



Knightly News

Greetings From the Grand Knight

Knight of the Year 2005 - William J. Musser, Sr.
Family of the Year 2005 – Wayne Portell Family

William J. Musser, Sr. was named Knight of the Year 2005 because of the lasting contributions he has made to his Parish and Council 4239.

At St. Clare Catholic Church, Bill is a Eucharistic Minister, lecturer, liaison between the Council and Parish as Roundtable Coordinator, served on the Parish Council for eight years – two as President, and served five years as Parish Trustee.

As a Knight, Bill has been very active in Council activities the past 20 years in both Charity and Fraternalism. Bill works Council sponsored bingo, Special Olympics, Tootsie Roll Drive, Columbus Day Kid's Run, Turkey Trot, Children's Easter Egg Hunt, Family Picnic, and participates in the Annual God's Special Children Golf Tournament. Bill has held all chair offices, including being the 25th Grand Knight, and served 12 years on the Columbus Club Board – six as President. He has unselfishly promoted the principles of the Knights of Columbus through his generous acts of Charity and Fraternalism before, during, and after serving as Grand Knight. He is very worthy of this honor.

The **Paul Wayne Portell Family** was named Family of the Year 2005 because of their very significant contributions made to Council 4239 and their Parish.

For the past several years, Wayne, wife Cathy, and sons Matthew and Christopher, planned, purchased, prepared, and delivered the food for the annual seminarian dinner sponsored by Council 4239. Until this past dinner last August, all dinners were held at St. Clare Church and School and attended by Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, Bishop of Belleville, many priests, the seminarians, and their families. This past year the dinner

was held at a Diocese Retreat Center in Carlyle and was attended by Bishop Edward K. Braxton, eight priests, the seminarians, and their families. In addition to preparing the food this past year, it had to be transported to Carlyle. Also, in addition to the food, the Portells insured each seminarian received a gift each could use during their studies throughout the year.

The Portells also plan the Council Memorial Mass, which is held the third Thursday in November and the annual Wreath Laying Service honoring the unborn child every December. The Portells conduct the Council scholarship program every spring. They coordinated a Way of the Cross evening during Lent at St. Nicholas Parish.

Each member of the Portell Family, Wayne, Cathy, Matthew, and Christopher has generously given their time to support Council 4239 and are very worthy of this honor.

When you see Bill and members of the Portell Family, please congratulate them and thank them for their significant contributions to our Council and their parishes.

Fraternally yours,
David Handel
Grand Knight

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Columbus Club News

Hopefully you've had a chance to stop by the hall this Lent for our Fish Fry. As always, our dedicated volunteers are doing a great job preparing some of the tastiest seafood dishes in the area. If you haven't been by yet, I encourage you to stop by any Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. or call in your order at 632-6229.

When you do stop in, please take the time to take a look at the facility. Both our staff and our volunteers have been working hard to improve the day-to-day cleanliness of the facility, and under the leadership of vice president Bill Blair, we have undergone a significant redecorating project of the lounge and the downstairs dining area. The walls are now adorned with pictures and mementos of some of O'Fallon athletics, council awards and activities, historical photographs and drawings of various O'Fallon landmarks, and a "wall of honor" for our hard working police, fire, and public safety personnel. The project is ongoing, so if you have any memorabilia that showcases accomplishments of people in our Council or our community, please contact either Bill Blair or myself, and we'll do our best to incorporate it into the decorating.

The members of the Ladies Auxiliary is also owed a BIG THANK YOU for their donation of time and financial resources to the project. Their input during the project has been instrumental in making it a reality. Their most recent financial support to the Club will allow us to complete the redecorating project in style by adding some descriptive plates to historical photos and athletic memorabilia on display, finishing off some sprucing up of the area, and replacing the window dressings in the dining area with vertical blinds that will be attractive and easy to maintain. Their generosity has already allowed the Columbus Club to procure a high speed floor burnisher to allow us to handle our floor maintenance needs in-house without the need to deal with renting equipment or paying an outside service to handle this task for us. Thank you very much for your continued support, Ladies.

