



**Knights of Columbus
St. Paul the First Hermit
Council 14222 – February 2026**



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Grand Knight Message

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Brothers, while I realize our meeting was on Ash Wednesday, we only had a turn out of 18 members out of 180. Please remember this organization can't function without the participation of its members.

After the rosary at Knight's grotto and a wonderful baked ziti provided by Tom Felten, we discussed the huge success of the diaper drive. The launch of the Lenten food drive and the continued need for volunteers at every Mass. We discussed the Easter egg hunt, first Friday Adoration (joining

fellow Knights the 1st Friday every month at 8pm for Adoration) and Knight at the Races event coming May 2nd.

Alberto Fernandez, our insurance agent, reintroduced himself and gave a short summary of available services. Among other things, we voted to change meeting times by half an hour, so from now on we will be starting at 6:30 pm instead of 7:00 pm.

Joe Castrigno was named Knight of the Month for his wonderful mentorship of yours truly.

I really want to reiterate that any little bit of help is appreciated. If you can sit at a table and accept a check from someone you are useful. Half an hour, one hour. It doesn't matter, every Saturday and Sunday we are out there and the more Knights that show up in shirts the better. You can make a difference!

Vivat Jesu
Jim Schafer
Grand Knight



Message from Dcn. John Rumplach

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Lent, What to do?

Lent is the time when people take advantage of announced invitations to embrace their faith, yet many people still do not know how to embrace this invitation. So how do we consider the experience of a life-changing Lent?

Try a new prayer or devotion – If you have gotten in a rut with your Lenten prayer, why not try something new? The Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration.

Fast to draw closer to God – Fasting on Ash Wednesday, Fridays during Lent, and Good Friday are the standard. Yes, at our age it is much easier, but why not go beyond the basics. Fasting awakens your awareness of God and pulls you closer to him. What about fasting from something other than food?

Do some spiritual reading – If you like to read, why not put aside that best seller and read something that will deepen your relationship with God and his Church.

Give alms for those in need – During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on alms giving, which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. Your 40 cans for 40 days is an answer, but spread the word about it – tell everyone you encounter.

Learn about your Catholic faith – Do you have questions about what the Church teaches and why? Have you been told or read something about a teaching that bothers you? Has this caused you to take a step back? Are you sure what you were told is correct? You owe it to yourself to learn the truth. Attend the faith filled Adult Religious Education classes here at St. Marks.

Attend Lenten activities – We have the Stations of the Cross every Friday at 50 p.m., a special Lenten Concert with John Michael Talbot on Sunday, February 22, at 4:00 p.m., Forty Hours of Adoration from March 1 to March 3 (a time to pray and meditate), and the parish Lenten Penance Service, on Monday, March 16, at 6:00 p.m. (a time to clean your soul).

Make a good confession – If you haven't received the sacrament of reconciliation in a long time, Lent is the ideal time to go. "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart ..." (Joel 2:12). We will have priests available for reconciliation on Thursday, March 22, the last day of the Lenten Mission.

The Knight's continued "Service of Charity" has always been a great way to see Christ in the faces of those in need. Remember a merciful heart does not mean a weak heart. Anyone who wishes to be merciful must have a strong and steadfast heart, closed to the tempter but open to God.

Let us look into the human heart – A heart which lets itself be pierced by the Spirit so as to bring love along the roads that lead to our brothers and sisters.

During this Lent, let us all ask the Lord: Lord, **make our hearts like yours,**

*Almighty and Everlasting God,
You have given the human race Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility.
He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man and giving His life on the Cross.
Help us to bear witness to You by following His example of suffering
and make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen*

“Peace and Grace to all - May the Lord bless all of you and your families”

Awards

Knight of the Month - February

Joe Castrigno for all his work and helping Jim, our Grand Knight and all members of the board on how to run the council, filling out forms on time, procedures, etc.

