



The Serra Club of Johnson County
Region 9 District 12-2 Central Club

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www.jocoserra.org

Serran Sphere

*NEW OFFICER INSTALLATION, THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023
6:00 PM MASS, GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, DINNER*



Met our club officers for 2023—2024. Club President, Dale Romme, is excited about the future of the Serra Club of Johnson County and about stepping into the role of Club President. Dale belongs to Holy Trinity Parish in Lenexa. See page 5 for more about Dale’s thoughts as he takes the reins of Serra Club leadership.

The President-Elect position is open at this time. The Serra Club could use your help. Whether new member or long-term member, consider this service commitment to the future of the Church. Vocations, rooted in families are fed by active lay leadership. Is God calling you to serve? If so, talk with one of the club’s current or past leaders. A husband/wife team in this role is possible. It’s been done before. Join the leadership team. You will be glad you did!



Immediate Past President is John Weber. A big thank-you to John for his leadership as the president for the past two years. As immediate past president, John will remain on the Board of Directors and continue leadership input in his new role. John and his wife, Rosemary, are Holy Spirit parishioners. Thanks again, John, for your service as President!

Judy Rielley will continue in her role as recording Secretary. Judy has served in this capacity for the past two years and has done a terrific job keeping track of Board activities in producing complete and accurate minutes of Board meetings. Judy and her husband, Mark, are regulars at monthly membership meetings, always ready to lend a hand to help with a project.



Chuck Lillis will also continue in a leadership role, that of club Treasurer. Chuck and his wife, Liz, are members of Curé of Ars Parish. Chuck keeps us all up to date with membership dues contributions, makes certain that club proceeds are used according to the club’s mission, and assists with member contribution records for tax purposes. The Lillis’ are also regulars at our club’s activities and faithful monthly membership meeting attendees.

See Officers, p. 2



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MEETING/EVENT DATES:

- **5/2/2023—6:00 PM**, First Tuesday Holy Hour—**Curé of Ars**
- **5/4/2023—6:00 PM**, Mass/Installation of Officers/General Membership Meeting—**Curé of Ars**
- **5/20/2023—10:30 AM**, Diaconate Ordination—**Sacred Heart Church**
- **5/22/2023—7:00 PM**, Board Meeting—**Holy Spirit Church**
- **5/24/2023—6:30 PM**, Trivia Night—an Ordination Event! **St. Michael the Archangel Church**
- **5/27/2023—10:30 AM**, Priestly Ordination, **Prince of Peace**

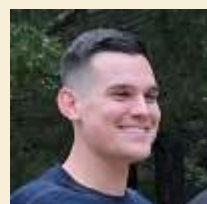
Officers, continued from p. 1

Joane Wilkerson is VP Membership extraordinaire. Under her leadership, the club's membership has increased by more than 20% in the last year! Joane has conceived parish-focused recruitment nights that have proven very successful. New members in the club means more folks working the mission: to prayerfully support vocations in the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS. Joane and Bryan Wilkerson belong to Curé of Ars parish. Thanks to Joane for her continued efforts at the Vice President, Membership.



Larry and Kathy Ryan belong to Holy Trinity parish in Lenexa. While Larry will continue to officially serve as Vice President Programs, he willingly admits that it's his wife, Kathy, quietly at work in the background who keeps things organized and on track. Larry stepped into the role a year ago and has done a great job lining up speakers and programs for our regular General Membership meetings. Thank you, Larry, (and Kathy!) for your diligent work in bringing about engaging, educational programs for the club!

Mike Skoch begins a third year as Vice President Communications for the Serra Club. He's the one who floods your Inbox with email reminders and announcements, keeps the website up to date, and puts together the newsletter you're reading. He welcomes suggestions for process improvement! And if you'd like to help with communications, he'd welcome the assistance! Mike and Ginny are parishioners at Holy Angels Parish in Basehor, KS. Their son, Timothy, will be ordained a priest of the archdiocese in May.

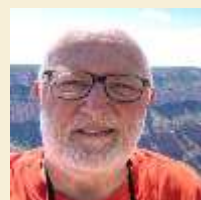


Thomas and his wife, Nicole Skoch, serve as Co-Vice Presidents Vocations. Their job is to promote activities—usually involving a prayer effort for vocations because that's what we do—for Serrans in fulfilling the Serran mission to prayerfully support vocations. Thomas and Nicole are expecting their third child in October. They belong to St. Paul Parish in Olathe.



Doug Leibbrandt steps into a Trustee role on the Board of Directors. Trustees participate in Board meetings and activities and serve as active Board members, assisting the Board in carrying out its duties on behalf of the Serra club membership. Doug has served as president of the club, among other club responsibilities he has fulfilled. Doug and his wife, Lorri, belong to Curé of Ars parish, and have been members of the Serra Club since 2008.

