



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

BERNARD P. O'BRIEN COUNCIL 3956

SOUTHGATE, MI

January 2026



Please submit all articles & announcements to:
kofc3956bulletin@gmail.com
By the 15th of the month prior to publishing

OUR MISSION

Together, we're empowering Catholic men to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work and in their community.

OUR FAITH

Our goal is to help men, their families and their parishes grow closer to Christ. Through our programs and resources, we provide opportunities to live and spread the Catholic faith.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A KNIGHT

We are Catholic men who lead, serve, protect and defend. We share a desire to be better husbands, fathers, sons, neighbors and role models and to put charity and community first.

FAITH, SERVE, PROTECT, DEFEND

OUR PRINCIPALS

CHARITY

UNITY

FRATERNITY

PATRIOTISM

WHO CAN JOIN THE KNIGHTS?

Men who are 18 years of age, and older, who is a practical Catholic.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Grand Knight

Tony Chirco

Deputy Grand Knight

Ryan Daw

Financial Secretary

Ray Bilyk

Chancellor

Richard Gregoire

Treasurer

Steven Pochini

Advocate

Mark Garcellano

Warden

William P. Robert

Inside Guard

Dr. Stephen Gall

Outside Guard

Dr. Eric Mann

One Year Trustee

Thomas Monteleon

Two Year Trustee

Ronald Wagner

Three Year Trustee

Douglas Furtah III

Chaplain

Rev. Don LaCuesta

Lecturer

Deacon Charles Dault

JANUARY CALENDAR

2nd 7 PM - 3rd Annual Family Night at Andel Arena Grand Rapids Griffins vs. Chicago Wolves (tickets must be purchased in advanced)

7th 6 PM - K of C Council 3956 Regular Business Meeting
SPX - SPX Social Hall

17th 7:30 AM - Scripture Service
SPX - Social Hall



18th - Donut Sunday
SPX - Social Hall



19th 7 PM - District 105 Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity
SPX - Church

22nd Detroit Archdiocesan Vocations League (DAVL) Meeting
John F. Kennedy K of C

24th 5:30 PM - Council 3956 Holiday Party
Mexican Gardens



26th 6:30 PM - 4th Degree Rosary
K of C Wyandotte



26th 7 PM - Msgr Van Antwerp Assembly 475 4th Degree Business Meeting
K of C Wyandotte

28th 6 PM - Council 3956 Officers Planning Meeting
SPX - Social Hall



31^s 1 PM - K of C Fraternal Night Red Wings vs. Avalanche
Little Caesars Arena

Important reminders!**Due January 31:**

Fraternal Survey form 1782 due

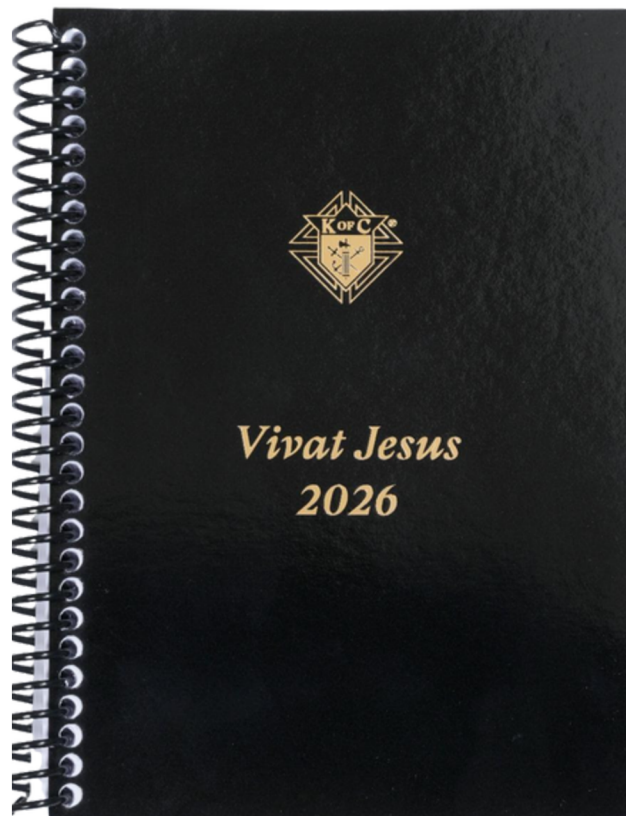
Free throw report due

Special Olympics Partnership form due

Vivat Jesus

The "Vivat Jesus" Spiritual Planner for 2026 is now available! It's designed to help men develop and maintain a daily prayer routine. This year's edition is updated with a special emphasis on giving men a space to plan their prayer routine. Additionally, the book is now in a larger format. Many men have reported to the Supreme Council how transformative "Vivat Jesus" has been in their faith life.

