

Knights of Columbus - FAQ

Q. What are the requirements for Membership?

A. Since 1882, membership in the Knights of Columbus has been open to men 18 years of age or older who are “practical (that is practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. Since that time, the Knights of Columbus has understood “practical catholic” to mean a Catholic who accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church. [\(Add link here to Membership page\)](#)

Q. If I join the St. Brendan Knights of Columbus Council, am I required to attend a certain number of meetings or volunteer for required number of events?

A. There are no requirements you attend a certain number of Membership meetings or volunteer for a certain number of Council events. You decide how little or how much you want to be or able to be involved. Each man is at a different stage in his life. Many members are retired with more time; others are still working, and younger men may be raising young families with more limited time to be involved. Be assured that even a small contribution of your time will make a big impact.

Q. I'm not sure I want to become a member. Would I be able to attend a meeting or maybe volunteer for an event to see if this is something I might want to be involved in before committing?

A. Yes, with advance notice and prior approval we would welcome you to attend. If you would like to arrange to attend a meeting, contact our Membership Director, Fred Kerner at joc93@yahoo.com or (614) 946-7733

Q. If I came to a meeting as a guest to check into possibly joining would I be able to bring my wife or girlfriend along as well.

A. No. Meetings are closed meetings for male members only, (and prospective members on prior approval).

Q. Does joining the Knights of Columbus afford any benefits for my family?

A. Yes. The St. Brendan Knights of Columbus holds several family events each year, such as free Family Breakfasts open to all parishioners after Sunday masses, Halloween Trunk or Treat, A Ladies Appreciation dinner at a fine dining restaurant with our Council paying for the Ladies dinner (men pay their own), and a Family Christmas party. There are also several volunteer events throughout the year where family members are strongly encouraged to participate.

Visit <https://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/membership/2773.pdf> for additional valuable Member and Family Benefits

Q. I've heard men who are Members of the Knights of Columbus refer to themselves as 3rd or 4th degree members. What exactly does that mean?

A. There are four degrees of Knighthood which are the guiding principles of our Order - Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism which guide us in our works. (See the Guiding Principles [put link here to Guiding Principles page](#) for a more detailed explanation of the meaning of these degrees).

Q. Do the Knights of Columbus have a secret initiation ceremony to become a member?

A. No this is not a secret ceremony. After your application for Membership is reviewed and approved, you will be scheduled to attend a brief ceremony called Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity (first three degrees). The ceremony teaches and reinforces these guiding principles. Ideally, this is conducted as a live event however, circumstances may dictate this be done on-line. This ceremony is open to guests, including the family and friends of current and new Knights. You will be invested with a rosary and lapel pin during the ceremony. After this ceremony you will be a 3rd Degree Knight.

Q. What is the 4th Degree?

A. The 4th Degree is the Patriotic Degree, the highest Degree level in the Knights of Columbus. There is a separate Exemplification ceremony for this Degree. Those conferred with the 4th Degree are referred to as Sir Knight. Members conferred with the 4th degree are eligible for special Knights of Columbus membership in an Assembly which is an Association of affiliated Councils' 4th Degree Members. These Assemblies hold their own meetings and elect their own officers.

Q. Is there a required dress code to attend a Knights of Columbus Council meeting?

A. There is no required dress code to attend our monthly Council meeting. Appropriate casual dress is acceptable. Many members elect to purchase and wear polo type shirts with the Knights of Columbus emblem to wear at Council meeting or at certain Council events. While the logo wear is helpful to promote our Council, it is not required. Certain more formal outside functions such as awards banquets, or formal organizational fundraisers, may call for more formal attire such as jacket and tie.

Q. I've seen Knights of Columbus in the past wearing tuxedos and hats with big feathers. I'm not sure I want to join if I have to wear that. Is that a required uniform?

A. No. The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus changed the uniform a few years back. The chapeaus (hats) and tuxedos have been replaced with a more contemporary look of a blazer with a beret. These uniforms are only worn by members of the 4th Degree and are strictly optional. 4th Degree members who choose to wear these, serve as part of an honorary color guard that participates in various public and church events including funerals. Those participating in the color guard are expected to pay the cost of their own uniform.

Q. Who do I contact if I have more questions on the St. Brendan Knights of Columbus?

A. Contact Fred Kerner – Membership Director at joc93@yahoo.com or (614) 946-7733