



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
AVE MARIA COUNCIL #14697
SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Grand Knight’s Message

Brothers,

“There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.” —Ecclesiastes 3:1 This Old Testament verse came to mind this week when I received the word from Brother Phil DiPietro that he was leaving Ave Maria and would be winding down his involvement with the Ave Maria Council. In addition to his ushering duties, Phil has been a mainstay for the Knights’s Food Pantry service once a month and has been the primary delivery Knight for our Feed Ave Maria program. I will miss Phil’s presence in Ave Maria and I know his new Council will benefit from his presence.

This leads to a larger discussion. We need a new lead for the Food Pantry work on the First Thursday of each month. We also need more delivery Knights to handle the Feed Ave Maria program.

St Peter’s Ministry is also another example of the time for change. Many of its original participants have moved on and the number of Knights manning this important ministry of opening and closing the Church has fallen to a critical level. As a Council, we need to provide more manpower to these important ministries. As individual Knights, we need to look at our schedule and ask can I give time to these good works? WE have all committed to service of the Church and the Ave Maria community. To be a Knight is to stand forth and answer that call. I pray in the coming weeks that additional Knights will join their brothers in service.

Respectfully Submitted
John Lanham
Grand Knight

PLEASE REMEMBER TO READ YOUR WEEKLY EMAIL FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES. PRAY FOR THOSE LISTED ON THE GOOD OF THE ORDER AND THE REVIEW OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES WILL KEEP YOU UP TO DATE ON COUNCIL ACTIVITIES. REMEMBER PAGE 2 HAS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES! IF YOU HAVE THE TIME, WE CAN HELP YOU PUT IT TO GOOD USE!



The inaugural Oktoberfest is coming!

This year, the Council and its partners will bring a new event to Ave Maria, the Oktoberfest! On September 27, we will convert the section of Pope John Paul II Blvd next to Annunciation Circle into a celebration of all things German! Donations will go to the Guadalupe Food Pantry.

The day will include a German band, German food and of course, beer. A special thanks to our friends at Oil Well Craft Brewery for helping us launch this inaugural event.

Council Volunteers will be needed to make this a success. If you can assist with this fundraiser, please contact Brother Jim Kukalis at 203-207-0426 or email at jkukalis@hotmail.com.

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Fraternal Year 25-26 Officers & Chairmen

Officer	Name
Grand Knight	John Lanham, PGK
Deputy Grand Knight	Daniel Hamilton
Chancellor	Robert Schoenborn
Recorder	Paul O'Keefe
Treasurer	Kevin Schang, PGK
Advocate	Paul Bruno
Warden	Sergio Patto
Inside Guard	John McGuire
Outside Guard	Michael Horne
One Year Trustee	Ralph Petragnani
Two Year Trustee	John Strysik
Three Year Trustee	Michael Baldasari
Financial Secretary	James Kukalis
Chaplain	Fr. Mark Ruckpaul
Lecturer	Kevin Schang

Program Director	John Lanham, PGK
Faith Director	Deacon Jeff Ball
Vocations Chairman	Stephen Roser
Community Director	Kevin Schang, PGK
Life Director	Daniel Hamilton
Health Service	George Anastasiades
Public Relations	
Family Director	Robert Schoenborn
Membership Director	James Kukalis
Recruitment Cmte 1	James Kukalis
Recruitment Cmte 2	Robert Schoenborn
Recruitment Cmte 3	Mike Baldasari
Insurance Promotion	Vacant
Retention Committee	Mike Baldasari
Retention Committee	Ralph Petragnani
Retention Committee	John Strysik
Head Usher	John Lanham, PGK
Lighthouse Project	Don Rizer
SSSC Chair	Tom DiFlorio
St Peter Ministry	Don Rizer

Calendar of Events

NOTE: These are planned & subject to change. Please review the Upcoming Activities email for the most up-to-date information.

9/19/2025	Holy Hour
9/20/2025	Football Concession
9/27/2025	Oktoberfest
10/2/2025	Food Pantry Day
10/4/2025	Life Chain
10/7/2025	Our Lady of the Rosary Walk
10/8/2025	Soup Kitchen Day
10/9/2025	Annual Traveling Rosary Congress
10/10/2025	Annual Traveling Rosary Congress
10/11/2025	Invitation Weekend
10/11/2025	Football Concession
10/12/2025	Corporate Communion
10/12/2025	Council Brunch
10/12/2025	Invitation Weekend
10/13/2025	Assembly Officer Meeting
10/13/2025	Council Officer Meeting
10/15/2025	Exemplification of New Knights
10/18/2025	Adopt a Spot
10/18/2025	Fall Festival
10/20/2025	Assembly Business Meeting
10/20/2025	Council Business Meeting

On this page is the current list of Council Officers and Committee Chairmen. It also lists the upcoming activities for the Parish, the Council & the Assembly through the next Council Business meeting.

