



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

Grand Knight’s Message

Brothers,

It is that time of the year again. We will be announcing a call for new officers to lead the Council for the new Fraternal year that begins on July 1st.. All positions are open for election.

In addition, our Worthy Financial Secretary is completing his three year term. It is time to pass the torch on this position as well.

When the announcement is issued, please take the time to reflect on the positions and where you might be able to assist the Council in furthering its mission.

I have had the privilege of leading the Council for the last five years and I am appreciative of the support of the current/past officers as well as the Brother Knights. I look forward to working with the next Grand Knight and officers to bring even more success to the Council and more service to Ave Maria and Holy Mother Church.

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!



We are looking at the last two Fish Fries for the 2026 Lenten season. Historically, there is “fish fatigue” at this point. If you haven’t tried the wonderful fish dinner experience that Brother Kevin and his team have put together, you have two more weeks.

Just like that old 1970s phrase, “Try it, you’ll like it!”

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.



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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.

3/20/2026	630p	Holy Hour
3/20/2026	5p	Fish Fry
3/21/2026	TBD	Feast of the Annunciation Rosary
3/23/2026	TBD	40 Hours Devotion
3/24/2026	TBD	40 Hours Devotion
3/25/2026	TBD	40 Hours Devotion
3/26/2026	630p	Lenten Penance Service
3/27/2026	5p	Fish Fry
3/28/2026	12p	Festival/Tootsie Roll Event
3/29/2026	TBD	Founders Day Celebration
3/29/2026		Palm Sunday
4/2/2026		Holy Thursday
4/2/2026	9a	Food Pantry Day
4/3/2026		Good Friday
TBD	7p	Catholic Culture Series
4/5/2026		Easter Vigil
4/8/2026	10a	Soup Kitchen Day
4/13/2026	6p	Assembly Officer Meeting
4/13/2026	7p	Council Officer Meeting
4/14/2026	7p	Exemplification of New Knights

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.



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Program Reports

Faith

Parish Men's Retreat

Men's Retreat was held on February 28th with about 90 men in attendance. A BBQ lunch was served and the weather was perfect for the day. Final report should be out next month as some bills are not in yet.

Usher Ministry

Usher Hours for the calendar year 2025 was 4154 hours. So far in 2026, it is 694 hours.

Lighthouse Evangelization

The two Kiosk's continue to serve the community and provide a revenue stream for the Council. This year, thru March 13, 2026 gross receipts total \$1210.00. -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 thirty-three 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.



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Program Reports

Food Pantry

Ave Maria K of C Council Guadalupe Food Pantry Service - March 5, 2026



Pictured L to R: Happy Brothers Mike Shmina, Stan Smolinski and Bob Teipen, with Catholic Services Employee Pedro.

Volunteer Participants

Mike Shmina, Bob Teipen, Stan Smolinski, Dennis Popiel

Volunteer Shift Details

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Location: Guadalupe Social Services Food Pantry, Immokalee, FL

Activities Performed

Start with Prayer with ALL [Guadalupe Social Services](#) employees and volunteers at 9:00 AM in common area break room.

Retrieved nonperishable food items from storage.

Unpacked and sorted items onto categorized shelves. Ensured all categorized shelves were full prior to leaving.

Prepared grocery bags with nonperishable food items for scheduled recipients.

Ensured all available grocery bag shelves were filled for distribution.



Program Reports

Community

Feed Ave Maria

Three requests made and delivered in past month.

Blessings,
Pete Battle

Soup Kitchen

The number of clients we normally serve is between 100 to 110 Monday through Friday. The pantry accepts shelf stable products. —Brother Don Rizer

Catholic Essay Contest

No Report this month.

Sunshine State Steak Cook off

Steak Cook Off Report is in the financial section

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, the Shamrock Festival and the Taste of Ave was skipped due to bad weather.

ASAP (After Pregnancy Support)

No Report this Month.



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Financial Reports

FINANCIAL SECRETARY WARRANTS

March 2026

#108	Bryan Black	\$9.09	Ice Blues/Brews Tootsie Roll
#109	John Lanham	\$154.65	SSSC Permit Collier County
#110	Restaurant Depot	\$178.63	Fish Fry #1 Supplies
#111	Sam's Club	\$36.42	Fish Fry #1 & 2 supplies
#112	Gordon Foods	\$405.27	Fish Fry # 1 & 2 Fish, Fries, Slaw
#113	Ave Maria Catholic Church	\$1500.00	Donahue Kids Life March
#114	Sweet Rustic Faith	\$440.00	SSSC Plaques
#115	Publix	\$49.12	Fish #1 Spices, Worker Soda
#116	Publix	\$17.55	Fish #1 Lemonade. Ice
#117	Amazon	\$65.50	Columbiette Containers
#118	SWFL Print	\$86.75	Fish Fry Sandwich Board
#119	Gordons Food	\$482.27	Fish Fry # 2 & #3 Food
#120	Amazon	\$11.25	Order Mistake (Reimbursed)
#121	Austin B-Bar-Q	\$1696.00	Men's Retreat Food
#122	Ach Payment	\$140.00	Website Refund
#123	Publix	\$14.72	Fish #2 Salt, Ice, Lemonade
#124	Restaurant Depot	\$117.25	Fish Fry Hush Puppies, Sterno
#125	E Catholic Shee	\$38.45	Website Service Fee
#126	Ach Payment	\$219.12	Website Fees
#127	Austin Bar-B-Que	\$212.00	Men's Retreat Food Add-on
#128	Gordon Foods	\$378.98	Fish Fry #3 & #4 Food



