



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

BERNARD P. O'BRIEN COUNCIL 3956

SOUTHGATE, MI

May 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

MAY

2026

9th - Motorcycle Blessing
SPX - Parish Parking Lot



16th 7:30 AM - Men's Scripture
SPX - Social Hall



18th 7 PM - Exemplification
SPX Church

20th - 22nd MI K of C State Convention
Mackinaw Island



26th 6 PM- Parish Safety Program Meeting
SPX - Social Hall



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

27th 6 PM - Officers Meeting
SPX - Social Hall



29th 4 PM - Spaghetti Dinner
SPX - Activity Center

3rd 6 PM- Business Meeting
SPX - Social Hall

5th 6 PM- Grand Knight Appreciation Dinner
SPX - Social Hall





Brother Knights and friends of our council,

You hear a lot about recruitment in our messaging. It is through building up our Knights of Columbus membership that we strengthen our ability to achieve the great successes we aspire to as a council. Our memorial Golf Outing and Spaghetti Dinners, chaired by recent brothers in our council have given us the resources to help our student of St. Pius with Scholarships and contribution to the other needs of our school and parish.

We recognize that all that we have achieved is equally met by the help of those that have volunteered for years. The veterans of our council, who continue to give of their time and talents are the backbone of our brotherhood. Speaking to the mentors, it is through your experience and love for our brotherhood that we are meeting and exceeding our goals. At St. Pius X Parish, to quote Pope John Paul II, the Knights of Columbus are “the strong right arm of the church”.

Our council is supported the St. Pius Auction by donating Coolers of Cheer. Thank you everyone for your generous contributions! We have heard the event was a GREAT success!

Check out our Calendar of events in this newsletter to learn more about upcoming activities. Visit our website for more information and resources. Although we are a small council, supporting St. Pius X Parish and School, we are among the most active in our district. God Bless each of my brother knights, and your loved ones during this Easter Season.

“The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our Christian faith and the source of our eternal hope” – Saint Leo the Great.

Vivat Jesus,
Anthony (Tony) Chirco. GK
K of C O'Brien Council #3956
Gk3956@mikofc.org

Greed

Some may wonder why alms giving is emphasized during Lent. After all, many of us give weekly. In our efforts to become closer to the Lord, one of the biggest hurdles many of us face, in a materialistic, consumer society, is succumbing to the deadly sin of greed.

It's defined as a selfish, insatiable, excessive desire to acquire more wealth, possessions, power, or status than necessary or deserved, often at the expense of others.

We sometimes think if we have all the things we want we will be happy, only to find it's not enough to satisfy in the long term, and so we continue the pursuit with more vigor. We end up with the attitude of the license plate that reads, "He who dies with the most stuff wins." Sadly, it's elusive and we never really acquire real happiness. In the end, it just becomes someone else's stuff as in the case of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Lk 16:19-31).

Lent is a time of letting go of self-reliance and focusing our dependence on God. As our Lord reminded us, "do not worry about your life, what you will eat [or drink], or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?...But seek first the kingdom [of God] and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides" (Mt 6:25-33).

As St. Paul tells the Corinthians in his second letter, "God loves a cheerful giver" (2Cor 9:7) and St. Luke affirms, "Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." (Lk 6:38).

So, it's not a matter of obtaining all our wants, it's a matter of trusting in the Lord to satisfy all our needs. Realizing that all we have is on loan from him and those blessings are provided to help us grow by sharing with others as we are able. Just ask Ebenezer.

Vivat Jesus,

Deacon Chuck





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Deacon Charles Dault
- 2- Joseph Drumsta
- 3- Anthony DaPra
- 4- James Drumsta & Kevin Martin
- 17- Patrick Tidwell
- 18 - Gerald Gonyea & Charles Momenee
- 19- Robert Park
- 21- Frank Cozza
- 25- Brian Heasley & Nathan Neubecker

WIFE'S BIRTHDAYS

- 18- Valerie Kudla
- 25- Dolores Schooner
- 28- Nancy Somenauer
- 29 - Maria Vitale

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3- Christian Abello
- 3 - Dennis Hamilton
- 4 - Taylor Jarvis
- 6 - Steven Minella
- 6 - Bruce Presutti
- 10 - Scott Zapinski
- 12 - Jose Yanez
- 14- Rev. Fr. Don LaCuesta
- 18 - Alexander Brown
- 18 - Anthony Dault
- 20 - Guy Vitale
- 23 - Mark Formosa
- 23 - Harold Paddock
- 24 - Brandon Malinowski
- 24 - Rev. Fr. Suresh Rajaian SAC
- 25 - Doug Furtah III
- 28 - Chuck Degroat



APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

- 19 - Mr. & Mrs. Dan Somenauer - 51 Years

MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

- 6- Mr. & Mrs. John Husar - 52 Years
- 6- Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Mahar - 9 Years
- 30 - Mr & Mrs. Patrick Tidwell - 46 Years