Individual copies are available at shopcatholicinfo.com for \$7.99 each, or we have 19 copies available for \$5.00 each. Please contact FS Ray Bilyk by text 313-247-2110 or email at raybilyk@kofc3956.org and supercharge your prayer lives!



As a council we are well prepared for the year ahead, in large part because of what we learned and experienced in this past year.

What we learned is that planning projects well in advance, following through with those plans and encouraging innovative ideas to annual programs resulted in many of those projects having their “best year ever”. We saw that with our Memorial Golf Outing and the MI Drives.

What we experienced was a continuation of fresh energy brought on by the many new brother knights that have joined our council. Many of these men have children attending our St. Pius X school. Several of these fathers are very active not just in the council, but also as officers and directors on our board. Many of our annual projects were chaired by several of these men.

New initiatives were added to our calendar in 2025, which proved successful and will continue in 2026. In August we hosted a “Ladies Knight” where we invited our wives and lady friends to attend our meeting as guests, followed by a special meal to thank them for their support and encouragement. Their contribution as cheer leaders and volunteers is paramount to our growth.

In November we hosted our first quarterly Spaghetti Dinner which exceeded expectations. These dinners are designed to raise money and awareness for individual initiatives. Our first dinner raised proceeds that will be used to build what Fr. Don envisioned as “Blessed Mary’s Parish Garden” which will set in motion a memorial to our Blessed Mother and establish a parish garden with pavers and plaques to memorialize our loved ones.

Both the Ladies Knight and Spaghetti Dinner will continue in 2026 beginning in February. We plan to again host a Ladies Knight with a Valentines theme at our business meeting on Wednesday, February 4th. The next Spaghetti Dinner is planned for Friday, February 13th. The proceeds of this next dinner will be to establish a Gabriel Richard Catholic High School Scholarship fund sponsored by our Knights of Columbus O'Brien Council.

We start 2026 with our business meeting on Wednesday, January 7th at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall, followed by food and refreshments. Our agenda will include plans for other upcoming projects, which start with a recruitment drive. I encourage each of you to seek out a friend or family member to join this council in January. Later in the month our Board of Officers and Directors will meet for a Mid-Term Planning Session. As mentioned, planning ahead, following through with those plans, and aggressively recruiting inspiring men to our council is the hallmark of our success.

Please join us on January 24th to spend time with brother knights, their spouses and lady friends for our annual Council Dinner. We plan to dine at Mexican Gardena at 15950 Eureka in Southgate. The council is supplementing a portion of the cost, the charge per person is only \$20.00, which includes a choice of entrees, coffee, and soft drinks. A cash bar is available. We encourage payment to be made in advance at our business meeting to reserve seating.

I am so proud to be your Grand Knight. We are a brotherhood like none other. I tell my family and friends, several of who have since joined this council, that you men are among the greatest people I have ever had the pleasure of being involved with. Peace to you and your families now and always.

Vivat Jesus,
Tony Chirco, Grand Knight
K of C O'Brien Council # 3956

Gluttony

It's that time of year again when we try to make amends from too much holiday cheer. Our guilt often sedated by strict dieting and short-lived health club memberships. We know our excessive consumption or overindulgence in food and drink, what many call gluttony, will soon be manifested in tight clothes if not kept in check. For those, like myself, it's a struggle we've been fighting our whole lives, one not easily won.

Truth be told, overeating is just one vice attributed to this sin because its ill-effects are easily visible and the word "gluttony" itself is derived from the Latin *gluttire*, meaning gulp down or swallow.

But in a broader context, it's any overindulgence or excessive consumption beyond what is needed, often leading to waste or harm; a focus on worldly satisfaction over spiritual needs. So, those with high metabolism or thin builds are not necessarily off the hook when it comes to the sin of gluttony.

