

# FR. MCCORMICK COUNCIL 3880

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 3880, CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60014

# KNIGHT LIFE



ISSUE NO 9 | MARCH 2026 | VOLUME 30



## TOPIC 01

This Newsletter is  
Chock full of news...  
12 Pages!!

## TOPIC 02

Clergy Night  
Information and  
Invitation  
See page 6.

## TOPIC 03

Council Store is back. See  
page 6.

## GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT



**H**ello, Brother Knights,

In March, we supported several events that give back to our community. The first was the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) breakfast. NAMI is a support organization available to those with Mental Health challenges. NAMI sent out the word about this benefit breakfast. The Knights provided the manpower to make the breakfast happen. A WIN-WIN for both organizations giving back to our community.

Our monthly breakfast was also a success where we had plenty of parishioner support by having breakfast with us. We also were graced by some of the St. Thomas the Apostle grade school children who assisted with the breakfast food delivery.

Finally, was the revival of the St Patrick's Dinner. Thank you to DGK – Bill Bransley who brought back this wonderful event after several years of dormancy. What a wonderful time all attendees had. A special >>2

## Grand KNIGHT CONTINUED

### FROM PAGE 1

thanks to Bill's niece who managed the cooking and other activities in the kitchen. Thank you to all who assisted, from the meal servers to the kitchen staff, and to the bar support team. Nice job!

We continue to demonstrate that together as multiple strands come together, we can achieve so much. I invite you to our monthly Business meeting held every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month. Here you can find out more about what activities we sponsor. Then you can decide where you can contribute towards our principle of CHARITY. Whether it is 30, 60, or 90 minutes. It is all about your volunteering and assistance. Remember "many hands make for light work".

As always, if you know of someone who feels left out, please reach out to me at 847-341-1727.

God Bless.

Vivat Jesus

Cesar Jimenez  
Grand Knight

## DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT



As I sit here basking in the glow of a very successful St. Pat's Irish Fest; I can not help but think of all the various volunteer knights that made this event so great.

There were the tickets sellers after every mass, who invested only a fraction of their time but resulted in huge gains.

There were also the Friday crew who came in to decorate; arranging tables and chairs; laying out the dance floor; driving to pick up larger tables so people with 10 diners can sit together; food prep; setting up tables with table cloths, center pieces, placemats, napkins, and silverware. Some of these people came for an hour, some for two and a couple for four hours.

Saturday brought another group of people to serve food; cut meat; prepare carry-out boxes; tend bar and finally clean up at the end. There were also a lot of spouses helping out also

Being part of the knights means helping out whenever and wherever you can without judgement. There are so many events each and every month that it is easy to donate an hour or two of your time to help the less fortunate; school children; elderly and many more.

I thank God every time I help at an event for allowing me the opportunity to be part of the Knights of Columbus and follow in Jesus's footsteps.

I hope and pray that you will answer the call today to have a better tomorrow. Remember that "Yesterday is History; Tomorrow is a Mystery and today is a Gift – that is why it is called the Present". See you in the near future.

From the desk of the WDGK – Bill Bransley

## CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN



Have you ever cried with the grieving Martha, “Lord, if only You had been here!”? Lord, if only You had been here, my brother would not have died, that accident would not have happened, things would be different. If You had been here Lord, I would never have lost my job. If only You had been here, Lord, things certainly would have gone much better.

Martha is basically saying, “Lord where were You when I needed You?” She is blaming Jesus. Lord, You could have helped, and You didn’t. Lucky Martha. Her brother’s life is restored. Her faith in Jesus is confirmed. Perhaps, knowing the end of the Lazarus story we expect happy endings too.

In the first reading God says, “I will open your graves and have you rise from them...” It must have been easy for Ezekiel to believe in God’s promise when those dry bones came to life. Lucky Ezekiel. Another happy ending.

What about those of us who don’t get happy endings? What about those of us who are left with dead brothers and dry bones? Where is the God of miracles, the Lord of Life, when we need Him?

“Your brother will rise again,” Jesus assures Martha, but it doesn’t seem to help. “I know, I know, he’ll rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” That doesn’t seem to help her much in her present distress. Her brother is dead and she is hurting. Jesus, can You do something now?

Lucky Martha. Jesus does do something. Jesus does something quite wonderful! And He prays to His Father, “I know that You always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd that they may believe that You sent me.” Welcome to the crowd – the crowd of those who wanted to believe but whose skepticism made them seek the proof. We are the crowd of today, onlookers at the raising of Lazarus. It happened so that we, too, may believe our loving Father sent Jesus, and His word can be trusted. But what is the message for us when we sit among dead brothers and dry bones?

