



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

Grand Knight’s Message

Brothers,

This month, I had the occasion to review of the status of the Council Dues collection. We have a large number of outstanding dues for the fraternal year. I reached out to the members and discovered that many of the Brothers report that the electronic system that sends emails for notice of dues apparently failed. I am aware of several website failures last summer with the Supreme website. I didn’t know that they extended to the billing system. We have relied on the email system to save money as a letter is now 78 cents.

I am working with the Worthy Financial Secretary to ensure that this does not happen next July. In the meantime, if you have received an email indicating that you have an outstanding balance, please attend tomorrow’s Council meeting and meet with the Worthy Financial Secretary. For those who are not able to attend the business meeting, we will be sending notices via the Postal Service.

I apologize for the inconvenience and greatly appreciate the patience of the Brothers as we work through this issue.

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!



Our Fish Fry has moved into its 4th year! Brother Kevin and Brother Ralph and the Fish Fry team have made this into an annual success for the Parish and the Council. This year, Brother Kevin and Brother Don have added Mac n cheese to the menu—a sure hit for the kids.

Your support is needed!

- Volunteer your time! We have six Fridays to serve this year. Contact Brother Kevin Schang at 734-646-2010 or email at friskey34@hotmail.com.



Inside this issue:

Council Administration	2
Faith	3
Community	4
Family	5
Life	5
Financial Secretary Report	6
Treasurer Report	7



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

AVE MARIA COUNCIL #14697

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Fraternal Year 25-26 Officers & Chairmen

Officer	Name
Grand Knight	John Lanham, PGK
Deputy Grand Knight	
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	
Community Director	Kevin Schang, PGK
Life Director	
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	
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

The Annual Men's Retreat is February 28th. You can sign up at avemariakofc.org/events.

Usher Ministry

Usher Hours for the calendar year 2025 was 4154 hours. So far in 2026, it is 464 hours.

Lighthouse Evangelization

The two Kiosk's continue to serve the community and provide a revenue stream for the Council. This year, thru February 13, 2026 gross receipts total \$588.00 -Don Rizer

Good of the Order Rosary

Our Goal is 300 rosaries for the Good of the Order this year. We are at two hundred twelve for the new fraternal year starting July 1.

St. Peter's Ministry

We have 16 active members, and 3 seasonal Knights. If you are 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.



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 between 100 to 110 Monday through Friday. The Council donated several dozen rolls, and other leftover items from the Sunshine Steak Cookout. All items were greatly appreciated. The pantry accepts shelf stable products. —Brother Don Rizer

Catholic Essay Contest

No Report this month.

Sunshine State Steak Cook off

Final expenses and donations for the Steak Cook off are still coming in. The final report will be available next month.

Oktoberfest

No Report this 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.

Knights on Bikes

No Report this Month.

March for Life

No report this month.

Tootsie Roll Campaign

Tootsie Roll Campaign is not enjoying the success of the past few years. We had no volunteers for the Steak Cook-off and the Taste of Ave was skipped due to bad weather.

ASAP (After Pregnancy Support)

No Report this Month.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
AVE MARIA COUNCIL #14697
FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Financial Reports

FINANCIAL SECRETARY WARRANTS

February 2026

#86	Thomas Flynn	\$227.21	SSSC Grill Rental
#87	Cheney Bros	\$1987.15	SSSC Misc Dry Goods
#88	Sam's Club	\$54.36	SSSC Misc Paper Products
#89	Trophy Case Ft Myers	\$156.96	SSSC Trophies Grill Teams
#90	Cash	\$5275.00	SSSC Prize Money Grill Teams (\$4675.00) Seed Event (\$600.00)
#91	Amazon	\$29.83	SSSC 50/50-Raffle Tickets
#92	Sunshine Ace Hardware	\$1618.24	SSSC Charcoal
\$93	Limited Edition Band	\$750.00	SSSC Band Balance
#94	Publix	\$276.54	SSSC Ice
#95	The Pub	\$82.94	SSSC Columb wet goods/Fish Meeting
#96	U Dump WE Pump	\$550.00	SSSC Porta Potties
#97	SWFL Print	\$1141.14	SSSC Ad Books/Banners
#98	Ralph Petragnani	\$60.42	SSSC Grill Team Light Bases
\$99	Cheney Bros	\$26,563.01	SSSC Steaks, Potato Salad, Roll
#100	ACH Payments	\$971.92	Website Fees & Transactions
#101	MV Party Rental	\$2161.00	SSSC Table & Chairs Rental
#102	Dominik Micillo	\$642.07	SSSC VIP Room Expenses
#103	Jim Kukalis	\$198.81	K of C Shirt Order
#104	Gordon Foods	\$753.84	Fish Fry Fish #1&2
#105	Ave Maria Catholic Church	\$2500.00	Partial SSSC Proceeds (Gala)
#106	Ralph Petragnani	\$36.02	SSSC Grill Team Storage Bin
#107	Collier County Sheriff	\$1067.51	SSSC Police Officers



Financial Reports cont'd

Treasurer Report

STARTING BALANCE JANUARY: \$28,022.00

DEPOSITS: \$62,702.95

DEBITS: \$53,208.39

ENDING BALANCE JANUARY: \$37,516.56

CURRENT FEBRUARY DEPOSITS:

\$640.00

CURRENT FEBRUARY DEBITS:

\$8331.17

CUURRENT OUTSTANDING ALLOCATIONS: \$0.00

CURRENT COUNCIL WORKING BALANCE TO DATE: \$29,825.39

CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT

BEGINNING JANUARY BALANCE: \$13,698.97

FEBRUARY DEPOSITS: \$40.08

DEBRUARY DEBITS: 00

ENDING JANUARY BALANCE: \$13,739.05

CURRENT CAPITAL RESERVE BALANCE TO DATE: 13,739.05