



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Helping Youth to become tomorrow's leaders is a huge focus of the Knights of Columbus. In addition to sponsoring St. Therese's First Fridays Dance, they provide activities for youth throughout the year which emphasizes building a strong sense of Community, Religious Responsibility, and Citizenship. They provide financial support and manpower for many youth programs like Scouting, the annual, the Steubenville Youth Retreat, and Youth Scholarships.

Activities like the annual "Free Throw Championship", the "Catholic Citizenship Essay contest", and the "Substance Abuse Poster contest", and our "Special Needs" MR Dance makes the Knights of Columbus a valuable asset for Youth in our community. They also actively support the Special Olympics, Pro-Life programs, and environmental issues on a local, national and international level as well as many of the ministries here at St. Therese Parish. Knights of Columbus members all over the world have helped countless communities prosper.

As Knights, our faith is our foundation. Dedicated to the Catholic Church's growth and her good works, we support religious outreach, promote vocations, and provide financial support for St. Therese, seminarians, and postulates. In this way, we help support our whole Church and strengthen our personal faith.

To find out how you can become part of our family, contact Grand Knight Tony Tomasich at 816-896-7253 – ttomas3@gmail.com or Membership Director Dave Tracewell at 816-668-4641 – dtracewell@honorpub.com

FFD

(First Fridays Dance) Activity Guide



SPONSORED BY THE



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

**Pope John Paul I Council 7199
ST. THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Parkville, Missouri

www.kofc7199.org

FIRST FRIDAYS DANCE

Mission & Purpose

The Knights of Columbus recognizes the need to provide clean, quality activities for our youth held in a safe environment. They support the values and beliefs of the Catholic Church through family and youth activities. The First Fridays Dance provides one such activity for the 7th and 8th grade students of not only St. Therese Parish, but for many of the other Catholic, and non-Catholic middle schools in the North Kansas City area. This activity showcases our faith and Christian values by reaching out to both Catholic and Non-Catholic youth to provide them with a wholesome activity in a safe setting.

The dances are held in the gymnasium of St. Therese Parish and Education Center located at 7207 NW Hwy. 9 in Parkville, MO. This facility provides a large enough space and security to provide a safe environment. The Knights of Columbus members, along with high school aged youth chaperones; provide the manpower for this event. This also provides service opportunities for High School aged youth and confirmation students. Many of the youth who attended these dances as 7th & 8th graders have come back to help with the check-in, concessions, and chaperone duties.

In addition to providing a quality activity for the youth, the First Fridays Dance also provides funds for the Knights of Columbus and other Youth Activities in the Parish and School. At least 50% of all proceeds goes toward Youth Ministry and Youth activities at the church.

The purpose of this guide is to provide some basic rules and guidelines for our students, and guidelines for our chaperones to use when judging the conduct, or misconduct of the 7th and 8th grade students. It will provide information about the operation of the dance, contact information, and emergency procedures.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

All First Friday Dances will be announced in the St. Therese Catholic Church bulletin, on the Knights of Columbus website, and at the prior month's dance. It will also be advertised on the lighted sign in front of St. Therese Church. From time to time, we will substitute other activities for the dance which will also be announced in the same manner as above. Severe or bad weather or other School activities may also cause us to not hold a dance.

Check the Knights of Columbus website to make sure there is a dance each month to be sure.

<http://www.kofc7199.org>



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Student Chaperones

STUDENT Chaperones work from 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm

Student chaperones are there to help the adults at the dance. They will have several “jobs” before, during, and after the dance. These include, but are not limited to:

- Helping set up tables, chairs, and concessions as needed
- Help check in students at the door
- Help maintain order during student arrival
- To be extra “Eyes and Ears” for the adult chaperones during the dance.
- To help keep the students clear of the area around the Disc Jockey.
- To help educate the 7th & 8th grade students in the proper apparel, conduct, and procedures of the dance.
- To encourage the students to dance and have fun!
- To help in the concession stand.
- To help guide the students out after the dance
- To clean up and help put away tables after the dance.

Student Chaperones must be at least 15 years old. All Student Chaperones must wear the Yellow T-Shirts with the “FFD” Logo for easy identification purposes.

Their role during the dance is to help maintain order. They are to “roam about” the dance creating a presence and talking to students about the dance rules when needed. They too are encouraged to “have fun”.

Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES are they to physically engage students or get into an altercation with them. If an issue arises, they are to seek out an Adult Chaperone to handle the situation.

Student Chaperones are eligible for “Service Hours” for school, Confirmation, or Religious Education programs if approved. Confirmation Service Hour forms will not be handled by the Knights of Columbus. Reporting forms will be available after the dance. The Student Chaperones are responsible for asking for these forms.