St. Paul gives us a clue. “If the spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, then He will bring your mortal bodies to life also.” There is life and there is the promise of a fuller life. The flesh has to be enlivened by God’s Spirit. The focus of the Lazarus story and the dry bones tale is not those who are physically dead, but those like Martha and Ezekiel (and us), who struggle to live and to believe while surrounded by death. Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to enliven our souls. When this happens, we too can say, lucky me!

Peace, be with you, Fr. Bob Jones



## 2025-26 OFFICERS

Grand Knight (847) 341-1727  
J. Cesar Jimenez

Deputy Grand Knight (815) 793-3595  
William Bransley

Chancellor (815)-404-6072  
John Carzoli

Lecturer 815-477-2241  
Vito DeFrisco

Chaplain 815/455-5400  
Rev. Bob Jones

Advocate (847) 338-1772  
Stuart Liegel

Treasurer 574-850-1053  
Ned Holland

Financial Secretary (815)-679-6596  
PGK, PFN John Stefani

Recorder 773-641-6601  
Sam Evans

Warden 815-893-4061  
Pat Slowey

Inside Guard (815) 382-4528  
Tim DeLance

Outside Guard (815) 263-0177  
Paul Tagatz

3 Year Trustee  
PGK Pat Maguire

2 Year Trustee 815 354-668  
Joseph Scherb

1 Year Trustee 815 354-6686  
Mike Bradley

Membership (815) 528-3491  
Robert Kosin

Newsletter (815) 790-5191  
PGK, Tim Hicklin

## CHANCELLOR'S THOUGHTS



John's column is being delayed until next month.

God Bless!  
John Carzoli - Chancellor

## LECTURER'S REFLECTIONS



Today, we celebrate Saint Katherine Drexel

As we gather as brothers in the Knights of Columbus, we are reminded that our principles—charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism—are not just words we recite, but a way of life we are called to embody. With March 3 marking the feast day of St. Katharine Drexel, we are given a powerful example of courageous charity. Born into great wealth, she chose not comfort, but service, dedicating her life and her fortune to serving Native American and African American communities who were neglected and marginalized. She founded schools and missions so that others might know their God-given dignity. Her life reminds us that generosity is not measured by how much we give, but by how much love we pour into what we give.

There is a story that when she once asked how she could best help a struggling mission, she was told, ***“The good you do may never be known by many, but it will always be known by God.”*** Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:40, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” Our acts of charity—whether public or unseen—are never small in God’s eyes. When we serve those in need, we are serving Christ Himself.

May the example of St. Katharine Drexel inspire us to place our time, talents, and treasure more fully at the service of Christ and His Church. Let us stand together in unity and fraternity, strengthening one another in faith so that our works of charity shine as a witness to the world. May we always remember that when we serve with love, we are not simply doing good deeds—we are answering a holy call.

Vivat Jesus!

Vito C. DeFrisco

Lecturer

## Pop-Tabs



Keep on collecting those pop tabs! Let's support the Ronald McDonald House Charities and collect One Million pop tops. The Ronald McDonald House provides care, comfort, and a free place to stay for families to heal together while their child receives medical care.

## MARCH BREAKFAST



March came roaring in like the proverbial lion... a bit nippy (a foreboding of the 5-6 inches of snow coiming at the end of the day!) and the crowds apparently went home, although the Mass counts were pretty low. This was quickly evident by the very light turnout of customers after the early Mass. But then the 9 AM Mass brought a crowd of over a hundred, so things were looking a bit brighter. Alas, the 10:30 crowd, which has proven to be a saviour as of late, also left church to go... well, somewhere!!? But surprisngly enough our numbers somehow came out pretty good and financially we did well... especially helped by the placement of a very light food order, so in that respect a good day! Help wise we had the pleasure of the St. Thomas School Athletic Department providing the servers for the morning, so their bright smiling faces always add a festive fair to the day.

Hope to see you there on April 19<sup>th</sup> ...

... one side of the counter or the other... John

## MEMBERSHIP COLUMN



### EXEMPLIFICATION

With the success of the Great Dinners, Polish, and St. Patrick's, Fr. McCormick Council demonstrated again its ability to host festivities attended by nearly 500 participants. The Program Directors and Grand Knight deserve recognition for orchestrating another event marked by food and fellowship. Charitable giving continued to play a central role in these initiatives, highlighting our Order's core principle, and supported by the values of Unity and Fraternity.

During these gatherings, the question often arises: "What do the Knights do?" At each event, the Grand Knight takes the opportunity to explain which organizations benefit from the Council's charitable work. Exemplification—defined as demonstrating through action—remains essential, even if its significance may occasionally be overshadowed by the festivities. Nevertheless, Council members consistently uphold the Principles that have guided our organization for decades.

