



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

BERNARD P. O'BRIEN COUNCIL 3956

SOUTHGATE, MI

July 2026



Please submit all articles & announcements to:

[kofc3956bulletin@gmail.com](mailto:kofc3956bulletin@gmail.com)

By the 15<sup>th</sup> 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

Brian Batko

### Deputy Grand Knight

Ryan Daw

### Financial Secretary

Ray Bilyk

### Chancellor

Richard Gregoire

### Treasurer

Steven Pochini

### Advocate

Tony Chirco

### Warden

William P. Robert

### Inside Guard

Tim Barazsu

### Outside Guard

Dr. Eric Mann

### One Year Trustee

Thomas Monteleon

### Two Year Trustee

Ronald Wagner

### Three Year Trustee

Stephen Gall

### Chaplain

Rev. Don LaCuesta

### Lecturer

Deacon Charles Dault

Brother Knights and friends of our council,

As I reflect on these past two years as your Grand Knight, I am honored to have worked such outstanding men and your families. I hope I have served you well. With your time and energy, we have done well for our St. Pius X Church and School communities. Since beginning this journey, we have welcomed over 30 new brother knights to this council. In doing so, we have been recognized by State Leadership, as a Double Star Council, reaching 200% of our membership goal, among other awards. More important is the talents, vision and leadership these new members have brought to this council.

Through the stewardship of our Past Grand Knights and the dedication of our long-time members, we were given a solid foundation to build upon. Our signature programs like Coats for Kids, MI Drive, Memorial Golf Tournament and the All-Downriver Desert Meal have each achieved great success. We have increased our contribution to state programs like RSVP supporting our seminarian. ASAP to support pro-life and meeting the needs of the Lincoln Park Crisis Pregnancy Center. We have partnered with our blessed St. Pius X school with programs like Free Throw and Soccer competitions, Festival Booths, Trunk or Treat, Field Day and others.

New programs like Spaghetti Dinners help start honoring our Holy Mother with Blessed Mary's Parish Garden that will memorialize our loved ones. An Immunization Clinic was offered to parishioners. Two Scholarship programs have been instituted to financially assist with enrollment at St. Pius X Elementary and Gabriel Richard Catholic High Schools. We have recognized our wives and families with Ladies Nights to thank the special women in our lives and our recent Appreciation to Council Dinner, which supported the Downriver Food Pantry.

I would love to thank by name all the brother knights and their family members that have made this all possible, but there have been so many. I don't want to name some and not others. Besides, you know who you are.

We are in good hands. The newly elected leadership will continue to meet the four core principles of the Knights of Columbus which are Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. I personally will continue to serve as Advocate for our council and assisting our Worthy District Deputy as Warden.

I said I was not going to mention names, but I want to congratulate Brian Batko as he assumes the position of Grand Knight beginning July 1, 2026. With your help and direction, he will continue the great legacy of this council. Continue to give your time, talents and energy for the greater good of our St. Pius X community. God

Bless you and your families.

Vivat Jesus,

Anthony (Tony) Chirco  
Grand Knight (2024-2026)  
Knights of Columbus O'Brien Council 3956

## Pride

Over the past several months, I've written articles addressing the seven deadly sins; slothfulness, gluttony, wrath, envy, greed, and lust. This brings us to the last of them; pride. I've chose pride last because it's the deadliest, most elusive, and the one most commonly committed. One my ask, well what's wrong with being proud?

Many of us are proud about certain things, being American, a dad or a Knight, for example. But don't be confused with the use of the word with its underlying meaning. Here's what I mean.

Authentic Pride is grounded in self-esteem, confidence, and the satisfaction of accomplishment or a job well done, much like the pride of being a Knight. This type of pride is grounded in accomplishment, confidence, and service of others, rather than self- aggrandizement, the other sort of pride better referred to as hubris.

Hubris is an excessive or arrogant sense of self-importance, overconfidence, self-sufficiency, bordering on conceit or narcissism. This sort of pride possesses not a healthy self-esteem and mental well-being, but rather a disposition where a person thinks more of themselves than they ought to. Often they take all credit for their accomplishments while ignoring the gifts or help they have received. This is most evident by constant boasting, treating others as inferior, an inability to listen to opposing views, or an extreme sensitivity to constructive criticism.

Our first parents, Adam and Eve, are good examples of this form of pride. It's true the Tempter fooled them into believing "You will be like gods" (Gn 3:5), but really it was their succumbing to pride that caused the fall, not so much the temptation. Jesus proved that temptation has no real power during his 40 days in the desert (Lk 4:1-13).

Because hubris distorts truth and blinds individuals to their own faults, it requires active, intentional practices to overcome it. The ultimate heavenly virtue counterpart or antidote to this unhealthy vice is humility. Here are some self-assessment questions to ask that help keep a person humble:

- Do I consciously acknowledge that my talents, successes, and life are gifts from God, rather than strictly my individual achievements?
- Do I dominate discussions or rarely ask questions about others?
- How do I react when corrected by peers or superiors?
- Do I prioritize self-interests over helping others (servant mentality)?

Humility is a way of grounding our accomplishments to Authentic Pride. It's having the confidence to know our strengths while openly acknowledging our limitations. It's the idea of "thinking of yourself less," rather than "thinking less of yourself" (C.S. Lewis – The Screwtape Letters).

Vivat Jesus,

Deacon Chuck





- 1- Steven Pochini
- 2 - Donald Mullins
- 5 - Adam Walentowicz
- 8 - James Kuhlman
- 14 - Gary Marveal
- 17 - James Garcellano
- 17 - Joe Williams Jr.
- 18 - Christopher Poirier
- 19 - Miguel Lugo
- 21 - Burrell Hughes
- 22 - Michael Lewis
- 22 - Dr. Eric Mann
- 22- Jeff Wesley
- 25 - Patrick Guentner
- 28 - Kevin Pelkey
- 29- Thomas Monteleon
- 29 - Kevin Vanboxell
- 30 - Joseph Cassette
- 30 - Joseph Wienclaw
- 31 - Dennis Assenmacher
- 31 - Bryan Hughes

## WIFE'S BIRTHDAYS

- 14 - Angie Mahar
- 27 - Michele Corso

## Anniversary

- 9- Mr. & Mrs. Walter Kabalka - 66 Years
- 8- Mr. & Mrs. Mark Garcellano - 28 Years
- 10- Mr. & Mrs. David Kudla - 40 Years
- 11- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schooner - 49 Years

## YEARS OF SERVICE

- George Kelly 31 Years
- Joseph Cassette 17 Years
- Richard Gregoire 10 Years
- Mark Garcellano 9 Years
- Donald Mullins 9 Years
- Chris Strazlkowski 4 Years
- Josef Chlebeck 3 Years
- Mike Camilleri 3 Years
- James Garcellano 2 Years
- Shawn Joyce 2 Years
- Joshua Baker 1 Year



# Congratulations

## **KNIGHT OF THE MONTH**

**RYAN DAW**

Thank you for being Tony's right-hand man over the past year. Your unwavering support, constant encouragement, and dedication to both Tony and your fellow Brother Knights have not gone unnoticed. You have been his biggest cheerleader and a true source of strength and support for so many. We are grateful for all that you do and the positive impact you have made on those around you.

## **FAMILY OF THE MONTH**

**ROBERT & GAIL BAILEY**

Even when life has thrown you a curveball, you have remained a constant presence for Right to Life and for all those who depend on you. Gail, thank you for organizing the Baby Shower for the Pregnancy Center and for your generous heart in supporting mothers, babies, and families in need. Bob, thank you for your continued commitment to the pro-life mission and for your steadfast dedication to serving others. Your faithfulness, generosity, and willingness to serve make a lasting difference in our parish and community. We are deeply grateful for all that you do and for the witness of faith and compassion you provide to those around you.

## Business Meeting

The Knights of Columbus Council 3956 will gather for its regular business meeting on Wednesday, July 1, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the St. Pius X Catholic Church Social Hall. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m., providing members with the opportunity to review council activities, upcoming events, and ongoing initiatives that support our parish and community.

Following the business portion, members are invited to stay for food and socializing, continuing the strong tradition of fraternity that defines our council. This gathering offers a meaningful blend of service, planning, and fellowship, strengthening the bonds that unite our brother Knights.

## Men's Scripture Club (COR Event)

Third Saturday, July 18th, the Men's Scripture Club (Cor) will meet from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. in the St. Pius X Social Hall. This monthly gathering invites men to reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings, share insights, and grow together in faith.

Participants are encouraged to enjoy coffee and donuts before the discussion begins. Importantly, this event is open to all men—membership in the Knights of Columbus is not required. The Scripture Club provides a welcoming environment for spiritual growth, fellowship, and meaningful conversation.

## Fourth Degree Rosary

On Tuesday, the Fourth Degree Knights Assembly will gather for a Rosary from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Wyandotte Knights of Columbus Council on Biddle Avenue. This brief but meaningful time of prayer offers members an opportunity to unite spiritually, reflect, and honor the traditions of the Order.

## New Council 3956 Planning Meeting

Council officers will meet on Wednesday, July 29, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Social Hall to review upcoming events, finalize planning details, and coordinate responsibilities for the months ahead. This meeting ensures that council programs remain well-organized, mission-focused, and aligned with parish needs. We will also be scheduling a semi-annual planning session for the first half of the council year.



## IN OUR PRAYERS

Quannah Stewart  
 Mandy Borsenik  
 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  
 Gayle Hernandez  
 Frank Cuschieri

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



# July



1<sup>st</sup> 6 PM- Business Meeting  
SPX - Social Hall



4<sup>th</sup> - Independence Day - Happy 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday America!



15<sup>th</sup> 6:45 PM- Downriver Knights of Columbus Riverboat Tour  
Bishop Park - Wyandotte

17<sup>th</sup> 7 PM - Toledo Mudhens Game  
Fifth Third Field Toledo, OH



18<sup>th</sup> 7:30 AM - Men's Scripture  
SPX - Social Hall

18<sup>th</sup> 12 - 3 PM - District 105 Mustang Car Collection Tour  
Taylor, MI



22<sup>nd</sup> - Rising from Ashes Tour  
Huntington Center Detroit

23<sup>rd</sup> 7:30 PM - DAVL Meeting  
JFK KofC Clinton Twp

28<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM - 4th Degree Rosary  
K of C Wyandotte



28<sup>th</sup> 7 PM - Msgr Van Antwerp Assembly 475 4th Degree Business Meeting  
K of C Wyandotte

29<sup>th</sup> 6 PM - Officers Meeting  
SPX - Social Hall



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



## River Cruise



**JULY 15**



**6:45 – 9 PM**

2 HOUR BOAT RIDE  
STARTING AT  
**BISHOP PARK**  
TO  
**DOWNTOWN DETROIT**  
AND BACK



**\$30**

**PER PERSON**

OR

**\$50**

**PER COUPLE**

**ADULTS  
ONLY**



**CONTACT**

**MARK GARCELLANO**

OR

**RAY BILYK**

*for tickets*



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

## Toledo

# MUD HENS NIGHT!

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF BASEBALL, FELLOWSHIP & FUN!



FRIDAY,  
**JULY 17, 2026**



FIRST PITCH:  
**7:05 P.M.**



FIFTH THIRD FIELD  
TOLEDO, OHIO



TICKET PRICE:  
**\$20 EACH**



Bring your family and friends as we cheer on the Toledo Mud Hens and enjoy a great night at the ballpark with fellow Knights and supporters.

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS HERE**

## ★ RESERVE YOUR TICKETS TODAY! ★



IN SERVICE TO ONE.  
IN SERVICE TO ALL.

HOSTED BY THE  
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**12700 DELTA ST TAYLOR, MI 48180**

# **MUSTANG CAR COLLECTION TOUR**

**JULY 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**NOON – 3:00PM**

Come and see over 60 Mustangs from the earliest 1965 model to more recent ones and hear stories on their design by one of Ford Motor Company's long-time executives.

Come early and bring your classic car  
Family and friends are welcome  
Food and drinks will be available

**RSVP to your Grand Knight by July 10th**



**A KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DISTRICT 105 EVENT**



Bernard P. O'Brien K of C Council 3956



# 6th Annual Memorial Golf Tournament

Benefitting St. Pius X Catholic School

## Time & Location

- October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- Check-in starts 8AM
- Shot gun starts 9AM
- Riverview Highlands Golf Club

## Ticket Pricing

- \$125 per player or
- \$500 per team

## What's Included?

- Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & last place
- Basket Raffles & 50/50
- Continental Breakfast
- Lunch at the turn
- Driving Range access
- Other on-course games
- Banquet after golf will be at One Nine Events

Registration and Sponsorship at [www.kofc3956.org/golfouting2026/](http://www.kofc3956.org/golfouting2026/)

ANY QUESTIONS? EMAIL US [2026GOLFOUTING@KOF3956.ORG](mailto:2026GOLFOUTING@KOF3956.ORG)





# BECOME A KNIGHT MAKE A DIFFERENCE



**LEAD**  
YOUR FAMILY



**SERVE**  
YOUR PARISH



**SUPPORT**  
YOUR COMMUNITY



**DEFEND**  
YOUR FAITH

## IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN JOINING US

**SCAN HERE!**



**FOR A  
LIMITED TIME  
ENTER**

AGENT REFERRAL CODE:

**TJackson**

OR

PROMO CODE:

**blessedmcgivney**

**FOR A  
FREE  
FIRST YEAR  
MEMBERSHIP!**



MAKE SURE YOU CHOOSE  
**LOCAL COUNCIL**

**-3956-**

AS YOUR PREFERRED COUNCIL



**JOIN TODAY.  
CHANGE LIVES  
FOREVER.**

*In Service to One.  
In Service to All.*

**+ FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY. LIFE. +**