

The **Knights of Columbus** is a Catholic, family, fraternal, service organization. Our key principles are Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Membership is open to all men who have reached 18 years of age, are practical Catholics, and who are in full communion with the Holy See.

**MATER DEI COUNCIL No. 9774** was founded on March 29, 1988. Our membership currently numbers over 200 men. The Council serves the local parishes and community through its many church, council, community, youth, and family activities. Some of our activities are coordinated through the Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus. The list of our activities changes from year to year to reflect the desires and interests of the Council membership and the needs of the community we serve. As the following listing demonstrates, our activities reflect a broad cross-section of interests. There is a place for YOU! Come join us!

### **CHURCH PROGRAMS**

#### **ROSARY**

During the months of May and October, Council Knights lead the Rosary each Thursday before Benediction. A Rosary is said outdoors in May near the Memorial Garden with all participating in the passing of the light.

#### **SHROVE TUESDAY DINNER**

The Council serves a pancake supper to over 200 people as part of the parish Lenten program to have families participate in the Way of the Cross.

#### **PARISH PICNIC**

Council Knights and their families serve our community by preparing and serving food at the St. Raphael's Annual Parish Picnic.

#### **POSTER CONTEST**

We sponsor a poster contest among young people in our Catholic schools. The posters are judged for their presentation of the theme "Keeping Christ in Christmas".

#### **SPRING CLEAN UP**

Knights and family members participate in the St. Raphael's Church grounds clean up in preparation for Easter Services.

### **FAMILY PROGRAMS**

#### **PRO-LIFE**

The Council coordinates the transportation and support of volunteers in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. A generous portion of the funds we raise for charity go to organizations such as the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center that support life.

### **SPORTS SOCIALS**

We sponsor a miniature golf tournament and trip to an Orioles game to encourage fraternity and family fellowship.

### **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

Each December, we prepare and serve food and gifts for parish families.

### **SOCIAL EVENTS**

The Council hosts dinners and other social events that are open to family members and guests.

### **YOUTH PROGRAMS**

#### **SPORTS CONTESTS**

The Council conducts contests in basketball and soccer that are open to youths of all ages. Winners advance to District and State competitions.

#### **YOUTH APPRECIATION AWARD**

Each year, our Council recognizes an eighth grade student from local Catholic schools whose record exemplifies strong academic, community and spiritual values.

#### **ESSAY CONTEST**

The Council conducts an essay contest and presents awards to a Catholic school student who writes on as assigned topic on Catholic values.

### **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

#### **HELPING THE HUNGRY**

Knights collect foodstuffs and donations for Manna Food Center in the late summer to assist the needy in Montgomery County. In addition, the Council participates in the Montgomery County Hunger Relief Drive in November.

#### **GARAGE-TO-ATTIC SALE**

The Council conducts a one day sale of household articles (books, clothing, toys, furniture, sporting equipment, housewares, etc.) to raise funds for local charities. We bring together almost 200 volunteers from our community to support this effort. Over the past thirteen years, we have raised over \$150,000 for charity.

#### **RAPHAEL HOUSE**

Council Knights provide equipment and services, as needed, to assist the elderly residents of the Raphael House.

#### **TEACHER AWARDS**

Our Council presents an award each year to an outstanding teacher at Catholic schools in our community.

### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

Our Council cooks for a picnic to celebrate and encourage Special Olympics athletes.

### **COUNCIL PROGRAMS**

#### **PARTIES & DINNERS**

The Council conducts social activities, such as the Installation Dinner, Christmas Dinner and Anniversary Dinner Dance, to build family and Council unity and fellowship. Wine tasting parties, which feature a particular region or theme, are hosted at the homes of Knights.

#### **GAMES**

Each year the Council cosponsors with St. Raphael a golf tournament with prizes and dinner. We also sponsor contract bridge games twice monthly for Knights and their spouses or guests.

#### **BLOOD DRIVE**

This activity by the Council provides an opportunity for parishioners and members to donate blood to the Red Cross.

### **STATE OF MARYLAND PROGRAMS**

#### **TOOTSIE ROLL CAMPAIGN**

Council members participate in the collection of funds for organizations that serve children with disabilities. Over \$50,000 is collected each year by local Councils in Montgomery County.

#### **CAR RAFFLE**

This State-wide fund raiser provides financial support for the State Scholarship Fund, religious vocations and local Council Activities.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you are interested in the Knights of Columbus, stop by the New Parishioner Table at the Coffee and Donut Social or drop in to one of our Open Houses during the year. You can also call:

Grand Knight: Patrick DeGraba 301-279-2873 or [pdegraba@comcast.net](mailto:pdegraba@comcast.net)

Council Website: [www.geocities.com/materdei9774](http://www.geocities.com/materdei9774)

#### **Knights of Columbus**

*Protecting Catholic Families for Generations, 1882-2005*

## **The Knights of Columbus**

### **Mater Dei Council No. 9774**



**Rockville, Maryland  
2005-2006**