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 Knights of Columbus is a global Catholic fraternal service organization founded by Blessed Michael J. McGivney in 1882. His original plan was for a mutual benefit society to assist immigrants and working-class Catholic families. It has since grown into an international organization with over 2.2 million members.

But why do Catholic men join the Knights of Columbus. Some join to have a group of like-minded people to talk with and associate with. Others want to deepen their faith. Some join to help other less fortunate people in the parish or community.

It was a combination of all three that lead me to join the KofC nearly 25 years ago in Atlanta Georgia. My family and I had just relocated to Atlanta and knew no one outside of work or near where we lived. We attended St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church and they had a membership drive going on. I thought why not check it out and see what they had to offer. Continued Page 2

DGK, John Carzol
Eternal Rest

Tempus Fugit, Memento Mori! November, a month dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory, is almost here. This is going to be a particularly meaningful month for me, having lost both parents this past year, but I hope to develop some habits of prayer that continue beyond November. As I was thinking about how best to honor my parents this November, I stumbled upon several ideas and thought I'd share a few here.

November 1 through 8 is commonly called the octave of All Saints Day and you can gain a plenary indulgence for the faithful departed every day by devoutly visiting a cemetery and praying for the dead. The other usual conditions for a plenary indulgence still need to be satisfied (confession, Holy Communion and praying for the Holy Father's intentions) within a few days of your visit. What a great way to honor your deceased loved ones!

If you are unable to visit a cemetery then perhaps set a specific time each day to pray the Requiem Aeternum (Eternal Rest) prayer:

Continued Page 2

Chaplain, Fr. Bob Jones
Chaplain's Message

Recently Beatified Bishop Fulton Sheen wrote a short, simple, and profound prayer for the spiritual adoption of a child in danger of abortion: *"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted."* That prayer has been repeated in Catholic homes, schools, and parishes for decades, and the miracle that opened the way for Sheen's beatification brought that prayer into flesh and blood. It is one of the prayers that I will be saying this afternoon from 2:30 to 3:30 pm, in front of the Hobby Lobby on Route 14. I hope many people will be present for the vigil.

On September 16, 2010, James Fulton Engstrom was born at home in Goodfield, IL, with a knotted umbilical cord and no pulse. For 61 minutes, medical personnel worked to revive him. His parents had already named him for Fulton Sheen, and they begged Sheen to intercede. Then James's heart began to beat. Sixty-one minutes was one minute longer than the Holy Hour Sheen kept every day throughout his priesthood.

Continued Page 2

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 and Web Site
(815) 790-5191
PGK, Tim Hicklin

From Page 1

From the cluttered desk and mind of the Grand Knight.

It turns out they had a lot to offer and the best thing was you could pick and choose what you participated in. There were monthly dinners, an annual Bingo night, Christmas tree sales and much more. Unfortunately, we moved later that year to Crystal Lake.

Here in Fr. McCormick Council #3880 I found the same welcoming atmosphere as well as many activities to choose from. With both my girls in Middle school and then going on the high school I did not participate that much. I did help serve at the month breakfasts to keep myself surrounded with the other knights.

So now the question I have for each of you. Why did you join? What are you doing to stay active with the KofC. There are many events, meetings and activities for you to try. I hope to see of you around and please come say hello to someone who has been where you are.

Vivat Jesus, SK, Bill Bransley

From Page 1

Eternal Rest

> "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."

Or, with night arriving earlier each day, commit to praying the Liturgy of the Hours Night Prayer, or Compline. This is a great way to unwind after a long day! There are several good apps out there that make access to the Liturgy of the Hours very easy. Check out the apps *iBreviary* or *Universalis*.

Besides these ideas, don't forget our Memorial Mass for deceased Knights on November 17 and 5th Sunday on the 29th.

May you be blessed with memories of the loved ones you have lost and hopefully you can find time to honor those memories by praying for the deceased throughout the month of November.

God Bless!

John Carzoli
Deputy Grand Knight
Vivat Jesus!

From Page 1

Chaplain's Message

James is now 16 years old, and on September 24th his family walked through the Dome at America's Center, in St. Louis for the Beatification of Bishop Fulton Sheen. It is the same building where Saint Pope John Paul II told Americans in 1999 to "resist the culture of death and stand firmly on the side of life." The Engstrom family carried Sheen's relic toward the altar. A child who had no pulse became part of the reason the Church may now call Fulton Sheen Blessed. The image was striking in its simplicity: a living boy, the relic of a bishop who defended life, an altar, and a stadium full of Catholics.