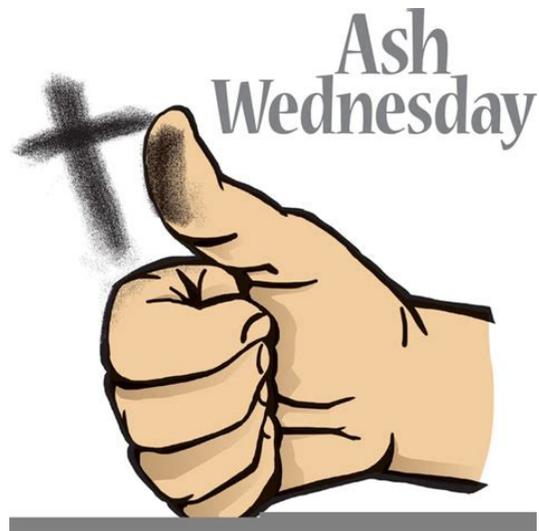
Thank you, Joe!

When we started this Newsletter, Joe was instrumental in helping us in getting it together and giving us articles and ideas that were important and to organize the Newsletter. Also, all the continued help that he's given us since taking it over.

Thanks, Joe! (Maria & Tom Felten)



Family of the Month - February (Pending)



Things to do for Lent

- † Remember every Friday during Lent – Stations of the Cross at 5:00 p.m. in church with simple soup supper in the Social Hall.
- † Quiet time at the Grotto whenever you are in the area and the parking lot is empty.
- † 8:00 Daily Morning Mass.
- † Pray the Rosary.

Knights of Columbus - Council 14222 - Room Bookings for 2026

Officers Meetings

All Officers are required to attend - All members are invited - Doors of Enrichment Center should be open by 5:30. Officers Meetings start at 6:00 p.m. sharp.

Officer Meeting	Mar 9	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	Apr 13	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	May 11	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	Jun 8	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	Jul 13	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	Aug 10	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	Sep 14	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	Oct 12	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	Nov 9	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	Dec 7	EC Rm C	6:00 PM

Council Business Meetings Note: New Location - Enrichment Center

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIMES!

All members are encouraged to attend. Doors should be open by **5:00**.

Rosary at **5:30**. Dinner at **5:45-ish** (food service could be limited due to electrical outlets, etc.)

Business Meetings officially start at **6:30 P.M.** sharp

Business Meeting	Mar 18	EC Rm C	6:30 PM
Business Meeting	Apr 22	EC Rm C	6:30 PM
Business Meeting	May 20	EC Rm C	6:30 PM
Business Meeting	Jun 17	EC Rm C	6:30 PM
Business Meeting	Jul 22	EC Rm C	6:30 PM
Business Meeting	Aug 19	EC Rm C	6:30 PM
Business Meeting	Sep 23	EC Rm C	6:30 PM
Business Meeting	Oct 21	EC Rm C	6:30 PM
Business Meeting	Nov 18	EC Rm C	6:30 PM
Business Meeting	Dec 16	EC Rm C	6:30 PM

The new times were voted in at the last business meeting.

Thank you for the cash contributions for the food at the Wednesday meeting. It was a last-minute change of menu and cooks. We will hopefully enjoy Mike Colvin's chili at our next meeting.

Knights of Columbus Booked Events at St. Mark's for 2026

Volunteers will be needed for ALL these events.

See "SignupGenius" email for Volunteering for any event.

