



Newsletter

Winter, 2025

Catholic Kolping Society of Brooklyn
Catholic Kolping Society of Brooklyn & Queens
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Belated New Year Greetings to all! Hope 2025 started off on a good note for you, despite the snow and very cold weather in early January. After a hiatus, our board finally met in January and got to work. While a few dates have been set, we are still working on a few ideas to fill out our calendar and give us more opportunities to get together.

As we prepare for our Annual Meeting on Sunday March 2, I will take this opportunity to remind everyone that our **charity project to support local food pantries continues**. We make contributions to a handful of pantries, but our main partners are Blessed Sacrament Parish in Cypress Hills, and St. Matthias Parish in Ridgewood. If you are coming to the Center please remember to bring non-perishable food items to donate, or drop a few bucks in the contribution jar. If you cannot make it to our Center, mail your contribution to us with a note to use it to support the food pantry project. It will definitely be put to good use.

Speaking of contributions, the Brooklyn Kolping Family has had unusual expenses; donations to help defray them would be greatly appreciated. There have been legal expenses, and we have had to spend money to follow Department of Buildings requirements. Some people reading this may live too far to attend our functions, or can't drive or climb the steps to the Kolping Center - but everyone can still participate by sending a modest donation!

Please watch for the next edition of the *Kolping Banner* that comes your way. There will be information on our **National Lenten Project**, plus an envelope tucked inside to make sending a donation check easier. If you don't want to go old school with a check and a stamp, a 'donate' button for the Lenten Project will be added to the National Website (www.kolping.org) for this purpose, and no additional credit card fees will be charged to donors.

Wishing everyone a good transition into Spring, and it would be great to see you in person at the **Annual Meeting** or our **Spring Mass** on May 17. Treu Kolping! -Bill Conte

Kolping Calendar:

Here are the 2025 dates we have so far. Watch your email for updates!

Annual Meeting. Please join us on Sunday, March 2 for our annual meeting, which starts at 1PM. As usual, we will provide a cold buffet lunch, hopefully accompanied by some hot soup. This is where we report to our members on our 2024 finances and activities, and give you an idea how things are going. While business will be discussed, this will be a social get together and an opportunity for our members to catch up.

Note: this will serve as the Annual Meeting for both our legal entities.

Spring Mass and Communion Supper. We are very happy that Father Johny will be back to celebrate Mass at the Center for us! Our **Spring Mass** will be at **6PM on Saturday, May 17**. After Mass we will enjoy a home cooked bratwurst dinner together. Members and friends are welcome to attend the Mass (*no charge*). Dinner donation as follows: *\$25 for adult members/\$30 for adult non-members, and \$10 for children under ten*.

Fall Mass and Communion Supper. We are planning a Fall Mass at the Kolping Center on **Saturday, October 18**. Details are the same as those outlined above. We ask you to please add this date on your calendar now - so you don't forget later!

Kolping Family Christmas Party. Here's another date to save - it's for our traditional Christmas gathering. The date will be **Saturday, December 6** and we hope to welcome you!

Kolping News:



Above: Anne, left, enjoying a fun moment with Inge Jellen.

In Memoriam. Our Kolping family lost a long-time active member on January 11, **Anne Novotny**, age 93. Anne was born in Speyer, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany in 1931. Anne lost her mother at a young age, and her family life was further disrupted by World War II, then the post-war deprivation. Anne left Germany, first moving to Switzerland, then to New York in 1957. She found satisfying work as a nanny to the children of a Manhattan family. Then she met and married her husband, Ludwig. Settling in Richmond Hill, they welcomed two children, Hans-Peter in 1960 and Patty in 1961. Anne was dedicated to her parish, Holy Child Jesus, and volunteered there as well as being involved with the Girl Scouts. She joined our Kolping Family in the early 90's and dove in head first! Over the years she served as our Treasurer, as a board member, became our main cook, personally gave the Center a deep cleaning during the summer, and was our delegate at several conventions. She also introduced us to Father Chris Heanue, our current Praeses, about ten years ago. Anne suffered health issues and relocated to be near her family in Davenport, FL, where she was buried alongside her son. **Mass will be celebrated in her honor at**

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1PM on Saturday, April 5 at Holy Child Jesus Church in Richmond Hill. Undoubtedly some of our members will want to join with her family and friends and pay their respects. **Rest in peace, Anne, we will always remember you!**

Congratulations to our member **Frank Heller III**, and his bride Tina on their marriage on Saturday, December 14. Afterwards, they enjoyed a honeymoon in Europe, which included checking out many Christmas Markets. **Best wishes to you both for a lifetime of happiness!**

Our **Fall Mass and Communion Supper** at the Center took place on Saturday October 19. Many of our members cooperated to set up for our Mass, and then to get dinner served. We welcomed 31 adults and 2 children. We welcomed **Father Johnny** as our celebrant. He talked about his parish's food pantry and thanked us for our support. Special thanks go to **Chris Gerage** who did the cooking and coordinated the food, as well as **Jessica Meyer, Valerie Meyer** and **Pat Gerage** for their hard work. And many thanks to everyone who supported us by attending.



