



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

Ocean City Council # 9053 holds its general Council meetings beginning at 6:30 P.M on the first Wednesday of each month at the Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland 21842, with the Officers holding their business meetings just prior to the Council meetings beginning at 6:00 P.M. In July 2021, the officers decided to test holding their meetings Wednesday afternoon at 3 P.M. prior to the general Council meetings, but in September 2021, the officers selected a ZOOM online-format on the last Thursday of each month at 11:15 A.M. as a more appropriate time. With COVID-19 restrictions eased, Council #9053 reinstated its social meetings held on the third Wednesday of the month from September to March. The social meetings would have a varied agenda with topics of interests such as Community Suppers, Knight of Columbus Fraternal Benefits, Community Awards, Crisis Preparedness, and Crime Awareness and Prevention.

Although the physical Installation of Officers did not occur until 09 September at a special Mass followed by a Reception/Dinner, Council #9053 began its fiscal year 2021-2022 at the July 2021 meeting. District Deputy Charles Dougherty reinstated the Officers, listed below, and these officers will serve until July 2022.

POSITION	NAME	POSITION	NAME
CHAPLAIN	Open	LECTURER	SK Michael Carozza
GRAND KNIGHT	SK Thomas Herwig	ADVOCATE	SK Thomas Irwin
DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT	SK R. Donald Kyle	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 John Sharkey	TRUSTEE 3 YEAR	SK Charles O'Brien
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	SK Dale Shepard	TRUSTEE 2 YEAR	SK Thomas Foglesong
TREASURER	SK Deacon Joseph Carraro	TRUSTEE 1 YEAR	SK Joseph Kostelac

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR: SIR KNIGHT THOMAS PERGOLA

FAITH ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR: SIR KNIGHT STEVE MASTBROOK

With COVID-19 restrictions eased Council #9053 held/supported its usual Faith activities, e.g., ‘Blessing of the Water’, ‘Spiritual Reflection-Retreat’, Memorial Mass, Weekly Rosary and RSVP. Council #9053 brought to fruition several new efforts: Into the Breach Series, Bingo Luncheons to Support our local Catholic Churches, Blessed Michael McGivney Masses and prayer hour. Council #9053 has recently collaborated with St. Luke’s Religious Education to do joint efforts to embrace further the Domestic Church and pray for peace by holding a Living Rosary for Peace that 60 some people attended. Probably one of our most notable Faith efforts was our ‘in person’ and Zoom ‘Rosary for Baby Emmy’ where Brother Knights from Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney's Church in New Fairfield, Connecticut, join us via Zoom. Although separated by distance, we came together as a group in prayer.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR: SIR KNIGHT THOMAS FOGLESONG

Council #9053 had a very active Community Program. We offered ‘eat-in” or ‘pick up’ seafood nights, Lenten fish fry, calendar raffle, Coats for Kids, Box of Joy and Tootsie Roll campaigns, Breakfasts to support the Home of the Brave and Charity, Blood Drives, Community Suppers, Soccer Challenge, Keep Christ in Christmas, Helping Hand Program, Leave No Brother Behind and Community Recognition Awards. Since ‘eat-in’ options are just beginning to pick-up, Council #9053 decided to continue ‘pick up’ seafood nights to help raise money for its local charity donations. We

donated: \$250 - Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore; \$500 - Coastal Hospice; \$200 - Ocean City Life Saving Station Museum; \$2150 - Maryland Coastal Bays Program; \$250 - Four Steps Therapeutic Riding Program; \$100 - Backstreet Bikes; \$300 - Northside Park; \$500 - Most Blessed Sacrament School; \$1,000 - The Joseph House. As part of the Council #9053's Community Helping Hand Program Activities/Efforts, we continued our 'Mission of Mercy' of daily evening visits to one of our Brother after the death of his wife and son. We also executed a program through which we contacted every Brother in our Council via telephone or personal visits to check on them, as well as, sent greeting cards to the residents in a local assisted-living facility. With "limited" fundraiser capability, Council #9053 once again thought outside the box to support its annual Coats for Kids (CFK) and Box of Joy (BOJ) Programs. We asked for donation to supplement our available funds, and we collected an additional \$1,500 for CFK and \$762 for BOJ—enough money to purchase and distribute over 144 coats to our local community and 25 Boxes of Joy for children in developing countries. Council #9053's Tootsie Roll campaign collected \$4,090 for the Worcester County Developmental Center (Berlin). Although Council #9053 could not have an award ceremony to recognize publicly outstanding community workers, we did present awards to the recipients privately.

LIFE ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR: KNIGHT KEVIN HUGHES

Having an ongoing relationship with the Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health (GCMWH), Council #9053 knew first-hand of GCMWH's challenges and the need for operating funds. We, therefore, decided to donate January's bingo net proceeds to GCMWH. Hence, we called this effort 'Bingo for Babies', and it yielded net proceeds amounting to \$4,371, which included a \$1,000 donation from an individual who wished to remain anonymous. Council #9053 held a special Easter-Mother's Day appeal and collected gift cards, checks and cash for the GCMWH. In keeping with COVID-19 restrictions, this year's physical support for Life was a Mass celebrated at St. Mary Star of The Sea Church (Ocean City) without the normal breakfast and Life Program. Brother Kevin Hughes coordinated with Fr. Solomon (Holy Savior) to host a Mass for the Unborn. Brother Tom Pergola designed a colorful flyer to promote our effort, and PGK Joe Kostelac sent out e-mail blasts that encouraged participation. Additionally, Brother Tom Foglesong emailed daily on-line links to the Novena for Life that many attended virtually. Council #9053 is currently working on having a weekend of Masses for People with Special Needs.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR: VACANT

With increased prices and hardship, Council #9053 continued to hold Food for Families drives. 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 2,500 pounds of food in addition to \$2,200 in cash and gifts cards and donated these to St. Vincent de Paul (Ocean City), Diakonia (Berlin) and The Joseph House (Salisbury). Several Brothers worked as servers and caseworkers at the St. Vincent de Paul Pantry (Ocean City). Brother Mike Carozza provided the necessary supplies to Most Blessed Sacrament School and the St. Luke's Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) classes inviting the children to enter the 'Keep Christ in Christmas' poster contest. Council #9053 received over 300 submissions that Brothers Mike Carozza, Tom Herwig, Tom Pergola and their wives judged based on: expression of the theme, artistic quality, correct spelling and completeness of the posters. Council #9053 coordinated this year's Consecration to the Holy Family with St. Luke's CCD department, and together, the K of C and CCD group lead the parishioners in reciting the Prayer for the Consecration to the Holy Family (CHF) at six Masses celebrated on 8-9 January 2022. The priests also used CHF as the theme of their homilies. Council #9053 made a special \$1000 donation to Diakonia (Berlin) for helping families, men, women and veterans to provide emergency housing, food assistance and resources to help them get back on their feet.