

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

A Higher Purpose

Promote the true spirit of Christmas in our homes, schools, parishes and communities. Councils will evangelize society through their faithful acts, celebrations and a variety of activities.

Overview

The Knights of Columbus offers multiple activities that promote Christmas and the season of Advent in their proper context: Journey to the Inn, Light Up for Christ, Crèche or Advent Wreath Blessing, and the Christmas Poster Contest. These programs are centered on the example of the Holy Family and the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The new Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) Program brings all KCIC activities together under one umbrella. It encourages councils to prompt their neighbors to shift from a preoccupation with materialism to the light of Christ and the spirit of giving. KCIC activities include whatever efforts best suit the parish and community of a particular council and do not need to originate from the Supreme Council.

Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Conduct activities promoting the true spirit of Christmas and the importance of Christ's birth and message.
- Promote all activities in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

Action Steps

1. Conduct activities promoting the true spirit of Christmas and the importance of Christ's birth and message.
2. If needed, order KCIC Program resources through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
3. Prior to each event you conduct, consider crafting and distributing a tailored release to local media.
4. Build public interest for your KCIC Program! Promote all activities in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
 - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be made specifically by your council or ordered through Supplies Online)
 - Bulletin announcements
 - Pulpit announcements
 - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
5. Wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel to all your KCIC activities and have the council membership director bring brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!



6. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
7. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms at the end of the Christmas season and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY FAMILY

A Higher Purpose

Invite each family in your parish to consecrate themselves to the Holy Family. Revitalize our parishes by urging our parish families to devote themselves to the ideal model of familial love set by Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Overview

To help families live out the joy of Christ, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori has composed a prayer through which families will come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family. In this prayer, we ask for the aid or intercession of the perfect son Jesus Christ, Mary the perfect mother, and Joseph who is a model for every father. Councils will guide their parishes and community to understand and offer this important and impactful, which also gains a plenary indulgence for all who participate. Preparing for the Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event. It is choosing a way of life for your family. Through this consecration, each participant is consciously choosing to be a beacon of God's love through His Church.

Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Work with your pastor on conducting a Consecration to the Holy Family.
- Ensure that all parish families are properly prepared for the consecration.
- Promote the consecration in your parish and community.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on conducting a Consecration to the Holy Family in your parish.
2. Order a good quantity of Consecration to the *Holy Family Prayer Cards* (#10371) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
3. Set a date for the consecration and announce it to your parish a month before the official day.
4. Distribute *Consecration to the Holy Family Prayer Cards* (#10371) at Masses the week before the consecration. Also place a good supply of prayer cards in your church and council hall.
5. Although the formal consecration will occur at all Masses on a chosen Sunday, serious and mindful preparation for at least a week prior is a major aspect of this program. To ensure that all members of your parish are fully participating and readying themselves for the consecration, your council should consider:
 - Asking your pastor to make an announcement at all Sunday Masses the week before the consecration. Ask him to explain what a consecration is, why it is being undertaken, and how to properly prepare.
 - Suggesting that each family pray together each day for the week before the consecration. Ideally, this will lead them to continue the practice, at least on a weekly basis, after the consecration has occurred.



