



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

BERNARD P. O'BRIEN COUNCIL 3956

SOUTHGATE, MI

August 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

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

Greetings.

I am truly honored and excited to lead our council this fraternal year. I appreciate your overwhelming support. As I spoke about at the July meeting, besides the charitable work we currently do and will continue, I will also focus on deepening the faith within our council. The Catholic faith is very rich and there are many things we can take advantage of such as, adoration, regular confession, daily Mass, sacramentals and devotions. Deacon Chuck will highlight and focus on these during his talk at the council meetings and in the newsletter. Partake in whatever grabs your interest. There is no obligation, but I feel that it's hard to take advantage of something if you don't know about it. Another thing I'd like to do at the end of the meeting is have someone share how God has shown up in their life. Either through prayer, interactions with other people, or being inspired to share the faith with a friend, neighbor or stranger. Also, I look forward to you sharing your ideas on how we can be a better council, new opportunities to serve our community (either at St Pius or surrounding area) and for fraternal events where we can get to know each other more and strengthen our brotherhood.

Vivat Jesus!

Brian

Mustang Car Collection Tour

We toured a Ford Mustang Car Collection featuring 80 Mustangs from all the model years. Many were quite rare due to unique options, limited editions or very low mileage. This event was a collaboration between our grand knight, Brian, and our worthy District Deputy and fellow council member Mark Garcellano. Brian had the relationship with the collection's owner, Mike Berardi and Mark worked to get the other councils in his district to support the event. Since the tour was free for our council, we thought it would be a nice token to support the foundation that Mike and his wife Sue set up for their son, Matthew, who passed away. Matthew was a chef and loved to cook. The foundation provides scholarships for culinary students at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Mark asked each council to donate \$100 which would give us \$500 to donate to the foundation. Trenton council stepped up big and donated \$500 which brought our total donation to \$900!. Mark arranged for all the hot dogs, buns and water to serve and Ryan Daw cooked the dogs at the COR meeting (you can see him in the background of the COR photo). About 12 brother knights attended, totaling around 20 people. John Clor from the Ford Mustang Club engagement team handed out Mustang pins and provided information about some of the cars on hand. We also worked on recruiting a couple new Knights though they would join another council where they lived. A great time was had by all!

Preparedness

Most of us this past summer have taken some sort of vacation or trip and it goes without saying there was time taken out to plan and prepare. Whether it was packing a suitcase or an entire camper, we did what was need to ensure we were ready to get the most out of that venture. Now that autumn is approaching, many of us are busying ourselves with getting ready for another school year, Halloween, and yes even Christmas, as is event in many stores. Yet, when it comes to the most important journey or undertaking of our lives, we give little regard to our preparation.

It's the same trip everyone is on; the same trip that's enviable; the same trip that's one way without return. A person would think with it's criticality and last effects, more not less time would be given to ensure success, sadly its barely a blip on our radar.

Although, as I said, everyone is on this journey, not everyone is in the same place. So, to narrow the scope of the assessment, just answer a few basic questions about going to Mass. This will help to get the ball rolling to get to where you think you should be instead where you are. Start small, just four, and build from there.

How consistent am I about going to Mass?

Have I looked at the readings prior to Mass and contemplated the message?

Do I participate fully, partially, or not at all during Mass?

Has what I've heard in the readings/homily affected the way I live my life or is it the same old same old, week after week?