I would be remiss if I didn't also mention a few names that have been instrumental in their continued activities in supporting the Columbus Club by donating their time. Earl Christ and George Henken continue to be invaluable to Manager Bill Bronnbauer in completing several projects every week. Their dedication to keeping every facet of the hall functional is instrumental. Bill Hebenstreit has been extremely active as of late. His intense cleaning of the kitchen (with assistance from Dave Fritsch) from ceiling to floor was much needed and greatly appreciated by all who use it at Fish Fry and on Sundays at Bingo. Bill also played a significant role in the redecorating project by refinishing the bar rail (it looks GREAT!) and assisting in the installation of a new big screen TV in the Lounge, thanks to Terry and Sherry Schutzenhofer's very generous donation. Thanks to you and everyone else who has taken an active role in making the Club a cleaner, more comfortable, and generally more appealing place to relax.

As a reminder, the Columbus Club Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of every month at the Club. If you are a Knight in good standing and a member of Council 4239, YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE COLUMBUS CLUB. Please take an active role in helping us manage the home of our Council by participating. As always, if you have any questions, concerns, ideas, please don't hesitate to contact me at aj1403@charter.net.

A.J. Adams
President, O'Fallon Columbus Club, Inc.

Way of the Cross

Council Chaplain Msgr. Bill Hitpas will be leading The Way of the Cross at St. Nicolas Church on Friday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. Grand Knight Dave Handel has establish the service as O'Fallon Knights of Columbus Council 4239 Way of the Cross. Dave encourages all Council 4239 members and their families to join together on the 24th for the service. Attending the Stations of the Cross during the Lenten period is just another example of the O'Fallon Knights of Columbus Council 4239 participation in church activities.

Wayne Portell
Church Activities Director

Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Knights of Columbus Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 15 at 10:30 a.m. at the KC Hall. The event is open to all children and grand children of Brother Knights who are 10 years old and younger.

There will be refreshments after the hunt and a drawing for prizes. This is a great event for children and the entire family. So grab your Easter baskets and come out to enjoy the fun.

Rob Ratz
Youth Activities Director

Attention All Third Degree Members

We invite you to join us at the upcoming Fourth Degree Exemplification to be held at The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois on April 28, 29 and 30. O'Fallon – Fairview Heights Assembly 1829 will host this degree in celebration of our 25th anniversary as an assembly. Deadlines for membership applications, reservations, and submissions (along with the money) must be in no later than our Wednesday, April 5 meeting. Early submissions are greatly appreciated!

We will be rolling back prices to make this an Exemplification every member can participate in, starting with the hotel, meal, and ad book prices! The weekend will be filled with activities for both the member and his spouse. We are keeping the hotel price discounted (\$65 per night) so we can fill the place. Plan now to spend the night!

We are also accepting congratulatory notes and advertisements from all members and businesses for the Exemplification Souvenir Book. Cost for the ads are ¼ page \$30.00 - ½ page \$60.00 - ¾ page \$80.00 - and full page \$100.00. Be a sponsor at the low cost of \$10.00.

All Third and Fourth Degree members are welcome to join us Friday, 3 to 6 p.m., at the Ravissant Winery (www.ravissantwinery.com) for appetizers. We also hope to see you Friday, 7 to 11 p.m., and Saturday, 8:30 to 11 p.m., at the hospitality area in the Shrine Hotel lounge hosted by our assembly. Spend both nights visiting with Sir Knights and wives from across the state. Friday and Sunday attire is business casual.

While the men are receiving their Fourth Degree Saturday, the ladies luncheon will include a guest speaker from the Oblates and the Shrine's famous soup and salad buffet, then off to tour the Shrine. All Sir Knights are welcome to bring their regalia and participate with the Honor Guard on Saturday. Please remember that Saturday's dress code is a tuxedo with formal pleated white lay down collar shirt, a black bow tie, black socks and black shoes. Military personnel may wear formal or semi-formal attire. Priests and Brothers may wear their religious attire.