When we overindulge for personal sensory pleasure, whether it's food, drink, entertainment (screens/games), gambling, sex, shopping, or even time, we lack self-control and our overconsumption tends to draw us away from God to a focus on self. In the modern era, these disordered desires, when serious are often labeled as addictions, and rightfully so, for many of us just can't walk away, and many lead to ruin.

As we assess our resolutions for correcting those things that keep us from being the best version of ourselves, let us not limit our view to image or what the scale says, but things that truly are detrimental to the soul and our relationship with God. Let us grow in the virtue of temperance so that moderation keeps us in check in all our endeavors.

Vivat Jesus,

Deacon Chuck



Pray for Renewal

As I start this day, oh Lord, I wonder: How will this day be different from any other day? Has my faith in you grown into a stale routine, or will I grow this day, closer to you than I have ever been?

Shake me up, Holy God! Rattle the door of my cage, set off my smoke detector, ring my doorbell until I answer the door! Let me read your Word until something new sinks in; let me pray until I hear your voice, until all smugness has given way to gratitude. By the power of your Holy Spirit, renew me afresh in your Word and power, today and every day, energizing me in your great commission. In Christ's name, I pray.

Amen



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 - Ray J. Bilyk
 3 - Ronald C. Cassette
 7- Dr. Okechukwu Unogu
 8- James L. Guyette
 10 - Jeffrey Lazarski
 12 - John Pigott
 15 - Robert C. Munroe
 20 - Daniel B. McGuire
 25 - Joseph Chirco
 25 - Chris Elster
 28 - Antonino Trupiano
 29 - Robert G Bailey

WIFE'S BIRTHDAYS

2- Karen Ann Polaski
 11- Jennnifer Bilyk



YEARS OF SERVICE

Paul J. Pauline 70 Years
 James M Higgins 56 Years
 Jose R Yanez 20 Years
 Walter F Kabalka 19 Years
 Robert G Bailey 13 Years
 Brian T Batko 13 Years
 Kevin G Pelkey 12 Years
 Michael C Lewis 9 Years
 Franz Albright 4 Years
 Christopher McDaniel 2 Years
 Joseph Drumsta 1 Year



IN OUR PRAYERS

Mandy Borsenik
 Jennifer Bilyk
 Margaret LaForest
 Joe and Roger Hernandez
 Glenda Rossi
 Bob Schooner
 Alyssia Schooner
 Daniel Schooner
 Larry Ridenour
 Brian Batko
 Valerie Husar
 John Husar Sr.
 Norman LeMay
 Kelly Hernandez
 Dick Gregoire's Family
 Victoria Turnick
 Michael Morrin
 Jack G
 Andrea Ahan

We continue to pray for brother knights, parishioners, family, and friends in need of God's mercy for whatever challenges they face, particularly those in poor health and in crisis

We need to update our prayer list!
 Please email prayer requests
kofc3956bulletine@gmail.com



Michigan State Council- Knights of Columbus

Fraternal Night at  **Little Caesars
arena**

Detroit Red Wings

vs

Colorado Avalanche

Saturday, January 31st, 2026 1PM

\$85.00 per Ticket

All Tickets Must Be Ordered By **December 20th, 2025**

Send checks and form to: Michael Kozakiewicz

7030 Bison

Westland MI 48185

Make checks payable to:

Michigan State Council

Name: _____

Email Address: and Phone Number _____

Qty of Tickets: _____

Payment Amount Enclosed: _____



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Bernard P. O'Brien Council 3956

SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER

\$5 Beer & Wine



Take the night off and enjoy a delicious meal—all while helping raise funds for the Gabriel Richard Scholarship Fund, benefiting St. Pius X students attending Gabriel Richard this fall.

Ticket Prices:

Adults: \$ 12

Kids ages 6-12: \$5

5 & Under: FREE

Menu:

Pasta with homemade marinara or meat sauce, butter noodles, salad, rolls and non alcoholic beverages!



Save time, purchase tickets online:

<https://www.kofc3956.org/spaghetti/>

St. Pius X Activity Center

Friday, February 13, 2026

4 PM - 7 PM



**Knights of Columbus
Bernard P. Council 3956**

Holiday
PARTY

FOOD • DRINKS • FELLOWSHIP

January 24, 2026
5:00 PM

**Mexican Gardens
15950 Eureka Rd. Southgate, MI 48195**

**\$20 per person
Includes: choice of entree, soft
drink or coffee and dessert**

Tickets maybe purchased at the Janurary 7th meeting