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Barry M. Borsenik
State Deputy



My Brother Knights and Ladies,

Happy Mid-Year! While the calendar just turned to 2026 and most just celebrated New Year's Day, the fraternal year just passed the midway point. As we embark on the next six months, my focus will be on the final element of **S.O.A.R.** with us! **R** is for Responsibility. We have much to celebrate in what has been accomplished already this year. Now we must dedicate ourselves to completing the task.

Each brother Knight has responsibilities. As a Catholic, you have a responsibility to practice your faith and uphold the precepts of the Church; Attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation. Confession at least once a year. Receive the Eucharist at least once a year. Observe days of fasting and abstinence. And, provide for the needs of the Church.

As a husband and father, you have a responsibility to be the faith leader in your household. Are you setting the right example, and the expectation for your family in your conduct and your participation? Does your catholic experience go on pause when you leave the church or does it extend into your daily life at home and at work?

As a member of your Council or Assembly, you have a responsibility to be informed, to contribute, and participate when you can to the health of your council. Your individual efforts combined, are what allow your Council to provide significant charitable support and perform acts of service to individuals and organizations in need. A good leader inspires others to follow, usually by their willingness to participate in the work themselves. But, the leader can't do everything alone. Real success comes by empowering others, delegating authority and responsibility and celebrating those who toil under your leadership. You don't have to do all the work yourself, but you need to make sure it gets done. Submit forms, attend training, fill vacancies, assign tasks, correct bad behavior, inspire others, persuade others to join the cause. These things are the responsibility of leaders. Whether you were elected, appointed, or volunteered for a position, be sure you fulfill the associated duties for the duration of your term.

As sons of Blessed Fr. McGivney, we have a responsibility to uphold the founding principles of our Order. We must continue our faith formation and encourage our fellow Catholic men to do the same. Cor activities should be commonplace in each of our Councils. Take care of widows and orphans, especially our own. The fraternal insurance offered to our members and our Supreme Council Field Agents make this easy to do, but you have to open the door. Now with Asset Advisory Services, we have even more options as Knights to plan and protect our financial futures and do it in a way that is consistent with our Catholic principles. Talk to an agent **THIS** year! It costs nothing to have a consultation (with a brother Knight) to review your situation.

Finally, as a Knight, we all have the responsibility to sustain and grow membership in our Order. The percentage of Catholic men who are Knights of Columbus is shockingly low! It may not seem that way when you look around at Mass and recognize many brother Knights in your parish. But remember, there are many Catholic men who are not attending Mass weekly, or do not attend the same parish regularly. Think of how many more attended at Christmas! Many of those "occasional Catholics" could use the support of the fraternity of men who strive to better themselves, to be good husbands and fathers, to help those in need. Invite them to join with a free year's membership in the Order as an online member, and if they're willing, as a member of your council. Let them experience the exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity to learn about our founder and the mission of the Knights of Columbus. Invite them to participate in Council activities and involve their families. Many men, especially younger men, are looking for purpose, something solid, something true, something bigger-than-self to belong to. Offer it to them, by inviting them to become Knights.

Mandy and I have had incredible opportunities to represent you at events around the state and beyond. It is incredible to witness the good works you do and to experience the fraternity shared with us. We are humbled by your generosity and the Love expressed in Charity toward others. We were encouraged by the recent mid-year leadership conference to know how many of you are working hard toward the success of the Michigan jurisdiction and the growth of our Order. May you also be blessed these coming months with an appreciation of this fraternity and continue to SOAR with us as we work to uphold our responsibilities.

Fraternally,

Barry Borsenik

Your State Deputy

Lake Orion Knights of Columbus Support Love INC



The Lake Orion Knights of Columbus Council 4764 presented Love INC with a \$6,000 donation at the Knight's December 9th Christmas party, increasing their total donation to Love INC to \$11,000 over the past 12 months.

Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ) of North Oakland County is a ministry linking partner churches, volunteers and community organizations to aid local neighbors in need.

Love INC Director Patricia Schapira accepts the \$6,000 donation from LO Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Al Hassinger.



The Call to Cling



In the book of Genesis, we are told, “That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body” (Genesis 2:24). There is something about masculinity that involves leaving and something about it that involves clinging. This is the gift of the masculine drive. To leave, that is, to set out amid his restlessness and commit to something or someone with his life.

The passage refers to marriage. A man leaves behind a life where he lives for himself and commits himself to his wife. He clings to her, and the two become one flesh. Many of you are married with families. Do you continue to go to this passage as you live out your vocation? To be a man is to experience the continual call to leave and to cling. This does not only happen at the moment of the exchange of vows. It is the masculine call.

What do we leave behind? We leave behind selfishness, ego, wounded pride, resentment, unforgiveness, harshness, prolonged adolescence or whatever it might be. We cling, that is, we commit over and over again to the one to whom we are pledged. How is the Lord calling you to renewed commitment in your vocation?

This passage is not only about marriage; it is about masculinity in general. This passage also has much to teach us in our walk with the Lord Jesus. We are called to a continual process of leaving and clinging. We leave behind our sin through sincere repentance, and we cling to Jesus through our faith, hope and love.

This is not always easy, is it? Sometimes we cling to what we should leave and leave what we should cling. We all love a good adventure story. This simple passage from Genesis calls us to live the adventure in our story. God has called each of us to live at this time and place in history. He summons us to take our turn in living out the mission of the Church. He calls us to witness to Jesus through our words and deeds.

In October, I was blessed to go to Rome and Assisi. I was there for a diaconate ordination for one of our seminarians at St. Peter's Basilica. After Rome I spent a few days in Assisi. I was there for the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, which was quite a treat! The priest who preached at the Mass our group attended reflected on how pilgrims will often go to the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi but ignore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The priest was not harsh in his point. He said that God is not jealous of this. He rejoices when his children are honored. But he also said that Francis would be saddened by it because his whole life was about Jesus.

The Knights have begun in recent years the *Cor* Initiative to help us grow through faith, formation and fraternity. Patrick Kelly has called the knights to be “first in faith.” The word *Cor* means heart. *Cor* is about getting our heart right. If the spirit of the Knights of Columbus is going to endure then the *cor* must remain core.

The knights do so much good! Praise God! Let us give him thanks and praise! Nevertheless, let us not put membership in the knights higher than being a disciple of Jesus. One flows from the other and gives it life, abundant life even!

Is your heart right? Do you help with the pancake breakfast? Great. But are you neglecting Sunday Mass because of it? That is not clinging to what matters. That is not the spirit that animated Fr. McGivney. It would sadden him. Let's do our pancake breakfasts, giving food to the hungry, but let us not neglect to worship God on Sunday in its stead. Let us clothe the cold with our “coats for kids,” but let us not forget to clothe ourselves with repentance and virtue. Let us profess our unity as an order, but let us not forget the importance of being in unity with the pastor of one's parish, cooperating with his mission and leadership. Let us serve the needy in our parishes and communities, but let us not neglect the fundamental call to serve one's wife and children in a spirit of generosity.

We are right to honor Blessed Michael McGivney. As we do so, let us not forget to cling to Jesus. Jesus was Father McGivney's whole life. If we are not committed to Christ, then we are not honoring the legacy of Father McGivney, no matter how “active” we might be.

Blessed Michael McGivney is not only a model priest but a model man. He was determined in his mission and generous with his service. Men were attracted to his warm and generous leadership. Let's look to his example and seek his intercession so that we might learn how to leave and cling. Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us!

Vivat Jesus!

Father Andy LaFramboise

Pope St John XXIII Council 5436 provides support at Guest House Ground Breaking!



Guest House is a health care provider located in Lake Orion, MI, specializing in addiction treatment for Catholic clergy, and men and women religious. This fine organization broke ground today (12/11/25) on a new Health & Wellness Center. Members of Pope Saint John XXIII council #5436 --- serving the Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church in Waterford, MI --- were in attendance to witness this event and to provide a donation check in the amount of \$2,000 to Guest House.

Pictured in the group photo with the check are: DD113 and Council #5436 member **Chris Scheuer**; Council #4764 member **Ken Danek**; Council #5436 Charities Director and State New Council Development Director **Tom Kendziorowski**; Guest House President and CEO **Jeff Henrich**; Guest House Board Chairman **Michael Fontana** (also State KofC Guest House

liaison); and **Al Hassinger**, Grand Knight of Fr. Thomas R. Carey Council #4764 in Lake Orion, MI.

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From The State Treasurer Vern Miron



We can often find wisdom and guidance in unexpected places, such as popular music. There is a familiar song by The Hollies that starts out, "The road is long, with many a winding turn that leads us to who knows where." Isn't that how our lives seem? A long road that leads us...where? Well, we should know the direction in which we should be headed... eternal salvation. But is that at the forefront of our minds, leading our decisions as we move through life?

The song continues and says, "His welfare is my concern." So, in our fraternity I ask, is the welfare of our brothers our concern? How often do we check on the welfare of our brothers? Do we step up and help when we can? Fill positions? Volunteer to help? Check on people? Invite people? Ask other men to join our fraternity?

