

BADGER BULLETIN

MARCH 2026



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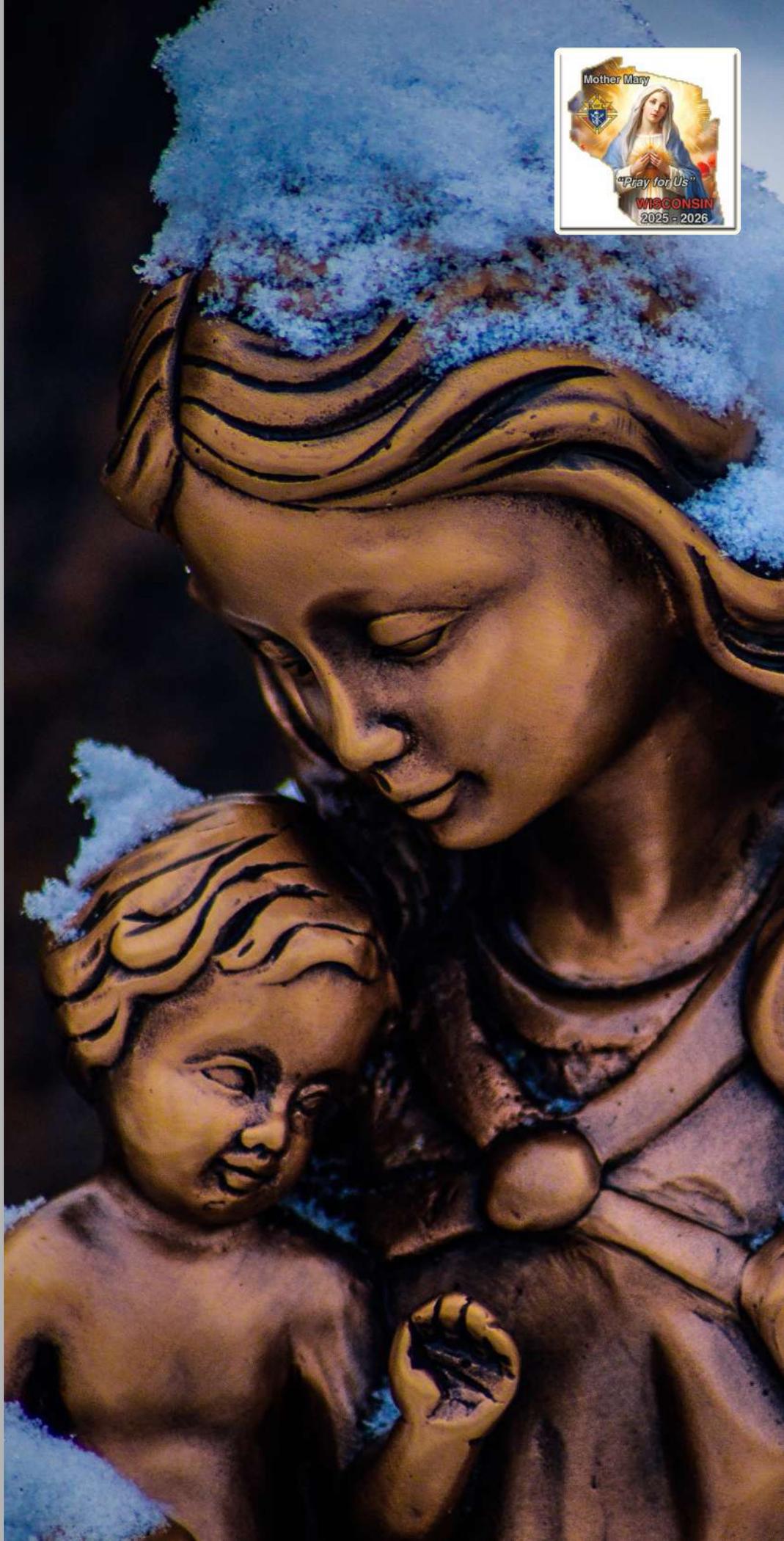
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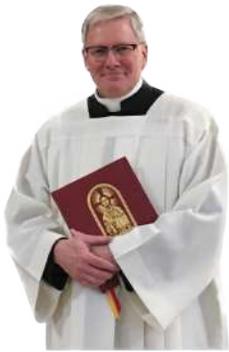
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I KNOW MANY PEOPLE who make New Year's resolutions and keeping the resolutions does not really last. Lent is only 40 days long and hopefully we will be able to keep up Lenten practices with intensity.