Lenten Food Drive	Feb 28 & Mar 1	Outside Church All Masses	
Lenten Food Drive	Mar 7 & 8	Outside Church All Masses	
Lenten Food Drive	Mar14 & 15	Outside Church All Masses	
Lenten Food Drive	Mar 21 & 22	Outside Church All Masses	
Lenten Food Drive	Mar 28 & 29	Outside Church All Masses	
1 st Membership Drive (w/Pulpit Talk)	Apr 11 & 12	Outside Church All Masses	
Donut Sunday	April 26	Social Hall After 8:00 and 10:00 Masses	
1 st Tootsie Roll Drive	May 2 & 3	Outside Church All Masses	
Knight At The Races	May 2	Social Hall 7:00 PM	
Installation of Officers TBD			
Christmas Dinner/Dance Ticket Sales	Oct 10 & 11	Outside Church All Masses	
Christmas Dinner/Dance Ticket Sales	Oct 17 & 18	Outside Church All Masses	
Christmas Dinner/Dance Ticket Sales	Oct 24 & 25	Outside Church All Masses	
2 nd Membership Drive (w/Pulpit Talk)	Oct 31 & Nov 1	Outside Church All Masses	
2 nd Tootsie Roll Drive	Oct 31 & Nov 1	Outside Church All Masses	
Memorial Mass	Wed., Nov 11	Church 8:00 AM	(Veteran's Day)
Memorial Mass Breakfast	Wed., Nov 11	Social Hall 9:00 AM	
Christmas Magnet Sales	Nov 28 & 29	Outside Church All Masses	
Christmas Magnet Sales	Dec 5 & 6	Outside Church All Masses	
Christmas Magnet Sales	Dec12 & 13	Outside Church All Masses	
Christmas Dinner/Dance	Sat., Dec 12	Social Hall 6:00 PM	
Breakfast With Santa	Sat., Dec 19	Social Hall 9:00 AM	

Other Knights of Columbus Events in 2026

We pray the **Rosary** on the fifth Sunday of any given month. Volunteers (5) will meet at 11:00 a.m. in the Ministry Room and we process down the aisle at 11:15. This year those dates will be March 29, May 31, August 30 and November 29. Please consider volunteering.

Tootsie Roll Drives at Publix (Mulberry Shopping Center-Route 42)

Saturday, May 9 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Saturday, October 3 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Tootsie Roll Drives at Publix (Southern Trace Shopping Center-Route 466)

Friday, June 26 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

2nd date in the fall TBD

Silver Rose Icon will be at our Church/Council in the Spring of 2026 (look for announcements)

Newsworthy Items:

- † “Rides for Knights” program will have to be kept in an informal manner. Please always be ready to help your Brother Knight.
- † Brother Norm Nelson has informed us that the Coats for Kids/Back Packs has good inventory and funds for this winter season. Brother Norm is also asking if anybody would be interested to assist in delivering food on Tuesday mornings. Contact Norm to set up arrangements.
- † Saturday, May 16, Rosary for the Respect Life Ministry at the Grotto after 8 a.m. Mass
- † John Olsen will head up the Exemplification Team that will perform the new version of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree installations. More information to follow.
- † Delegates to the Florida State Convention will be covered by Grand Knight Jim Schafer and Steve Heinz.

FYI:

I received information from Bill Delaney about **Bob Smelas, PGK** and Faithful Navigator passing. Information can be found at the website of the Heritage Funeral Home in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Also, since his death, his wife, Pat has moved. Her new address is: 6653 Palms Court, Apt. A432, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421. This information is for Brother Knights who remember Bob and want to send correspondence to the family.

Check out the new Knights of Columbus website that has been totally redone and is filled with great information.

Diaper Drive 2026



Peter Casey, Tom Felten, GK Jim Schafer, Bob Larson, Sean O'Connell (Chairperson) & LeRoy Henneke
Zoey and Zane

The hardworking crew from the 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Masses that helped with the Diaper Drive 2026 for the Alpha House in Ocala, Florida.

A big “THANK YOU” to Sean for organizing another successful Diaper Drive in which we raised a lot of money, collected 18,000 diapers, 40,000 wipes and a new item for this year: formula. Over the four Masses we had 14 Knights collecting the diapers, etc. and 7 Knights on Monday morning to help deliver all the goodies to Alpha House. Thank you all who volunteered! Thanks to the following ladies who helped to log in all the donations: Rita O'Connell, Maria Felten, Marie Schafer and Rebecca Larson. Thanks to the Schafers, who treated the Sunday morning crew with coffee & donuts and brought two of their grandchildren to help, too. Jim & Marie's grandson could spot people with diapers and wipes while they still parking their car! Thank you, kids, for doing a great job!