Implied Consent

Parents understand that any dance or event involving youth involves a certain degree of risk. In consideration of:

- the benefits to be derived and considering the risks involved,
- and in view of the fact that the Knights of Columbus is an organization in which membership is voluntary,
- and having full confidence that precautions will be taken to ensure the safety and well-being of their children,

Parents give their consent for their children’s participation in the First Fridays Dance sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and waive all claims against the adult leaders, officers, agents and representatives of the Knights of Columbus, St. Therese Catholic Church, and The Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph.

Contact Information

St. Therese Catholic Church
7207 NW Highway 9
Kansas City, MO 64153

Knights of Columbus:

First Fridays Dance Chairmen

E-Mail

Doug Hayworth	816-914-9802	doug_hayworth@sbcglobal.net
Dave Tracewell	816-668-4641	dtracewell@scoutingbooks.com

Grand Knight:

Tony Tomasich –	816-896-7253	ttomas3@gmail.com
Sean Joyce	816-695-3421	seanjoyce488@hotmail.com

St. Therese Youth Ministry

Timothy Volk	816-741-5400 X 119	volk@sttheresenorth.org
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Church

Fr. Mike Roach – Pastor	816-741-2800
Mike Birkel – Bus. Manager	816-741-2800 – X217

REGULATIONS FOR SAFE & SOBER DANCES

It is expected that all students who choose to attend the First Friday Dance will pledge to do so alcohol and drug free.

Dances are an opportunity for students to socialize in a safe, supervised, and appropriate environment. Student behavior must conform to the following rules & policies:

- Dances will be held the First Friday of each month from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Check the Knights website for details.
- Students may not leave the dance without being picked up by their parents or guardian.
- Inappropriate or dangerous dancing is NOT allowed.
- Inappropriate dress is NOT allowed.
- Selling, possession or being under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance will result in immediate removal from the dance and possible legal consequences.
- Failure to comply with the rules will result in removal from the dance and notification of parents/guardians, and possible other disciplinary action.
- A *Dance Contract* will be signed by both student and parent/guardian before the student is permitted to attend our First Friday Dances.

"Maximum Safety" Policy

In accord with the philosophy that good schools are safe schools the Knights of Columbus, and St. Therese Parish and Education Center enforces, without exception, a maximum safety policy. This means that any student who assaults another student, or who carries an instrument construed to be a weapon*, or who brings to the dance a knife/blade of any size, or who provides or sells drugs will be removed from the dance, turned over to local authorities, and their parents will be called to deal with the situation. They will also be permanently barred from attending any future dances.

** A weapon is defined as any object which can be used to hurt another person or which causes that person to believe that he/she will be harmed in some way. We include in the gun category, any imitation or replica (e.g., a toy pistol, pellet gun, forced air gun, starter pistol, or paint ball gun.) It makes no difference whether the gun is loaded or unloaded, or whether it can be fired or not. Additionally, every blade, regardless of its size, will be viewed as a weapon, including any pocket knife, penknife, Swiss Army knife or other utility blade.*

Adult Chaperones

The adult chaperones at the First Fridays Dance are mostly members of the Knights of Columbus. We welcome and encourage any parents to come help chaperone as well.

All adults who chaperone the First Fridays Dance will have to take the Catholic Churches workshop: "Protecting God's Children" and have a background check done. A certificate of completion must be on file at the church prior to volunteering to chaperone the dance. This certification is also needed for any other youth activities at the church where adults are needed in either a leadership or mentoring role.

All adult chaperones must read and sign the Catholic Churches Code of Conduct statement concerning volunteers who work with children and promise to abide by it. Copies are available from the church office, on-line, or from the First Fridays Dance chairmen.

Adults should always practice "two deep" leadership when dealing with the youth. They should never put themselves in a situation where they are alone with any youth. The gymnasium used for our First Fridays Dance is a secure area that makes it easy to adhere to this rule.

Adult chaperones are there to maintain and enforce the rules and preserve order in a safe environment. All Adult Chaperones must wear the Yellow T-Shirts with the "FFD" Logo for easy identification purposes.

There is no smoking or tobacco products allowed on school property and adults must refrain from drinking any alcoholic beverages while chaperoning the dances.

Dance Code

It is important that the students feel free to dance and have fun at our First Fridays Dance. Dancing is a wonderful way to help bridge the awkward barriers that teenage boys and girls have in the 7th & 8th grade. That being said, we must still provide some guidance. The following are guidelines to be followed at our First Fridays Dance:

- There will be NO violent or “Bash” Dancing allowed. Students who kick, push others, jump into others, or physically hurt others will be ask to leave. Repeat offenders will be barred from the dance.
- Please do not run or jump around at the dance. (Jumping up & down in one place is OK)
- Boys should place their hands on the girl’s hips, and the girls are to place their hands on the boy’s waist, arms or shoulders (not around the neck) during slow dances. There should be a visible space between the couple when dancing.
- “Grinding”, “Grouping”, or suggestive dancing is prohibited and may result in students being barred from the dance.