George Lents continues as Trustee on the Board of Directors. George and his wife, Maggie, are charter members of the Serra Club, part of the core group of 99 founding members of the club in 1999. The Lents' enjoy traveling by car and the opportunity to share a game of golf. Maggie has also been involved in club leadership, having served in various leadership roles including club president. George and Maggie are members of Holy Spirit Church in Overland Park.



Ramon "Ray" Zielinski also continues as a Trustee on the Board of Directors. Ray and his wife, Jennifer, served as club co-presidents in 2016—2017. They live in Overland Park and are members of Church of the Nativity in Leawood. The Zielinski's are parents of Fr. Carter Zielinski, who currently serves as pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus parish in Emporia, KS.

The Serra Club Board extends a hearty thank you to Len Chmelka, who retires from the Board this year, having completed his term as Trustee. Thank you, Len, for everything you have done for the Serra Club!

Vocations activities:

- ◇ **31-Club**—join in the daily prayer effort for vocations! Pick one day of the month to pray for vocations either by attending Mass or offering a Holy Hour. [Sign up here!](#)
- ◇ **Birthday cards for Seminarians**—we will have birthday cards for seminarians to be signed at General Membership meetings. This is a great way to let our seminarians know they are in our thoughts and prayers always! Add your signature to the birthday cards!
- ◇ **First Friday Holy Hour for Vocations**—11:00 AM on the First Friday of every month at Holy Spirit Parish, 11300 W 103rd St., Overland Park, KS.
- ◇ **First Tuesday Holy Hour for Vocations**—6:00 PM on the First Tuesday of every month at Curé of Ars Parish, 9401 Mission Rd., Leawood, KS.
- ◇ **Third Monday Holy Hour for Vocations**—7:00 PM on the Third Monday of every month at Church of the Ascension, 9510 W. 127th St., Overland Park, KS.
- ◇ **Weekly Rosary for Vocations**—a virtual Rosary experience via Zoom link, every Thursday evening at 7:30 PM, sponsored by the Vocations Committee of the Serra Club. [Learn more and connect here.](#)
- ◇ **Trivia Night— An Ordination Event! May 24, 2023** Check the website calendar for details!

SEMINARIAN BIRTHDAYS

May/June

John Donart.....2 May
 Jarrad Condrey.....7 May
 Dan Mauro.....10 May
 Juan Vasquez.....17 May
 Aaron Waldeck.....15 June

Mark your calendar with Seminarian Birthdays and pray for the seminarian's intention.



Mark your calendar! The 2023 **Master's Cup** golf event is slated for **Monday, July 10, 2023**, at beautiful **Ironhorse Golf Club** in Leawood, KS. A one-of-a-kind golf event, The Master's Cup brings together young men and young women discerning vocations to the priesthood and religious life, seminarians, priests and religious, for a round of golf, sharing a meal, and hearing a great witness to the faith. Make plans now to join the fun and fellowship.

Guest luncheon speaker this year: American film producer, writer, and Catholic speaker, **Jim Wahlberg**. You won't want to miss it!

REMINDER: General Membership Meeting

Installation of Officers

**Thursday, May 4, 2023
6:00 PM**

Mass in the Church

Meeting to follow

Fr. Burak Room
 Curé of Ars
 9401 Mission Rd
 Leawood, KS



Trivia Night returns to St. Michael the Archangel Church on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, during the week between the celebrations of ordinations to the transitional diaconate and the priesthood!

Join in the fun starting at 6:30 PM, as the ordinandi rotate among teams, contributing their expertise (and their humor!) to the evening's events.

For more information and to register your championship team [check out this link](#). (Or copy and paste: <https://archkck.org/vocations-trivia-night/>) See you there!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SERRA CLUB
OF JOHNSON COUNTY**

**2023-24
Officers**

President
Dale Romme

President Elect
open

**Immediate Past
President**
John Webber

Secretary
Judy Rielley

Treasurer
Chuck Lillis

Vice Presidents

Vocations
Thomas and Nicole Skoch

Membership
Joane Wilkerson

Programs
Larry Ryan

Communications
Michael Skoch

Trustees
Doug Leibbrandt
Ray Zielinski
George Lents

District Governor
John Caton

***First Friday
Holy Hour
for Vocations***
11:00 AM 5/5/2023
***Church of the Holy
Spirit***

Date	Agenda	Location
May 2 Tuesday	First Tuesday Holy Hour for Vocations 6:00 PM	Curé of Ars Church Leawood, KS
May 4 Thursday	JOCO Serra General Membership Meeting 6:00 PM—Mass Installation of Officers Meeting to follow	Curé of Ars Church Leawood, KS
May 5 Friday	First Friday Holy Hour for Vocations 11:00 AM	Holy Spirit Church Overland Park, KS
May 11 Thursday	Thursday Rosary for Vocations 7:30 PM	Virtual See website calendar for details
May 18 Thursday	Thursday Rosary for Vocations 7:30 PM	Virtual See website calendar for details
May 20 Saturday	Diaconate Ordination 10:30 AM	Sacred Heart Church Shawnee, KS
May 22 Monday	JOCO Serra Club Board Meeting 7:00 PM	Holy Spirit Church Overland Park, KS
May 24 Wednesday	Trivia Night 6:30 PM	St. Michael the Archangel Church Leawood, KS
May 25 Thursday	Thursday Rosary for Vocations 7:30 PM	Virtual See website calendar for details
May 27 Saturday	Priesthood Ordination 10:30 AM	Prince of Peace Church Olathe, KS
June 1 Thursday	JOCO Serra General Membership Meeting 6:30 PM	Curé of Ars Church Leawood, KS



Pitching for Priests returns!
Friday evening, July 7, 2023, 7:00 PM
Legends Field, Kansas City, KS
Take me out to the ball game!