APRIL YEARS OF SERVICE

- Ronald Cassette 59 Years
- Darryl Zilka 54 Years
- Henry Ibarra 42 Years
- Matthew Dzewitt 39 Years
- James Kuhlman 39 Years
- Francis Cuschieri 16 Years
- Ryan Daw 6 Years
- Miguel Lugo 4 Years
- Vincent Barazsu 1 Year
- Dr. Brandon Brock 1 Year
- Charles Momenee 1 Year

MAY YEARS OF SERVICE

- Michael Gyolai 64 Years
- John McFadden Jr 50 Years
- Lindsay Mclean 35 Years
- Larry Ridenour 34 Years
- Joe Hernandez Sr 34 Years
- Nathan Neubecker 27 Years
- Wesley Barnard 11 Years
- Nicola Vignola 11 Years
- Ryan Wallace 4 Years
- John Pigott 4 Years
- Adam Walentowicz 3 Years
- Brian Shafer Esquire 2 Years



IN OUR PRAYERS

Quannah Stewart
 Mandy Borsenik
 Jennifer Bilyk
 Margaret LaForest
 Joe Hernandez
 Glenda Rossi
 Bob Schooner
 Alyssia Schooner
 Daniel Schooner
 Larry Ridenour
 Norman LeMay
 Kelly Hernandez
 Dick Gregoire's Family
 Victoria Turnick
 Michael Morrin
 Andrea Ahan
 Zita Borrelli
 Bob Bailey
 Antonietta Chirco
 Guy Vitale & family

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

Invite a friend to be a Knight!

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



Free Gift!



SCAN ME

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!

Welcome

Please join us in warmly welcoming our newest member, Chris Babcock, to the Knights of Columbus! We are proud to share that he was recruited by Vince Barazsu!

By saying "yes" to the Knights, he has committed himself to the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. We are grateful for his willingness to serve our parish and community, and we look forward to working alongside him in faith and fellowship.

Welcome, Brother Knight! We are blessed to have you with us.



NEWLY RECEIVED IN CHRIST

We would like to extend a warm welcome in Christ to our brother Knight, Vince. Vince made his Confirmation at the Easter Vigil and is now fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

We would also like to congratulate Chris Babcock on becoming Catholic that same night, receiving all the sacraments of initiation, and becoming a Brother Knight as well.



Congratulations



KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

BRIAN BATKO



THANK YOU Brian! For all of your continuous hard work and dedication to our council and parish! You knocked it out of the park with the Desert Meal! You truly are one of a kind!



FAMILY OF THE MONTH

WIENCLAW FAMILY



Congratulations to the Wienclaw family! Thank you so much for all you do for our school community! We are blessed to have you!

Elections for our upcoming leadership positions are approaching! We invite all members to take an active role in shaping the future of our council and prayerfully consider those who may serve.

Nominations will be held in May, with voting taking place in June. The following positions are open for nomination: Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, Recorder, Chancellor, Treasurer, Advocate, Warden, Inside Guard, Outside Guard, and 1 of 3 Trustee positions.

Please consider participating in this important process as we continue to strengthen our council through faithful service, leadership, and fraternity.

Responsibilities:

Elected Positions:

Grand Knight - The grand knight is the council's chief executive officer. He is responsible for setting council goals and ensuring officers fulfill duties in reaching these objectives. He presides over all meetings; appoints program and committee directors as needed; fills officer roles in the event of vacancies; countersigns checks and orders for payment; and oversees the council's degree team. The grand knight should plan to be mentor for the next grand knight. The grand knight must complete the Safe Environment training.

Deputy Grand Knight - The deputy grand knight serves as the grand knight's right-hand man and fills in for the grand knight when he is not present. Some deputy grand knights serve as their council's program director. Ultimately, he assists the grand knight in leading the council and reaching council objectives. In some councils, the deputy grand knight role might be used to groom a possible grand knight candidate for the following year. Finally, the deputy grand knight may serve as a liaison between the council and other groups that share similar interest (i.e. Newman Club, pro-life club, etc.).

Chancellor - The chancellor assists both grand and deputy grand knights in leading of the council by engaging and strengthening council's membership. His primary responsibilities include recruiting and retaining members and should set up events that display the values and principles of the Knights of Columbus. The chancellor should participate in the council's degree team and serve on both the Admission and Retention committees.

Treasurer - The treasurer is responsible for managing the council funds, whether in bank or school accounts. He receives money from the financial secretary and deposits funds into council accounts. He is responsible for paying all council expenses. He balances and verifies ledger and keeps the updated budget approved by the council.

Advocate - The advocate acts as council parliamentarian. He should be knowledgeable in Robert's Rules of Order and Methods of Conducting a Council Meeting (#1937). He may seek legal assistance from state advocate, should issues arise. The advocate should be able to take on additional responsibilities as the council deems necessary.

Recorder - The recorder has the responsibility of recording all meetings and events held by the council. He should record minutes, conversations and other information helpful to the council and prepare them to be distributed to the membership in a timely manner. Additionally, he should help with council event notifications, council meeting reminders, and assist with council social media responsibilities.

