



**Knights of Columbus**  
**Ocean City Council #9053**  
**9901 Coastal Highway**  
**Ocean City, Maryland 21842**

Ocean City Council # 9053 holds its general Council meetings begin at 6:30 PM on the first Wednesday of each month at the Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland 21842 or virtually based on COVID-19 restrictions. Prior to January, 2021, the officers held their business meetings beginning at 6:00 PM; in January, 2021, the officers decided to hold their meeting the Monday prior to general Council meetings. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, Council #9053 suspended holding its social meeting usually held on the third Wednesday of month from September to March. The social meetings would have a varied agenda with topics of interests such as: The Appalachia Group, Knight of Columbus Fraternal Benefits, Travel Guides; Community Awards, Crisis Preparedness and Crime Awareness and Prevention.

Although the physical Installation of Officers did not occur until 01 August 2019 at a special Mass followed by a Reception/Dinner, Council #9053 began its fiscal year 2019-2020 at the July 2019 meeting. DD Deputy Charles Dougherty reinstated these Officers for a second term at a regular business meeting in August 2020. The current officers, serving until July 2021, are:

POSITION	NAME	POSITION	NAME
CHAPLAIN	SK Rev. John Lunness	LECTURER	SK Michael Carozza
GRAND KNIGHT	SK Joseph Kostelac	ADVOCATE	SK Thomas Irwin
DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT	SK Thomas Herwig	INSIDE GUARD	SK Richard Thomas
CHANCELLOR	SK Joseph Lazzari	OUTSIDE GUARD	SK Brandon Reim
WARDEN	SK Edward Mardaga	OUTSIDE GUARD	SK Dennis Rasmussen
RECORDER	SK R. Donald Kyle	TRUSTEE 3 YEAR	SK Joseph Gangi
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	SK Dale Shepard	TRUSTEE 2 YEAR	SK Thomas Foglesong
TREASURER	SK Deacon Joseph Carraro	TRUSTEE 1 YEAR	SK Wayne Straight

**PROGRAMS DIRECTOR: SIR KNIGHT THOMAS PERGOLA**

**FAITH ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR: SIR KNIGHT STEVE MASTBROOK**

February 2020 ended on a spiritual note as we embraced the essence of Lent with Ash Wednesday services, and March began changing our lives and has continued into 2021. COVID-19 restrictions suspended and/or limited gatherings so Council #9053 could not hold/support its usual Faith activities, e.g., ‘Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament’, ‘Blessing of the Water’ and ‘Spiritual Reflection-Retreat’. Despite the limitations, Council #9053 held Rosary Prayer services, attended by Brothers: Tom Herwig, Wayne Straight, Steve Mastbrook, David Hesch, Tom Irwin, Tom Anderson, Tom Pergola and Chuck Lutz, each Thursday at Columbus Hall when possible and virtually the rest of the Thursdays; and we donated approximately \$1,100 to local Catholic Churches/parishes. Council #9053 is currently working on doing a virtual ‘Into the Breach’ series.

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR: SIR KNIGHT THOMAS FOGLESONG**

Council #9053 has had a very active, COVID-19 -designed Community program offering ‘pick up’ seafood nights, calendar raffle, Coats for Kids campaign, Helping Hand Program and Community Recognition. Since ‘eat-in’ options did not exist, Council #9053 decided to hold ‘pick up’ seafood nights to help raise money for its local charity donations: Cricket Center (\$250); Diakonia, Inc. (\$200); Grace Center for Maternal and Women’s Health (\$1,500); Jesse Klump Memorial Fund, Inc.

(\$200); National Law Enforcement (\$100); OC Parks and Recreation (\$300); Worcester County Humane Society (\$200). Council #9053 supported: the Most Blessed Sacrament School (MBSS) Hats and Gloves Program with hats, gloves and cash; and the St. Vincent de Paul Pantry by collecting non-perishable food items donations, as well as, being servers and case workers. As part of the Council #9053's Community Helping Hand Program Activities/Efforts, we executed a 'Mission of Mercy' building a ramp so that one of our Brothers could easily and safely exit and enter his home, as well as, provided him and his wife transportation to visit their terminally ill son, and currently, daily evening visits to this Brother after the death of his wife and son. Council #9053 makes periodical calls Brothers to check on them. Prior to COVID-19 shutting Columbus Hall, we provided a luncheon, featuring 'waiter-service' for cocktails through dessert, to thank the auxiliary women for supporting our Council. With "extremely limited" fund raiser capability, Council #9053 thought outside the box to support its annual Coats for Kids program. We asked Brothers and local parishioners to donate money, and to our surprise, we collected \$5,100—enough money to purchase and distribute over 220 coats to our local community. Although Council #9053 could not have an award ceremony to publicly recognize outstanding community workers, we did present the recipients privately.

### **LIFE ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR: KNIGHT KEVIN HUGHES**

From Council #9053's past support and interaction with the Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health (GCMWH) and from Brothers Kevin Hughes and Tom Anderson, Council #9053 realized that the Grace Center needed an ultrasound machine. Council #9053 dedicated one month of its bingo net, calling the effort 'BINGO for BABYS'. Our bingo net proceeds amounted to \$6,000.00, and with the additional donations of: \$1,000.00 from Assembly #2454; \$2,000.00 from the OC Lady Knights Auxiliary, Inc. of \$2,000.00; and \$4,000.00 from the Maryland State Council, Council #9053 raised \$13,000.00 – half the cost of a new ultrasound machine. Supreme matched the \$13,000.00, thus allowing us to purchase a new ultrasound machine for the Grace Center. Council #9053 received an additional \$750 above the cost of the ultrasound purchase so it donated these dollars to the Grace Center. In keeping with COVID-19 restrictions for travel/in person attendance, Brother Kevin Hughes sent our members an invitation to participate virtually via live stream for the 2021 National Prayer Vigil for Life. In support of the Novena for Life, Brother Tom Foglesong emailed the daily United States Conference of Catholic Bishops notifications to all its Brothers and Auxiliary Ladies. It was a great 9-day program in support of LIFE--natural life from conception to natural death and it was very well received. Council #9053 is currently working on having a Mass for Life of the Unborn and Easter Egg Party-Mothers' Day campaign to donate gifts cards/cash to GCMWH.

### **FAMILY ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR: SIR KNIGHT ROY FOREMAN**

If one thing COVID-19 has done, it shows how much Council #9053 believes in Food for Families. Council #9053 volunteers (Brothers Tom Herwig, Joe Zanetti, Jim Stone, Neil Foote, Richard Fox, Wayne Straight, Tom Irwin, Larry Gorwick and Auxiliary Ladies Judy Zanetti and Kathy Foote) collected over 3,600 pounds of food in addition to \$2,700 in cash and gifts cards and donated these to St. Vincent de Paul (Ocean City), Diakonia (Berlin) and The Joseph House (Salisbury). Council #9053 is planning on holding quarterly food drive in the future. Brother Tom Herwig provided the necessary supplies to MBSS and the local Catechism of Christian Doctrine (CCD) classes inviting the children to enter the 'Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest' in December. Council #9053 received 167 submissions that Brothers Tom Herwig, Joe Kostelac, Ken Lamont, Tom Pergola and their wives judged based on: expression of the theme, artistic quality, correct spelling and completeness of the posters.