For the Catholic faithful, beatification tells the Church that the man of the old black-and-white television screen is not simply a figure from another age. It says that his witness still speaks, and it tells a pregnancy center volunteer, a sidewalk counselor, a mother in crisis, a priest in a confessional, and all pro-life advocates that the truths Sheen defended did not expire when he died.

"Mary, the Mother of Life" is the theme for this year's Respect Life Month. In becoming the mother of Jesus, Mary becomes the *Mother of Life.* Mary's fiat at the Annunciation, which had to have been a truly overwhelming moment for any individual, demonstrates how each of us must welcome the gift of new human life, even when that gift is unexpected or calls us to make sacrifices. Let embrace her response and hold it close to our hearts; *"May it be done to me according to you word" (Lk 1:38).* The life of the Blessed Mother and the life of Blessed Fulton Sheen teach us to respect each human life in every stage and circumstance Peace, be with you, Fr. Bob Jones



October 2026 Breakfast

On again, off again, up and down, round and round we go… we served 70 less people than a month ago… but it's been that way for the last 30 years I have been in charge of the Monthly Breakfast… and people continue to ask and question how I plan for the food… and fortunately it's only the food in question, I never have to worry about the crew… these guys are always here… one or the other may have something come up where they miss a time, but so very few and in between… and here's the better one… almost everyone of the kitchen crew can and does each other's job as needed. Maybe for 5 minutes or a whole shift… someone must walk away for a minute or an hour, and one of them simply moves over to manage the open spot. No complaining, no worry, no hassle, it's just done. Day of the Breakfast and I am the most unneeded guy in the kitchen… once the prep is done, it just happens, when, where, and whatever. So ultra busy event or normal or low, it happens… over and over. So, if any of the crew is even reading this, THANKS! So, going back to slow… probably the early Bears game. Interestingly, looking at the mass attendance numbers for last Sunday, the difference between the 9:00 mass and the 10:30 was one less person, yet the number of those people eating was 93 after the 9 but only 61 after the 10:30, and lately they have been pretty even… so that is a big difference… but still, we did okay! So, thanks again, St. Thomas Parishioners!

The next opportunity for others to discover us, and come back for a great breakfast, will be on November 15th. In reading this you can add yourself to the people coming in for breakfast and even telling your fellow parishioners or neighbors about the breakfast in case they don't know about it… All are welcome!! Thanks, John

Food Pantry

Brothers,

Our council is working the Crystal Lake Food Pantry this Thursday, October 22nd. 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.

Date: Thursday October 22
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

Lecturer Reflection

As Christ teaches in **Matthew 25:36**, "I was in prison and you visited me," and **Hebrews 13:3** tells us, "Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them." As baptized members of the one Mystical Body of Christ, we are called to remember and support those who suffer, including the incarcerated

GK Bill Bransley has asked me to describe for the Knights the McHenry County Sheriff's adult corrections ministry and the Illinois Department of Corrections prison ministry. McHenry County is the county jail, the D.O.C. is the state prison system. With Father Bob's approval, I joined Helping Hands, a Christ-centered, non-denominational ministry serving men in the McHenry jail.

On Wednesday evenings, our five-man team is escorted into the jail by corrections officers We then branch off into separate cell blocks, meeting individually with six to ten incarcerated men, lasting roughly thirty minutes. This starts with listening to their jail life, family and court situations. We listen with understanding and empathy, engaging with the men and treating them as the human being that God created, not as a court docket number with criminal charges. We use scripture emphasizing God's love, mercy, and forgiveness through the teachings of Jesus Christ. Discussions focus on repentance, salvation, spiritual growth, overcoming destructive behaviors, and finding hope, healing, and purpose through prayer. I can describe this experience as Christ being present in these men.

On Thursday evenings, we lead group Bible studies, reading and discussing Scripture and its application to daily life. The ministry overall also provides a Sunday worship service, a Christ-based fatherhood program, and substance-abuse counseling.

I just began the state prison ministry in the Illinois Department of Corrections through New Life Corrections Ministry. This involves men who have been sentenced to serve time, anywhere from five, ten, twenty, thirty or more years and up to life in state prison. At Stateville, teams of 25 volunteers, spread out and individually visit around 1,200 inmates who are in two-man cells each Saturday, sharing the message of God's love, mercy, and forgiveness.