As we enter this holy season of Lent, we step once again into the quiet, grace-filled work of conversion. Lent is a gift—forty days in which the Lord invites us to

return to Him with all our hearts, to clear away what distracts us, and to renew our commitment to the Gospel.

For us as Knights of Columbus, Lent echoes our core principles.

CHARITY

This season calls us to open our eyes and hearts to those in need. Our almsgiving becomes an extension of our fraternal mission. Every act of generosity—small or large—becomes a sign of Christ's love in a world longing for hope.

UNITY

Lent reminds us that we do not walk the path of conversion alone. We journey as brothers. Supporting each other in prayer, encouraging one another toward

holiness, and gathering around the Eucharistic table strengthens the bond we share through our Order and through Christ.

FRATERNITY

Christ teaches us to carry each other's burdens. Let this Lent renew our commitment to caring for our families, our parishes, our councils, and the vulnerable. When we serve one another, we make visible the compassion of Jesus Himself.

PATRIOTISM

In a world that wrestles with division and uncertainty, Lent invites us to witness to the values rooted in our faith: justice, dignity, and respect for every human life. Our prayer and fasting become powerful intercessions for our communities and our nation.

May this sacred season deepen your love for Christ and strengthen your resolve to live as His faithful disciples. May your works of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving bear fruit in your families, in your council, and in your parish community.

Be assured of my prayers for each of you. May the Lord bless your Lenten journey with renewal, peace, and the joy that comes from walking more closely with Him.

Vivat Jesus!



IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE that at the end of March, nine months of this 2025-2026 fraternal year will already be history. Thanks to all of you, we are having a very positive year in membership growth and New Council developments. **Wisconsin is continuing to grow!**

Last month I stated we had 672 new 3rd Degree knights. As of this writing we are now at 787 new 3rd Degree Knights. As of February 23rd, twenty-three councils in Wisconsin are already at or over 100% increase. These councils are on fire and are proof that there are men looking to join us if only we ask.

While several fraternal organizations are shrinking, the Knights of Columbus is continuing to grow. Over 100,000 new men joined order wide last year, and we will surpass that number this year.

Here is where I need your council's help now, and I ask that you take this request seriously. Although we are growing, that alone does not get your council to achieve Star Council Status, which should be your council's ultimate goal. The Star Council Award is not just another plaque to hang on a wall.

Achieving "Star Council" means your council is continuing to be active in your communities and in your parish and your council is growing your membership so as to maintain your good works for many years to come.

As your State Deputy, I am also challenged by

Supreme to see that the State as a whole is continuing to grow. One of my challenges is that at least 60 of our 300+ councils achieve Star Council status.

The **two requirements** that I need your immediate focus on are completing the easily attainable Fraternal Benefit Events & Safe Environment Compliance. Both are required in addition to achieving your membership goal in order to qualify for Star Council status.

You could have an 800% growth in membership, and without compliance of these two programs you would not qualify for Star Council status and Wisconsin also would not meet its goal of a minimum of 60+ Star Councils, and the State would not qualify for its version of Star Council which is Circle of Honor.

As of today, only eight councils or 3% are fully compliant in their Fraternal Benefit Requirements, and only 112 or 38% are fully compliant in their Safe Environment requirements.

Can I get your commitment to getting these two completed between now and the end of April? There are only 127 days remaining.

Any questions on your council's standings, reach out to your DD, or State officer of your Diocese or me as to what is needed. These stats are updated every weekend by Supreme.

Let's show Supreme & our Communities and Parishes that the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus have what it takes to succeed and grow by following Blessed Michael McGivney's mission.

Vivat Jesus!



The 2026 Wisconsin State Convention of the Knights of Columbus is right around the corner. More than just a meeting, it is our annual gathering as a brotherhood across Wisconsin.

So let's answer the big question: Who Should Attend? Short answer: Your Council should.

Long answer: Chapter II, Section 12 of the Supreme Constitution reminds us that the State Council is made up of two representatives from every subordinate Council in the State. That means the State Council isn't just the State Officers sitting at the head table. It's not just the leadership team. **It's all of us.** If your council isn't there, your voice isn't there.

Delegates (The Dynamic Duo)

Each council in Wisconsin is asked to send:

Two (2) Delegates

Your Grand Knight

Your Past Grand Knight

This pairing brings both current leadership and seasoned experience to the table. A perfect combination of "what's happening now" and "we've seen this before."

Alternates (Always Ready)

You may also send:

Two (2) Alternates

Any Third Degree member of your Council

Think of them as your Council's depth chart ready to step in and represent at a moment's notice.

