESOLUTION

#### RESOLUTION

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE FR. JAMES B HEARY COUNCIL 7239 ALLOCATE \$800.00 EACH FOR TWO (2) DELEGATES TO ATTEND THE 2025 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS STATE CONVENTION ON MACKINAC ISLAND, MAY 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, AND 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025.**

**SUBMITTED BY:  
Darren Gray, PGK, DD  
Jim Morrison, PGK, FDD**

### PRAYER LIST

Deloris Bail, Gene Bosetti, Ann Brunk, Larry Bunting, Stephen Claya (John Claya’s Grandson), Diane Emerick, Doug Evans, 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, Jean Witkowski, Ken Witkowski.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@kofc7239.org)*



### **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

**02/04 Bill Peasley**  
**02/06 Fredrick Greaves**  
**02/08 Jeremy Bliss**  
**02/10 Joseph Marchesi**  
**02/10 Craig Massman**  
**02/10 Ed Novak**  
**02/23 William Hughes**  
**02/24 Kevin Gruse**  
**02/25 Scott Wesierski**

### **LADIES AUXILIARY**

#### **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

**02/11 Mary Lou Stema**  
**02/12 Meg Lamerato**  
**02/16 Cindy Podgorski**  
**02/18 Stefanie Olszewski**

**If we missed your birthday or the date is wrong, please email me at [editor@kofc7239.org](mailto:editor@kofc7239.org) .**  
**Thanks.**

# February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 <i>6:30pm Building Corp 7pm Member Mtg</i>	4 Happy Birthday Bill Peasley	5	6 Happy Birthday Fredrick Greaves	7	8 Happy Birthday Jeremy Bliss
9	10 Happy Birthday Joseph Marchesi Craig Massman Ed Novak	11 Happy Birthday Mary Lou Stema	12 Happy Birthday Meg Lamerato	13 <i>7pm Ladies Mtg</i>	14 <b>Happy Valentine's Day</b>	15
16 Happy Birthday Cindy Podgorski	17	18 Happy Birthday Stefanie Olszewski	19 SHIELD DEADLINE	20	21	22
23 Happy Birthday William Hughes	24 Happy BirthdayKevin Gruse	25 Happy Birthday Scott Wesierski	26	27	28	

**HOPCROFT  
FUNERAL HOMES**

ART HOPCROFT, FOUNDER

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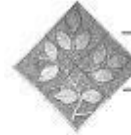


EDWARD SWANSON & SON

**FUNERAL HOME**

30351 Dequindre  
Madison                      Happy Birthday  
Heights, MI                      Russell Joyce  
48071  
Edward C.  
Swanson Dennis C. Swanson

**Marlow Family Dental**



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

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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, Don M. Wesley FICF, General Agent, at 888-393-7539, or [don.wesley@kofc.org](mailto:don.wesley@kofc.org)*