It is important not to overlook the value of showcasing the benefits of membership in the Knights of Columbus. Brochures and speeches from the Membership Director can inform and encourage, they cannot replace the impact of seeing our guiding Principles put into action. Thank you for the commitment you demonstrate as Knights. Through your actions, you have shown others the true potential of our Order and invite them to share in the fulfillment that comes from living our Principles by the strength of our Catholic Faith.

## SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

First it was good to see you (PGK, Tim and Karen Hicklin) at the setup for the St. Patrick's Dinner.

Truth be told, even then the article you requested was mush between the ears. And yet watching you and your wife give assistance to what turned out to be a great event, defined then and there the meaning of Exemplification.

## 3880 Council Store

Fr. McCormick Council 3880  
**Knights of Columbus Apparel Store**  
**SHOP ONLINE FOR COUNCIL POLOS & SHIRTS**

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SHOP

## Clergy Night

Hello Brother Knights and respective families, Thursday, April 23, 2026, the Fr. McCormick Council 3880 of the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring their annual Clergy night. What a great way to spend some social time with Clergy from St Thomas the Apostle church and other surround parishes.

The dinner will be held at **Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano** 1524 S Randall Rd, Algonquin IL 60102

6:00 p.m. Reception  
7:00 p.m. Introductions  
7:15 p.m. Dinner  
8:00 p.m. Door Prizes

### Menu

Choice Chicken Parmesan or Dijon Salmon (Choose on night of event)  
(includes salad / dessert / soda / coffee / tea)

### Price

\$45 per person (Cash Bar)

### Sponsorship

Opportunities are available.

Please call Dan O'Connell at 224-456-5098 for details.

----- **Please RSVP by April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, by mailing the following portion as indicated** -----

See enclosure for more details

Vivat Jesus

Cesar Jimenez - Grand Knight - Council #3880



[invitation.clergynight.2026-Biaggi's.docx](#)



We will be electing a new Master for the Marquette Province North Illinois District at the biannual meeting of the Master coming up shortly. Current Master Ty Simmons will not seek another term based on personal family matters that need his full attention. We appreciate the service he has given to the Patriotic Degree over the past two years.

That being said, the next Exemplification of Patriotism will be Saturday, June 27, 2026, at St. Norbert Catholic Church in Northbrook, IL that will be Ty Simmons last as Master. Host Assembly is Bishop Hillinger #1595. Bishop Boylan currently has one candidate for the event and we would like to see many more especially from Council 3880. If you know a brother 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree knight that should step up, invite him to do so. Just like recruiting members to the Council, if you don't invite them, why should they come?



The Assembly is planning a fundraiser to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our great nation. We are designing a custom T-shirt with graphics celebrating this auspicious occasion and referencing the Knights and our patriotic tenet. You do not need to be a Sir Knight to order one. More information on this will be coming out shortly. The eagle emblem shown below will be emblazoned on the front and the KC logo will be on the left sleeve. Shirt colors will be red or royal blue and dri-fit material. Cost is \$30 with proceeds after costs going to support veteran programs. If interested, please let me know.

The Assembly has two (2) uniform allowances of \$200 left for this fraternal year. It is on a first-come, first-reimbursed basis. You must submit a **paid receipt** along with the reimbursement form to receive payment. You can order the uniform [here](#). The sword and scabbard package can be found [here](#). Our Council has a \$100 allowance uniform allowance as well (5 available) so you could get up to \$300 back on a uniform purchase. Hurry before the Assembly runs out their allotment.

If you haven't been out to the Assembly website in a while, you can find it [here](#). We are updating it with Council events going on with those Councils who make up our Assembly so check it often.

Our next Assembly meeting is on **April 8, 2026**, at 7:30 PM at Holy Apostles in McHenry. If you are a Sir Knight and are not receiving the meeting invites or other Assembly emails, please let me know and I can update your email address to rectify the situation.

All the best to you and yours during this Lenten Season. God bless you and your families with a Joyous Easter. God Bless the United States of America and please protect our troops.

## 3880 Memories Blessing of the Easter Baskets on Holy Saturday 4/4/2026

Święconka, is a cherished Polish tradition on Holy Saturday April 4th when families bring baskets filled with symbolic foods to Church to be blessed by a priest. The wicker basket, decorated with white linen, ribbons, and greenery, signifies the Resurrection, new life, and the end of Lenten fasting.