Students who do not adhere to this dance code will be asked to leave the dance and we will call their parents to come pick them up. Repeat violations may result in permanent exclusion from our dances.

Prohibited Items

Skateboards, backpacks, video games or other electronic devices, CD's, MP3 players, toys, travel mugs, lighters, matches, guns, knives, {including jack knives}, chains, laser pens, laser pointers, PDA's or anything that can be used as a weapon are not allowed at the dance. Disposable cameras and cell phones are acceptable, but are the responsibility of the student.

Student Valuables

Students are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or valuables to the dance. The Knights of Columbus, St. Therese Church, and/or adults in charge of the dance are not responsible for student's personal items that are lost or stolen.

Hate Violence

Hate violence is defined as the use of force or threat of force to intimidate or injure a person or a person's property because of that individual's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender, sexual orientation, citizenship, age, or physical or mental disability. In addition, no student may harass, bully, (verbally, physically or sexually), haze or threaten any person, student or adult, at the dance. Students involved in acts of hate violence will be removed from the dance.

Smoking-Drugs-Alcohol

- Smoking or use of tobacco products is not permitted on or around school grounds. This includes our First Friday Dance. Consequences for students who violate this policy will be the student being removed from the dance and their parents will be called to pick them up. They may also be permanently barred from attending any future dances.
- If any student is found to be in POSSESSION OF, or IS or HAS BEEN UNDER THE INFLUENCE of any dangerous substance, They will immediately be removed from the dance, turned over to local authorities, and their parents will be called to deal with the situation. They will also be permanently barred from attending any future dances.

Other Serious Infractions

These infractions are also punishable by the student being removed from the dance, turned over to local authorities, and their parents will be called to deal with the situation. They will also be permanently barred from attending any future dances:

Fighting or any kind of assault or battery upon another person; theft of ANY kind; possession or use of firecrackers or fireworks; defiance or disobedience to adult authority; upbraiding, insulting, or abusing chaperones and/or staff; hazing; forgery; falsifying or use of profanity, vulgarity or indecent language; gambling, extortion/robbery.

Student Drop-off & Pick Up

NO STUDENTS SHOULD ARRIVE BEFORE 6:45 PM

All students attending the First Fridays Dance should be dropped off in front of St. Therese Parish and Education Center at the main entrance to the building. They should proceed immediately to the gymnasium and into the dance. Loitering or waiting for others will not be allowed outside the building.

Parents or guardians should plan to pick up their children at 10:00 pm or slightly sooner. Parents are welcome to come into the dance area to watch and/or pick up their child. Due to the lateness of the hour, parents should not be late. In case of emergency, parents should contact one of the Dance chairmen who will have their cell phones at the dance.

Parents wishing to pick their child(ren) up early should come into the building and speak to an adult chaperone.

Once inside the dance, students are not allowed to leave the dance.

The student can call their parents to come pick them up at anytime though. Cell phones usually do not work well inside the gymnasium, but a telephone is available if a child needs to make a call. Both Dance Chairmen and several of the adult chaperones will also make their cell phones available outside if needed. The student cannot leave unless they have a parent or guardian to leave with. If the parent does not come inside to pick up the student, they will be escorted outside by an adult to make sure they get into a car with an adult.

Dress Code

We recognize that the type of clothing and style of hair are a matter of personal choice. Students will not be permitted to wear hats, bandanas, hoods, or sunglasses inside the dance. Half shirts, net shirts, belly shirts, spaghetti straps, muscle shirts, low neck and any piece of clothing that has inappropriate wording, graphics, or showing gang affiliation are also not allowed. Clothing shall not be ripped, torn, or cut in a manner as to create a disturbance. Length of skirts, dresses, or shorts should not be shorter than fingertips when your arms are at your side. Wearing pants below the belt line will not be allowed. Other items of attire not listed may also be considered inappropriate for a church dance.

Listed below are examples of what we consider is **inappropriate**. This list is a representative but not all-inclusive.

- Suggestive, revealing, or transparent attire that could contribute to inappropriate conduct;
- Clothing that does not cover undergarments completely;
- Clothing that does not cover midriff;
- Clothing that promotes obscenity, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, or violence;
- Clothing that demeans others with regard to gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, etc.;
- Clothing that indicates gang involvement
- Clothing, jewelry, or accessories which are potentially dangerous;
- Being barefoot.
- Hats of any type

Students will be asked to remove items that can be removed (hats, caps, bandanas, etc.) or will be asked to leave the dance and call their parents to come pick them up. Repeat violations may result in permanent exclusion from our dances.