I have contacted Rockford Diocese priests, Fr. Draper and Fr. Doyle, who have invited me to accompany them to the Dixon Correctional Center where they celebrate Mass on alternating Thursdays. Fr. Draper asked me to increase the Dixon ministry by evangelizing within the cell blocks, establishing and presenting a new catechist program to the inmates. This would then lead to an OCIA program for inmates. Jesus Christ is continually at the center of these prison ministries. I consider the jail and prison ministries a privilege that I have the chance to serve in.

Vivat Jesus,

Don Shaw

Knights of Columbus
FOURTH DEGREE
Patriotic degree of the Order.



By the time you read this, we will have new Sir Knights in the 4th Degree. The Exemplification is scheduled for October 24th at St. Peter Cathoilc Church in Batavia and will be the first for our new Master, Sir Knight David Wolken. At the time of this writing, we are expecting 40 to 50 brother knights to become Sir Knights. I will update you in the November newsletter.

With that said, on to the next opportunity to join the Patriotic Degree. February 6,2027 will be the next Exemplification, and it will be held at St. Christina Church located at 3342 W 111th Street, Chicago, IL 60655. Registration forms will be found here once we have completed the Exemplification at St. Peter. If you know of 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. Two have already been claimed by other Sir Knights so consider getting your uniform before they are gone **and** take advantage of our 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.

Speaking of uniforms, our 3880 Sir Knights with uniforms provided the Honor Guard for Our Lady of Fatima Mass held on October 1st. Our Caballeros brothers provided the Honor Guard in their blue shirts and khakis for Friday's Mass.

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 **November 11, 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.

Remember to vote the mid-terms. It is your most powerful way to make sure your voice is heard. God Bless you and your families and God Bless the United States of America. Please pray for those serving our country in the Armed Forces, police, fire and first responders who are all keeping us safe.

October 2026 Life

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) defines their pro-life stance through a core theological principle: **human life is sacred and possesses inherent dignity from the moment of conception until natural death**. Through their Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, American bishops articulate that valuing life requires an active framework encompassing pastoral care, public policy, and systemic support. [1, 2, 3]

The bishops outline their valuation of human life across several major program pillars:

1. "Radical Solidarity" with Mothers and Children

In the post-*Roe v. Wade* legal landscape, the bishops emphasize that valuing life means supporting both the preborn child and the mother. They advocate for a holistic worldview where society makes the full flourishing of families its highest goal. This manifests through: [1, 2]

- **Material Support:** Funding and organizing parish-level collections for diapers, formula, and financial provisions for mothers in precarious situations. [1, 2]
- **National Initiatives:** Programs like *Walking with Moms in Need* mobilize local parishes to directly assist pregnant and parenting women experiencing vulnerability. [1, 2]
- **Post-Abortion Healing:** Through ministries like Project Rachel, they offer pastoral care and psychological/spiritual healing to women who have experienced abortion. [1, 2]

2. Comprehensive Public Policy Advocacies

While abortion remains a primary focus, the USCCB teaches that opposing abortion must be paired with anti-poverty and healthcare advocacy to truly value life. Their public policy recommendations include: [1, 2]

- Enacting **the Child Tax Credit** and paid parental leave to alleviate the economic pressures of child-rearing.
- Ensuring access to **affordable healthcare** and expanding workplace protections, such as supporting the *Pregnant Workers Fairness Act*.
- Restricting abortion and the proliferation of mail-order abortion chemical packages. [1, 2, 3]

3. A Consistent Life Ethic

The bishops teach that the "Gospel of Life" applies across the entire human lifespan. Consequently, they condemn other practices they view as undermining the value of human life: [1, 2, 3]

- **Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide:** Opposing legal and clinical frameworks that allow the intentional termination of elderly, disabled, or terminally ill lives. [1, 2]
- **Embryo-Destructive Research:** Rejecting medical or scientific procedures, such as certain stem-cell research or IVF practices, that result in the destruction of human embryos. [1, 2]
- **The Death Penalty:** Consistently lobbying against capital punishment, viewing it as a violation of the inalienable right to life and human dignity. [1]

If you would like to explore this topic further, I can provide details on:

- The specific **policy recommendations** the bishops submitted to Congress.
- How the **Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities** is implemented at the local parish level.
- How their stance compares to global **Vatican teachings** on social justice and life.

AI can make mistakes, so double-check responses

Here the plain evidence is …

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

Membership

Christopher Keen

As we welcome the arrival of autumn, we're reminded of the many blessings in our lives and our calling to serve through charity, unity, and fraternity. With Thanksgiving approaching, it's a good time to reflect on how we can put our gratitude into action by helping others, strengthening our parish, and supporting those in need.