Robert Kosin



# NAMI BREAKFAST



# Annual St. Paddy's Dinner



## Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

April 2026

**Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.** (Gospel for April 19, Lk 24:35)

The disciples on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until the breaking of the bread. Jesus promised he would be with us always, and the Eucharist is his fulfillment of that promise. We encounter his presence most profoundly in the Eucharist, where he is truly present — body, blood, soul, and divinity — under the appearance of bread and wine. The disciples' experience on the road to Emmaus was no ordinary meal, but an encounter with Christ, who invites us, too, to enter into communion with him through the Eucharist.

**Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:**

This month, I challenge you to remain in prayer and adoration for several minutes after Mass to grow in awareness of Christ's true presence in the Eucharist.

**Questions for Reflection:**

Do you fully realize it is the true body and blood of Christ that you receive in the Eucharist? Do you habitually pray in thanksgiving after Communion for this immeasurable gift? Do you consistently participate in Mass on Sundays and holy days? Do you make an effort to attend more frequently, so that you might avail yourself of the graces of this great sacrament?

## FROM THE DESK OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY



**Worthy Brothers...** As you are reading this message, it is very late February or early February. Our Council operates on a Fiscal Calendar of July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> with Supreme. However, we also operate on the calendar for our dues. In December I printed and mailed out the dues Invoices for the 2026 calendar year. These are then due by February 1<sup>st</sup>. To date, 96 of the 203 paying members are fully paid, or Members in Good Standing. You see, In Good Standing includes being current on your dues. Unfortunately, we also have almost 40 members who have not paid any dues in the past 2 and even 3 years! This is a hardship for the Council as we also pay an assessment to Supreme, the State Council and even the Rockford Chapter each year based on the number of members on the official roster. The amount varies but comes to around \$10.00 each combined. So easily \$400.00 per year we pay for those who don't want to. That wording may be a bit harsh... but it isn't. EVERY time I send out an initial Invoice AND the Second Invoice or even a THIRD Invoice it ALWAYS contains the clause that "...if these dues are a financial hardship on you currently,

PLEASE contact me directly, since as the Financial Secretary I have the authority to waive your dues and only YOU AND I will be aware of it!!! NO ONE will know your name"! Yet over the past 4 years only 1 person has done this. All the others simply ignore their obligation to the Council. Again, harsh words, but they can't pick up a phone and talk to me... in this day and age, money is very tight and goes to family first.. we all know that... it's why I make this available to everyone! On top of that, every year, several Brothers send in their check for their dues and include extra money to help cover those who can't afford it. As it says in our charter and our ceremonies, "CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME!" Amen, Vivat Jesus!

... I may be reached by phone / text at (815) 679-6596 or [jstefani44fs3880@aol.com](mailto:jstefani44fs3880@aol.com) John

## PRO-LIFE REPORT

### Right in the midst of political or international wars:

The right to life is considered a fundamental human right that remains in force during armed conflicts and political wars, prohibiting the arbitrary deprivation of life. While international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights law (HRL) are distinct, they are complementary, with HRL applying at all times, even during wartime.

ohchr +I

Key aspects regarding the right to life in the midst of political conflict include:

- **Legal Protections:** International law dictates that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of their life. This right must be protected by law, and governments are generally required to adhere to due process before taking actions that affect life.
- **Prohibition of Arbitrary Deprivation:** Any act of aggression contrary to the UN Charter or breach of the law of armed conflict is considered a violation of the right to life.
- **Targeting and Civilians:** The Geneva Conventions strictly protect civilians, requiring that they not be targeted or used to shield military objectives. Proportionality and military necessity are key factors, but they do not justify the intentional targeting of non-combatants.
- **Existence and Dignity:** Recent legal interpretations emphasize that the right to life includes not just physical survival, but the right to live in dignity.
- **State Obligations:** Governments are responsible for ensuring that their forces adhere to these laws and are often required to investigate cases of unnatural death during conflicts, including those involving the use of force by the state.
- **Challenges in Practice:** Despite legal protections, political conflicts often lead to circumstances where the right to life is threatened, highlighting the tension between legal norms and the realities of war.
- **Protection for Specific Groups:** Vulnerable groups, including children, pregnant women, and civilians in occupied territories, are afforded specialized protection under the Geneva Conventions.

