



Knights of Columbus

Knight Life a Monthly Publication

By Tricia Carzoli



GK, Bill Bransley From the cluttered desk and mind of the Grand Knight.

The first month of the new fraternal year as well as my tenure as Grand Knight was a very busy one. The food truck was at the MCYSA baseball tournament opening day ceremonies and then did a quick turn-around and participated in the Main Beach Regatta. The weather for both events could have been a little cooler to promote more people to be out and about. But as someone had told me; "Man Plans and God Laughs". The monthly breakfast was well attended for a summer month and some of us even saw a smile on the face of the head coordinator. The end of the month brought a highly successful membership drive at Oak Street Church with over 50 potential candidates.

August started with a bang at the first exemplification of the fraternal year and 5 new knights joining Fr. McCormack Council #3880. The blood drive brought in over 50 people to help ease the shortage in McHenry County. We still have the monthly breakfast; the food truck at Kishwaukee Brewery; the Fr. McCormack graveside rosary and the final mini-Kermes at Pierson Street Church.

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DGK, John Carzoli

Happy Birthday

We recently celebrated the birthday (August 12) and feast day (August 13) of our founder, Blessed Michael J. McGivney. I keep learning new things about his life and the work he did, not only in founding the Knights of Columbus, but also in the community and prison system. Just a few days ago I received an email from Brother Don Shaw about the McHenry County Jail Ministry he's involved with. Don included an article about Fr. McGivney's ministry at the jailhouse in New Haven, Connecticut, as he ministered to those incarcerated and on death row, saving their souls even though he couldn't save their lives.

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Chaplain, Fr. Bob Jones

Becoming Catholic begins with a conversation, not a registration deadline. A parish first listens to your faith story, Baptism history, and questions. The path then depends on whether you are unbaptized, already validly baptized in another Christian community, or a baptized Catholic who has not completed Christian initiation. In the United States, the approved liturgical book is now called the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). It is not merely a course: it joins conversion, Catholic teaching, prayer, worship, parish life, and discernment.

St. Thomas is offering three INQUIRY sessions for individuals who are interested in finding out more about the process for becoming a fully initiated member of the Roman Catholic Church. The sessions will be offered on Sunday, August 23, at 10 am; Sunday, August 30, at 11:30 am; and Thursday, September 10, at 7 pm. Actual classes are set to begin on Sunday, September 13, at 10 am. All sessions will be offered in the Oak Street Church's Lower Level.

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2006-2027 Fraternal Year Officers

Grand Knight William Bransley
(815) 793-3595

Deputy Grand KNIGHT JOHN
CARZOLI (815)-404-6072

Chancellor Stuart Liegel
(847) 338-1772

Advocate
Pat Slowey 815-893-4061

Lecturer 815-477-2241
Vito DeFrisco

Chaplain 815/455-5400
Rev. Bob Jones

Treasurer 574-850-1053
Ned Holland

Financial Secretary (815)-679-
6596

FS, PGK, PFN John Stefani

Recorder 815-893-9323
Paul Cuchna

Warden 224-456-5098
Dan O'Connell

Inside Guard (815) 382-
4528
Tim DeLance

Outside Guard (815) 263-
0177
Paul Tagatz

Don Shaw (561) 309-4868

3 Year Trustee 847-341-1727
PGK, Cesar Jiminez

2 Year Trustee 815 354-668
PGK Pat Maguire

1 Year Trustee 815 354-6686
PGK, Joseph Scherb

Membership (214) 704-2000
Christopher Keen

Newsletter (815) 790-5191
PGK, Tim Hicklin

From Page 1

From the cluttered desk and mind of the Grand Knight.

The council is gearing up for a very active September. There is the Parish Picnic; the Tootsie Roll Drive; the start of the Vocational Raffle; the monthly breakfast; Johnny Appleseed and the memorial rosary on the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

I hope to see many of my brother knights out there lending a hand or enjoying the many activities offered.