Then the song goes on to say, "No burden is he to bear. We'll get there." And there is no question that we continue down the road, but will we get where we are headed? Are we willing to help people with their burdens when they are heavy for them, especially when those burdens would be easy for us bear?

How does the song say it? "They [others' burdens] would not encumber me." Sometimes it would be so easy to help. But we have to pay attention because, as the song says, everyone's heart **isn't** filled with gladness of love for one another. However, we can help these hearts show love, happiness, joy, faith, hope and so much more by showing them the love of Jesus Christ.

Finally, the song says, "It's a long, long road from where there is no return, so why not share," because that is life. We are on a long road from which there is no return, only the journey forward toward our heavenly home. We can only go forward, carrying each other when we need to or can, sharing what we can, filling hearts with gladness, love, and hope as we continue on our road to salvation.

What have you done today to carry someone else?
Vivat Jesus.

Land of Peace



Land of Peace is providing help and support to many carvers and their families by selling their religious carvings from the Holy Land that is hand made in Bethlehem area from materials such as Olive Wood or mother of Peral. Land of Peace is partnered with Bethlehem and Jerusalem Christian Families Mission.

Land of Peace
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Sterling heights, MI 48310
586-486-4524 - 586-576-7653
E-mail: info@landofpeace.org
www.landofpeace.org

From The State Membership Director Douglas Kokot

Greetings Brothers and Ladies:

I hope that you had a wonderful and joyous CHRISTmas as well as a Happy New Year. As Knights of Columbus, we are called to evangelize by our Bishops and by our Order. We do this through our programs and by asking other Catholic men to join us, so they too can grow in faith through action and evangelization. Saint John Paul II said: *"Christians must feel compelled to take the initiative and to reach out to their brothers and sisters in their homes, in the neighborhood, and in the places where they live and work; wherever it is possible to listen together to the one word of salvation—the Word of God—which is more indispensable than bread for everyone's life."*

The acronym: **SOAR** has been our key phrase for this administration. Each six months we used a letter of the acronym **SOAR** to help us focus on key elements of our mission. The first six months was **S** – Service, the second was **O** – Optimism, the third was **A** – Aspire. For the next six months, we are at the fourth letter, and it is **R** – Responsibility.

It is each and everyone's **Responsibility** to help grow our Order. As we invite new members, we are not only strengthening our councils and the Order, but we are also ensuring the legacy of the Knights of Columbus. A legacy of charitable works, solidifying family values, protecting life, supporting our priests, providing support to our parishes and community. We should be proud to invite Catholic men to become members of our Order so that they can participate in its activities and share in the many benefits associated with Knighthood while deepening their faith.

Our goal is to extend the opportunity for fellowship and brotherhood within our Order to every Catholic man. To achieve this, we must extend an invitation for them to become a member.

One goal of every council should be to continually improve. The halfway mark of the year is a good time to evaluate your council and how it is doing. Is it growing, maintaining or fading?]

The first half of the fraternal year is behind us, as we reflect on the first six months of the year, we find that we are not where we want to be. We had a very good first quarter, but we slowed in the second quarter. For us to have a successful year we need to double our effort in the last half of this fraternal year. I know that the Michigan Knights of Columbus are up to the challenge.

Let us be bold in our invitation, sharing the joy, the fellowship, and the faith that comes from being a Knight of Columbus. Together, we can maintain the legacy of hope that will inspire generations. Let's soar higher and make this year one of extraordinary growth and brotherhood.

Fraternally,

Douglas D. Kokot
Douglas Kokot
State Membership Director
Michigan Knights of Columbus

Corporate Communion - Au Lac & Anchor Bay Councils - November 30



Members and their families from Au Lac Council 10724 and neighboring Anchor Bay Council 5981 joined together on November 30th for a Corporate Communion Mass followed by fellowship in the parish hall. Father Joseph Esper, Pastor of Immacu-

late Conception Parish in Ira Township celebrated the Mass and the K of C Color Guard was present. Approximately 100 people attended the Mass and enjoyed coffee and donuts afterwards.

From The State Program Director Matt Wierzgac

My Brother Knights and Ladies,

Vivat Jesus and Greetings! I hope all is well and you had a joyful and blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

I want to thank everyone for all their hard work making our Coats for Kids program a great success! We ordered and issued over 880 coats this year! I am proud of everyone who participated! Even though Supreme couldn't fulfill the BOGO for everyone, we still managed to surpass last year's numbers significantly. Please keep in mind that this program had overwhelming participation from all the Jurisdictions in the order this year, and Supreme tried their best to do what they could to keep up for the BOGO. We certainly understand the frustrations you may have with Supreme, but please know that order wide, we were still able to deliver record breaking amounts of coats to those in need. And Michigan finished in first place and had the best participation in the entire order! Great job everyone! But It's not too early to start thinking about the next fraternal year. Councils should consider starting to put aside or raise funds for coats for fall 2026. If you have any questions, please reach out to our State Community Director, Larry Herman, or me.

At our Winter Organizational meeting in December, we collected rough drafts of service program award entries from councils for **community, faith, family, and life**. Your State Faith in Action team is diligently reviewing them and are going to provide feedback to help maximize their chances of winning the award. We also collected rough drafts for Family of the Year, and your State Family Director is busy reviewing them. If you could not submit your rough draft a month ago but would still like a set of eyes to review, I am offering you one last opportunity to submit one to me to review. You can send rough drafts to my email address at m.wierzgac@mikofc.org.

Final submissions of the State Program Award and Family of the Year will be March 15, 2026. Remember for State Program of the Year, you can submit an entry for each of the Faith in Action categories and are **NOT** limited to just one entry.

Another award to think about, and that is your council's submission for the "State Blessed Michael McGivney Award". This award acknowledges and honors a chaplain for their extraordinary service to the Catholic Church and to the community. Chaplains do not have to be part of the submitting council; however, they must reside in the state in which they are nominated. Councils can submit to winners from previous years. To submit, locate the #SBMMA form from kofc.org website. Entries are due by March 15, 2026, to me.

I want to thank those councils who brought in all their items for the HCS drive! We had a lot of items donated, and HCS thanks you for everything.

Just a friendly reminder to submit those 10784's in as soon as possible after the event has been completed. I know it's very easy to forget a lot of the finer details as time goes on, so considering making it easier, please spend the 15-20 minutes and get it done. Additionally, the Special Olympics information is now submitted through the 10784 and no longer is its own form. Please do not forget to submit your Special Olympics information through the 10784 by the end of January.

Thank you to my State Faith in Action Team for all the hard work you do daily! You help drive this great state by leading this great organization in doing great things! Keep up the hard work!

I also want to continue encouraging everyone to keep up the good work, stay motivated, and promote the faith by putting our Catholic Faith into ACTION! Now that football season is almost over, let's take all that energy, enthusiasm, optimism and passion when leading our councils to success. Don't forget to invite those men who haven't been asked yet to join us. By inviting men to join us, we can continue the legacy of Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney who was

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Ladies Corner

Dear Ladies,

Thank you to all the ladies who attended the Winter Leadership Meeting held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Lansing on December 5th-6th. We had Sue Asenmacher speak about the Columbiettes; a national organization of Catholic women affiliated with the Knights of Columbus. She is looking to start a chapter for women in the Detroit Archdiocese. We were also fortunate to have a fellow Knight from Swartz Creek Council 6694, Dan Hall, with us for an evening of entertainment. Dan grew up in the Flint area. His first musical memories were radio hits of the 50's. He was hooked and the musical revolution in the 60s and 70s influenced the shape and topics of his music today.

A special thank you to everyone who donated sweatshirts, toiletries, and gift cards at the Winter Leadership Meeting for Holy Cross Services. Your generosity is much appreciated.

As you read this, the holidays have already passed. The ladies of the Board love the holiday season, spending time with our families and friends. It brings back so many wonderful memories of family traditions and when our kids were small. Although our kids are all grown up now, those wonderful memories always make us smile and reminisce.

And in the blink of our eyes, it is now 2026. Just five months from now we will all be back on Mackinac Island for the 2026 State Convention at the Grand Hotel. In 2026, the United States will be 250 years old, The Grand Hotel will be celebrating their 140th birthday, and this will be 80 years since the first time Michigan Knights of Columbus have held their convention at The Grand. Planning is already in process. It is never too early to start thinking about the annual "Ladies Charity Raffle." If you are able to donate an item or want to help in some other way, online sign-ups will be available at the Tribute Dinner in February. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kara Fuller, the State Advocate's wife, by emailing her at k.fuller@mikofc.org.

A year and a half ago, I shared the message of "Be The Change" and challenged ladies to acts of charity. I continue to hear from some of you that were inspired by this and the wonderful experiences that resulted. Last Christmas, Barry and I challenged our daughter Olivia with a unique gift. She was given several \$50 bills with specific instructions requiring her to give them away. They each had to go to different individuals, most had to be to people she didn't personally know, delivered in person, and she had to share the stories of her experiences with us. The results were very gratifying. I hope you continue to find ways to make a difference and, Be The Change.