Respectfully submitted

Pete Harren, ProLife Director



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**Legislative Office:**  
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[legofc@ifrl-pac.com](mailto:legofc@ifrl-pac.com)

**McHenry County Right to Life:**  
[www.righttolife-mc.org](http://www.righttolife-mc.org)  
**McHenry County Right to Life PAC:**  
[www.prolife-victory.com](http://www.prolife-victory.com)

# FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

## APRIL 2026

Knights Birthdates		Knights Continued		Wives Birthdates		Anniversaries
Ronald M Ferraro	04-02	John P Baldo	04-23	Annette M O'Connell	04-16	<b>According to our Official Records... No one got Married in April True or False??</b> <b>Let the FS know!!</b> <a href="mailto:jstefani44fs3880@aol.com">jstefani44fs3880@aol.com</a> <b>Or text to 8156796596</b>
Edgar Castillo Lopez	04-04	Very Rev Robert W Jones	04-24	Angel Allen	04-21	
David A Kosin	04-05	Jonathan Magro	04-24			
Antonio Cruz-Uribe	04-09	Mike J Romanelli	04-24			
Michael J Wojnarowski	04-09	John E Hoscheit	04-25			
James F Batastini	04-14	Edward L Kieras	04-28			
Patrick E Bradley	04-15	Michael J Bakalar	04-29			
Michael R Piwonka	04-15	Timothy B MacDonald	04-30			
Deacon Allen C Bondi	04-17					
Todd S Bright	04-17					
Stefano Liparoto	04-17					
Frank J Rancak, Jr	04-17					

### \*FIFTH SUNDAY – MAY 31, 2026 – 9:00AM (MARCH 29 IS PALM SUNDAY)

#### 5th SUNDAY May 31, 2026

Sunday May 31, 2026, is a Fifth Sunday of the month for which the 9AM Mass is in memory for the Deceased Members of Council 3880 including our namesake Father Edwin A. McCormick. Please consider attending in your Black or Blue Council Shirt and for those Past Grand Knights, the White Shirt as a worthy memento of your service to the Council. But attendance should not limit the moment of prayer on that day. As well as attending or streaming Mass that day, find a place to hear an inner voice or view of His creation and if the weather is conducive, stand outside on that Sunday, long enough to say a decade.



*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.*

**Amen.**

And from the gentle repetition of each prayer be mindful of our deceased members, their faith in their clergy, love of Our Lady and how each lived a life in recognition of Tempus Fugit, Memento Mori.

Robert Kosin



Visit us at [KofC3880.org](http://KofC3880.org).

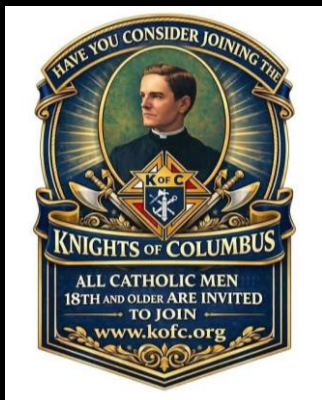
Fr. McCormick Council 3880  
 c/o PGK, Tim Hicklin  
 225 N. Main St  
 Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
[thicklin@aol.com](mailto:thicklin@aol.com)

## COUNCIL NEXT THREE-MONTH CALENDAR

APRIL 2026	MAY 2026	JUNE 2026
4/2-4/4 Triduum 4/5 Easter Sunday 4/11,18 TMIY 4/7 Business Meeting 4/12 Council Eucharistic Mass Divine Mercy Sunday 4/15 Caballeros De Colon 4/19 Breakfast 4/23 Food Pantry 4/28 Officers Meeting	5/5 Business Meeting Officer Slate for FY 2027 Cinco de Mayo 5/10 Mothers Day 5/15 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Dinner/Dance 5/15-17 State Convention 5/17 Breakfast 5/20 Caballeros De Colon 5/22 St Thomas School Cookout 5/23 Hispanic 1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion 5/25 Memorial Day 5/26 Officers Meeting 5/28 Food Pantry 5/31 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	6/2 Business Meeting Officer Elections 6/7 Corpus Christi Procession 6/14 Breakfast 6/16 Officer Installation 6/17 Caballeros De Colon 6/21 Fathers Day 6/30 Officers Meeting

### Prayer for the Canonization of Fr. Michael J McGivney

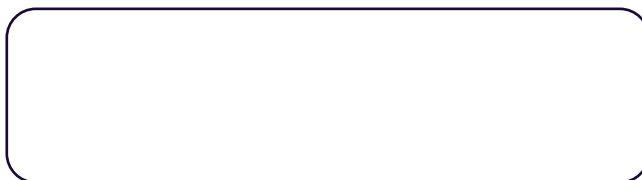
God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Fr. Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, bless our parish, our Knights of Columbus Council and Lady's Auxiliary. Amen.



[Pope Leo XIV](#)



Sponsored by The Knights of Columbus



**Make the Right Choice. Life is not Your Choice. It's Your Responsibility!**

**National Election is 11/3/2026.**