As St. Paul tells us, "So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober." (1Th 5:6)

Vivat Jesus,

Deacon Chuck





4 - Henry Ibarra
 5 - John McFadden Jr
 10 - Frank Allevato
 11 - Dennis Levko
 13 - Steven Crandall
 14 - Josef Chlebek
 23 - Dr. Brandon Brock
 25 - William Robert
 26 - Jacob Harpenau
 26 - Craig McKinney
 27 - John Lazere Jr.
 28 - Dr. Stephen Gall

WIFE'S BIRTHDAYS

7 - Francess Unogu
 21 - Barb Degroat
 23 - Debra Hamilton



11 - Mr. & Mrs. James Guyette - 53 Years
 15 - Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Chirco - 6 Years
 Mr. & Mrs. Harold Paddock - 64 Years

YEARS OF SERVICE

George Kotronis - 31 Years
 Gerald Gonyea - 13 Years
 Robert Munroe - 11 Years
 Alexander Brown - 7 Years
 Fred Gerring - 3 Years
 Brandon Malinowski - 2 Years
 Anthony Szpaichler - 1 Year



Upper Downriver Right to Life has been busy this spring and summer! Volunteers designed and built a float to promote the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The float featured an eight foot tall Liberty Bell, Betsy Ross and highlighted the wording from that Declaration: "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Although abortion is legal through all nine months of pregnancy in Michigan, we have undertaken an advertising campaign in the Wyandotte Warrior newspaper and Wyandotte Today magazine to remind readers of the value and dignity of each person throughout life, from conception to natural death as we know from Catholic teaching and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

It is our responsibility and opportunity on the August 4th Primary and in November to vote to elect representatives who best reflect our Catholic Values. Right to Life of Michigan PAC endorses candidates who are pro-life, will protect parental rights, stand with women and families, and uphold common sense. Please visit the website for your personalized ballot: RTL.org/vote, call 734-282-6100 or stop by our new office: 344 Eureka in Wyandotte.

Please make plans to join The Downriver Right to Life affiliates for our annual Focus on Life Dinner on Tuesday, October 6 at Crystal Gardens. Save with early Bird tickets from now until September 1st are now available: FocusonlifeDownriver.com or call 313-9784.



Men's Scripture Club (COR Event)

Third Saturday, August 15th, 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.

Welcome new COR director Joe Weinclaw!

We held our July COR meeting outdoors because the weather was beautiful. We enjoyed coffee, donuts (thanks Joe) and reading the scripture readings for Mass the following day. Deacon Chuck Joe and Dick all provided commentary since they have all been in seminary. We also shared some struggles and challenges we face as Catholic men. We all came away strengthened by it. Hope to see you Saturday, August 15th at 7:30am. If the weather is nice we will be outside!



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
 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

It has been a while since I prepared a reflection for the newsletter. Before I was blessed with leading this council over the past two years, I was a trustee and newsletter editor. I prepared me well for Grand Knight.

Summer is well underway and ready or not Fall is fast approaching. Plans we made have been interrupted for a number of reasons, but as we have gotten used to, we adjust. Our plans are not God's plans. Sometimes that can be hard to accept but accept we should.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” – Jeremiah 29:11

This verse is the most well-known scripture affirming that **God has a specific plan for us**. Offering hope and reassurance even in uncertain times, it reminds us that God's intentions are good, and His guidance is purposeful.

Recently, two of our brother knights, Frank Cuschieri and Joe Hernandez lost their wives. Please pray for them and their families. We are a brotherhood. Continue to support each other. Joe and Frank have both told me they will remain active in the Knights of Columbus. Pray that they have the strength to understand God's plan for them.

Peace
Tony Chirco, PGK



For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the LORD, plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you
hope and a future.
Jeremiah 29:11

Welcome

Give a big hello to Mike Loria. Mike was exemplified on Monday, July 27th. Mike is a long time Downriver resident and looks forward to jumping in with both feet to make a difference. Welcome Mike!!



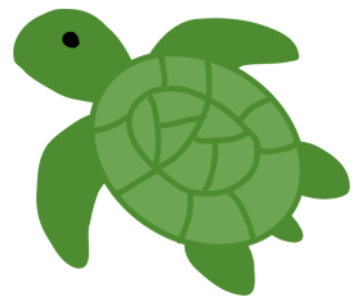
Congratulations!