Vivat Jesus - WGK

From Page 1

Happy Birthday

In the July/August issue of Columbia, our Supreme Chaplain, Archbishop William E. Lori, challenged us to learn more about Blessed Michael McGivney's life and suggested we download the Cor resource *Blessed Michael McGivney Cor Session Guide* (here is a direct link: <https://shopcatholicinfo.com/products/mcgivney-cor-session-guide>). This guide walks us through ten sessions where different periods of Fr. McGivney's life are presented. From his challenging childhood where his family was ostracized due to their Catholic faith, to his later years when he persevered with love as many in the community sought to shut down the small and poor St. Mary's parish in New Haven, Fr. McGivney was seen as a voice of compassion and sympathy. As Father Joseph Daley said, "Non-Catholics found in Father McGivney a soul of immense sympathy which invited them strongly toward investigating the religious truths his lips proclaimed."

The Cor guide also asks some thought-provoking questions such as, "Who in your life needs you to be a friend, brother, and a loving spiritual father? How – specifically and concretely – can you answer that need?"

Perhaps a good birthday gift we can offer to Blessed Michael McGivney is to ask him to pray for us to have the courage to be vulnerable, uncomfortable, and willing to take a chance to be that friend, brother, or spiritual father to those who need one. Or at least to be ready to be one because you never know who God will put in your life tomorrow.

Blessed Michael J. McGivney – Pray for us!

Vivat Jesus!

John Carzoli - DGK

From Page 1

Chaplain's Message

Do not stay away from INQUIRY because your history feels complicated. Tell the parish about every prior marriage of either spouse and any current marriage in a private conversation early in the process. The Church presumes a marriage valid until the contrary is established, and a prior bond can affect whether a person is free to marry. Depending on the facts, a marriage may already be recognized, may need convalidation or another canonical remedy, may require a tribunal process, or may require no action. An annulment is a declaration about whether a marriage bond arose; it is not a Catholic divorce and is never guaranteed. Marriage questions can affect the timing of a baptized candidate or catechumen's reception, so it is important to address these early in the process. You are not alone! A great many people have had these issues in the past and experienced the OCIA process to be part of a healing and healthy spiritual journey.

The Easter Vigil is the normal and privileged setting for the initiation of the elect. At this Mass they receive Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. Baptism may be celebrated at another time when the Church's law and pastoral circumstances call for it, so the Vigil should not be considered as the only possible date. A validly baptized candidate may be received into full communion on a Sunday during the year or at the Easter Vigil, depending on readiness and pastoral circumstances.

If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more about the process of becoming a fully initiated Catholic, then please try to attend one of the upcoming INQUIRY sessions mentioned above, and/or join us when our sessions begin on September 13.

Peace, be with you, Fr. Bob Jones

Fr. McCormick Council 3880

Knights of Columbus Apparel Store

SHOP ONLINE FOR COUNCIL POLOS & SHIRTS



August 2026 Breakfast FS, John Stefani

Can't believe this was the end-of-summer already breakfast!! They say time flies when you are having fun, and the older you get the quicker time goes by...so obviously for me Christmas was about a week ago, and Thanksgiving is tomorrow! Apparently with most school starting this coming week (as I write this) the last vacations are being taken... the crowd was on the smaller size, just 189 served after last months 209. It's interesting how that difference in 20 people manifests itself... after x number of people, it turns to profit... but until you reach that number, it's keeping your fingers crossed! We also see the number of people attending each mass, so that % figure is important... But it's also interesting that some of the guys working the floor will let me know when someone new comes in and makes some nice complimentary comments as they leave. It's always nice to hear, and we make sure everyone in back knows. This month we had many members of the **St. Vincent DePaul Society** working the Breakfast in the dining room. They served the prepared food, cleaned tables and assisted everyone. They were here to promote the upcoming **FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK** on Saturday, September 26th. This is to help eradicate poverty, and they were telling people about it and seeking volunteers and sponsors. This is another miniswtry here at **St. Thomas** that we support.

See you next at the September 20th for our regular 3rd Sunday Breakfast. Until then, keep cool, be safe and enjoy the summer! And also hope to see some of you at the next couple of Brat Mobile outings coming up! They are fun to work!
John

Lecturer Reflection

1st Corinthians 6:19-20 "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God. You are not your own; You were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies"

My brother Knights, we must take care of ourselves for our family's sake, that we may enjoy the greatest wealth and serve our loving God. Pope St. Gregory the Great said, "the greatest wealth is having God, a healthy body, a peaceful mind and the right people in your life"

Annual physical exams, weight management, regular monitoring of blood pressure and physical exercise consisting of cardio and weight training are just some of the key components in taking care of our bodies.

