



# Knights Digest



Vol. 66 No. 1

Council #4504  
1034 Jeanette Avenue  
Union, New Jersey 07083 (908) 686-4504

September 2024



## Calendar of Events 2024

September 9th.....Council Meeting 8:10 PM  
October 12th.....Past Grand Knights Dinner  
October 3rd.....Bereavement Ministry Starts  
October 14th.....Council Meeting 8:10 PM  
November 11th.....Council Meeting 8:10 PM  
December 9th .....Council Meeting 8:10 PM

## 2025

January 13th .....Council Meeting 8:10 PM  
February 10th .....Council Meeting 8:10 PM  
March 10th .....Council Meeting 8:10 PM  
April 14th .....Council Meeting 8:10 PM  
May 12th .....Council Meeting 8:10 PM  
June 9th .....Council Meeting 8:10 PM

Dates are subject to change. Refer to our website for the latest information:

<https://www.kofc4504.org/events>

## Introducing the Council #4504 Officers for the Columbian Year 2024-2025

Grand Knight..... Joseph Burlew, PGK  
Deputy Grand Knight .....Eugenio Gonzalez  
Chancellor ..... Roberto Lopez  
Warden ..... Joseph Smela  
Recorder ..... Mike Harms  
Treasurer..... Greg Jones  
Fin. Secretary ..... Steve Nagy PGK PFN  
Inside Guard .....Romeo Puertollono  
Outside Guard .....Dante R. Tiongco  
Membership Director ..... Vacant  
Program Director..... Vacant  
Lecturer ..... Raymond Gora, PFN  
Advocate..... Stephen F. Hehl  
3rd. Yr. Trustee ..... Gerry Aponte PGK  
2nd Yr. Trustee..... Phillip Cababe, PGK  
1st Yr. Trustee ..... Vacant

The following is a list of Brother Knights from Council 4504 who have passed away during the month of August 2024:

Name	Age	Location
Antonio Guardia	82	Union, NJ
James M Lloyd	63	Roselle Park, NJ
Thomas J McGarvey, PGK	80	Union, NJ
James F Meehan	71	Peoria, AZ
Howard Rhodes	88	Middlesex, NJ



## Knigh Digest

This bulletin is published monthly, by and in the interest of the Knights of Columbus Union Council 4504 and registered as third class matter April 23, 1958, at the Union Post Office, Union, NJ.

**RULES FOR SUBMISSION:** Submissions for consideration are due in writing by the 15th of the month for the following month. Please mail or drop off submission, with contact information to:

**Tom Dudek**  
**Knigh Digest Editor**  
**549 Robinson Ter.**  
**Union, NJ 07083**

or preferably via email to: [tomdudek@outlook.com](mailto:tomdudek@outlook.com)

You must clearly identify all people in photos submitted and at what council event the photo was taken. Photos with alcoholic beverages will not be considered. Photos may also be submitted via email as hi-resolution image files. Hard copy photos will only be returned when accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

## Council Officers

*Chaplain*..... Rev. Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu  
*District Deputy*..... Michael Willemse, PGK  
*Grand Knight* ..... Joseph Burlew, PGK  
*Deputy Grand Knight* .....Eugenio Gonzalaz  
*Chancellor*..... Roberto Lopez  
*Warden*..... Joseph Smela  
*Recorder*..... Mike Harms  
*Treasurer* ..... Greg Jones  
*Fin. Secretary*..... Steve Nagy, PGK, PFN  
*Inside Guard* ..... Romeo Puertollono  
*Outside Guard*..... Dante R. Tiongco  
*Membership Director* ..... Vacant  
*Program Director*..... Vacant  
*Lecturer*..... Raymond Gora, PFN  
*Advocate*..... Stephen F. Hehl  
*3rd. Yr. Trustee* ..... Gerry Aponte, PGK  
*2nd Yr. Trustee* ..... Phillip Cababe, PGK  
*1st Yr. Trustee* ..... Vacant  
*Insurance Agent* .. Joseph Donlon (908-403-1688)  
*4th Degree Faithful*  
*Navigator* ..... Raymond Gora  
*Columbian Club President* ..... Joe Marateo  
*Swim Club President.* ..... Mike Harms  
*Columbiette President* ..... Fran Corcione

## Monthly Meetings

1st. Mon. ----- Council Officers 8pm  
 2nd Mon. ----- Council Mtgs. 8:10pm  
 2nd Thu. ----- Columbiettes 7pm  
 4th Wed. ----- 4th Degree Assembly 7:30pm  
 4rd Thur. ----- Columbian Club Officers 8pm

## MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND KNIGHT



Brother Knights,



Volunteers needed to work with the Membership Director in forming parish and community based activities that reflect values of the Knights of Columbus.

