

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the time commitment?

As little or as much time as you want.

Our monthly meeting consists of 60-90 minutes on business with an opportunity to socialize over a few beers or sodas from 9:00-@10:30 PM. Attendance at the meetings is optional, but it's a great way to meet fellow Knights.

Is this the new "Men's Club" of St. Clement Parish?

Although members of Knights of Columbus are all men over the age of 18, it is NOT a new "Men's Club" at St. Clement Parish. The Knights are part of a worldwide, highly-structured organization that has had great staying power over the years.

How can I join?

Contact somebody you know is a Knight and voice your interest in joining. They will submit your name to the Council, the recruiter for our Council, will contact you. Your job is to fill out an application (Form 100) and deliver the completed application with fee of \$45. That's all you need to join the Knights.

After receiving your completed paperwork and check, we will schedule you to take the First Degree initiation rite. After completing the rite you officially become a Knight.

What are the benefits of joining?

Benefits of joining the Knights of Columbus include:

- *COLUMBIA* MAGAZINE – Free subscription to the Order's monthly magazine examining issues of concern to Knights, Catholics and families.
- KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS ROSARY – Blessed by the supreme chaplain, presented during the First Degree exemplification to each new member.
- DAILY MASS OF REMEMBRANCE AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH – Mass for deceased members and their wives, and deceased members of the Squires program, at birthplace of the Order.
- INSURANCE – Portfolio of top-quality life insurance, long-term care, and annuity products exclusively for members and their families.
- FAMILY FRATERNAL BENEFIT – For eligible families: a) Pays \$1,500 for the child who dies before the age of 61 days; b) Pays \$750 for the child who is stillborn at least 20 weeks after conception; c) Offers guaranteed-issue insurance up to \$5,000 to any child under age 18.
- ORPHAN BENEFIT – \$80 monthly allotment for orphans of eligible families; up to \$7,000 in college scholarships available.
- MEMBER/SPOUSE FRATERNAL BENEFIT – Accidental death coverage for member and spouse at no cost.
- WIDOW BENEFITS – a) Continues to be covered under the Member/Spouse Fraternal Benefit; b) May purchase life insurance, long-term care insurance, or annuities up to one year after insured member's death; c) Receives a free lifetime subscription to *Columbia*; d) Eligible with her children for scholarships, student loans, etc.
- SCHOLARSHIPS – Scholarship programs for higher education available to members, their spouses and children.
- LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT – Opportunity to build personal leadership skills, public speaking ability, organization skills, etc.
- FOURTH DEGREE – Eligibility to join the "Patriotic Degree."
- HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP at Age 70 with 25 years of membership.
- MEMBERSHIP CARD – Entitles participation in all Catholic, fraternal and social activities in nearly 13,000 councils throughout the world.

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- ACTIVITIES – FAMILY/YOUTH/RELIGIOUS/SOCIAL/ATHLETIC – Participation in a variety of programs and activities conducted by local councils.

What is the financial commitment?

The financial commitment is payment of annual dues of \$45.

Do I have to wear a plumed hat, a cape, and carry a sword?

No, not unless you want to and have the qualification to become a member of an Honor Guard.

What are the "Degree's" of membership?

There are four degrees within the Knights of Columbus. Each degree ceremony imparts a lesson on the Order's core virtues of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

Are the Knights of Columbus a "secret society"?

The Knights of Columbus is not a "secret society." The only secrets kept among Knights are the ceremonies that surround the initiation into the four degrees of knighthood.