St. Augustine recognized the need for health and self-care when he said; "Take care of your body as if you were going to live forever and take care of your soul as if you were going to die tomorrow.

Dan Shaw

Food Pantry

Brothers, our council is working the Crystal Lake Food Pantry this Thursday, July 23rd. We are covering this time slot every 4th Thursday of the month and can use your help.

There has been an increase in the number of neighbors being served recently which has increased the need for volunteers.

Please do not wear sandals or open toes shoes as this is a safety issue at the food pantry.

We are in **need of 12-14 volunteers** to help serve our neighbors at the pantry.

Date: Thursday August 27

Time: 4:30pm -7:30pm

Please RSVP if you can make it.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Mike Kebr 815-814-7395

See you there. Mike Kebr



We have a new Master of the Marquette Province - Northern District of Illinois. Supreme Master Michael McCusker has announced his appointment for the District Master and it is Sir Knight David Wolken who is the most senior Marshal for current Master Ty Simmons. He has served in this position for many years and knows the ins and outs of the Patriotic Degree. He will assume the position effective September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028, and will work in tandem with Master Simmons to make a smooth transition to new leadership for the Northern District. We wish Brother Wolken, our new Master Select, great success in his new position.

Our next Exemplification will be October 24th at St. Peter Cathoic Church in Batavia. Registration forms will can be found [here](#). If you know a brother 3rd 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? If you need a Form 4 to sign them up, you can find it [here](#).

The Assembly budget for the year has been approved, which includes 5 - \$200 uniform allowances for this fraternal year. Now would be a good time to consider getting your uniform and take advantage of the Council's \$100 allowance (5 of them) to get \$300 total reimbursement of the uniform cost. Here are the links for your convenience: [Uniform](#), [Sword](#) Purchase the uniform, submit your receipt and the money is yours. If you have questions about the process, please reach out to Dan O'Connell.

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 **September 9, 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.

God Bless you and your families and God Bless the United States of America. Please pray for those service personnel who gave all for our freedom and protect our troops who are protecting us now.

August 2026 Life

Pope Leo IV's most important stands with the world. Prolife is LIFE. Its so sacred that it surmounts all other arguments surrounding the issue of Prolife or abortion. There are significantly greater values that state LIFE is the important issue, above all the "pros and cons"

Mary Mobley - 12 Jan 2026

On Friday, Pope Leo XIV issued his first "State of the World" address—a traditional annual speech that lays out the pope's priorities for the year.

In concept, the practice sounds similar to the American "State of the Union" address. But Pope Leo's speech differed in one fundamental way: Without mincing words or pursuing political correctness, he unapologetically, undeniably affirmed the sanctity of life.

"The vocation to love and to life... implies a fundamental ethical imperative for enabling families to welcome and fully care for unborn life," said Pope Leo.

He continued, "We categorically reject any practice that denies or exploits the origin of life and its development. Among these is abortion, which cuts short a growing life and refuses to welcome the gift of life."

That's a truth that no American president, and certainly not the current administration, is likely to utter: the principle that every life, beginning at conception, has inherent value—meaning it cannot be destroyed on the whim of another.

LEARN MORE: [Kristan Hawkins: NO, We Will Not Be 'Flexible' on Taxpayer Funding for Abortion](#)

Why is that reality so difficult to acknowledge?

In part, it's because of the common caricature that mistakes being pro-life for simply being anti-abortion—for simply caring about life before birth. Under that caricature, pro-lifers are cold-hearted anti-abortion moralists who damn women seeking abortions and mercilessly force them to raise children they don't want and can't provide for.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Being pro-life doesn't just mean being anti-abortion—nor does the principle that life has value solely demand banning abortion.

In fact, a true belief in the value of life demands a response much greater than merely opposing abortion: It demands that all lives be treated with respect, compassion, and care. As Pope Leo put it, protecting life demands not only "the protection of every unborn child" but also "the effective and concrete support of every woman so that she is able to welcome life."