The ladies of the Board want to thank all the ladies for supporting the men in their involvement with the Knights. We hope that you, too, will be involved. We wish you all a healthy and happy 2026 and we look forward to seeing you soon.

God Bless,

The Ladies of the State Board

Mandy, Pam, Christy, Kara, JanMarie, Julie

St Patrick White Lake Council 13319 and Coats for Kids



This fall, St. Patrick Knights of Columbus Council 13319 of White Lake, Michigan once again provided coats, hats and mittens to children in the area that were in need. A total of 98 children will now be able to keep warm this winter as a result of our donation. The coats,

hats and mittens were provided to children at Dublin, Keith and Atherton Elementary schools as well as children in need in Pontiac.

Installation of Vice Supreme Master Walter Winkle, Jr!

On Friday, October 10 2025 , Walter Winkle, Jr., was installed as Vice Supreme Master along with MI District 2 Mater, Ben Dandrow and MI District 3 Master, William Perkis at St. Rose Parish in Perrysburg OH, during the Fr. Hennipinn Province Provincial Meeting.

Thank you to Fr. Logan, Former State Chaplain and State Deputy, Barry Borsenik along with Karen Winkle, MI D4 Dale and Dee Korson, Betty Perkis and OH D2 David Weeks who was also in attendance. I would like to recognize and thank David Weeks and Rob Warnimont for setting up all of the accommodations for the Provincial Meeting during that weekend. We had discussions on the future of the Fr. Hennipinn Province in all of the Districts and are planning on hosting an open meeting next year including all of the Faithful Navigators and all of the 4th Degree Leadership around the Province. Details are being worked out now and will be shared asap. If any 4th Degree member and their lady are interested in attending this event next year, Please talk with the District Master for details.

Thank you,
Walter Winkle, Jr.
VSM

**Au Lac Council 10724 Youth of the Month for November**

Congratulations to Landon Tokarski on being named as the Au Lac Council Youth of the Month for November! Landon is the son of David and Dominica Tokarski and a 7th grade student at Anchor Bay Middle School South. He plays football as a tight end and defensive end and plays on the basketball team. Landon made the commitment to deepen his faith and grow closer to God by completing OCIA and receiving his sacraments. Since then, he's joined the Youth Ministry group and attended various pilgrimages. He can be found volunteering at events after Mass in the parish hall. We thank Landon for sharing his faith through service to his parish and community!

St. Peter Council 6534 - Father Peter Joins The Navy

On 9/17, St. Peter Parish held an indoor "Welcome Back" picnic to celebrate the start of fall adult and youth religious classes. During the event, fellow Knight Father Peter Ludwig was sworn into the Navy as a Chaplain. His duty station will be in Okinawa, Japan. He will serve the thousands of Marines stationed at several bases on the island.

Membership Tribute Banquet**Honoring State Deputy****Barry Boresnek****Saturday, February 28, 2026****Horizons Conference Center****6200 State Street****Saginaw, Michigan 48603****Starts at 5pm****Dinner at 6:15pm with program to follow****\$70.00 per person**

Reservations are available through the Michigan State office on a first come , first served basis. A check or money order must accompany all reservation requests. Make all checks payable to the Michigan State Council /memo line- Tribute Banquet Tickets. Checks are to be mailed to the Michigan State Council Office , 5061 Chesterfield Rd., Chesterfield-Michigan 48051. No Tickets sold at the door.

ADMITTANCE BY RESERVATION ONLY

Our Lady of Lake Huron Council Scholarships Awarded

Pictured from left: Jack Smaglinski, Grand Knight Rodney Emming, Issac Roggenbuck, Kyle Pawlowski, Carson Emming, Dustin Emerick, Tanner Andrzejewski, Bridget Anderson, and Treasurer Howison. (courtesy Photo)

On May 14, Grand Knight Rodney Emming and Treasurer John Howison of Our Lady of Lake Huron Council 11432 in Harbor Beach awarded \$600 scholarships to seven 2025 graduates of Harbor Beach High School.

"Our scholarship program demonstrates how we value our youth and recognize their willingness to give back to their community. This is a proud moment for our council each year," said Grand Knight Rodney Emming.

To date, a total of 61 scholarships totaling \$31,200 have been awarded. The 2025 recipients are Bridget Anderson, Dustin Emerick, Carson Emming, Kyle Pawlowski, Isaac Roggenbuck, Jack Smaglinski, and Tanner Andrzejewski.

District 118 Exemplification - September 16, 2025

L-R Front Row: Ed Gates; Brian Torey; Lou Magic

L-R Back Row: Detroit East Program Director Ron DePestel; District Deputy 118 & State Public Relations Director Matt Hoxsie; AB Council DGK Dave Nummer; Supreme Field Agent Don Wesley;

Au Lac Degree Team: PGK Pat Bohr; SK Jim Ruemenapp; WFN Dave Szczepanski; SK Cliff Becker; PGK Mark Savoie.

Au Lac Council 10724 in Ira Township hosted the District 118 Exemplification at Immaculate Conception Parish on September 16th. Congratulations to Ed Gates who joined the Au Lac Council while Brian Torey and Lou Magic joined Anchor Bay Council 5981 in New Baltimore. Our councils will surely benefit from the addition of these three fine Catholic gentlemen.

Fr. George Ging Council 6824

Council #6824 Ortonville MI harvested pumpkins and cornstalks again this year in support of our local Cook's Dairy Farm. We picked over 4,000 pumpkins and tied more than 250 bundles of cornstalks for their produce stand, and received \$2,800 in donations from the farm to help fund our Sacred Heart Seminarian Scholarships. One of our hardest workers in this event is our chaplain and Priest, Fr John Chen,

who earned the Knight of the Month for October 2025 for his efforts.

St. Thomas Pavilion Dedicated at Christ the Redeemer, Lake Orion

PGK Ron Hines, District Deputy Chris Scheuer, PGK Tom Tiffany, and GK Al Hassinger attend Pavilion dedication by the Rev. Dr. William Promesso

For the past year, members of Council 4764 cut down diseased trees, cleared brush, poured a concrete slab, planted grass, and completed erection of a pavilion to serve the Christ the Redeemer community. The yearlong effort was spearheaded by PGK Tom Tiffany.

Following the Liturgy on the Lawn at CTR on September 9, Fr. Promesso, Priest in solidum, dedicated the new facility as a "place where parishioners can relax, pray, and socialize."

Knights of Council 4764 are parishioners of Christ the Redeemer and St. Joseph parishes.

First Responder Appreciation Dinner

First Responder Appreciation Dinner October 22, 2025, hosted by Father John A. Hardon S.J. Assembly 3099 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in South Lyon, Michigan.

The dinner is open to all Police, Fire and Medical Rescue departments serving South Lyon, Lyon Township, Green Oak Township, and Salem Township

BREAKING NEWS

**EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1ST
THE STATE OFFICE HAS
MOVED!**

Knights of Columbus
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Michigan Traveling Team Exemplification

I hope everyone had a Blessed and Holy Christmas and New Year.

Our current State Deputy Barry Borsenik continues to ask our staffs to help and train other Council Exemplification Staffs who need assistance so they can do their exempts in a more professional way. We all know that the first impressions of the Knights of Columbus are very important. We know that we have many teams that will put on their own exempts. This is all just great.

The Traveling Teams will still be doing Exemplifications for any Council or District upon request as before. In addition to that, the Traveling Teams will go to a District or multiple Districts to put on an Exemplification, with other council exempting team members present to observe how they may do their own exempt more professionally. An Exemplification should be done from the heart with expressions and enthusiasm and not just simply reading the part. Team members can see how the Traveling Team prepares the chamber and how they work with the fibers, rosary and pins. When we get it done, the staff will answer any questions that may be asked and try to help them become an even better exemplification team. Our goal is to hopefully have better exempt teams and retain more new Knights that will be excited about the Knights of Columbus. We want them to get involved and become a long-time member of our council.

Prepared by Gene Murawski, State Ceremonial Director

Remains of the First Degree



The restructuring of the degree left Council #521 with a dilemma, what to do with the first-degree paraphernalia. The robes were donated to a local theater group, we still use the table dressings for presentations and events, but our biggest dilemma was the "Prop" the Chancellor held during his Lesson. Council #521 being 125 years old, had an actual human skull.



At a Council meeting the subject was brought up on how to properly retire this object, Fr Bradley Forintos suggested to bury it at Mt Hope Catholic Cemetery. DGK Jerry Nehl designed and built the box containing the remains, GK Rick Janderwski, PGK John



Pidick, PGK Steve Drouillard and member Tom Gleason attended the Ceremony.

PGK Steve Drouillard offered a tribute and GK Rick Janderwski offered readings as we interred "Harry" to the Earth. The headstone was the cornerstone from a 3 story building Council #521 built and owned from 1930-1960.

