



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

BERNARD P. O'BRIEN COUNCIL 3956

SOUTHGATE, MI

February 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

Anthony 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

4th 6 PM - K of C Council 3956 Ladies Night
SPX - SPX Social Hall



6th 7 PM - St. Pius PTO Euchre Tournament
SPX - SPX Social Hall



13th 3PM - 7 PM - Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
SPX - SPX Activity Center



15th - Donut Sunday
SPX - Social Hall



15th Knights of Columbus Institution Day (144 years)

16th 7 PM - District 105 Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity
SPX - Church



18th Ash Wednesday



21st 7:30 AM - Cor Event
SPX - Social Hall



24th 6:30 PM - 4th Degree Rosary
K of C Wyandotte

24th 7 PM - Msgr Van Antwerp Assembly 475 4th Degree Business Meeting
K of C Wyandotte

25th 6 PM - Council 3956 Officers Planning Meeting
SPX - Social Hall

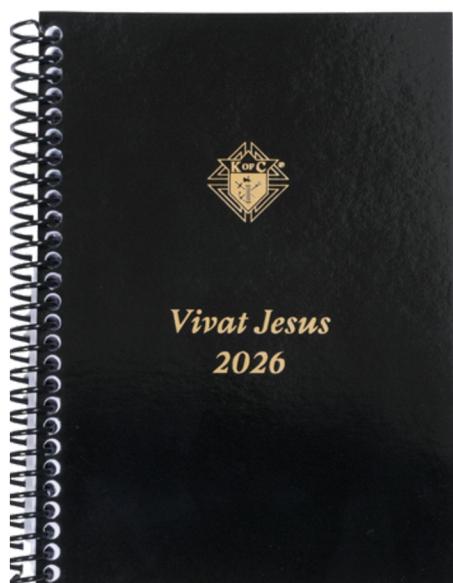
27th Bernard P. O'Brien Council 3956 Anniversary of Institution (71 Years)

28th 5 PM - State Deputy's Membership Tribute Banquet
Horizon's Conference Center Saginaw

1st All Downriver Desert Meal
Crystal Gardens Southgate Cost \$30

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!



Invite a friend to be a Knight!

JOIN US! (BECOME AN ONLINE MEMBER FOR FREE!)



Free Gift!



If you are interested in joining us, it's as easy as clicking on the link below:

<https://www.kofc.org/joinus>

For a LIMITED TIME, enter Agent Referral Code **TJACKSON** or Promo Code **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY** for FREE first year online membership.

Make sure that you select that your Preferred Local Council is 3956!

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND KNIGHT

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Brother Knights and friends of our council,

Special thanks to each of our brother knights who invited their friends and family to join our council. To each of our newest brothers; your decision to join our catholic fraternal organization will pay dividends to you, your family, and our greater community. The growth of this council is not just in numbers, but in the spectrum of ideas that have been brought forward. So many of these programs involve our parish and school. In doing so, the men and women of our community have become more aware of what we have to offer. That will help us to grow all the more.

Among the benefits of these new programs is our engagement with many groups within our community, starting with the fathers of St. Pius X students. Thank you so much. Each of you that have answered the call to service has made a great council, exponentially better! We are now more involved with other parish and school organizations including the St. Pius X school PTO who we assist with events such as the Parish Festival and Trunk or Treat. Also, the parish Rosary Altar Confraternity helped us with Spaghetti Dinner and the planned Blessed Mary Parish Garden.

We should all be excited for the new and seasoned projects that are coming up...

Our Ladies Night is coming up on Wednesday, February 4 th in the Social Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m.

We invite our wives and lady friends once again as special guests to our business meeting that will be followed by a special dinner planned for them. Thank you to our Faith Director Joe Wienclaw for volunteering to prepare for the meal. Please invite the women in your life and let us know ahead of the meeting so we can have an idea of the number of people to plan for. Best way to do that would be to message me personally at 734-558-5446, or through our group chat. If you are not already in our group chat, just let me know.

The Spaghetti Dinner is set for Friday, February 13 th in the St. Pius X Activity Center from 4:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. to raise funds to support St. Pius X students enrolling at GR High School this fall. Our first dinner in November was a great success. Comments were very positive about the food and service provided for a very reasonable price. Please invite family, friends and acquaintances to come. See flyer further in this newsletter for details and to pre-order.

A great example of a new brother knight stepping up is Mark Bilski. Mark is a Sargent with the Dearborn Police Department; he is promoting the initiative to raise awareness of the **St. Pius Emergency Response Program**. Mark has put together a detailed plan to help better prepare and protect members of our church and school community. We have provided these details to Fr. Don to review and requested his blessings to move forward with this project.

The All-Downriver Desert Meal to Support Seminarians Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is Sunday, March 1 st at Crystal Gardens (16703 Fort St, Southgate) starting at 3:00 p.m.

See flyer in this newsletter for details to purchase tickets. Wishing you each good health and safety as we manage through this cold and snowy winter.

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well." – 3 John 1:2

Vivat Jesus,
Anthony Chirco, Grand Knight
K of C O'Brien Council # 3956
Gk3956@mikofc.org

Wrath

Many would agree that one of easiest ways to fall from grace in this area is to drive the numerous thoroughfares connecting the great metroplex of Detroit. The lack of courtesy, selfishness, and apparent ignorance of some commuters tests the best of saints, and many times instead of uttering a prayer for that misguided soul we offer up colorful sign language and blaring horns.

