



# ***The Catholic Community of Manistee Knights of Columbus***



**Msgr. J. M. Steffes Council # 853  
and  
Msgr. J. M. Steffes Fourth Degree Assembly # 493**

The Knights of Columbus is an organization of Catholic men dedicated to promoting the ideas of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. They received their humble beginnings by a young priest named Fr. Michael J. McGivney in 1882 at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut. Fr. McGivney founded the Knights as a lay organization that would provide fraternal support among Catholic men and insurance benefits for them and their families in time of death and need.

The Manistee Council was founded in 1904 by Msgr. J. M. Steffes and is composed of practicing Catholic Men in Manistee and the surrounding areas. Our Council is very active in numerous Catholic, Christian, and Community functions throughout the area. We are very proud of our work and achievements and typically donate approximately \$15,000 and countless hours per year to worthy charitable causes. Some of the local activities we are involved in are: "Tootsie Roll" Drive for the Mentally Impaired (Manistee ARC & St. Joseph Friendship Program), United Way, Salvation Army Bell Ringers, American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Lighthouse Pregnancy Center, Right to Life, Jail Prison Ministry, Manistee Catholic Central Schools, Manistee Area Public Schools, Youth Free Throw Contest, Local Council Scholarship for High School Seniors, Adopt-a-Highway Trash Pickup, Vocations, Catholic Services at the Medical Care Facility, Fourth of July Parade, Columbus Day Mass & Reception, Annual Memorial Mass and Reception, and many, many others.

Our Council has approximately 150 members and has been servicing the Manistee area for over 100 years. We are always looking for practicing Catholic gentlemen 18 and older to help us carry on our Christian and charitable work for our community. For more information and/or if you are interested in joining, please contact Jim Berish at 723-4832, Paul Wehrmeister at 723-7531, or Gary Sielski at 510-3630.

The Manistee Knights of Columbus Council # 853 meets at 7pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the Month at the St. Joseph Civic Club located at 900 Vine Street in Manistee. The Fourth Degree Assembly # 493 meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the Month at 6:30pm, preceding the Council Meeting. Primary contact for the Council is Grand Knight Jim Berish at [jimberish2@provide.net](mailto:jimberish2@provide.net) , phone 231-723-4832. Primary Contact for the Fourth Degree Assembly is Faithful Navigator Tom Geoghan at [stgeoghan@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeoghan@yahoo.com) , phone 231-398-0888.

#### **Websites:**

[www.kofc.org/](http://www.kofc.org/) - Knights of Columbus Supreme  
[www.mikofc.org](http://www.mikofc.org) - State of Michigan Knights of Columbus  
[www.hennepinprovince.org/](http://www.hennepinprovince.org/) - Fourth Degree Fr. Louis Hennepin Province  
[www.headlinebistro.com](http://www.headlinebistro.com) – Supreme Headline Bistro News for all Catholics  
[www.fathersforgood.org](http://www.fathersforgood.org) – Supreme website for Fathers  
[www.fathermcgivney.org/](http://www.fathermcgivney.org/) - Father Michael J. McGivney Guild