St. Patrick White Lake Council 13319 Ramp Installation



Members of St. Patrick Knights of Columbus Council #13319 and St. Colette Council #5492, who also volunteer with St. Joseph's Helpers, recently joined forces to assist a fellow St. Patrick parishioner, Worthy Brother Knight and Navy veteran Jim, who was in need of help.



After a recent illness left Jim reliant on a wheelchair, his family faced challenges getting him safely in and out of their home. In the spirit of charity and brotherhood, the Knights installed wheelchair ramps and threshold aids, making the home fully accessible once again.

This act of service is a true example of the Knights of Columbus principle of *Faith in Action*, brothers helping brothers and families supporting one another in times of need.

Blue Mass

The Jackson Council of the Knights of Columbus organized a Blue Mass, held September 14 at St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church, to honor, thank and pray for the safety of all first responders who lay their lives on the line daily to protect the Jackson community.



Above: Kneeling L-R Lt. Joe Carpenter, Officer Brad Elston and Deputy Jason Monarch.

Middle row L-R Firefighters Matt Jabkiewicz, Gunner Kota, Dwayne Lewis And Alex Watson, Captain Frank Huntley and officer Gianna Mason. Back row L-R Firefighter Nick Camevale, Sheriff Gary Schuette, Lt. John Lilli and Trooper Jake Scottie.



At left L-R Jackson Firefighter Matt Jabkiewicz and Alex Watson from Station #2 Southside.



From the Jackson Police Department Officer Brad Elston and Lt. John Lilli With Livonia Police Department Officer Gianna Mason



Join
The Guild
Now!



Programs = New Members

103rd Ultrasound Dedication - Spero Center Port Huron

On December 2, 2025 the 103rd Ultrasound dedication took place at Spero Center in Port Huron, MI, marking the third unit placed there by the Knights of Columbus. The Bishop William F. Murphy Council #3257, led by Grand Knight Dennis Thomas, generously provided \$16,255 - half of the total \$32,510 needed

Top Row (L-R) Wonderful Spero Center Staff, Defend Life Banner presentation to Grand knight Dennis Thomas and District Deputy Kevin Hagadom; Chancellor Jim Sadlocha opening prayer. Reverend and Council Chaplain Stanley Obloj. Pastor St. Mark Parish, Warren prayer and blessing of the Ultrasound unit.



Above (L-R): District Deputy Kevin Hagadom, State Secretary Charles McCuen, Grand Knight Dennis Thomas and District Deputy Matthew Eilas; Ed Strach, Life Director. Jennifer MacDonald, Executive Director, Leann Clink, RN Director of Nursing and Charles McCuen, State Secretary; Center. Group picture Far Right, Leann Clink shares her thoughts and gratitude.

Congratulations to members of Bishop William F. Murphy Council#3257

It is with the greatest appreciation for the support of funding for this Ultrasound and all other pro life efforts undertaken by the Bishop William F. Murphy Council.

Special thank you to Former District Deputy Mark Elias for his unwavering commitment to ensure this Ultrasound unit was placed as soon as possible. Thank you to Kathleen Wilson, Coordinator of Gospel of life and Project Rachel Minis-

tries Archdiocese of Detroit, for her support and commitment for all Knights of Columbus Ultrasound placements and efforts to defend life.

With our admiration to Jennifer, Leann and all the staff and volunteers at Spero for your time and talents to save the lives of the unborn and support to the families after birth.

Created in the Image of God Baby Blankets

**Blankets include Knights of Columbus logo with the inscription
Created in the Image of God (English) or
Creado a Imagen de Dios (Spanish)**

- Donating these blankets will support your local pregnancy center and expectant mothers
- Provide a soft baby blanket for a newly born baby
- Parish baptism gift
- Donate to your local hospital (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit—NICU)
- Great gift idea for family and friends

Thank you for making Faith & Family First For Life!



Lake Orion Knights of Columbus Celebrate Council Founding



GK Al Hassinger with Council Charter



PGKs Ron Hines & Ken Simpson greet Ed (*75 Knight) & Lorna May



State Rep. Josh Schriver presents proclamation to GK Hassinger

On September 12, the Fr. Thomas R. Carey Knights of Columbus Council 4764 celebrated 65 years serving the Lake Orion community and its Catholic parishes. Over 130 members, spouses, and honored guests filled the ballroom at Canterbury Castle for dinner and dancing. Special guests included Fr. John Leo Phalen, who served from 1990-2003 as pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Lake Orion; Fr. Jim Kean, the current pastor who gave the invocation; Benedictine Monastery religious; and Dominican Sisters. Grand Knight Al Hassinger received proclamations from State Representative Josh Schriver and Orion Township Supervisor Chris Barnett, thanking the Council members for their charitable works and service to the community.

Dan Fuller, State Advocate, congratulated the Fr. Thomas R. Carey Council for their achievements, highlighted by the recent donation of a new ultrasound unit to the Oxford Pregnancy Center, the 100th such donation by the Michigan K of C, and the Council's 2024 Faith In Action Life Award recognition at the state convention for its "Dads for Life" program.

Council 4764 formed April 12, 1959, when sixty-four St. Joseph parishioners became charter members. The council was named for Fr. Thomas R. Carey, a priest who visited the Orion area during the 1920s to celebrate Mass.

Legacy



Photo following Mass @ Westgate Nursing home in Ironwood: SK Jerome Mazurek, Lady Janice Mazurek, Fr. Zachary Mazurek, SK Bob Mazurek and Lady Angela Mazurek - Fr Zachary wearing the vestment gifted by his Grandparents.

the vestment gifted by his Grandparents.

Sir Knight Robert "Bob" Mazurek, 92, PGK/PFN of 2931 in Ontonagon, went to be with Jesus on August 31, 2025. He was very active in the KofC since he joined in December of 1958, countless pancake breakfasts, delivering food to the needy @ Thanksgiving and bringing his kids along to be the example. He was a Eucharistic Minister for 50+ years, Marriage Encounter team for 7 years, sponsored teens to Youth Encounter Christ /Steubenville conferences/ NET retreats / Totus Tuus retreats and his home was always a host home for the teams when in the area. He led the rosary prior to daily Mass @ Holy Family parish, Ontonagon for decades. He and his bride of 67 years, lady Janice Mazurek concluded each day by praying the Rosary. All 8 of their kids, 22 grandkids and 16 great grands were welcomed to join. This example of faith, led to his son, Sir Knight Jerome Mazurek, becoming a Knight and Grand Knight of 13393 in Bessemer. The legacy continued to June 6, 2025 when grandson, Fr Zachary Mazurek, was ordained to the priesthood for the diocese of Marquette. Bob's daily example of living his Catholic faith lives on.

Au Lac Council 10724 Youth of the Month - October 2025



Photo: Mark Kehoe (Grand Knight); Marie Arant; Fr. Joseph Esper (Pastor)

Congratulations to Marie Arant on being named as our Au Lac Council Youth of the Month for October! Marie is the daughter of Kenneth and Regina Arant and a 7th grade student at Immaculate Conception Catholic School where she has won several academic awards. Marie is a member of the choir and cheer teams as well as a member of the volleyball team. She is a frequent altar server at Mass and has helped with our Lenten Fish Fries, IC Parish Festival, Horn of Plenty, various bake sales, and she played the Blessed Mother at the recent Mary Birthday Celebration. We thank Marie for sharing her faith through service to her parish, school and community!

Fr. George Ging Council 6824



On October 12th the Fr. George Ging Council 6824 held their Parish-wide Pancake Breakfast and membership drive. We had 18 Knights in procession for our Corporate communion, served nearly 200 parishioners and collected \$830 for charity. It was our most successful membership drive in a decade with six new members.

Fr. Patrick O'Kelley Council 3860



On Saturday, October 11th, the Dearborn #3860 K of C, hosted their every other month retirees dinner at the Sr. Clergy Center in Livonia. Roast pork loin, stuffed mushrooms,, green beans al-mondine, crispy parmesan potatoes, salad, rolls, and if they ate all on their plate, they were treated to Strawberry pie with vanilla ice cream! The smiles and thumbs up summarized it all.



Currently, in Michigan
there are approximately
10,000 children
in foster care needing
safe and loving homes



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Become a Foster Family

The need is great! Please call one of our Holy Cross Foster Care offices and ask for the Foster Care Home Developer. You will receive an information packet about becoming a foster parent in the mail. You may then attend an orientation session that provides in-depth information about the foster care and licensing process to determine if fostering is the right choice for you and your family. **Call 989-577-5814 to get started!**

Sponsor a Foster Child

Every child in foster care deserves safety, stability, and hope—and you can make that possible. Your gift today provides real, life-changing support.

For example, a one-time gift of \$50 can supply a welcome kit for a child entering care, while \$250 helps fund trauma-informed training for foster parents. Want to make an even bigger impact? A monthly gift of \$25 ensures ongoing support like tutoring and counseling, and \$100 a month helps teens prepare for independence with life-skills workshops.