Halloween. Thank you to Jessica Meyer, Gary Meyer and Sonia Kulesza for setting up a table outside our front door and distributing candy to the many Halloween trick or treaters on Myrtle Avenue.

Our **Christmas Party** took place on Saturday December 14. We welcomed 26 adults and 3 children. Taking advantage of the smaller than usual turnout, **Gary, Jessica** and **Valerie Meyer** provided elegant winter décor, and we had an intimate candlelit Christmas Dinner Party. We enjoyed a delicious pot roast beef dinner, and **Chris Gerage** supervised all the food aspects. We had a pared down Christmas program, and of course our traditional sing-along. We were happy to welcome our guest of honor - **Santa Claus**— who brought a small gift for the kids and for many adults as well. When Santa eventually had to return to the North Pole, we enjoyed our dessert of stollen, cookies and gluh wine, along with coffee. We appreciate that our members and guests were very generous at raffle time! We all lingered afterwards, enjoying the wonderful atmosphere and each other's company. Thanks to everyone for attending...and we hope to see a few more folks next year!

Birthday Greetings. First a belated shout out to all the fall birthdays we missed...**October:** Markus Gruber and Elizabeth Trainer. **November:** Father Chris Heanue, Bill Conte and Louise Mimicopoulos. **December:** Barbara Augstein, Gary Meyer, Jessica Meyer, Rosemarie Rom, Robert Wittreich and Erika Zinser. Now, happy birthday to all of you who celebrate during the winter months and into the spring...**January:** Jeff Blatz, Christopher Gerage, Gillian Guile, Larisa Heiser, Arnold Ruf, and Ernie Lauth - who turned 95 on January 23! **February:** Christopher Meyer. **March:** Allison (Blatz) Hart, Monica Trinidad Meyer, Laura (Lauth) Murphy, Karl Werkmann and Steven Wiederhold. **April:** Fred Augstein, Fred Haller, John Murphy, Scott Stahl and Albert Tscherne. **Best wishes to everyone for a new year of good health and happiness!**



Remember Our Departed Kolping Family Members: **November:** Leopold Blatz (1964), Eva Maria Freund (2020), Henry Hartmann, Sr. (1960), Josef Koch (1971), Wilfried Kolsch (1972), Anton (Toni) Ostermann (2005), Hermann Rueb (2013), Lucy Sperber (1970), Rose Wachter (2015), Rosemarie (Vogt) Wenzler (2013), and Barbara Wohlfart (1940). **December:** Rev. Eugene Erny (1970), Gertrude Bittel (2000), Rose Ehrbacher (2003), Rosemarie (Wenzler) Elgass (2023), Adele Hartmann (2008), Albert Heurich (2019), Rev. Joseph Heitz (1970), Frank Heller Sr. (1987), Marie Lohrer (1991), Leonard Melscheid (1970), Louise Rapp (1970), Ida Sommer (2007), John Sommer (1989), Frank Schottenhammel (1970), Willy Sellerberg (2007), Lorraine Tuzzo (1999), Ida Vogel (1951), Frank Wachter (1989), and Josephine Zoeller (1999). **January:** Hedwig Alt (1988), Fanny Bange (2002), Emma Blatz (1986), Patricia Farkas (2024), Fred Haller, Sr. (2008), Anton Hoefflerle (2022), Fr. Joachim Von Kerssenbrock (2015), Ernst Knapp (2020), Rose Linsmaier (2006), Frieda Muller (2006), Anne Novotny (2025), Lucy Pecnik (2002), Max Rapp (2004), Fr. Jim Reynolds (2024), Alfred Rein (1980), Josef Vogt (1983), and Rose Zernis (1967). **February:** Max Buchte (1970), Anna Fleisch (1969), Hildegard Gartner (1978), Edward Hopeck (2011), Mary Kuhn (2005), Josef Loeschinger (2012), Anton Oettinger (1989), Lena Tiedeken (1986), and Bernhard Tiedeken (1989). **March:** Edward Blatz (1980), John Braumgeither (1976), Olga Freund (2008), Eleanor Gartner (2021), Richard Greimer (1986), Reinhardt Greismer (1986), Monsignor Joseph Konrad (2006), William Markaut (1950), and Pauline Vogt (1999). **April:** Evelyn Heller Blatz (2020), Rita Briskelli (2010), Elizabeth Bugert (1956), John Bittel (1986), Winfried Blatz (2005), Maria Theresa (Terry) Brandel (2003), William Conte Sr. (2007), Frieda Diener (2010), Anna Hertling (1957), Paula Hartmann (1986), Arlene Heller (2020), Frank House (1940), Franz Kokasch (2021), Irene Lauth (2021), August Mueller (1980), Gus Mueller (1986), Elizabeth Oetting (1952), Frank Pfizter (1975), Katherine Pfizter (1996), Joe Sellerberg (1985), Thea Schick (1991), and Arthur Vogt (2005). **May their souls, and the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace.**



A few photos from our Christmas Party:

