



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

BERNARD P. O'BRIEN COUNCIL 3956

SOUTHGATE, MI

June 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

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

# June

3<sup>rd</sup> 6 PM- Business Meeting  
SPX - Social Hall

4<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM- Archbishop Gala  
St. John's Resort 44045 Five mlle Rd. Plymouth MI

5<sup>th</sup> 6 PM- Grand Knight Appreciation Dinner  
SPX - Social Hall



11<sup>th</sup> 6 PM- Protecting God's Children's Workshop  
SPX - Social Hall

15<sup>th</sup> 7 PM - Exemplification  
SPX Church



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

21<sup>st</sup> Donut Sunday  
SPX - Social Hall



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

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

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

26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Rummage Sale  
SPX - Activity Center



♥ HAPPY ♥  
FATHER'S  
♥ DAY ♥

Brother Knights and friends of our council,

Thank all the people that have been so helpful to our council over these last few years. This begins with the ladies in our lives. My wife Angela has been my rock for nearly forty years. I am so blessed to have her at my side for all that God has given us. She has been a tremendous asset to this council. All the planning and successes we had were only possible with her encouragement and support.

We appreciate all the women that supported us. It does not go unnoticed their time and energy to take care of the family while we dedicated ourselves to support our St. Pius X community. Special appreciation goes to Angie Mahar, who has been so much of a friend to me and our council. It is such a joy to work with her. Her enthusiasm is infectious. St. Pius X parish is so fortunate to have her. Without taking any time away from her responsibilities, she finds the energy to help us. She has reinvented our newsletters and prepared most of our flyers for recent projects. With her encouragement, her husband Greg is a brother knight.

I would also like to thank our most recent Past Grand Knights Ray Bilyk, Bill Robert and Mark Garcellano. Without their dedication to this council, we would not have had the platform I was blessed to have started with. They continue to be among the most active members of our council. Our Worthy Past Grand Knights have been a tremendous asset to me as mentors and counselors. I have often reached out to them and hope I can do the same for our future leadership.

To each of our dedicated officers and directors, your dedication and hard work is much appreciated. Our elected officers have taken on their responsibilities with great care. Thank you to our directors for saying yes when I asked them to accept their positions and more so for doing such great jobs. It has been a pleasure to work with each of you.

To all the seasoned members of this council, you have been so dedicated to our mission; you continue to step forward to meet the needs of the community. There are so many veterans of our council who have remained active. They tell me it is because of the high energy and enthusiasm that we bring to each of our programs that they want to remain a part of.

Among all that I hold most pride in is that growth of our membership and how that has helped us meet the needs of all that we serve. Our newest members of this council have transformed this council into a powerhouse among the state councils. So many of our new members have taken on key roles as directors and leadership of our many projects. I have challenged you each to bring to this council your ideas of how best to serve our community and you have delivered!

We recently returned from our state convention in Mackinac Island. Thank you to the membership for allowing us to represent our council. There, we were also cited as among the best councils in the state. We were one of only 14 to achieve Double Star Council, recognizing councils that doubled their membership goals. I look forward to the continued growth of our O'Brien Council here at St. Pius X Community as newer member join with us in our mission to serve the greater good of our parish and school.

A Prayer in closing:

Lord Jesus, Thank you for giving me such a vibrant community of friends to do life with. I praise you for the people you have blessed me with, the ones who have come alongside me to love, encourage, support, and uplift me through all the twists and turns of life. I'm so grateful that I do not have to go through life alone, but that you have shown me examples of your love through my dear friends.

Amen.

Vivat Jesus,

Anthony (Tony) Chirco. GK

K of C O'Brien Council #3956

[Gk3956@mikofc.org](mailto:Gk3956@mikofc.org)

## Lust

When I think of how best to frame or think about the sin of lust, I can't help but think about the Scripture passage, "everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Mt 5:28) followed by the song from Roy Orbison, "Oh, Pretty Woman."

Although some may interpret "Pretty Woman" as a love song about the experience of love at first sight, its verses tend to reveal a more troubling perspective from the person's infatuation toward another. A perspective that draws them not to love but rather into the sin of lust.

The song starts with an immediate fixation on a stranger's appearance; an instant, craving type attraction that is often the trademark of lust. This is followed by an obsessive gaze and captivation coupled with some fantasy musings. The song centers the individual's desire for the woman, not to know her, but engagement based only on her objective beauty. She is only a pretty woman, to be desired and used as a source of pleasure. There is no intimate relationship intended, only one – possession; to be with her for sexual gratifications and physical excitement. The encounter lacks benevolence or one ordered to complimentary as seen in marriage.

Although some may view the song as harmlessly romantic, its lyrics suggest otherwise. The individual's demeanor is a strong candidate for the sin of lust. It's a good tune to think about when discerning our motives and actions when dealing with others.

Vivat Jesus,

Deacon Chuck





## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1- Daniel Gregoire  
 6- Joe Hernandez Sr  
 10- Walter Kabalka  
 12- Kent Scharnhorst  
 17- Patrick Tidwell  
 18- John Husar  
 29- Scott Corso

## WIFE'S BIRTHDAYS

26- Kim Heasley



## JUNE WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

1- Mr. & Mrs. Henry Ibarra - 41 Years  
 8- Mr. & Mrs. William Robert - 53 Years  
 10- Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Chirco - 37 Years  
 11- Mr. & Mrs. Brian Heasley - 15 Years

## JUNE YEARS OF SERVICE

Brian Hughes 16 Years  
 Anthony Dault 13 Years  
 Anthony Chircho 9 Years  
 William Robert 9 Years  
 Robert Schooner 9 Years  
 Mark Farrah 8 Years  
 John Lazere Jr. 8 Years  
 Mitchell Garcellano 6 Years  
 David Kudla 5 Years  
 Thomas Monteleon 4 Years  
 Mark Formosa 1 Year  
 Nick Jarvis 1 Year



## 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  
 Gayle Hernandez

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



# Congratulations

## **KNIGHT OF THE MONTH**

**BILL ROBERT**

Congratulations to Bill Robert on being named Knight of the Month! Your dedication to helping and guiding our council is truly unmatched. Thank you for your unwavering support, leadership, and willingness to lend a hand whenever needed. We are grateful for all that you do and for being such an important part of everything we accomplish. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition, and thank you for being amazing!

## **FAMILY OF THE MONTH**

**ST. PIUS AUCTION COMMITTEE**

Congratulations to the St. Pius X Auction Committee on all of your hard work and dedication in making this year's auction such a success! Your countless hours of planning, preparation, and teamwork truly paid off, creating an evening filled with fun, laughter, fellowship, and wonderful memories. Thank you for your commitment and generosity in support of our parish and school community. Great job, Auction Committee! Well done!

## Safety Program

The Safety Program Presentation was held on Wednesday, May 26, 2026, invited parishioners with professional backgrounds in medical care, military service, firefighting, and law enforcement. At the request of Fr. Don, the session focused specifically on forming a Security and Safety Team dedicated to protecting the St. Pius X community.

Attendance included ushers and medical professionals. Their presence underscored the seriousness of the initiative and the parish's commitment to preparedness. A special acknowledgment goes to **Mark Bilski**, whose leadership and persistence have been the driving force behind this program. His efforts have helped shape a thoughtful, well-organized approach to parish safety.

The presentation laid the foundation for a coordinated team that will help ensure St. Pius X remains a safe, welcoming environment for all who gather here.

## Michigan Knights of Columbus Convention

The Michigan Knights of Columbus State Convention was held May 20-22, 2026, at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Our council was well represented by Worthy SDRR/FS Ray Bilyk, WDD Mark Garcellano, Grand Knight Tony Chirco, and Program Director Brian Batko.

A highlight of the convention was the recognition of our council for achieving **Double Star Council** status for the second consecutive year. Out of 600 councils in Michigan, only 11 reached this distinction—an achievement that reflects the dedication and unity of our membership.

Another proud moment came when **Worthy District Deputy Mark Garcellano** received the Distinguished Knight Award for 2026, a well-deserved honor for his leadership and service. Congratulations, Worthy DD! The convention concluded with the election of **Charles E. McCuen** as State Deputy, marking the beginning of new chapter of leadership for the Michigan jurisdiction.

## Motorcycle Blessing

The Annual Motorcycle Blessing took place on Saturday, May 9, 2026, in the St. Pius X parking lot. A large group of bikers gathered for this beloved tradition, which brings together riders from across the community for prayer, fellowship, and safe-travel blessings.

Deacon Chuck presided over the ceremony, offering prayers and blessings beginning at 8:30 a.m. Participants also had the opportunity to purchase event shirts, adding to the spirit of camaraderie.

Special thanks go to **Worthy Program Director Brian Batko**, whose organization and dedication once again made this event a success.

## Ordination of Fr. Lizandro Barba

A joyful milestone was celebrated on Saturday, May 23, 2026, as **Lizandro Barba**, whom our council has supported through the RSVP program, was ordained to the priesthood. The ordination took place at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

According to the Archdiocese, Fr. Lizandro will be primarily assigned to the Basilica of Saint Anne in Detroit. A Mass of Thanksgiving followed on Sunday, May 24, at Holy Redeemer, where parishioners and supporters gathered to celebrate his vocation. We extend heartfelt congratulations to **Fr. Lizandro** as he begins his ministry.

## Exemplification

The next District Exemplification will take place on Monday, June 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Pius X Church. For those brother-knights that have a candidate in mind to join our council, please make a concerted effort to encourage them to join, first as an e-member, and to attend the June exemplification.

Our Worthy District Deputy needs four additional members in the district to achieve Double Star status. We have been the shining star of this district, so please let's get that done for him. Many of our brother knights have someone in mind that would make a terrific addition to our council, now is the time.

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## Father's Day & Donut Sunday

Father's Day and Donut Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, June 21, 2026, following the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses in the Social Hall. St. Joseph's Helpers have been invited to share information about their charitable work. Volunteers are appreciated to help serve and support this event and the good work of St. Joseph's Helpers.

## Rummage Sale

The St. Pius X Rummage Sale will take place in the Activity Center on Friday and Saturday, June 26-27. The Knights have been asked to assist on June 29 with loading the truck with remaining items. At our business meeting, Franz Albright will provide the time for volunteers to gather.

## Officers & Director Meeting

The concluding meeting for this term will be held Council Officers and Directors Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Full attendance of the current board is needed. New leadership begins on July 1, 2026.

## Spaghetti Dinner

Our Knights of Columbus Council Third Spaghetti Dinner was held in the Activity Center on Friday, June 29th from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. It was a beautiful day that had a lot to do with the turnout. Our next dinner will be planned for the Fall.

Thank you to Chairmen Walt Bies and Vince Barazsu for your hard work, preparing and making a great meal which included three types of pastas, salad, and rolls. The ladies of the Altar Confraternity again baked desserts. We look forward to partnering with you again at our next functions.

## Protecting God's Children Workshop

A Protecting God's Children adult workshop will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2026, from 5:30-9:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. All volunteers involved in activities with children are required to attend. Additional online opportunities are also available. You must register online.

## Election Results

The Knights of Columbus recently held elections for the upcoming fraternal year. We are pleased to announce the following officers who were elected to serve beginning July 1, 2026:

- Grand Knight: Brian Batko
- Deputy Grand Knight: Ryan Daw
- Chancellor: Dick Gregoire
- Recorder: Vince Barazsu
- Treasurer: Steven Pochini
- Advocate: Tony Chirco
- Warden: Bill Robert
- Inside Guard: Tim Barazsu
- Outside Guard: Erik Mann
- Three-Year Trustee: Stephen Gall

Congratulations to all those elected. We thank them for their willingness to serve our council and support the mission of the Knights of Columbus. We also extend our gratitude to the outgoing officers for their dedication and service during the past year.

May God bless our newly elected officers as they begin their terms on July 1, 2026, and guide them in their leadership and service to our council, parish, and community.



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



## River Cruise

ANCHOR **JULY 15** ANCHOR  
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**



# 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  
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AGENT REFERRAL CODE:

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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. +**