I'm pleased to welcome our two newest members, Neil Klepitsch and Steve Pahl, who attended our Exemplification on September 28th. Please join me in welcoming them to our council! We're glad to have them with us and look forward to working alongside them as we continue our mission.

As Membership Director, I encourage each of you to think of one Catholic man you could invite to learn more about the Knights of Columbus. Whether he's a friend, a family member, or a fellow parishioner, your invitation could be the beginning of a rewarding journey of faith, fellowship, and service. We will be having our next Exemplification on December 14th, so let's try to encourage those interested to attend and become a Knight!

Fall is a wonderful time to reconnect, welcome new members, and build on the good work we do together. Let's continue growing our council, strengthening our brotherhood, and making a positive difference in our parish and community.

Wishing everyone a blessed fall season and a happy Thanksgiving!

Vivat Jesus!

Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

November, 2026

"He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.'" (Gospel for Nov. 22, Mt 25:45)

Sin can be categorized in two ways, sins of commission and sins of omission. We ask God to forgive us of both kinds of sins in the main form of the *Confiteor* at Mass — "in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do." It is a sin to do evil, and it is a sin to neglect one's moral obligations. The true disciple sees the suffering Jesus in the poor, the sick, the oppressed and the lonely — and offers what he can to help.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to be aware of those in need around you, just as Blessed Michael McGivney did, and take action to serve those in need, perhaps by participating in your council's Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids program.

Questions for Reflection:

Who are the "least ones" among you? Do you recognize Christ in these "least ones" in need? In what ways do you respond positively to their needs, and in what ways do yglect them? How might you do better in this regard?

Claudia Kendzior, owner of MORKES *CHOCOLATES* in Huntley has been making these awesome Knights Chocolate medallions for many years for us. When asked this year if she could provide them for the Deanery Dinner, she not only said yes, she *Donated them!*

It's a short trip to Huntley for all kinds of treats, and with the Holidays just around the corner, time to go!!



For the Month of November

Knights Birthday		Knights Birthday		Wife Birthday		Anniversaries	
Daniel J Melko	11/01	Eli Liegel	11/16	Kristin Liegel	11/18	Craig and Susan Gawart	11/03
Donald P Tragianese	11/01	Pablo Carbajal	11/20	Val DeLance	11/30	PGK Tim and Karen Hicklin	11/25
Francis J Treanor	11/01	Martin J Weniger	11/21				
Bob Pratt	11/02	James R Stefani	11/25				
David A Warren	11/04	Phillip E Dorsch	11/27				
Anthony J Santinello	11/09	Robert D Wyman	11/30				
Stephen M Revnew	11/11						
Randall P Zaleski	11/11						
PGK Marty Zopp	11/15						

FIFTH SUNDAY – NOV 29, 2026 – 9:00AM

5th SUNDAY Nov 29, 2026

Sunday Nov 29 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

Deanery Dinner

On Tuesday, October 13th, the Council was once again proud to provide the dinner for our Pastor and Chaplain, Father Bob, the Vicar Forane of the McHenry Deanery. Among the Clergy attending was our former Pastor and Chaplain, Fr. Geoff!









Four-Month Council 3880 Calendar

October	November	December	January
0/10/22 Food Pantry 10/27 Officers Meeting 10/28 Rockford Chapter Meeting/Dinner	11/03 Business Meeting 11/07 Tree Lot Setup 11/13 Daddy/Daughter Dance 11/15 Breakfast 11/17 Memorial Mass 11/18 Caballeros De Colon 11/24 Planning Meeting 11/26 Thanksgiving 11/27 Tree Sales 11/29 Donuts	12/1 Business Meeting 12/15 Christmas Party 12/16 Caballeros De Colon 12/19 Tree Lot Takedown 12/20 Breakfast with Santa **12/25 Nativity of Jesus** 12/29 Officers Meeting 12/31 New Years Eve	1/1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 1/5 Business Meeting 1/9 Blood Drive 1/11 Exemplification 1/17 Breakfast 1/20 Caballeros De Colon 1/22 Polish Dinner Setup 1/23 Polish Dinner 1/26 Planning Meeting 1/28 Food Pantry 1/31 5th Sunday Donuts

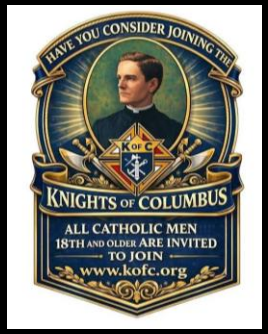
Prayer for the Sainthood of Fr Michael J McGivney



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.

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!