Whatever amount you choose, your generosity transforms lives. **Will you join us in giving hope today?**

THE NEXT CHAPTER

Holy Cross Services Board of Directors is very pleased to announce that Shelbi Frayer will assume the roles of CEO and President. Shelbi is an accomplished public sector executive and financial strategist known for stabilizing organizations, leading large cross-functional teams, and delivering transformative fiscal solutions.

With more than 20 years of leadership experience spanning municipal government, education systems, state agencies, and private consulting, she has built a reputation for turning around complex financial environments and driving long-term organizational health.

How to Give

Online:



holycrossservices.org/donate

Mail:

1030 N River Rd,
Saginaw, MI 48609

Phone:

989-357-8177

Email:

donations@hccsnet.org



MICHIGAN COLUMBIAN AROUND THE STATE

Knights Help Parishioners



Members of the Au Lac Council Knights of Columbus in Ira Township helped two different parishioners prepare to move to new homes on September 20th! Here's a photo of one group who helped one of the two parishioners. Thank you brothers for your service!

Fall Road Cleanup St. Perpetua Council 13600



Pictured above our Brother Knights from St. Perpetua Council 13600, that participated our annual fall cleanup on September 20th, 2025. We had 9 Brother Knights that participated this weekend.

Fr. Francis L. Karl Council #13432



Council #13432 brothers of St. Patrick's, Traverse City and St. Mary's, Hannah, participated in a scrap metal drive on September 13. We nearly filled a 70-cubic yard roll off bin with assorted ferrous metal items from Paradise Township's Community Clean Up event. All material collected was routed for beneficial recycling with the profits to be used to support community charities.

We tip our cap to the St. Patrick's Mens Club for its successful efforts and delicious homemade meals served at the 58th Annual Buckley Old Engine Show held in mid-August. Many of our brothers are also members.

Lastly, this Council is planning and preparing its ever-popular, biennial Wild Game Dinner to be held February 1, 2026. Assorted wild game includes bear,

elk, venison, moose and waterfowl, will be prepared by our in-council chefs in various dish presentations. A sportsman's-based raffle will be held during this fundraising event.

Council #10724 Fall Adopt A Highway Cleanup



Thank you to the brother knights who came out on Saturday morning to make this event successful. It was our third Adopt-A-Highway litter pickup of the year. This completed our 31st year as a council participating in the Adopt A Highway program.

Thanks to all for a successful year in keeping our section of M-29 looking great! We had 27 participants overall this year at 35 man hours collecting 47 bags of trash.

A special thank you to Past Grand Knight Jim Zeck for chairing this program since 2009. Next years dates will be communicated in the spring.

Msgr. Hugh Michael Beahan Council 7719



On September 6th Council 7719 in Lowell Michigan used some of our helping hands fund to build a ramp for a parishioner in need at her home. This benevolent fund was set up just for this kind of purpose. It has helped others in need as well at times.

We take orders of sub sandwiches and assemble them ourselves after certain COR meetings. The funds are distributed as needed/asked by needs brought up to the council directly or via our chaplain and parish priest Fr Michael Goodwin. Our worthy secretary Chris Nelson spearheaded the planning and gathering of materials to make this happen including meeting with a contractor to make sure we were up to code. Knights who signed up to help showed up early to build the ramp with the help of a couple of youngsters including one of our newest and youngest members Leon Kelly. It was a great time had by all.

Programs = New Members

Council 7586, Respect Life



Father Edmund Battersby Council 7586 under the direction of S.K. John O'Dowd PGK, Life Director set up crosses for the unborn.

This is the tenth year the Knights have set up the crosses for the unborn at St. Joseph Parish in South Lyon, Michigan

Au Lac Council 10724 Membership Drive



Au Lac Council 10724 held a Membership Drive during the weekend of October 11-12, 2025. They recruited at least 6 members which will enable them to meet their quota for this fraternal year.

St. Kieran Council #13983



St. Kieran Knights of Columbus, Council #13983, presented the Shelby Township Michigan Fire Department, six dozen "KC / Casey" fluffy teddy bears. The donation was in memory of deceased Brother Knight / STFD Battalion Fire Chief Mark Semaan. The teddy bears are to be given to traumatized children at fire and accident scenes. This is the 5th year that the Council has donated KC Bears to the first responders in Shelby Twp. with a total of more than 350 bears donated to date. Pictured from left to right are Steve Dettloff (firefighter), Joe Vogel (#13983 Community Director), Jim Finn (#13983 Grand Knight) and Matthew Tidrow (Lt. Fire Inspector).



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St. Louis Center

Brother Knights Embracing the Mission

Dear Brother Knights,

As we begin another New Year, my heart is filled with gratitude for the many ways the Knights of Columbus continue to stand alongside the residents and staff of St. Louis Center. Time and again, you show what it means to embrace our shared mission of honoring the dignity of every person with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Your efforts this Fall, from the Tootsie Roll Drive and Trunk or Treat parking support to coordinating Christmas gift collections and attending our Fall Dinner Auction, reflect more than volunteerism. They reflect a deep, brotherly commitment to



Barry Borsenik, State Deputy, and Mark Brezenski, State MI Program Director, present Fr. Satheesh with \$25,000 at the Fall Dinner Auction.

ensuring that the individuals we serve experience community, compassion, and genuine belonging. Your presence strengthens the very foundation of our work.

Because of your generosity, residents are discovering new possibilities through expanded skill-building programs. Next summer, fifteen residents will enjoy the life-giving experience of St. Francis Camp on the Lake, and several off-campus adventures are already being planned.

These opportunities remind us that embracing the mission means walking with each person as they grow in confidence, independence, and joy. This time of year brings a renewed sense of hope to the Center. The residents' excitement, seen in their decorated homes, handmade crafts, and volunteer work such as delivering Meals on Wheels, reveals the spirit of Christ shining through them. Their joy is a powerful reminder of why our mission matters so deeply. Thank you, dear Brothers, for the prayers, time, and resources you offer so generously. Your partnership allows us to live our mission with integrity and love, not only at Christmastime but throughout the year. May you and your families be blessed with peace and joy throughout this year.

Fr. Satheesh

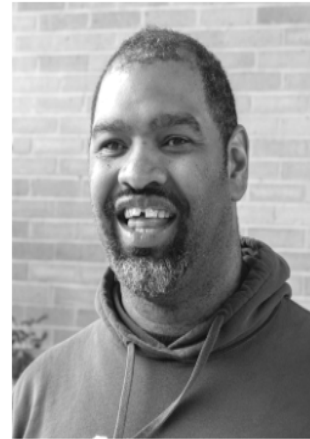
Fr. Satheesh Alphonse, SdC



Read more about the history of the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive and St. Louis Center here:
bit.ly/SLC-tootsie

MEET THE RESIDENTS

Lee Chambers



Lee loves sports. From football to basketball, he knows what is happening at the professional, college and high school level.

For several years, Lee has had the role of On-Field Hydration Coach for the Chelsea High School varsity football team. He has also landed himself the opportunity to assist with

the basketball teams. He loves to be busy and to be helpful.

Lee also enjoys competing at Special Olympics. He participates in both the Summer and Winter Games. He is part of the poly hockey team and he plays basketball.

If Lee could plan one event in 2026, he would have the UniverSoul Circus do a performance nearby so that all of the staff and residents of the Center could attend.

Upcoming Events

PASTA DINNER WITH THE PRIESTS

An Evening at St. Louis Center

You are invited to enjoy a home-cooked Italian meal and delightful conversations. Tickets are \$30/person.

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2026

Place: St. Louis Center
16195 W Old US Hwy 12
Chelsea MI 48118



To register or learn about all of our events, visit stlouiscenter.org/event/annual-pasta-priests-dinner/

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NOTE: FOR GRAND KNIGHTS AND COUNCIL PR CHAIRMAN

In each issue of the Michigan Columbian we print the Current Knights of the Month as designated by the local councils in the State. These men deserve State wide recognition. We appreciate your help in keeping this information current. A copy of the names of the Knight of the Month need to be sent direct to:

James J. Kelley, State Council Family Director, 7263 Village Square Dr., West Bloomfield, MI 48322

*cfy - council knight of year , send a copy of the names to the Michigan Columbian.