**Baptisms:** Volunteers needed for Private Baptisms that are held other than on Sunday's.

**Food Drive:** Extended to a year-long event. Donation box is located at the Columbian Club.

**St. Michael's – "Coffee Fellowship"** – 3rd Sunday of month – Open to all. Knights who attend are encouraged to promote membership of others

**St. Michael's – USAN** (Union of Saints and Nations) Fundraiser ending September '24. Council #4504 Team (Father McGivney Group) goal is to raise \$2,000.

**IDD Drive** to be held at both parishes on 9/14 and 9/15. Checks from prior drive to be distributed prior to September meeting at 7:30pm.



**Holy Spirit**  
**Third Annual Blue Mass**  
*"Honoring First Responders of Union Township"*  
**Sunday, September 22nd**  
**12:00 Noon Mass**  
**Come join us in prayer and gratitude to the men and women who protect us!**  
*A light lunch will be served following the Mass in the School Cafeteria.*



# UNION KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 4504 PAST GRAND KNIGHT DINNER

OCTOBER 12, 2024 7PM

This dinner will held in recognition to our  
2022-2024 Grand Knight

**GERRY APONTE**

for all his hard work and dedication to our  
Council during his tenure.

The evening will begin at 7 PM with a Cocktail Hour followed by  
presentations to our Past Grand Knight, dinner, music,  
and a cash bar. Reservations are required.

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Tickets for the evening's festivities are \$70.00 a couple and \$35.00 for a single person.

Deadline for tickets is September 26th. Please come out, enjoy, and help make this a  
memorable night in the Council history.

For more information contact  
Mike Peter, DD, PGK at [dd18kofcmwp@gmail.com](mailto:dd18kofcmwp@gmail.com)  
(908) 357-5673

or

Len Komar Jr PGK @ [ljkr4504@gmail.com](mailto:ljkr4504@gmail.com)  
(908)436-8143

# Knights of the Dear

## Raymond Gora

We are thrilled to announce that Raymond (Ray) Gora has been named Knight of the Year for 2024! Ray's dedication and service to our council and community have been truly exceptional over the years.



Ray's journey is inspiring and impactful. He spent four years as a missionary in Bolivia, where he met and married his wife, Lili-ana. In 2007, he joined Union County's Department of Human Services as a Program Development Specialist, focusing on aiding the homeless and disabled, and retired last year. Ray also dedicated 15 years to the Board of Trustees of Hudson Hospice,

Ray's academic background is impressive. He has a bachelor's degree in languages and philosophy from Seton Hall University and the equivalent of a Master's degree in Theology. He is a proud United States Marine Corps veteran, honored with a Navy Commendation citation and a Notary Public.

In his professional career, Ray excelled as a Patient Representative at a Level II Trauma Center, earning numerous Five-star customer service awards and becoming a Fellow of the Society for Healthcare Consumer Advocacy of the American Hospital Association.

Ray's service extends to Saint Adalbert's Church in Elizabeth, where he serves as a lector and religious education teacher. He is deeply involved in preparing students for Confirmation and the RCIA program.

Ray is also a devoted family man with three children: Monica, Daniel, and Eric, a Sergeant in the City of Elizabeth Police Department. Amongst his passions is photography, which has led to his work being published in six books.

A member of the Knights of Columbus Council 4504 since 1976, Ray is a Fourth Degree Knight, Faithfull Navigator, and Past Commander of the Color Corps. He consistently attends the wakes of fellow Knights, participates in fundraising efforts for citizens with intellectual disabilities, and helps distribute food to Union County residents.

In February 2020, Ray had the honor of reading and renewing his wedding vows during a trip to the Holy Land.

Ray's unwavering commitment and dedication to service, country, community, and our council have been exceptional over the years, making him a deserving recipient of this honor.

Please join us in celebrating Brother Ray Gora's remarkable achievements and dedication.



On Sunday, June 2nd, the JFK Color Corp celebrated Corpus Christi at Holy Spirit Parish Union, NJ .

This was our 3rd year in attendance and every year it is a moving experience to see the procession and all who gather for it. Thank you, Holy Spirit Church and Father Kris for inviting us and allowing us to be part of this visual and public manifestation of our faith. Brother Knights also attended St. Michael's Corpus Christi celebration at the same time. Great job to all our Brother Knights for being able to serve both parishes.