We call this phenomenon, road rage, but in biblical terms it's defined as the sin of wrath; an uncontrolled, excessive rage and hatred, which if left unchecked often leads to a desire for vengeance, far beyond what is just and what is called righteous anger.

I've heard some say, well Jesus used a whip made of cords to drive out the money changers from the temple. The difference being he remained in control, it was a justified response to injustice, and it wasn't for personal vengeance.

If we understand wrath as uncontrolled anger whose effect is the infliction of harm without concern to justice, then it is accurate to always classify it as a "deadly sin." But, if by wrath we mean the animating desire to react in response to harm and injustice, then there is the possibility those acts might actually be righteous.

So, my brothers, when you feel your blood start to boil, turn to prayer to quiet your anger. Seek the virtue of Temperance to calm your soul while you discern the best recourse for the situation.

As St. Paul told the Romans, "If possible, on your part, live at peace with all. Beloved, do not look for revenge but leave room for the wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." (Rm 12:18-19)

For our part, just shake your head, smile, and know your pent up anger is only hurting you. The other driver is oblivious or could care less.

Vivat Jesus,

Deacon Chuck





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Lindsay P. Mclean
- 3 - Edward D. Stol
- 4 - Deacon Scott M. LaForest
- 4 Robert M Liddle
- 7 - Michael J. Gyolai
- 7- Shawn Joyce
- 8 - Henry Pochini
- 14 - Ryan Daw
- 17 - John G. Husar Jr

WIFE'S BIRTHDAYS

- 18 - Julie Daw
- 22 - Catherine Chirco

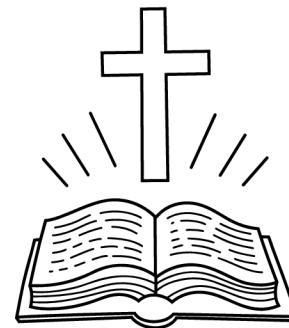


WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

- 16 - Mr. & Mrs. Steven Minella - 30 Years

YEARS OF SERVICE

- Dennis J. Levko 43 Years
- Michael J. Levko 43 Years
- Ray J Bilyk 38 Years
- Patrick D. Tidwell 35 Years
- James A. Kandreas 30 Years
- Brian T. Cronan 17 Years
- Dwight W. Behm 14 Years
- Joe Schwartz 3 Years
- Taylor Jarvis 2 Years
- Douglas Furtah III 1 Year
- Kevin Vanboxell 1 Year



IN OUR PRAYERS

- Quanah Stewart
- Mandy Borsenik
- Jennifer Bilyk
- Margaret LaForest
- Joe 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
- Zita Borrelli

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
kofc3956bulletin@gmail.com

Congratulations

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH MARK BILSKI

Mark is among our newest brother Knights. Mark and his wife Gina have two boys. Roman is in the fifth Grade and Rocco is a toddler.

He volunteered to Usher at the 11:00 a.m. mass on Sundays. Mark is a Patrol Sergeant with the Dearborn Police Department and Certified Hazardous Device Technician (Bomb Squad). He is in his 14th years of law enforcement. Mark is also certified in CPR and works with and trains with Emergency Medical Service Responders annually.

Mark has taken the lead to build more awareness and implementation of the Emergency Response program. His detailed plan is an example of his thorough work ethic. Congratulations Mark!

FAMILY OF THE MONTH

THE BURNETT FAMILY

Aaron and Becky Burnett are proud parents of two students at St. Pius X School –Eleanor, a 4th grader, and Claire, a 2nd grader. Becky is deeply involved in both the school and parish community.

Aaron owns APC Construction, while Becky is the owner of B Studios and also works as a realtor. Most recently, they stepped up to lead the Fish Fry and are responsible for organizing the Vegas tent for the parish festival. They also support the school and organize a variety of fundraisers, including euchre nights, movie nights, and many more. We are incredibly grateful for their time, talent, and dedication!



LADIES NIGHT and Council Business Meeting

February 4th at 6 PM - SPX Social Hall



Our February 4, 2026 Business meeting is EXTRA special, because it's a Pre-Valentine's Day LADIES NIGHT!

We are asking for all our Brother Knights to invite their wives and lady friends to attend this special event! We'll start an abbreviated Business Meeting followed by a special meal and socializing with everyone!

We hope your LADIES (and yeah, Brother Knights too) can attend Wednesday, February 4 in the St. Pius X Social Hall.





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

ST. PIUS X FISH FRY

Fish & Chips
Shrimp

Pierogis from
Srodek

NEW!!!
Pasta Dishes!



14101 Superior Southgate Activity Center

Join us for four Fridays during Lent for our beloved Fish Fry—a true community favorite! Enjoy Srodek pierogies, new pasta dishes, and our classic fish and shrimp dinners.

**FEBRUARY 20, FEBRUARY 27,
MARCH 13 & MARCH 20**

4 PM - 7 PM in the Activity Center

All Downriver Desert Meal

to support the 2026 Seminarian's of Sacred Heart Seminary on their pilgrimage to the Holy Land.



Come and meet over 20 future priests of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Detroit!

When: Sunday, March 1, 2026

Where: Crystal Gardens 16703 Fort St, Southgate, MI

Time: 3:00 PM

Cost: \$30.00 per person

Includes: Full Meal and Dessert with Cash Bar

Sponsored by all the Knights of Columbus Councils Downriver. Get your tickets from your local K of C council members or call/email Brian Batko @ [313-550-1330](tel:313-550-1330) (cell) or bbatko@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!