Committee Meetings will be added to this calendar starting in the new Fraternal Year, July 1st.



Program Reports

Faith

Parish Men's Retreat

No Report this month.

Usher Ministry

Usher Hours for the calendar year now stand at 2764 hours.

Lighthouse Evangelization

No report this month

Good of the Order Rosary

Our Goal is 300 rosaries for the Good of the Order this year. We are at seventy-six for the new fraternal year starting July 1.

St. Peter's Ministry

There are only **18** active members, which includes a few seasonal Knights. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Don Rizer (dcrizer@yahoo.com).

RSVP (Seminarian Support)

No report this month.

Ave Maria Parish Support

No Report this month.



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Program Reports

Community

Feed Ave Maria

One request made and delivered in past month.

Blessings,
Pete Battle

Food Pantry

Brother Bruce and Brother Dennis spent about half of my time stocking the shelves to allow for filling grocery bags. We fill around 50 to 60 bags and filled the holding shelves up. Brother Bruce restocked the pantry shelves with all the groceries available. Brother Dennis left shortly before 12 and I left at 12:30. Brother Bruce took all our cardboard stock out and cleaned up the area. I did my usual stock consolidation to help with organizing the foods.

Respectfully submitted,
Brother Phil DiPietro

Soup Kitchen

The number of clients we are serving is 100 to 110 Monday through Friday. On Tuesday, September 2, we served pizza, from Ledo, Ave Maria. They provide 22 large pizzas at cost. It was complemented with corn salad and cheese nachos from a sponsor. This was a first for the clients and was greatly appreciated.

Brother Don Rizer

Catholic Essay Contest

No Report this month.

Sunshine State Steak Cook off

Steering Committee is meeting and preparing for the Fall Campaign to promote the Steak Cook-Off

Oktoberfest

Steering Committee is meeting and will have more information next month.



Program Reports

Family

Life

Soccer Shoot out

No Report this Month.

AMU Summer Youth Retreat

No Report this Month.

Fraternus

No Report this Month.

Fidelis

No Report this Month.

Donahue Academy

No Report this Month.

March for Life

No Report this Month.

Tootsie Roll Campaign

No Report this Month.

ASAP (After Pregnancy Support)

No Report this Month.



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Financial Reports

FINANCIAL SECRETARY WARRANTS

September 2025

#16	Amazon	\$39.21	Table Coverings
#17	Publix	\$4.55	Football Dinner Ice
#18	Bass Pro	\$19.98	Insect Repellent for Outdoor Events
#19	Amazon	\$95.39	Hot Dog Replacement Bucket
#20	Sam's Club	\$163.69	Labor Day/Football #1
#21	Gordon Foods	\$595.01	Labor Day/Football #1
#22	Augustine Institute	\$791.66	Lighthouse Inventory
#23	Sam's Club	\$64.79	Labor Day/Football Ring Pops
#24	Publix	\$9.09	Labor Day Event Ice
#25	ACH Payments	\$56.94	Website Fees
#26	Sam's Club	\$156.90	AMU Football #1 & 2
#27	Ace Hardware	\$48.74	2 Propane Tanks Football
#28	Cash	\$165.00	50/50 Start-up AMU Football
#29	Publix	\$41.25	Football Ice & Soap
#30	Ace Hardware	\$30.73	Replace Grill Propane Hose
#31	Ave Maria Parish	\$741.50	Child Bibles for Religious Ed



Financial Reports cont'd

Treasurer Report

STARTING BALANCE AUGUST: \$12,855.89

DEPOSITS: \$1471.40

DEBITS: \$3297.77

ENDING BALANCE AUGUST: \$11,029.52

CURRENT SEPTEMBER DEPOSITS:

\$3037.82

CURRENT SEPTEMBER DEBITS:

\$1250.15

CUURRENT OUTSTANDING ALLOCATIONS: \$100.00

CURRENT COUNCIL WORKING BALANCE TO DATE: *\$12,717.19*

CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT

BEGINNING AUGUST BALANCE: \$13,482.37

JULY DEPOSITS: \$45.53

JULY DEBITS: 00

ENDING APRIL BALANCE: \$13,527.90

CURRENT CAPITAL RESERVE BALANCE TO DATE: 13,482.37



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Financial Reports cont'd