He's exactly right. Fighting for life means supporting that life in the fullest sense of the word—by coming alongside mothers, providing them with the resources they need to raise their children, and reminding them they're not alone.

Respectfully submitted. Pete Harren, Life Director



Corporate Office:
2600 State St., Suite E
Alton, IL 62002-5172
(618) 465-BABY
ifrlalton@ifrl-pac.com

Legislative Office:
308 Monroe
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 544-LIFE
legofc@ifrl-pac.com

McHenry County Right to Life:
www.righttolife-mc.org
McHenry County Right to Life PAC:
www.prolife-victory.com

Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

September, 2026

Then Peter approaching asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." (Gospel for Sept. 13, Mt 18:21-22)

To forgive others can be very difficult at times, especially when someone repeatedly offends us. Jesus tells us there is no magic number that limits our obligation — our desire to forgive and show mercy to others must be boundless, just as God's mercy toward us is infinite. We pray in the Our Father, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Our very salvation depends on our willingness to forgive, for God will forgive us in the measure that we forgive others (cf. Mt 6:14-15).

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to make a list of the people in your life — past and present — whom you find or have found difficult to forgive, and to sincerely pray for them each day.

Questions for Reflection:

Are there people in your life whom you find difficult to forgive for past offenses? Do you sometimes find yourself saying the words "I forgive you," but holding on to the hurt like a grudge? What steps can you take to move to true forgiveness?

Membership

Christopher Keen

By GK, Bill Bransley



1st Corinthians 6:19-20 "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God. You are not your own; You were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies"

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Good of the Order

For the Month of August

Knights Birthday	Knights Birthday	Wife Birthday	Anniversary
John M Scott 09/01 Edward T Riley 09/02 PGK Vincent P Esposito 09/03 Brian T Jauch 09/03 James J Weltzien 09/03 PGK Anthony DePippo 09/09 Ernest J Varassi 09/09 David P Mazurk 09/10 David F Jacobs 09/12 Thomas Cross, Jr 09/13 Gerald A Lyons, Jr 09/13	James McKinnon 09/13 Gregory J Heideman 09/14 Cornelio Solis 09/16 Garrett A Stebbings 09/19 Michael E Brucker 09/27 Miguel Barradas 09/28 Steven T Notaro 09/29	Nancy Miller 9/10 Dee Slowey 9/15 Karen Hicklin 9/29	Paul W & Nancy Miller 09/02 PGK Marty & Marilyn Zopp 09/08 PGK Michael & Sheri Kebr 09/11 Robert & Victoria Kosin 09/15 Jim & Irene Skaja 09/16 Anthony & Diane Santinello 09/25 PGK John & Susan Stefani 09/27 And a special belated Happy 50 th Anniversary to Bob and Mary Kay Kampman in July which the FS Forgot to Post! 🙄

FIFTH SUNDAY – AUG 30, 2026 – 9:00AM

5th SUNDAY Aug 30, 2026

Sunday Aug 30, 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

Four-Month Council 3880 Calendar

August	September	October	November
..... 8/25 Officers Meeting 8/27 Food Pantry 8/29 Rosary 8/29-30 Mini Kermes 8/30 Donuts 5th Sunday	9/11 Business Meeting 9/10 Rosary 9/12 Parish Picnic 9/14 Exemplification 9/16 Caballeros De Colon 9/18-19 IDDF Tootsie Roll 9/20 Breakfast 9/24 Food Pantry 9/26 Food Truck 29 Officers Meeting	10/01 Crosses for Life 10/01-02 Travelling Fatima 10/06 Business Meeting 10/10 Bilingual Rosary 10/13 Deanery Dinner 10/18 Breakfast (SPRED) 10/21 Caballeros De Colon 10/22 Food Pantry 10/27 Officers Meeting	11/03 Business Meeting 11/07 Tree Lot Setup 11/15 Breakfast 11/17 Memorial Mass 11/18 Caballeros De Colon 11/24 Planning Meeting 11/27 Tree Sales 11/28 Festival of Lights 11/29 Donuts

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.



PGK, Tim Hicklin
225 N. Main St.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Web Site;
www.kofc3880.org



Pope Leo XIV



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

National Election is 11/3/2026,