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH DAVE KUDLA

FAMILY OF THE MONTH CHIRCO FAMILY



August



3rd 6 PM - Mass & Installation of Officers
Our Lady of the Woods

5th 6 PM - Business Meeting
SPX - Social Hall

11th 6:30 PM - Festival Black Jack Dealer Training
SPX - Social Hall



14th - 16th - K of C Michigan State Camporee
Wooded Acres Campground Houghton Lake, MI

15th 7:30 AM - Men's Scripture
SPX - Social Hall

22nd - Downriver Knights Family Picnic
Centennial Park Grosse Ile, MI



25th 6:30 PM - 4th Degree Rosary
K of C Wyandotte



25th 7 PM - Msgr Van Antwerp Assembly 475 4th Degree Business Meeting
K of C Wyandotte

26th 6 PM - Officers Meeting
SPX - Social Hall

27th 7:30 PM - DAVL Meeting
JFK KofC Clinton Twp



29th - Fraternal Knight @ Comerica Park
Detroit Tigers vs LA Dodgers



20th Annual Downriver Knights Family Picnic!

Saturday August 22, 2026

11am - 4pm

Centennial Farm Park

(On beautiful Grosse Ile)

25797 3rd St, Grosse Ile

(1 block south of Grosse Ile Parkway,

1/4 mile west of East River Rd)

Broasted Chicken Hamburgers Hotdogs Cole Slaw
Baked Beans Corn on the Cob Potato Salad Cookies
Fruit Pop Water Assorted Beer (\$5 Donation)

Games for all! Maybe you'll Win a
flat screen TV, Kuerig, or other prize!
Or maybe not!

For More Info:

FA Tom Jackson at: thomas.F.Jackson@kofc.org

PGK/FDD Jeff Dombrowski at:

j.dombrowski@mikofc.org

or... contact your favorite Grand Knight!

\$5.00 feeds the
whole family...
such a deal!!

Same price
20 years
in a row!



20 AND OUT!

These 2 guys started this event 20 years ago
and figured it's time for a change. It's been fun,
but time for someone else to enjoy it!
Who wants to grab the reins?

St. Pius FESTIVAL

LABOR DAY WEEKEND



THURSDAY NIGHT: MUSIC BINGO ONLY



UNDER THE ENTERTAINMENT TENT • 7:00 – 10:00 PM

FOOD TRUCKS • PIRATE SNACKS • SWEET TREATS • BEER TENT
GAME TENT • VEGAS • BINGO • VENDORS • SMALL RAFFLES
GRAND RAFFLE • LIVE MUSIC • CARNIVAL RIDES!

ENTERTAINMENT

**THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 3**

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM



**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 4**

7:00 PM – 11:00 PM



**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 5**

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM



7:00 PM – 11:00 PM



**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 6**

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

john tibbs



2:30 PM – 4:30 PM



7:00 PM – 11:00 PM



★ FOOD TRUCKS ★

CELLY'S BAR AND GRILL
DETROIT SIBLING RIVALRY BBQ
FRESH BEAN COFFEE
GALINDO'S
KONA ICE



GAME TENT

SPONSORED BY:

Rev'd Up
FUN

Scan the QR Code to
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Festival news!



THURSDAY

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

FRIDAY

5:00 PM – 11:00 PM

SATURDAY

1:00 PM – 11:00 PM

SUNDAY

12:00 PM – 11:00 PM





2026

Knights Of Columbus Living Rosary

CHARITY-UNITY-FRATERNITY-PATRIOTISM



SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 13

MICHIGAN STATE CAPITOL

2:00 PM



Featured Speakers

Rear Admiral Thomas Kendzierski (ret.)

&

Fr. Paul Ballien, State Chaplain



Bernard P. O'Brien K of C Council 3956



6th Annual Memorial Golf Tournament

Benefitting St. Pius X Catholic School

Time & Location

- October 10th, 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 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 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/

ANY QUESTIONS? EMAIL US 2026GOLFOUTING@KOFc3956.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. +