Families of the Month

Monroe Council 1266 Tom & Mary Bruck Gary & Karen Beaudrie Anthony & Sandra Banek Portland Council 2168 Thomas & Lori Thelen Hubert & Eileen Schrauben Christopher & Janet Pung Standish Council 2724 Roger & Mary Ann Hus Dennis & Rose Stawowy Westphalia Council 2890 Ron & Karen Schafer Sam & Amy Thelen Randy & Terri Bengal Utica Council 2950 Ray & Gerri Monroe Jim & Suzanne Adams Allan & Diane Mulka Fremont Council 3111 Brock & Alicia Rosema Chris & Denise Hudson Greg & Theresa Sowa Southgate Council 3956 Pochini family Barazsu family Bilyk family The Rosary Altar Confraternity Davison Council 4090 Leo & Kathy Kandal David & Jonna Verellen Karl & Kelly Dekoski Livonia Council 5492 Jeff & Lena Fuller John & Reon Glenon Anthony & Christine Lewandowski Maldonaho family New Baltimore Council 5981 Florence Hayman family David & Denise Duffy	Swartz Creek Council 6694 Lance & Jennifer Wildman Ortonville Council 6824 Paul & Erica Miner Portage Council 6980 Joshua & Michelle Clemens Jim & Cindy Westley Jim & Sue Lewis Birch Run Council 7233 Ken & Jessica Bezemek Kirk & Angela Dupuie Bob & Mary Frank Caledonia Council 7341 Roger & Shirley Campbell Brian & Karen Teunessen Bob & Christi Thelen Fenton Council 7418 Chuch & Patty Salerno Tom & Colleen Collison Dan & Arlene O'Rourke Carl Sechan, Craig Hering Dennis & Jill Husse Milford Council 7444 Mike Clarelli family Vincent & Pam Piacenti Paul & Kathy Martin Harlan Thome family Jenison Council 7487 Chuck & Fran Godley Tom & Tina Parrish Brian & Teesha Turmell Matthew & Margaret VandeWater South Lyon Council 7586 Mark & Melissa Galrcka Marc & Cheryl Daniels Duane & Debbie Novak Lowell Council 7719 Dale & Janet Inbody Durand Council 7955 Donald & Jeanne Mellott	Louis Male, family Gayle & Patricia Steele Mark & marie Dyer Tanner & Mollie Shay Hillman Council 8041 Jim & Kathy Kennard Chris Witman family Michael Coy family Sanford Council 8043 Daniel & Suzanne Reinke Frank & Julie Manley Howell Council 8169 Bill & Maggie Withorn William & Emily Hofsess Mac & Marlene Lipon Auburn Hills Council 8659 Deacon David & Kelly Fleming Karl & Linda Chase Jim & Karen Leja Timothy & Michaela Sinwal Montrose Council 8669 Walter & Gloria Davis Yale Council 8710 Frank & patricia Keller Temperance Council 8902 Jane Czupich family Mason Council 9182 Anthony & Jeanine Igl Phillip & Ruth Wieferich Mark & Linda Leigh Kalamazoo Council 9962 Adam & Ariea Swager Adam & Marina Knott Bernard & Patricia Westrick Ira Township Council 10724 Kurt & Marion Goldenbogen Eric & Jessica Schmitt Carl & Debbie Scheer Joseph & Melissa Ogilvy	Lansing Council 11099 Joel & Mary Stanewich Christopher & Teresa Spalding Harrison Twp. Council 11658 Mark & Connie Miller St. Louis Faith Family Lawrence & Lee Fisher Henry & Grayce Kies Clinton Twp. Council 11689 Phil & Pat Bonnett Art & Janice Krygowski Lansing Council 11694 Michel & Berthilde Kanakuze Bruce & Jouce Brennan, PGK Raymong & Margie Villarreal- Kawczyk Port Huron Council 11756 David & Megan Kelly Tony & Marsha Paladino Shane & Samantha Marrs Robert & Marie Noble Sterling Heights Council 13340 Dave & Betty Turski White Cloud Council 13939 David & Cheryl Cable Herman & Marissa Becker Tom & Mary Eggleston Lake Odessa Council 14404 Dave & Kris Galaviz Pat & Rosann Sinke Mike & Julie Smith Frank & Sherry Agostinelli Comstock Park Council 15548 Jeff & Annuka Thelen Marty & Jill Brechting Joseph & Barb Brechting Canton Council 16169 Ron & Maria Rathbun Randy & Michele Martin
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Au Lac Council 10724 Youth of the Month for December



Congratulations to Austin Lada on being chosen as our Youth of the Month for December! Austin is the son of Robert and Sarah Lada and the grandson of Bob and Mary Lada. Austin is a Senior at Lutheran North High School where he is on the wrestling team and the Drug Prevention and Awareness Club. He is often volunteering at numerous events here at IC like the IC Lenten Fish Fry, replacing the church floor, the white cross display in the church yard, the Walk for Warmth, Mercy in Action Day and Vacation Bible School. He helped organize the SVDP food pantry and cleaned one of our parishioner's yards when they were sick. We thank Austin for sharing his faith through service to this parish and community!
Pictured L-R: Mark Kehoe (Grand Knight); Austin Lada; Fr. Joseph Esper (Pastor - Immaculate Conception Parish)



NOTE: FOR GRAND KNIGHTS AND COUNCIL PR CHAIRMAN

In each issue of the Michigan Columbian we print the Current Knights of the Month as designated by the local councils in the State. These men deserve State wide recognition. We appreciate your help in keeping this information current. A copy of the names of the Knight of the Month need to be sent direct to:

Larry Herman, FDM, State Council Community Director, 501 Georgetown Drive Apt. 17, Traverse City, MI 49684

*cky - council knight of year , send a copy of the names to the Michigan Columbian.