- Encouraging each family to intentionally fast from something ahead of the consecration. This fast should last at least a week leading up to the consecration. It is strongly encouraged to fast from something that would normally be consumed or an activity that is regularly done. Fasting helps to discipline our minds and hearts and moves us to be more focused on God.
 - Strongly encouraging each member of all parish families to go to confession before the consecration. (Parishioners will not gain a plenary indulgence unless they ensure to received the sacrament of reconciliation as part of their preparation.)
 - Hosting an event in the middle of the week prior to the Sunday consecration. One idea for this event is to invite a guest speaker to discuss the importance of consecrating oneself to the Holy Family, the model of the Holy Family, the meaning and impact of consecrations, or related themes. Be sure to set aside time at your event for prayer in community. Consider praying the rosary together and be sure to recite the consecration prayer together in preparation.
6. Build public interest! Promote the Consecration to the Holy Family in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
 - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
 - Bulletin announcements
 - Pulpit announcements
 - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
 7. On the chosen day, distribute Consecration to the *Holy Family Prayer Cards* (#10371) once again. Under the direction of your pastor, recite the *Consecration to the Holy Family Prayer* together as a parish family at all Sunday Masses. If he is willing, ask your pastor to also incorporate themes relating to the consecration and the Holy Family in his homily.
 8. Following the consecration, host an event in the parish or council hall for all parish families to celebrate the consecration together! Have family-friendly games ready for everyone to enjoy. Remind all present that this consecration holds lasting impacts. Although the time of preparation has ended and the consecration has occurred, devotion to the Holy Family continues, and we should always strive to resemble their ideal model of a loving family.
 9. At the celebration event, be sure to wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
 10. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
 11. Following the consecration and celebration, update the community on the success of your program by distributing an announcement to local media, along with energizing photographs from the event.
 12. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

Please Note: Although this consecration is traditionally celebrated around the Feast of the Holy Family, councils are encouraged to hold this program at any time during the year.



FAMILY FULLY ALIVE

A Higher Purpose

Help families place God and the Catholic faith at the center of their lives, year-round. Using the Family Fully Alive Booklet as a devotional guide, this program provides monthly themes, reflections, meditations, and group projects.

Overview

During his visit to the Philippines, Pope Francis cited the need for “holy and loving families to protect the beauty and truth of the family in God’s plan and to be an example for other families” (Pope Francis, Address to Families at the Mall of Asia Arena, 2015). The Family Fully Alive monthly devotions are concrete ways that Knights of Columbus, in solidarity with Pope Francis, can support the growth of holy and loving families in the Church.

The Family Fully Alive Program asks families to invite God into their homes and cultivates each family as a miniature domestic church. To this end, the program provides monthly themes, scripture verses and activities. Through prayer and reflection, each family has the opportunity to grow in holiness together. This is a flexible program that can be started at any time of the year and continues year-round. Councils will order physical booklets to distribute or direct parish families to program resources on kofc.org, all available at no cost.

Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on promoting Family Fully Alive in your parish and community.
- Plan and carry out an awareness campaign for the Family Fully Alive Program in your parish and community.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on promoting Family Fully Alive in your parish and community.
2. Order a good quantity of *Family Fully Alive Booklets* (#10162) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
3. With your pastor’s approval, place a portion of *Family Fully Alive Booklets* (#10162) in a prominent location in your parish hall or the vestibule / narthex of the Church.
4. Design an awareness campaign to promote the use of *Family Fully Alive Booklets* (#10162). Potential activities include:
 - Distribute *Family Fully Alive Booklets* (#10162) directly after Mass or catechism classes
 - Distribute *Family Fully Alive Booklets* (#10162) in conjunction with your council’s Family Week Program
 - Host a quarterly Family Fully Alive Night, inviting all parish families participating in the program to come together in fellowship and community – be sure to plan fun family games for everyone to participate in and include a prayer and meditation portion of each evening



- If possible, encourage your pastor to touch upon aspects of the Family Fully Alive theme and meditations into one of his homilies each month
 - Submit a post in your parish bulletin showcasing the Family Fully Alive project or theme for each month
5. Build public interest for the activities in your promotional campaign and the program overall! Promote Family Fully Alive in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
- Prominently display promotional posters
 - Bulletin announcements
 - Pulpit announcements
 - Posting on your council and parish website/ social media pages
6. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

FAMILY OF THE MONTH/YEAR

A Higher Purpose

Promote and support the development of strong and vibrant families. Each council establishes a committee to recognize a deserving Family of the Month and Family of the Year with potential for recognition on the international level.

Overview

Each month, the council Family of the Month committee selects one parish family that models Christian family values and visibly lives them every day. Once a year, each participating council also selects one of the previous twelve Family of the Month winners to represent the council/parish as the potential international Family of the Year. The Knights of Columbus Family of the Year is chosen by the Supreme Council and recognized each year at the annual Supreme Convention.

Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Working with your pastor, assemble a committee of council and parish leaders to serve as that year's Family of the Month Committee.
- Each month, ensure that the winning family is selected and formally recognized in the parish and local media.
- At the end of the fraternal year, prior to your state convention, select one of the previous twelve monthly winning families to represent your council and parish as Family of the Year.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, put together a committee of council and parish leaders to serve as that year's Family of the Month Committee.
2. Order the *Family of the Month Kit* through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
3. Each month, hold a committee meeting to select the Family of the Month. To be selected as Family of the Month, each family should stand out as an exemplary model to others in the parish. They should meet the following criteria:
 - Is the family tight-knit? Does the family spend quality time together?
 - Does the family attend weekly Mass together? Does the family pray together outside of Mass?
 - Has the family made significant contributions to the parish and church community?
 - Does the family serve as a model of Catholic family values?
4. Once the Family of the Month has been selected, formally present the *Family of the Month Certificate* (#1843) to them. Make sure that they are duly recognized! This could be after a Mass, at a Knights of Columbus event, or at another parish event. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.



5. Use the Family of the Month sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
6. Recognize the Family of the Month in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
 - Bulletin announcements
 - Pulpit announcements
 - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
7. At the end of the fraternal year, prior to your state convention, select one of the previous twelve monthly winning families to represent your council and parish as Family of the Year. Make sure to contact your state family chairman to stay informed of deadlines and where to send entries.
8. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.



FAMILY PRAYER NIGHT

A Higher Purpose

Strengthen the bonds within our parishes and build faith-filled families. This is an opportunity for council members, their families, and the whole parish community to come together once a month for an evening of prayer, dinner, and fellowship.

Overview

Catholics often struggle with the reality that they do not have the opportunity to socialize and/or pray with other faith-filled Catholic families. It can be quite a challenge to raise our children in the faith when their only exposure comes from Mom and Dad. Put plainly, the majority of our time can easily be spent in secular circles unless we intentionally create ways to live out the domestic church.

Family Prayer Night is an opportunity for children to be exposed to regular people living their faith in a casual setting. Families of council members, as well as other Catholic families within the parish and community, will gather for prayer, dinner and fellowship. Multiple groups can be formed and families are encouraged to rotate between these groups.

Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Promote attendance at Family Prayer Nights in the parish, council, and community.
- Coordinate which families are willing to host and/or participate in the event.
- Work with participating families to set dates for Family Prayer Nights, well in advance.
- Ensure a welcoming, joyous, and reverent atmosphere at all Family Prayer Nights.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

Action Steps

1. Before preparations begin for your Family Prayer Night Program, assess interest among your council, parish, and larger community to see which families would participate. Ask your pastor for his input and suggestions on potential host families.
2. Build public interest before each Family Prayer Night! Promote the event in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
 - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
 - Bulletin announcements
 - Pulpit announcements
 - Posting on your council and parish website/social media pages
3. The Family Prayer Night chairman should strongly consider hosting the first Prayer Night to model the proper format and launch the program.
4. Coordinate a schedule for upcoming Prayer Nights. The same day every month does not necessarily need to be used. That said, families who regularly attend may prefer a certain day of the week. Make sure that Family Prayer Nights are scheduled *three to four months in advance* so that they can be properly advertised and families can plan ahead.