Exemplification cost is \$65.00 per candidate and \$35.00 for Priests and Religious Brothers. Each candidate will receive a social baldric, 4th Degree lapel pin and one banquet ticket. Candidate applications and money must be received NO later than April 5 to insure the candidate's name is printed in the souvenir program book. Candidates are encouraged to bring their wife and/or guest(s). Additional tickets must be purchased for the banquet (\$25) and ladies luncheon (\$15).

Please contact David Dempsey, DavidKofC@aol.com, for the forms necessary to register for the Exemplification, order your tickets and reserve your room. I hope you have marked your calendar for the last weekend in April. Let's set a record for Sir Knights joining our assembly, "NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE FOURTH DEGREE". We look forward to seeing you and your wife for this very fabulous Exemplification.

David T. Dempsey, PGK
Faithful Navigator

Social Security

Social Security is a wonderful thing, and you pay up to \$3,000 a year for it. Some folks pay more to FICA than they do in income taxes. But do you know the amount of benefits you will receive under the law (or how they can be lost)? For example, do you know:

- ... how much your widow and orphans would be entitled to should you die before your children reach age 18?
- ... how much your widow will receive after your children reach age 16?
- ... how much monthly income you will receive for your retirement after you reach age 62 or age 65?
- ... and do you know that it is possible for these benefits to be reduced or lost under certain circumstances?

Social Security benefits are intended to supply a floor of protection for a plan of family security and financial independence in old age. It is important to understand them and how they tie the rest of your financial assets together. I would be happy to share my knowledge of this topic with you. Call me at **667-0355** for an appointment.

David T. Dempsey, PGK
Field Agent

Membership at an All Time High

Congratulations to the members and families of our council. You have done it??? At least some of you have done it! It takes a current member to ask another Catholic man to be a member of the Knights of Columbus. Have you done your part? Today our council has more than 700 members. Just think if we each asked another to join.

A prime opportunity to join will be June 4, when we will be hosting a major degree at St. Clare School Gymnasium. The day after celebrating what we have accomplished in the past 50 years, we will start the next 50 years by growing our Council. Any man who wishes to join will have to have a membership form completed and read at our council meeting on or before May 18.

We need you to contact your father, son, grandson, nephew, brother, neighbor, co-worker and/or friend (just to name a few ideas) to invite that man to join. Even if you have asked him before, or you think that surely someone had already asked him, ask him again. Is a goal of 50 new members to small, considering there should be 700 members each asking another man to join? Have you done your part? Did you **ask a Catholic man to join**? If you are not sure how to approach someone to join, pass his name and contact information onto the membership committee. The membership team will be glad to follow up on asking prospective members.

If you are a First Degree member, we invite you to complete your Second and Third Degrees on June 4. In the First Degree you learned the importance of Charity, now take the time to discover the necessity of Unity (Fourth Degree) and Fraternity (Third Degree). It promises to be a great afternoon and as always, there is food sure to follow.

All Knights are welcome to stay and have a meal to congratulate our new Brothers. The meal will be served just after the group photo on the gym bleachers is completed. Show your support by being in attendance on June 4! Make it even more memorable by sponsoring a new Knight!!!

David T. Dempsey, PGK
Field Agent

Essay Contest

O'Fallon Council 4239 is sponsoring an Essay Contest "The Responsibility of a Catholic Citizen in a Free Society" for the St. Clare Grade School 8th Grade class. The essay winners will be announced at the 8th Grade Awards Night in May. Savings bonds are being provided for the top three places. Judges are being appointed to review the essays.

James Awerkamp
Deputy Grand Knight

Coming Events

March 23

Ladies Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
KC Hall

March 24

Council 4239 Way of the Cross
St. Nicholas Church - 7:30 p.m.