Knights of the Month**Mt. Clemens Council 744**

Robert Cedroni, Doug Petz

Monroe Council 1266

John Merriman, Daniel Aldridge
Shawn Kidd

Portland Council 2168

William Christian, Ralph Wight
Patrick Russman

Howell Council 2659

Pauk Klebba, Shaun Gibbons
Romulus Pompilius, Michael Boyer

Livonia Council 2690

Bob Smith, Chris Scanlon
Mark Kronk

Standish Council 2724

Paul Golimbieski
Fr. Tom Held

Westphalia Council 2890

Tim Fandel, Richard Thelen
Jared Lewandowski

Utica Council 2950

Jason Meyers, Guy Anzell
Anthony Quagliato

Pinconning Council 2986

Matthew Szperski, Marty Schultz
Thomas Ayers, Owen Bush

Eastpointe Council 3042

Richard Trombley, Victor Fuciarelli
Fremont Council 3111

Randy Kinsey, Larry Yachcik
Dennis Janes

St. Johns Council 3281

Lee VanCamp, Lawrence Ciolek
Doug Nurenberg

Dearborn Hts. Council 3860

Matt Roberge, Nick Sanyostasi
Mike Magnone

Southgate Council 3956

Ron Wagner, Dan Somenauer
Tim Barazsu

Davison Council 4090

Ronald Crawford, Richard Molina
Richard Roberts

Wyoming Council 4362

Rubent Liceraga, Dennis Shamblin

Rockwood Council 5446

Brian Lukasik

Rochester Council 5452

Richard Saad, Chris Santella
TommHagen, Jim Soisson

Livonia Council 5492

Patrick Gyetvay, Richard Dutton
Matt Hanchon, Patrick Murphy

New Baltimore Council 5981

Glenn Blisson, Dale Valliere
Swartz Creek Council 6694

Robert Ashford, Vincent Good

Grand Blanc Council 6742

Jayson Richert, Michael Van Camp

Portage Council 6980

Tom Collins

Ortonville Council 6824

Fr. John Chen

Portage Council 6980

Nidal Shomali, Alan Demars
Dave Fening

Birch Run Council 7233

Bob Trudell, Norm Rushton

Brighton Council 7304

Alex Nosbisch, Steve Davis
Joe Meaney

Caledonia Council 7341

Brice Clinton, Ray Alexander

Fenton Council 7418

Carl Sechan, Craig Hering
Ken Claxton, Frank Nalepa

Milford Council 7444

George Fadool, Mike Opalko
Steve Thome

Jenison Council 7487

Kurt Kruizenga, Lance Bryan
Mike London

Freeland Council 7582

Steve Harrand, Brian Pickelman
Greg Becker, Al Sumption

Jerry Keel

South Lyon Council 7586

Steve Penkevich, Mark Zarem
Dave Ferrell, Shawn Mac

Lowell Council 7719

Ben Vanderhardt

Durand Council 7955

Donald Mellott, Louis Male
Gayle Steele, Mark Dyer

Tanner Shay, Frank Nalepa

Hillman Council 8041

Daniel Orr, Lloyd Peltier
Bernard Trahan

Sanford Council 8043

Tyler Angus, Joe Vaughn

Howell Council 8169

Ted Ring, Richard Schwab
Tyler Eddy, Joe Convey

Auburn Hills Council 8659

Mike Mueller, Jayson Graves
Mike Kurkowski, Fred Fisher
Karl Chase

Montrose Council 8669

Doug Powell, Warren Edwards
William Stroup

Yale Council 8710

Tony Davis, Bill Kavanagh
Mike Gierc

Cass City Council 8892

Rich Pachia, Dale Churchill
Ric Kloc

Temperance Council 8902

Josh Shinaver, Fr. Louis Lapeyre

Mason Council 9182

Dean Baker, James Backle
Ralph Devito

Maryville Council 9526

Webb Coats, Sean Van Teim
David Tokarski

Kalamazoo Council 9962

Diego Amaro, Jeffery Cypher
William Stroup, Brian Hemker
Chase Pearce

Okemos Council 10006

Stephen Zayco, Bill Mory
Dave Herring, Kyle Leemon

Memphis Council 10501

John Mastej, Andrew Gillis

Ira Township Council 10724

David Quinn, Gary Moscone
Ronald Mermuys, Thaddeus Stawiasz

Lansing Council 11099

Anthony Cherniawski, John Gordon
Temperance Council 11430

Gary Wallace

Harrison Twp. Council 11658

Lawrence Hinds, Ed Trabilys
Jay Walsh

Clinton Twp. Council 11689

Gino Gattari, Ken Morrow

Lansing Council 11694

Frank Medrano, Fred Findley
Larry Arreguin PGK

Port Huron Council 11756

John Derler, Bob James
Brian Karamon

West Bloomfield Council 12808

Ray Roxzniak, Larry Binder

White Lake Council 13319

Earl Meyer, Charles Maywood
Jamie Linton, Dennis Letang

Sterling Heights Council 13340

Mark Wilhelm

Livonia Council 13645

Jeff Turbiak, Ray Walker
John Winnicker

Howard City, Council 13653

Mike Baxter

Farmington Council 13673

Tom Demshuck

White Cloud Council 13939

John Osterman, Bill Koch
Man Dinh

Shelby Twp. Council 13983

Vito Culcasi, Patrick Chandler
Bill Ivon

New Buffalo Council 14366

Fr. Basker Lopez, Frank Dalton
Daniel La Jeunesse

Lake Odessa Council 14404

Alan Brodbeck,

Grand Rapids Council 15495

Mark Szczytko, Keith Hillary

Comstock Park Council 15548

John Dewildt

Canton Council 16169

Dave Kubinski, George McPartlin



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Three Doors

By: Ed Strach, Life Director



In life, we constantly pass through doors. Most of them are ordinary—entrances and exits that carry little consequence. But sometimes, a door represents a choice that can change everything. This story reflects on Sophie, a young woman facing an unexpected pregnancy, and the three doors she encountered—the doors of fear, temptation, and ultimately, hope.

After discovering she was only a few weeks pregnant, Sophie felt alone and afraid. In desperation, she reached for her phone and searched for “abortion.” That search led her to the first door: a local Planned Parenthood. As she approached that first door, she was greeted by Sidewalk Advocates for Life, offering compassion and encouragement. Their presence reminded her that she was not alone, and that others were praying for women like her. Still, Sophie stepped inside—but something stirred in her heart. She felt uneasy, and before long, she walked back out, unwilling to accept the advice offered there.

Her fear remained, and soon another option appeared on her phone: the abortion pill. It seemed simple, private, and final. A few days later, a package arrived with instructions. Standing in her bathroom—through the second door—Sophie held the pill in her hand. She looked into the mirror, tears streaming down her face. Something within her urged her to stop. She set the pill down and walked away.

What Sophie didn’t know was that, just down the street, a group of Knights of Columbus had recently gathered to pray the Rosary for women in crisis pregnancies. Their prayers, unseen but powerful, were lifting her up at that very moment.

Still uncertain, Sophie confided in a friend, who told her about a local pregnancy resource center—a place of warmth and support. Sophie decided to visit. As she entered the third door, she was welcomed with kindness and compassion. Over time, she built trust with the staff and eventually agreed to an ultrasound. When she saw the image of her child, she wept—not with sorrow, but with joy. Her baby was real, alive, and hers to love.

Unbeknownst to Sophie, the ultrasound machine had been purchased through funds raised by the Knights of Columbus. Their generosity made that life-changing moment possible. Sophie left the center with hope and confidence, determined to choose life.

Months later, Sophie gave birth to a healthy baby. Though challenges remained, the pregnancy center continued to support her with diapers, wipes, food, and clothing. Volunteers from local councils sorted out donations, and financial gifts from the Knights—through the Aid & Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) program—helped sustain the center’s mission.

The pregnancy resource center received a \$2,000 check from a local council marked ASAP—Aid & Support After Pregnancy. A follow-up grant from the Supreme Council, also through ASAP, strengthened the support even more.

Sophie’s journey through the three doors shows the power of prayer, compassion, and hope. Two doors could have led to the loss of her child. The third opened to love, hope, and the gift of life.

As Knights of Columbus, when we volunteer with pro-life organizations, pray with our brothers, fund ultrasound machines, support the Aid & Support After Pregnancy program, express our religious freedoms, we make the door of life wider, bigger and welcoming—for Sophie, and for every expectant mother and child who need it.

RTL MI March for Life—Thursday, November 6, 2025

By: Ed Strach, Life Director

Thousands gathered for the Right to Life Michigan March for Life, which placed special emphasis on supporting women facing unplanned pregnancies and coincided with the anniversary of Proposal 3, at the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing on Thursday, November 6, 2025. The Michigan State Council board and members from councils across the state were well represented at the march.



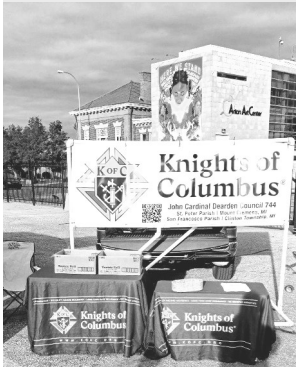
Prior to the march the day began with a Mass for Life at St. Mary Cathedral, just steps away from the Capitol. Bishop Earl Boyea of the Diocese of Lansing presided as well as providing the opening prayer for the march. State Deputy Barry Borsenik lead the marchers in the pledge of allegiance. Also joining us in the march was Tim Saccoccia, Vice President of Public Policy, Knights of Columbus.

Knights of Columbus members were visible in their yellow safety vests throughout the day assisting with the logistics of guiding the over seventy buses that came from across the state with prolife moms, dads, children and students to attend the march. In addition, several of the Knights of Columbus volunteers distributed Love Life, Choose Life posters and helped guide the volunteers through the march route. Thank you, all our volunteers who helped make the march a safe and successful one.

A special thank you to the St. Mary Cathedral Council #11694, Lansing, Grand Knight Phil Schertzing for all their help and support leading up to the march and the day of the march.

Programs = New Members

John Cardinal Deardon Council #744



John Cardinal Deardon Council #744 in Mt Clemens Michigan - recently participated in a Trunk or Treat Party held over at St Mary's School, also in Mt Clemens.

The Event was greatly attended and my Brother Knights handed out Tootsie rolls that were left over from our recent MI Drive.

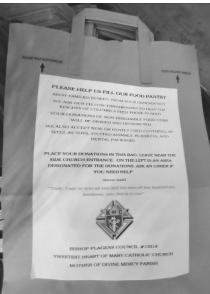
A great time was had by all and the Knights and our Booth made a fine presentation.

Sweetest Heart of Mary, Bishop Plagens Council #13318



On November 2, 2025. More than 100 first class relics were on display during Mass and after for the public to venerate. Our Knights stood guard over our most beloved relics. Three reliquaries that contain pieces of the true cross of Jesus. This event was organized by our knight Jim Stepanhoff and his wife Patty. Many of our brother Knights joined in to set up, guard, answer questions and take down after the event. For the first time, we continued with the event on Monday and invited area Catholic schools to attend. Spiritus Sanctus in Ann Arbor, MI sent 75 students. They were a joy to have attended. Showing Respect for the relics and our church. Also, a group of young men from De La Salle Collegiate in

Warren came to pray and venerate. They too were an inspiration, a light of hope for the future of Catholicism.



Secondly, we are passionate about our food pantry for the poor and homeless in our area. We came up with an idea to distribute donated bags with a letter attached explaining what we need to help those less fortunate. Our thoughts were that if our parishioners take a bag home with them, they are more likely to be reminded about contributing. So far, it seems to be making a difference.

ST. PETER COUNCIL 6534 OFFICER INSTALLATION



On 9/13, St. Peter Council annual Officer Installation took place with District Deputy Michael Schaefer and Father Mark Martin officiating

Reminder: Council Participation in Aid & Support After Pregnancy (ASAP100)

By: Ed Strach, Life Director



What is ASAP100?

ASAP100 represents 100% of active council's participation in the Aid & Support After Pregnancy program during the 2025 – 2026 fraternal year.

Where and how was the 100% decided?

At the Summer Leadership Meeting in June, 2025 district deputies representing their councils agreed on 100% participation by active councils in the ASAP program this fraternal year.

Why would they do that?

The district deputies as well as all State Leadership recognize the importance of the ASAP program to the pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes across the state.

Where do I find out more information about the ASAP program?

Additional information about the ASAP program can be found on the Supreme Council website at [11371 Aid and Support Guide Book](#) and the on-line form at [Aid and Support After Pregnancy \(ASAP\) Grant Request Application](#).

What if I have additional questions regarding ASAP100?

Contact Ed Strach, State Life Director at 734-476-6296 or e.strach@mikofc.org; your district deputy or diocesan program director.

From The State Program Director Matt Wierzgac

inspired by the Holy Spirit to not only support the widows in need, but to also be a holy man of God! I am looking forward to seeing all the great programs to come in this last half of the fraternal year. If you ever need any guidance or have any questions, please feel free to contact me or my faith in action team!