5. Before each event, remind attending families that the meal at Family Prayer Night is potluck-style. Suggest that families bring a side or main dish to share, as their means allow. The Family Prayer Night chairman should work with that month's host family to coordinate the potluck, to the best of his ability.
6. A typical Family Prayer Night should ideally last between two and three hours, with guests leaving as needed. The schedule should include, but not be limited to:
 - Introductory period to meet the other families
 - Prayer in community
 - A fun activity such as a game
 - Meal and social time
 - Concluding prayer
7. On the day of the event, consider wearing Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and bring Knights of Columbus brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
8. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

Guidelines

- **Purpose:** The purpose of Family Prayer Night is to embody the domestic church by having a fun gathering of regular people, living their faith in a casual setting. The goal is not to discuss high-level theology, but to simply enjoy family and faith.
- **Prayers:** The prayers said should be Catholic and chosen by Family Prayer Night participants. Allow prayers to be generated organically and relate to the events in the lives of those present, as opposed to following a rigid prescription for the night. If you need help getting started, consider using the resources available in the Knights of Columbus Catholic Information Service *Building the Domestic Church Series*, particularly:
 - #309 - *Prayer Time*
 - #319 - *A Scriptural Rosary for the Family*
 - #304 - *Lord, Teach Us to Pray*
- **Intentions:** There are many life-changing events taking place every day in the lives of our council members and parish families. This group is the perfect place to discuss and to pray for guidance on milestone events such as an upcoming wedding, anniversary or birth. It is also an opportunity to offer support in cases of illness, death or other concern.
- **Family Inclusion:** Since this is a Family Prayer Night, one of the few rules is that every family member should be able to participate, in some form. For example, praying the rosary may be a bit mature for a toddler, but he/she can drop a marble in a cup to count the prayers or place a flower in a vase for every decade. There are simple but meaningful ways to incorporate all into the prayer and joy of the night!
- **Pastor Involvement:** Invite your parish priest, but do not pressure him to preside over the evening. Allow him the opportunity to enjoy the evening as a guest, in the relaxed family atmosphere.
- **Frequency:** Family Prayer Nights are intended to be conducted regularly. In order to fulfill the requirements of the program, Family Prayer Nights should occur at least quarterly, four times during the fraternal year. Hosting more prayer nights is better and monthly Family Prayer Nights are ideal!
- **Speakers:** Consider inviting someone from the parish or council to explain their vocation/job and what brought them to that position – or a more formal Catholic presenter.



FAMILY WEEK

A Higher Purpose

Dedicate a week to celebrate our families. Councils plan a special week for their parish celebrating family life. Activities presented in this program will strengthen the parish community and affirm the central importance of Catholic family life.

Overview

Knights of Columbus councils will dedicate a special week of the year to recognize the vital importance of families as the foundation of our domestic church and to promote Catholic family values. When choosing a week, councils should consider factors that might affect parishioner schedules such as school vacations, holidays and other local events. Though traditionally celebrated in the summer to commemorate the birth and death of our founder, Venerable Michael J. McGivney, this program can take place anytime during the year.

Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Plan a schedule of fun events that affirm faith and strengthen family ties.
- Order the *Family Week Program Kit* through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
- Build public interest for the week's events!
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his recommendations on organizing a Family Week.
2. Designate a specific week for your family celebrations. Choose a time that allows as many people as possible to participate. Be mindful of schedules of both area youth and adults and other events such as school vacations, holidays and local activities.
3. Plan a schedule of fun events that affirm faith and strengthen family ties. Ideally, the week of activities should begin with Mass on Sunday and conclude the following Sunday.
4. Order the *Family Week Program Kit* through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
5. Prior to the start of your Family Week, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
6. Build public interest for the week's events! Promote the Family Week activities in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
 - Prominently display promotional posters (found in the *Family Week Program Kit*)
 - Bulletin announcements
 - Pulpit announcements
 - Posting on your council and parish website/ social media pages



7. Celebrate your Family Week! Remember that family prayer should play an important role in all of the activities that your council conducts during the week.
8. At each event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards #921A*). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
9. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph each event.
10. Following your Family Week, update the community on the success of all of your activities by amending the Family Week sample announcement and distributing it to the local media, along with energizing photographs from the events.
11. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.



FOOD FOR FAMILIES

A Higher Purpose

Help end hunger in communities across North America. Many in our communities are struggling through hardship and unable to provide food to their families. The goal of Food for Families is to ensure that as few as possible go to bed hungry each night. A featured program, Food for Families counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.

