



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
AVE MARIA COUNCIL #14697  
JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER**

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**Grand Knight’s Message**

Brothers,

Where there is a need, you will find a Knight! Nothing can be more true in this month. The Ave Maria Council is everywhere in the life of the Parish and the greater Ave Maria community. We are present in the Church as ushers and a team of Knights packed up the Christmas display this month. The Steak Cook off is coming up and we are on the Circle raising money for the many charitable causes that count on our dollars for their support. Our participation in the Foot Loose Adopt a Spot helps the running community and this month supports the effort to raise scholarship money for Ave Maria University.

One of our guiding principles is unity. Individually we can only do so much but as a Council united in service, we can do so much more! Thank you on behalf of the many people you impact each year with your gift of time and talent.

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!**

# steak Cook-off 2026

The Steak Cook-off is here! This has become a major fundraiser for the Council and accounts for the majority of our Charitable donations to the Parish and the Ave Maria community.

**Your support is needed!**

Volunteer your time on Saturday, January 24 (There is something to do all day) by contacting John Lanham at 239-682-8382 or email at [john432apf@gmail.com](mailto:john432apf@gmail.com).

Buy steak dinners at [www.sssco.org](http://www.sssco.org)



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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.

1/19/2026	6p	Assembly Business Meeting
1/19/2026	7p	Council Business Meeting
1/23/2026	630p	Holy Hour
1/23/2026	7p	Catholic Culture Series
1/24/2026		SSSCO/Tootsie Roll Event
1/24/2026	800a	Sunshine State Steak Cook-off #16
1/31/2026		Parish Gala
1/31/2026	8a	Adopt a Spot
1/31/2026	12p	Taste of Ave/Tootsie Roll Event
2/5/2026	9a	Food Pantry Day
2/7/2026		Community Yard Sale
2/9/2026	6p	Assembly Officer Meeting
2/9/2026	7p	Council Officer Meeting
2/10/2026	7p	Exemplification of New Knights
2/11/2026	5:45p	World Day of the Sick
2/11/2026	10a	Soup Kitchen Day
2/14/2026	12p	Blues, Brews & BBQ Fest/

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**

Save the Date, Parish Men's Retreat is now February 28th due to a lack of availability at the University.

### **Usher Ministry**

Usher Hours for the calendar year 2025 was 4154 hours. So far in 2026, it is 202 hours.

### **Lighthouse Evangelization**

The two Kiosk's continues to serve the community and provide a revenue stream for the Council. Gross receipts from February 24 to December 31 were **\$5,678**.

-Don Rizer

### **Good of the Order Rosary**

Our Goal is 300 rosaries for the Good of the Order this year. We are at one hundred ninety-eight 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](mailto:dcrizer@yahoo.com)).

### **RSVP (Seminarian Support)**

No report this month.

### **Ave Maria Parish Support**

No Report this month.



# Program Reports

## *Community*

### **Feed Ave Maria**

Three requests made and delivered in past month.

Blessings,  
Pete Battle

### **Food Pantry**

No Report this month

### **Soup Kitchen**

The number of clients we normally serve is 100 to 110 Monday through Friday. The pantry accepts shelf table products.

Brother Don Rizer

### **Catholic Essay Contest**

No Report this month.

### **Sunshine State Steak Cook off**

At this publication, the event is upon us! Buy steak dinners now at [www.sssco.org](http://www.sssco.org). Volunteer now by contacting GK Lanham at [john432apf@gmail.com](mailto:john432apf@gmail.com)

### **Oktoberfest**

No Report this month



# Program Reports

## *Family*

### **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.

### **Knights on Bikes**

No Report this Month.

## *Life*

### **March for Life**

Approximately 850 people gathered for the annual March for Life. Brother Ralph Petragnani led the team that helped deliver the lunch and Brother Robert Schoenborn led the course marshal team that got the marchers from the University to the Church.

### **Tootsie Roll Campaign**

Steak Cook-off is the kick off for our tootsie roll campaign in 2026! Every festival on Annunciation Circle we have a presence to solicit support for the intellectually disabled.

### **ASAP (After Pregnancy Support)**

No Report this Month.



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# Financial Reports

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY WARRANTS

January 2026

#76	Golisano Children's Hosp	\$500.00	Donation Knights Bikes
#77	Publix	\$534.75	Columbiettes Fam Donation
#78	K of C Assem 3862	\$8187.50	Vet Din Web Sales #2
#79	ACH Payment	\$508.27	Website Fees
#80	Augustine Institute	\$661.00	Lighthouse Inventory
#81	Custom Ink	\$1793.52	SSSC Aprons
#82	K of C Assem 3862	\$2594.50	Vet Din Web Sales #3
#83	ACH Payment	\$70.00	SSSC Web Tix Refund
#84	K of C Assem 3862	\$250.00	Vet Donation via Web
#85	Amazon	\$370.80	SSSC Chalk, lights tablecloths



# Financial Reports cont'd

## *Treasurer Report*

STARTING BALANCE DECEMBER: \$19,663.28

DEPOSITS: \$13,737.16

DEBITS: \$5379.16

ENDING BALANCE DECEMBER: \$28,022.00

CURRENT JANUARY DEPOSITS:

\$22,101.03

CURRENT JANUARY DEBITS:

\$15,035.59

CUURRENT OUTSTANDING ALLOCATIONS: \$0.00

CURRENT COUNCIL WORKING BALANCE TO DATE: *\$35087.44*

## **CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT**

BEGINNING DECEMBER BALANCE: \$13,657.65

DECEMBER DEPOSITS: \$41.32

DECEMBER DEBITS: 00

ENDING DECEMBER BALANCE: \$13,698.97

CURRENT CAPITAL RESERVE BALANCE TO DATE: 13,698.97