Birthdays for March Happy Birthday, Guys, and Many More!

Dcn Roger Gallagher	Mar 1
Mark G Matonek	Mar 2
James A Monaco	Mar 2
Philip A Arcoria	Mar 4
George E Floto	Mar 6
Eugene J Rafter	Mar 8
Scott D Wozniak	Mar 8
John S Mulvey	Mar 12
Paul J Simonitis	Mar 12
Philip P Sutton	Mar 14



Bruce A Schladen	Mar 16
Robert J Bitondo	Mar 24
Paul G Ryerson	Mar 25
Joseph Agnello	Mar 26
Joseph J Gagliardi	Mar 26
Joseph A Castrigno	Mar 27
Joseph A Gross	Mar 27
John F Sloman	Mar 27
Donald A Kaufman	Mar 28

Good News Items!

Bob and Rebecca Larson have purchased flowers for the Mary statue at the mini-grotto by the Social Hall for Easter and the month of May.

Norm Nelson informed the Council that The Shamrock Society of the Knights of Columbus have given a generous contribution for our Coats for Kids and Backpacks for Kids.

Mark Carter informed the Council of a possible Saturday morning meeting with breakfast, for the CORE program. This is a parish wide men's event. Keep an eye out for more information.

Catholic Daughters of America (a spinoff of the Columbiettes of the K of C) has asked Jim if they could address the Council with the intention of having our wives join their group.

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Columbus**
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Pray for the souls in Purgatory who need our help to reach perfection.

Also, please remember all of those in our Council Family who are ill, hospitalized and in need of our prayers.

Especially:

Gino & Joan Aultta

Ron Bellonio

Jean Brett

Yvette Carter

Hank Casey

Lorilee Cinella

Rick Cinella

Jean Clark

Grace Colvin

Roger & Jerry Cyr

Bill Delaney

Chuck Demino, D.D.

Nancy Ellison

Kathleen Feenaghty

Jack Fennell & his wife

Tony Frank

Vern Garske

Steven Gillian

Kathleen Gross

Jean Henneke

Chris Joss

Betty Kloske

Henryk & Barbara Kulesza

Tom & Roberta Lane

Rebecca Larson

Patrick McCarty

Ron Moxey

Paul Murphy

Sean & Rita O'Connell

Greg Ochalek

Paul Pitonzo

Jim Rose

Tom Rueck

Pat Schafer

Chet & Harriett Sedke

Bruce & Judy Schladen

John Sloman

Pat Smelas

Bud & Sophie Stegmeyer

Jolene Sutherland & Family

Fred Targos

Bob Thomas

Lourdes Thomas

George & Pam White

Louis Wilkinson

† **Mike Colvin** lost a very close first cousin and flew to New York and did not attend our Wednesday meeting. This was the third cousin he's lost within a year's time. Please keep Mike and his family in your prayers.

† **Steve Gilkeson** fell and broke his shoulder and arm.

† **Jean Henneke**, has new serious heart issues and is under a new heart specialist's care.

† As per our D.D., asking for prayers for **D.D. Mike** and kids.

† **Rebecca Larson** is going through a rough time. Please keep her in your prayers.

† **Deacon John** is still recovering from hip replacement surgery and other medical issues. Please keep him and his wife, Michelle, in your prayers. They are both doing well.

† **Tom Rueck** has had some recent medical setbacks. Please keep him in your prayers.

† **Jack Fennell** recently had eye surgery & his wife is completing cancer treatment.

† Sadly, we report the passing of two of our Brother Knights. **Joe Donlon** and **Francis (Froggy) Trainque**. Francis was on the first maintenance team at St. Mark's. He was said to be a happy, quiet, unassuming gentleman, who served St. Mark's with distinction.