**About the Knights of Columbus and Council 5264**

Welcome to the Knights of Columbus, a fraternal benefits society with a membership of

approximately 1.7 million Catholic men. We are found throughout the United States and its territories and in countries throughout the world, including Canada, Cuba, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Guam, Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Philippines, Ukraine, Poland, Puerto Rico and Spain.
The Knights promote spiritual growth and the principles of the Catholic faith. The key principles of our order are Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

**Brief History**

Father Michael J. McGivney, with a small group of men, established the Knights of Columbus

In the basement of St. Mary’s Church in New Haven, CT. Fr. McGivney’s vision to provide assistance for member families in the event of sickness and death, to strengthen the members in our Catholic Faith and family life, and to support our priests and bishops. The order was officially chartered in the State of Connecticut on March 29, 1882.

**Our Local Council Activities**

The Knights of Columbus are not a service club, but Knights are men of service. Mary, Mother of the Church parish is home to Our Lady of the Prairie, Council 5264. We currently number about 160 members, from ages 21 to 90 plus, making Council 5264 is one of the largest and most active councils in the province of Manitoba. Thanks to our many fund raising efforts, we are able to support the parish, as well as charities and worthwhile activities in our community, and beyond. Of equal import, our members donate thousands of hours a year volunteering in the parish, and the community.

The funds required to support our charitable donation program are raised through various activities including the Spring and Fall garage sales, Inter Council Charity Draw ticket sales, Grey Cup pool ticket sales, the annual Parish Fish Fry, Artarama, special events such as concerts, as well as member donations. There is a modest annual membership fee, to cover council operating expenses.

*Parish Support and Activities*:

 Our council provides Pancake breakfasts, the Keep Christ in Christmas Colouring Contest, and

 (with the CWL) the Annual Children’s Advent. Council offers two (2) scholarships each year.

 We provide yearly financial support to the parish, as well as support to the Vacation Bible School,

 Parish Youth Groups, World Youth day participants and the Parish Library Fund.

 Council 5264 purchased the parish AED, and assisted with appliance purchases for the hall kitchen.

 We built the parish garage, did several landscaping projects on the parish grounds, set up

 and take down the inside and outside Christmas Manger scenes, as well as the

 Christmas signage.

 Knights serve the parish as readers, ushers, ministers of communion, singers, musicians and

 Hospitality and serve coffee after mass. We are members of the Pastoral Council, Board of

 Administration and Parish Liturgy Committee. We help at most parish activities, including the

 annual fall supper, the post Easter Vigil celebration, and the annual parish barbecue.

*Community Activities*:

Council 5264 hosts several blood donor clinics every year. On behalf of the parish, Knights

deliver Chrismas hampers. Members serve as volunteers, and organizers, with many local

community groups, as well as volunteering with local branches of national and international

groups and agencies. Southpark Estates is the result of a Council 5264 initiative.

*Charitable Support Outside of the Parish*

Council 5264 donates in support of a number of charities and worthwhile groups including:

 Agape Table, Concordia Hip and Knee Foundation, Pregnancy and Family Support Services,

 ESK-OMI Missions, the International Peace Gardens, L’Arche Winnipeg, League for Life

 Manitoba, Rossbrook House, Sri Lanka Orphanage, St Amant Foundation, St. Benedict’s

 Foundation, MS Society of Manitoba, Development and Peace, Winnipeg Habitat for

 Humanity, Sisters of Charity, Riverview Health Care, Chez Nous, Sierra Leone Nationale of

 Manitoba, Diocese of Churchill Hudson Bay, Operation Walk, KofC float Santa Claus Parade,
 Life Vision, Addiction Foundation of Manitoba, Canadian Wheelchair Foundation. In addition,

 donations are sent to various disaster relief efforts. In keeping with Fr. McGivney’s vision, we

 provide support for seminarians, and assist members of our order (and their families) in distress

 or dire need.

*Fraternal Activities*

 While service to our parish, and works of charity, are the primary focus of our members,

 we enjoy many fraternal activities including golf, curling, and darts, as well as socialization

 after general meetings and events

**Additional Membership Benefits**

Since conception, the order’s primary objective has been to provide monetary assistance to families of deceased members. Over the years, the Knights of Columbus has become one of the most successful,

and best rated, insurance companies in North America. Insurance is not compulsory, but is available to

members, and their immediate families.

Links to Information on our insurance program and contact information for our fraternal field agent can be found in the Knights of Columbus section of the parish webpage.

**Who is eligible to be a member?**

The Knights of Columbus is the largest lay Catholic order in the world, and continues to grow through recruitment. Membership is offered to any practical Catholic man, aged 18 or older.
(A practical Catholic is one who lives up to the Ten Commandments and the Precepts of the Catholic Church.)