March 24

Ladies Auxiliary Stations of the Cross
St. Clare Church - 6 p.m.

March 29

Founders Day - Knights of Columbus
founded this day in 1882

March 31

Blood Drive - 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
KC Hall

March 31

Ladies Auxiliary Living Stations of
the cross - St. Nicholas Church - 7:30

March 31 - April 2

Squires State Convention

April 1

Fiddler's Contest
KC Hall

April 5

Squires Meeting - 7 p.m.
KC Hall

April 6

Council Meeting - 8 p.m.
KC Hall

April 9

Major Degree - 12:30 p.m.
Breese

April 13

Open House - 7 p.m.
KC Hall

April 15

Children's Easter Egg Hunt
KC Hall - 10:30 a.m.

April 23

Major Degree - 12:30 p.m.
Maryville

April 28

God's Special Children Golf
Tournament - Tamarack Golf Course
Awards & Dinner - KC Hall

April 28, 29, 30

Fourth Degree Exemplification
Our Lady of Snows Shrine

May 26

Blood Drive - 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
KC Hall

June 4

Major Degree - 11 a.m. registration
St. Clare School

July 28

Blood Drive - 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
KC Hall

Sept. 29

Blood Drive - 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
KC Hall

Bingo
Every Sunday at 6:30 p.m.
KC Hall

Blood Drive

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on March 31 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the hall. There is always a need for donations, but the Red Cross has been very low as of late and really need your help at this event. Please plan on stopping by and donating the gift of life. Or, if you are unable to give, pass the word to a friend, neighbor, or family member to make them aware of this opportunity to help out. What a great Lenten act of charity!

A.J. Adams & Jerry Dunn
Community Activities Directors

Canned Food Drive...A Great Success!

I'd like to thank everyone for their generous donations to the O'Fallon Food Pantry at the Council Christmas Party and at the St. Patrick's Day Spring Social. The folks at the Food Pantry really appreciated this and we plan on continuing this practice of collecting a non-perishable food item as an "admission fee" to our socials in the future. So start saving your surplus canned goods for a donation at this summer's Family Picnic!

A. J. Adams
Community Activities Director

New Member Open House, Welcome Back Brother & Fraternal Benefits Night In One

At 50 years old, many may say one should slow down, take it easy. But many Councils in the State of Illinois are turning 100 this year! We are still very young, and we have the opportunity to grow stronger with your help. One of the best ways to guarantee a long life is to make things easier. We can do that by including more pairs of hands in the projects we undertake.

On April 13, we will be hosting an open house. Cocktails will start at 7 p.m. followed by a short presentation beginning at 7:30 p.m. Families are invited to learn about our Church, Community, Family, Youth, and Council activities. If you know of a friend, relative, or coworker who you would like to see become a member please bring them. Please take time out of your busy schedule to make a few phone calls or stop by to personally invite prospective new members this week. That person may be waiting to be asked, **do not** let them down.

We are also welcoming back Brother Knights who might have let their membership lapse. If you know you haven't paid your dues lately or have moved to the area, but haven't had a chance to transfer your membership, this is the night for you. We are glad to welcome you back at any time, but no time is better than this! Have you been a member of the O'Fallon Council for years, but not been active lately? Come by the Council Home and see what we have been up to lately. You were never required to attend a certain number of meetings or donate any amount of time or money ***and*** that won't change. We don't hold grudges and we hope you will give us a chance to include you in the future.

If you are looking for a way to get involved, but don't know who to ask or what is available this is the night for you. If it is one activity a year or several, we appreciate you being an active member. Please share the load, many hands make a heavy workload light as a feather.

There are countless fraternal benefits to your membership. We will take time to review them and make sure you are not missing out on your fair share. Scholarships, widow and orphan benefits, insurance on unborn and newly born babies, Long Term Care, or retirement savings plans are all rewards for your membership. One fraternal benefit you can't afford to be without, and the purpose for the Knights of Columbus, is life insurance. Our original and only Charter from the State of Connecticut states our purpose "To render financial aid to its members and the beneficiaries of members." The *strong right arm of the Catholic Church* is ready to deliver for you, but you need to take the first step.