A conversation with the President

I caught up with Dale Romme, new Serra Club President, to talk about Serra and gauge his thoughts as he takes up the reins of the club. For those who don't know, Dale is very engaging and, self-admittedly, not short for words. We talked for almost an hour on a recent Sunday afternoon!

"When and why did you join Serra?" I asked. "I joined Serra in about 2018. My good friend, John Hense, had told me about Serra during our time at KU," Romme began. "His father, Jack Hense, was a charter member and long-time JOCO Serran. I thought it was just great that there were groups (like Serrans) and parishes that prayed for their parish priest!" he continued. "After Jack Hense's funeral Mass (in August 2020) I knew I had made a good decision," he observed. "I am blessed by the friends I have in Serra."

Romme, who graduated from Thomas More Prep School in Hays, KS, related that he had thought very seriously about becoming a priest during his high school and college years. It was during his time at KU that the new St. Lawrence Center was being completed. Both Fr. Vince Krische and Fr. Bill Porter were influential. "After I got my Chemical Engineering degree, I worked for them for a year, doing maintenance and running social programs for students," Romme reflected. The job went so well that he continued working there while finishing an MBA. "Fr. Bill Bruning was in my discernment group, as was Fr. Steve Besau," Dale recalled, "and look where they are," he added with a chuckle. "I just never pulled the trigger. God clearly had another plan for my life." And that plan was about to become a bit clearer.

Romme went to work for Hallmark after completing his MBA. During the early days at Hallmark, two things happened. "I continued my discernment through conversations with Fr. Tom Tank and Fr. Mike Scully. "And then I met this beautiful young woman whose name was Catherine Rowe," he said. "Our 30th wedding anniversary will be May 21," he added. I imagined the smile on his face as I heard the pride and the sentiment in his voice as we spoke on the phone. Catherine, too, worked at Hallmark at the time. "You know, God has a plan for each of us. For some, it takes a bit longer to see it," he mused.

Catherine and Dale Romme have three children, Elizabeth, Matthew, and Caroline, of whom Dale is very proud. "They are such an incredible blessing to us," he observed, his voice again filled with pride and the sentiment that only a father can know when speaking about his children. While Dale continues work at Hallmark, now a 33-year veteran of the team, Catherine has taught at St. Michael the Archangel School for 18 years. The couple's parish home is Holy Trinity in Lenexa.

I asked Dale what drew him into club leadership.

"You know, I'm sort of wired that way. I don't look for leadership opportunities as much as they seem to find me," he said, adding, "This is my way of giving back." Somewhat as an afterthought, he continued, "And I have no problem asking people to help!" He laughed once again. Romme related that when out-going President, John Weber, took office, "the President-Elect position was open, and no one stepped into the role." Though he was less than a year in the club and had no other leadership experience, Romme confessed that he wanted to attend the Board meetings, "because I saw that was where the work of the club starts." Romme felt the tug to volunteer for the role.

"This isn't just Dale's group," he continued. "This is our group. A good leader brings everyone to the table and then observes what shakes out." Another thought came, "You know," he said, "our priests and seminarians need us. Sometimes, we're the ones out in the fields fighting the war for our priests. In our jobs, we're witnessing and evangelizing a lot," he said. "We need each other."

What are Dale's goals for his term as President?

While committing to becoming more purposeful at inviting guests to meetings, Dale identified his first goal: an increase in membership participation in club activities. "Participation in activities is where the club's work is achieved. I would like to see more folks involved in volunteering/joining in the activities of the club." Romme specifically mentioned interacting with seminarians directly, particularly in the annual visits to either Kenrick-Glennon Seminary (St. Louis) or to St. John Vianney Seminary (Denver). "Those guys need to see us and know that we support them. It was so great, also, to see them in their environment and learn a bit about the life they lead during their seminary years," he said.

A second goal is to increase the touchpoints between Serrans and the seminarians. "You know, we talked about a Christmas holiday get-together that didn't come to fruition. It seems to me that we could find a way to create another touchpoint or two," Dale offered. "We will need to be alert to creative ways to make this happen," concluding his thought about this second goal.

Finally, he added his desire for the club to become missionary in outreach to priests in rural parishes. "I believe we have a big opportunity to support priests out there in rural communities," he said, adding, "and we need to discover what that looks like." Amen, Mr. President!