Warden - The warden is responsible for the property owned by the council. He is also in charge of setting up meetings and leads both the inside and outside guards.

Inside/Outside Guards - The inside and outside guards carry out tasks given to them by the grand knight and follow the warden's orders. They are responsible for checking membership cards and allowing entrance to meetings. These positions provide early leadership opportunities.

Trustees (3) - The trustees advise the grand knight, supervise the council's financial matters, and conduct the semiannual audits. Usually the immediate past grand knight will serve as a trustee. Some college councils utilize alumni members and/or university faculty members as the other two trustees to provide additional oversight and support.



Give the Gift of Knighthood to Our Graduates

As high school graduations approach, we are reminded that many young men are standing at an important crossroads in their lives. The Knights of Columbus offers graduating seniors a meaningful opportunity to remain firmly connected to their Catholic faith. One of the greatest gifts we can offer a young man at this stage of life is the gift of knighthood—an invitation to live his faith, serve others, and carry forward the proud tradition of charity, unity, and fraternity.

Please invite catholic male seniors you know to join our Knights of Columbus O'Brien Council It is a wonder gift to share. QR Code is included in image below. Once simple application is completed, they will receive a response email, that they should respond "accept" to join as an e-member.

Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone. As a Catholic man of Faith, accept the gift of Knighthood to continue your growth of spirituality and service to the Lord.



Join Now for FREE
Promo Code: **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY**
Use the QR code to accept your gift of Knighthood in the Knights of Columbus.





Knights of Columbus
Bernard P. O'Brien
Council # 3956

Spaghetti DINNER

ALL YOU CARE TO EAT!

All You Care to Enjoy!

\$12
adults

6-12
\$5

5 & under
FREE



May 29th



4 - 7 PM



St. Pius
Activity Center



Menu:

Pasta with marinara or meat sauce,
Butter noodles, salad, rolls
and non alcoholic beverages

Save time & buy your tickets online!

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





THE O'BRIEN CHAPTER OF THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

★ CELEBRATE ★

Grand Knight's APPRECIATION

★ TO COUNCIL DINNER ★

Hosted by: GRAND KNIGHT TONY CHIRCO and LADY ANGELA



OPEN TO
**KNIGHTS
& SPOUSE**
(ADULTS ONLY)

A NIGHT OF FELLOWSHIP, GRATITUDE,
GREAT FOOD, AND TIMELESS MUSIC



WHEN:
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026



WHERE:
ST. PIUS SOCIAL HALL



TIME:
6:00 – 9:00 P.M.



CATERED BY:
ROUND HOUSE BBQ



— MENU:

Described as their Ultimate Feast:
BBQ CHICKEN, RIBS, PULLED PORK,
BEEF BRISKETS, SERVED WITH
COLESLAW, BAKED BEANS,
AND SLIDER BUNS

.....
WATER, COFFEE, SODA AND
DESSERT INCLUDED



Music of:
**FRANK
SINATRA**
AND FRIENDS



RSVP BY MAY 27, 2026 TO:
GK3956@MIKofC.ORG



Special Message:

No charge to council members and wives/lady friend
who RSVP no later than May 27, 2026.

If you can, please remember to bring a
non-perishable food item for donation to the **Downriver Food Pantry**.
Your generosity helps support families in our community.



★ Thank you for all you do for our Council and our Community! ★



MICHIGAN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS STATE CONVENTION



MAY 20–22, 2026

GRAND HOTEL
Mackinac Island, Michigan



The Michigan Knights of Columbus State Convention will be held May 20–22, 2026, at the beautiful Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. This annual gathering brings together Knights from across the state to share ideas, strengthen fellowship, and advance the mission of the Order.



COUNCIL REPRESENTATION.

Our council will be proudly represented by:

- † SDRR/FS Ray Bilyk
- † District Deputy Mark Garcellano
- † Grand Knight Tony Chirco
- † Program Director Brian Batko

Alternates are encouraged to remain prepared should they be called upon to attend.



We wish our representatives a productive and inspiring convention as they represent our council and bring back valuable insights to share with our members.





Rosary Walks

May 2026



Sundays in May
12:00 noon

(following the 11 a.m. Mass)

Meet on the front steps of the church
Families and Strollers welcome!

Our Lady of the Scapular Parish, Wyandotte
2609 Tenth Street at Superior

Rosary Walks take place in May as a special devotion to Mary. Each Sunday after the 11 a.m. Mass, everyone is invited to meet on the front steps of the church and join in procession as we walk together and pray a set of mysteries of the Rosary visiting the Rosary Shrines in the neighborhood.

Youth groups and families are encouraged to join us and to help spread devotion to the Rosary.

Brochures with the map and mysteries of the Rosary are available in the church. Please invite friends and family to join in this *Pilgrimage of Faith!*



Joyful Mysteries: Sunday, May 3

Luminous Mysteries: Sunday, May 10

Sorrowful Mysteries: Sunday, May 17

Glorious Mysteries: Sunday, May 24

For further information, call Debbie 734-934-2599