Overview

Knights of Columbus are committed to helping end hunger through the Food for Families Program which has donated millions of dollars and millions of pounds of food toward this end. Council and parish families will raise funds to support their local food pantries, food banks and soup kitchens. For every \$500 or 1,000 pounds of food donated, the Supreme Council will refund \$100 back to the council – up to a maximum of \$500 per council per fraternal year. Though in-kind donation of food is valuable, leaders of hunger-relief organizations often comment that financial contributions can be stretched even further and allow nonprofits to procure the exact items needed by the organization and its clients.

Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Set an annual goal for your Food for Families Program.
- Conduct various events in your parish and community in order to reach your goal!
- Promote each event in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts.
- Ensure that the proper procedures are followed in order to receive the refund for your council.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

Action Steps

1. Set an annual goal for your Food for Families Program.
2. Contact a local food bank, food pantry or soup kitchen to inform them of your intentions and to initiate a partnership.
3. Conduct various events in your parish and community in order to reach your goal!
4. Prior to each event, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
5. Build public interest for your program! Promote each event in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
 - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
 - Bulletin announcements
 - Pulpit announcements
 - Posting on your council and parish website/social media pages



6. On the day of each event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards #921A*). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
7. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
8. Once your goal is reached, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission to obtain credit for your program. Remember to retain copies for your council records.
9. Proudly display your Food for Families participation plaque in your parish or council hall and continue to add to it by participating every year!

Please note: Participating in Food for Families Program does not satisfy the programming requirements for the Helping Hands Program. The two activities are separate and cannot be double-counted.

GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY PROMOTION

A Higher Purpose

Bring families into more robust practice and better understanding of our Catholic faith and the triduum. In an effort to increase parish attendance and involvement, councils will conduct a promotional campaign to educate their parishes on the vital importance of Good Friday.

Overview

Despite Good Friday's central role in the heart of Christianity, attendance at services remains low. In an effort to change this, councils will encourage participation in Good Friday services through a promotional campaign. Setting an example for their community, Knights will attend Good Friday services with their families and work with their pastors to encourage increased parishioner involvement at these liturgies. In conjunction with these efforts, councils will also work to educate their parishes about the plight of Christians in the Holy Land.

Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Working with your pastor, obtain his recommendations on conducting the Good Friday Family Promotion Program.
- Plan and implement a thoughtful promotional campaign to encourage greater attendance at church services at your parish on Good Friday.
- Organize council members and their families to celebrate the Good Friday services together.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his recommendations on conducting the Good Friday Family Promotion Program.
2. Plan a thoughtful promotional campaign to encourage parishioners and the greater community to attend church services at your parish on Good Friday. Incorporate a call to action to support Christians struggling in the Middle East today.

Promote Good Friday in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:

- Beginning on Ash Wednesday, promote Good Friday services at Friday Fish Fries and other parish and council meetings and events throughout the Lenten season. Be sure to give plenty of reminders in the weeks leading up to Good Friday.
- Ask council members to take direct action and encourage their family and friends to attend.
- Provide council members and the parish community a copy of *Christ: Lord and Savior* (#358) to help them contemplate who Jesus is and the sacrifices he made.
- Have the *Christian Refugee Relief Prayer Cards* (#10340) available in the parish and council hall to raise visibility of the issues affecting the Middle East.



- Request the contact information for elderly, sick or non-driving parishioners from your pastor and assist them in attending Good Friday services.
 - Prior to Good Friday, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
 - Prominently display the promotional poster *By Your Holy Cross* (#10573) in your parish and council hall. This resource can be ordered through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
 - Develop bulletin announcements explaining the central nature of Good Friday.
 - Make pulpit announcements on the central nature of Good Friday.
 - Post on your council and parish website / social media pages.
3. Set the example in your parish! Organize council members and their families to celebrate the Good Friday services together.
 4. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

Please note: Conducting Good Friday Family Promotion Program does not satisfy the programming requirements for the Christian Refugee Relief Program. The two activities are separate and cannot be double-counted.