David T. Dempsey, PGK
Field Agent

Squires Report

The Squires have had a good start to the new year. We are continuing our commitment to our adopted soldier, Kevin Johnson in Iraq. We will be sending Kevin another package of appreciation for all that he does.

For Lent the Squires are supporting the Fish Fry by bussing tables and general cleaning duties. We have had great participation from your young men on this. Also, thank you to all who have supported your Squires Circle with the 50/50 drawings for our Circle on those two Fridays.

March 5 we participated in the Illinois State Squires Basketball Tournament. I will be posting a photo that was taken at this event on the bulletin board. It is a picture of all the young men state-wide who participated in this event holding hands, in prayer, in a large circle in the middle of the gym floor. It is inspiring indeed.

March 31 to April 2 is the Annual Squires State Convention. We will have a delegation at this event, with any luck I hope I can present to Council 4239 some acknowledgement awards for the fine work these dedicated young men have done this year. Please pray for a safe trip for all who attend.

Dan Ashbaker
Chief Counselor

Spelling Bee Champions Crowned at O'Fallon competition

Council #4239 hosted a local competition recently for the Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee Championship. Winners advanced to regional and state competitions.

This year's initial event was held on February 4 and the regional competition then followed on March 4. Both events were hosted by Council #4239.

Approximately 15 children competed in this year's competition, which is for ages 15 and under. Winners received certificates from the State Council recognizing their achievements as well as savings bonds from the Bank of O'Fallon.

Winners from the regional competition advanced to the Knights of Columbus State Spelling Bee held in Warrensburg on April 22.



Three children representing Council 4239 won the local Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee held on Feb. 4 and advanced to the Regional competition. Pictured from left to right are Deputy Grand Knight Jim Averkamp, 2nd place winner Caleb Vines, 1st place winner Colin McDonnell, 3rd place winner Nicole Halpin, and Youth Activities Chairman Rob Ratz.

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary is off and running this Spring. We are sponsoring two new service people, Josh & Brooklyn Becherer, son and daughter-in-law of Dan & Kathy Becherer, and grandson of Esther Becherer of St. Clare. We are proud to sponsor them and pray for their safety while overseas and for their safe return.

The Ladies are attending the Stations of the Cross at St. Clare on March 24 at 6:00 p.m., and the Living Stations at St. Nicholas on March 31 at 7:30 p.m. The Fiddler's Contest is April 1...yes, really. The Ladies will be selling desserts, so expect to be getting a call asking you to bake a cake or pie. You all are so very good about helping out and the workers have a great time watching and listening to the rehearsals downstairs.

We are again sponsoring our Mother Theresa \$500 Scholarship for the child or grandchild of an Auxiliary member in good standing. Applications are available at the OTHS Guidance Office and at the KC Hall on the bulletin board. Applications are due no later than April 11. At the April meeting we will be nominating new officers. Please think about how you can help your Auxiliary. The Ladies will be selling Chocolate Covered Strawberries for Mother's Day. Please watch your church bulletins and the bulletin board at the KC Hall for more information.

The Ladies Auxiliary is open to all practicing Catholic women age 18 or better. We meet the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the lower hall. Please come and see what we're all about.

Judy Lemansky
President

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O'Fallon Knightly News
O'Fallon Knights of Columbus
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Visit Our Web Site:
www.kc4239.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
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O'Fallon, Illinois 62269

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Chancellor
Recorder
Treasurer
Advocate
Warden
Inside Guard
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Trustee
Trustee
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Lecturer
District Deputy
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Membership Director

Surge Directors

Council

Community

Family
Church
Youth

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James A. Averkamp 628-9258
Eugene A. Bringaze III 234-9166
John R. Bechtold 624-6227
Russell V. Thoman Jr. 624-6420
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