Congratulations to the new slate of officers. The official installation of the JFK Assembly officers will take place on Thursday, June 19th at 6:30 pm at La Neve Restaurant, 276 Belmont Ave., Haledon, NJ. Gerry Aponte has already received his Past Grand Knight miniature medal to add to his Color Corps blazer as he receives the gavel to begin his year as Faithful Navigator.

## Assembly Officers for the July 2024 - June 2025 Fraternal Year

Faithful Friar - John Gordon

Faithful Navigator - Gerry Aponte, PGK

Faithful Admiral - Raymond Gora, PFN

Faithful Captain - Andy Wnukowski, PGK

Faithful Pilot - SK William Gouveia

Faithful Comptroller - Steve Q. Whoeler, PGK

Faithful Scribe - Alex Rivera

Faithful Purser - Michael Peter, DD

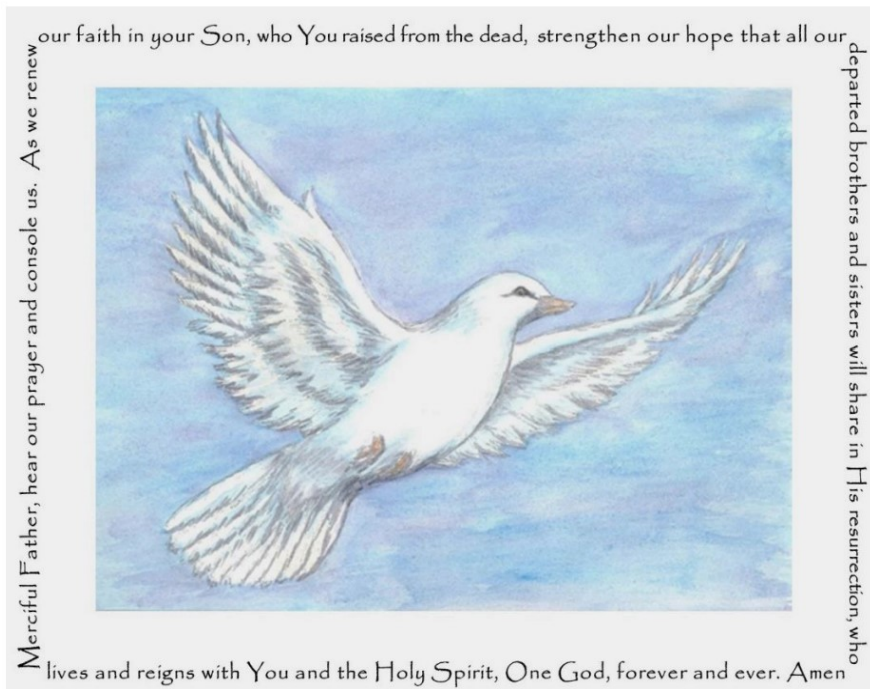
Faithful Inner Sentinel - Allen Pascullo, PFN

Faithful Outer Sentinel - Ralph Genova

Faithful Trustee - SK Leonard Komar, PGK, PFN

Faithful Trustee - SK Roberto Lopez

Faithful Trustee - SK Anthony Spina



**The Bereavement Ministry of Holy Spirit Church**  
will again offer its Christ centered support group sessions  
for those in need of help coping with the loss of a loved one.

The next session will begin on Thursday October 3, 2024. We will  
meet for 8 weeks in the evening through Thursday November 21, 2024  
from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the corner of  
Morris Avenue & Suburban Road, Union, NJ.  
Meetings will be held in Drexler Hall  
(Located at far end of parking lot by Morris Avenue)  
(Thursdays: October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>)

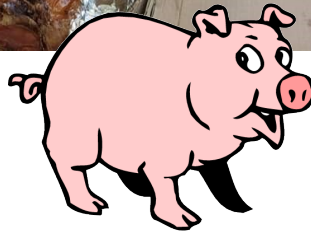
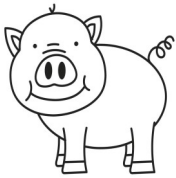
Participation is FREE however REGISTRATION is required.

Please e-mail: [HolySpiritBereavement984@gmail.com](mailto:HolySpiritBereavement984@gmail.com)  
(Or call the parish office at (908) 687-3327)

*Let us be your companions for the journey.*

God Bless You

# Pig Roast 2024







# Horseshoe Tournament



**Knights of Columbus**  
**COUNCIL 4504**  
 1034 Jeanette Avenue  
 Union, NJ 07083



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2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <b>Labor Day</b> Council Officer's Mtg. 8:00 PM	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Council Mtg 8:10 PM	10	11 	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 4th Degree Assembly Meeting 7:30 PM	26 Columbian Club Officer's Meeting	27	28
29	30					