Financial Reports cont'd

Treasurer Report

STARTING BALANCE FEBRUARY: \$37,516.56

DEPOSITS: \$12,586.72

DEBITS: \$11,744.28

ENDING BALANCE FEBRUARY: \$38,359.00

CURRENT MARCH DEPOSITS:

\$4267.97

CURRENT MARCH DEBITS:

\$5466.52

CUURRENT OUTSTANDING ALLOCATIONS: \$1859.74

CURRENT COUNCIL WORKING BALANCE TO DATE: *\$35,300.71*

CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT

BEGINNING FEBRUARY BALANCE: \$13,739.05

FEBRUARY DEPOSITS: \$36.30

FEBRUARY DEBITS: 00

ENDING FEBRUARY BALANCE: \$13,775.35

CURRENT CAPITAL RESERVE BALANCE TO DATE: 13, 775.35

2026 STEAK COOKOFF

INCOME

TICKET SALES

ON LINE SALES	448	\$15,680.00
VIP ONLINE SALES	30	\$4,050.00
WELCOME CENTER	71	\$2,485.00
WELCOME CENTER CENTER DAY OF	78	\$3,120.00
WELCOME CENTER DAY OF VIP	2	\$270.00
PARRISH OFFICE	16	\$560.00
PARRISH OFFICE VIP	6	\$810.00
MASTER ASSOCIATION	5	\$175.00

LIVE SALES OF TICKETS

LIVE ADVANCE	110	\$3,850.00
LIVE ADVANCE VIP	12	\$1,620.00
LIVE SALES DAY OF 1/24	167 (-14-)	\$6,120.00

RAFFLES

PRIZE RAFFLE		\$922.00
50/50		\$335.00

GRILL TEAM ENTRY FEES

\$3,250.00

SPONSOR FEES

\$21,750.07

DONATIONS

CASH		\$240.00
BOUNCE HOUSE	MASTER ASSOCIATION	
GENERATOR	AMD	

EXCESS INVENTORY SOLD AFTER EVENT

\$5,964.00

STEAKS, POTATO SALAD

GRAND TOTAL INCOME

\$71,201.07

GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES

\$46,244.74

EVENT PROFIT

\$24,956.33

2026 STEAK COOKOFF

EXPENSES

STEAKS	24,617.14
POTATO SALAD	\$1,309.68
BUTTER	\$256.28
ROLLS	\$614.56
ICE	\$276.74
WATER BOTTLES	\$143.76
TAKE OUT BAGS ROLLS	\$35.01
DISPOSSABLE PORTION CUPS 5 OZ	\$78.63
CUTLERY KITS	\$168.25
JUDGES PLATES	\$14.30
APRONS	\$1,793.52
TABLE CLOTHS	\$19.99
ALUM PANS/GLOVES	\$61.47
TRASH RECEPTICLES	Donation
TABLE & CHAIRS HAIRS RENTAL	\$1,726.00
TICKET PRINTING 1800 TICKETS	\$246.40
AD BOOK PRINTING	\$944.89
FRIENDS/FAMILY TICKETS	\$58.28
BANNERS	\$149.30
SIGNS	\$46.95
BAND-LIMITED EDITION	\$1,500.00
GRILL RENTAL KNIGHTS TEAM	\$227.21
WIRELESS LIGHTS GRILL TEAMS LIGHTS/ACESS GRILL TEAMS	\$442.24
50/50 RAFFLE TICKETS	\$29.83
COLLIER COUNTY SHERIFF 3 OFFICERS	\$1,067.51
PORTA JOHNS	\$550.00
ENGRAVING WOOD PATCHES PLAQUES	\$440.00
CHARCOAL	\$1,618.24
TENT RENTAL	\$260.00
PRIZE POOL FOR GRILL TEAMS	\$4,675.00
WESITE FEES	\$971.92
CREDIT CARD FEES	\$382.70
PERMIT	\$154.65
TROPHIES	\$156.96
PAPER SUPPLIES	\$54.36
VIP ROOM EXPENSES	\$642.07
FOOD CONTAINERS	\$510.90

\$46,244.74