VIVAT JESUS!

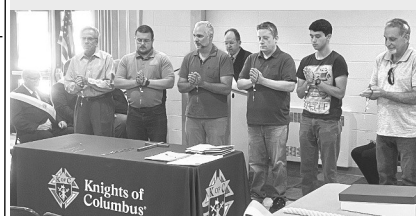
Matthew J. Wierzgac
State Program Director

ST. PETER COUNCIL 6534 VETERANS BREAKFAST



St. Peter Council 6534 Veterans Breakfast was held on 11/9. 8 Knights prepared and served a pancake breakfast to 70 attendees consisting of parishioners and veterans. Free will donations totaling \$302.00 will be donated to the Tunnels To Towers Foundation
Note: The Knight standing behind the cake is our Grand Knight Mike Mills.

St. Patrick White Lake Council 13319 Exemplification



On Sunday, September 28, 2025, St Patrick White Lake Council 13319 held an Exemplification and welcomed new members to its Council. Pictured from left to right are Pierino Piccinato, Stephen Collins, Andy Busca, Don Young, Danilo Aguiar and James Simons. Not pictured is

Adrian Dabish. At this event Fr. Socorro Fernandez and Dominic Federico were also welcomed to the Third Degree.

Father Edmund Battersby Council 7586



Bob Donehue, Grand Knight, Father Edmund Battersby Council stated, "Thank you to all volunteers and participants in making this weekend successful. In teamwork, we truly shined as a council and parish! Kudos to each of you!"

Au Lac Council Delivers Coats For Kids



Au Lac Council 10724 delivered 10 cases (120) of new coats to Kids In Distress Services (KIDS) in St. Clair this morning. They hope these coats will help many children stay warmer during the cold weather days ahead. Pictured L-R: DGK/PD Brian Webster; PGK Pat Bohr; WGK Mark Kehoe; Clare from KIDS.

Au Lac Council Euchre Party a Success



Au Lac Council 10724 in Ira Township hosted a Euchre Party fundraiser on September 27th at the Immaculate Conception parish hall. Forty people attended and enjoyed great food and fun with great friends. The

event resulted in several hundred dollars of profit which will help fund our many charitable programs and activities.



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St Catherine of Siena Council 6980 - Caring Network Fundraiser



St Catherine of Siena Council 6980 in Portage, MI just completed another very successful fundraiser for the Caring Network Pregnancy Resource Center which is located in Kalamazoo, MI and is part of the Diocese of Kalamazoo Catholic Charities. We used the Heritage House Baby Bottles to collect coins, cash, and checks. The total amount for the fundraiser is currently at \$8,918.50 which includes the \$400 that Supreme will contribute as part of the Aid and Support After Pregnancy program. We also asked for items needed by Caring Network and our generous parishioners responded with diapers and pull ups, wipes, and infant clothing. In addition to Council 6980, the entire St Catherine parish was involved including the following groups: Women of the Word, Respect Life Ministry, and the Middle Youth Group.

Fall MI Drive St. Perpetua Council 13600



We had 44 Brother Knights who signed up this year for the 2025 Fall MI Drive . We collected \$6554 for the Mentally Impaired, was a great weekend!



St. Maximillian Kolbe Council 6549



Our Council 6549 was happy to present St Stephens School with a \$1,000 check for their educational fund on 10-23-2025. Presenting the check is our Grand Knight Paul Sujdak and school Principal Bradley Stalder.

May They Rest In Peace

Redford Council 2632
David Micklash
Standish Council 2724
Gerald Brown
Benjamin Brummer, D.D.S
Westphalia Council 2890
Francis Trierweiler, Michael Gross
Chesaning Council 2943
Joseph Dick, James Frelitz
Gerald Maike, Raymond Gengler
Bernard Coonrad
Joseph Stasa Jr., Richard McDougal

Guy Baker,
Allen Park Council 3774
Robert Yoches, George Eskridge
Watervliet Council 4055
Doug Jopp
Davison Council 4090
Walter Schoendorff
Clawson Council 4188
Re, Gary Tierney
Eaton Rapids Council 6534
Gerald Phillips, Jr., William Badgero

Ortonville Council 6824
Dennis Jisa
Jenison Council 7487
Dennis Mazor
Harrison Council 7571
Richard Gostomski, PGK
South Lyon Council 7586
Rev. Howard Vogan, Ronald Ringholz
Emmett Council 7918
Charles Brennan
Durand Council 7955
Douglas Thompson

Port Huron Council 11756
Valery Kraft
Brighton Council 12295
Jeffery Martin
Bay City Council 12423
Robert Krauseneck, FDM
Sterling Heights Council 13340
Jan Darner, Richard Urbano
Bessemer Council 13393
Robert Mazurek, PGK
Warren Council 15057
Ghassan (Gus) Khalil

Au Lac Council 10724 Hosts Church Softball League Cookout



Au Lac Council 10724 in Ira Township hosted a cookout on July 25 for all players in the St. Clair Friday Church Softball League and their families. Approximately 96 people attended the cookout and the grilling was done by brother Knights Brad Vargo and Kurt Goldenbogen. The council has sponsored teams in the league for over 10 years and this year sponsored two teams. Grand Knight Mark Kehoe has been the league director since 2012 and thoroughly enjoys the faith, fun and fellowship that the league provides to the players and their families. The council has recruited several members over the years through the softball program.

Knights of Columbus Volunteering at Sanctum House



Parishes across the Archdiocese of Detroit participated in various activities to show our appreciation of God's Mercy during the 2025 Annual Mercy in Action Service Day on Saturday, October 18. Volunteers engaged in Works of Mercy during the October Mercy in Action Day. For its part, Knights of Columbus from Bishop Michael J. Gallagher Council No. 2569 in Royal Oak, under the direction of St. Mary Catholic Church, completed yard work at Sanctum House, a safe home for survivors of human trafficking to heal and rebuild their lives. Knights and family members raked and bagged leaves, cleared and widened a trail through the woods in back of the lot, trimmed many bushes, and cut trees that were encroaching on the roof of the house. Many thanks went to volunteers Jeff Roland, Reese Roland, Andy Izydorek, Bob Corey, Daryl Wood, Jake Dudek, Dick Close, Pat (Kube) Nicholes, Nick Bee.

Total effort was 9 persons, 8 Knights and one family member, for a total of 45 person-hours. Everyone brought tools and equipment to accomplish the yard work. In addition, leadership spent another 6 hours of planning and communication. Picture of the group is attached. We were assisted by Rebecka (Staff) and a resident. Karen Moore, Executive Director at the Sanctum House, asked me to pass on her many thanks for all the work we do for them.

MICHIGAN COLUMBIAN PUBLICATION SCHEDULE COPY DEADLINE MONTH

MARCH 1st..... APRIL 2026
JUNE 1st..... JULY 2026
SEPTEMBER 1st.....OCTOBER 2026
DECEMBER 1st..... JANUARY 2026

PLEASE SEND ALL COPY MATERIAL TO:

GARY M. KOLBICZ
39373 DURAND DRIVE
STERLING HEIGHTS, MI. 48310
RES. 586-939-3886

E-MAIL – g.kolbicz@mikofc.org

St. Paul of Tarsus Council #11689

St Paul of Tarsus Council #11689 Council conducted a wheelchair collection drive in September.

A total of 19 wheelchairs and 10 walkers were collected and donated to the Clinton Township Fire Department.

Also, the Council sponsored a Pancake Breakfast which netted a total of \$1200.

These proceeds were donated to MCREST.



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Now!**



Online Membership



**A Program for Recruiting
and Engaging New Members**



Knights of Columbus

Lead with Faith Protect Your Family Serve Others Defend Your Values

**MICHIGAN
STATE
COUNCIL
CONTACTS**



These directors
can provide
additional
information
about E-membership:

Doug Kokot, State Membership Director
d.kokot@mikofc.org 616.634.2400

James Escott, State "E" Membership Director



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YES I wish to enroll in the Guild and to receive the newsletter. Name

Address

City/State/Country

Please list below the names and addresses of any family or friend who might be interested in the Guild's work.

Name

Address City/State/Country Country

Name

Address City/State/

MONTHLY MASS FOR GUILD MEMBERS

20 January 2026

MICHIGAN COLUMBIAN

Michigan State Council
Knights of Columbus
50561 Chesterfield Road
Chesterfield
MI 48051

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit #75
Royal Oak, MI



2nd PRIZE "UNITY"
\$4,000.00 Cash



3rd PRIZE "FRATERNITY"
\$3,000.00 Cash



4th PRIZE "PATRIOTISM"
\$2,000.00 Cash

5th – 10th Prizes = \$400.00

11th – 20th Prizes = \$200.00

21st -30th Prizes = \$150.00

31st – 40th Prizes = \$100.00

Drawing: Thursday, April 16, 2026 Doors Open @ 5:00 pm Drawing @ 8:00 pm
St. John Neumann Parish, 44800 Warren Rd., Canton, MI 48187 (586) 436-0121