Don't Forget the Paperwork!

The [Convention Delegate Certification Form](#) (included in the packet from your District Deputy) identifies your Delegates and Alternates and it is due by March 15, 2026. Return it to the State Office as soon as your elections are complete. No form = no official representation.

Good News: Mileage Reimbursement

Here's something to share at your next meeting: Every Council in good standing within the Wisconsin Jurisdiction at the time of the 2026 State Council Meeting is entitled to mileage reimbursement for two Delegates.

Rate: Set by the Supreme Council

Based on: Round-trip distance from your Council's city to the convention

Paid directly to: Your Council

Participation is encouraged — and supported.

Why It Matters

The State Council Convention is where:

Decisions are made

Programs are strengthened

Leadership is formed

Brotherhood is renewed

This is where Wisconsin Knights come together with one voice.

Make sure your Council is part of it.

Start planning. Elect your Delegates. Submit the form. Pack your bags. **Let's show up strong.**

Viva La Cristo Rey!

Vivat Jesus!



FEBRUARY WAS A BETTER MONTH for Online Membership. As of February 22, 64 e-members joined the order in Wisconsin during the month. This is a slower pace than we had earlier in the year. Since July 1, we have brought in 505 e-members in Wisconsin. This is an increase of about 75 e-members compared to the same time last fraternal year. Thank you to all of the Councils that are using e-membership to bring new men into the order.

During February, Councils continued to do a good job of welcoming assigned e-members into their Councils. Since July 1, we still have about 148 e-members that have been assigned to a Council but have not yet taken an Exemplification or joined a Council. While in person exemplifications are preferred, if schedules are not working out, please use the On-Demand Online Exemplification to get these brothers into your Councils and then invite them to get involved.

Cards with the QR Code to join online are available from Supreme. These can be very helpful when inviting men to join. Your Diocesan Membership Directors and District Deputies should be able to help you get these cards if you need them.

WGK and WFS please frequently review your councils PROSPECT tab and if you are having difficulty in making contact, or any other issue, please email me regarding these outstanding assigned e-members and I will gladly assist you with reaching a remedy.

REMINDERS

WGK & WFS please frequently review your councils **Prospect** tab. Should you experience any difficulty with this process, please email me regarding these outstanding assigned e-members and I will gladly assist you.

Supreme presented a Webinar in December on Transferring online members to council membership which you can access [here](#).

Do not send Form 100's to Supreme for new members, keep them for your council's records. If you must use a Form 100, scan it and email it to Supreme, keeping the original for your council records. Since Form 100's must be manually processed at Supreme, they can lead to data entry errors and delays. Utilizing e-membership or the **Candidate** tab for new members are the preferred ways to bring in new members. **The date field is the date they were exemplified by your council. Once you enter those dates in either tab, the members will be automatically transferred to your council's roster within the next week.**

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me. I am in your State Directory.

Vivat Jesus!

PROSPECT TAB

Shows you e-members that have joined online via the Supreme app. The date field is used to transfer them into your council when they have completed their exemplification. With e-membership, new members enter their own data and confirm their membership, and then they receive an e-mail from Supreme. These e-members are then part of the state council, and get assigned to a local council. Until the local FS enters the exemplification date, these members remain part of the State Council. Local councils get credit for them when the exemplification date is entered by the FS to transfer them into your Council.

Clicking on this blue box will take you to the Prospect training.

CANDIDATE TAB

Used when you recruit a member locally or are handling a member transfer request or a reinstatement of a prior member. The Candidate tab can best be described as an online Form 100. The candidate tab training covers new members and transfers into local councils.

Clicking on this red box will take you to the candidate training.

ONLINE CEREMONIAL

Click on this box to take you to the **Online Ceremonial** invitation site.



I want to wish each of you a blessed and joyful Easter. As we approach the third quarter of our fraternal year, there is still important work ahead of us. Recruiting new members and scheduling church drives will be essential if we are to achieve our membership goal.

We have made strong progress throughout the first two quarters, and I am confident that—with continued dedication and determination—we can reach our target. Achieving our third-quarter goal will help make us eligible for the Circle of Honor, an accomplishment that would be both meaningful and exciting for our council.

Thank you for the hard work, commitment, and brotherhood that have brought us this far. Your efforts truly make a difference.

Vivat Jesus!

STATE WARDEN

JAMES VOSTERS

THE INVITATIONS ARE OUT and the reminders are flying in. It's that time of the year to cement your attendance at the Wisconsin State Council Knights of Columbus 125th Annual Meeting!

On the evening of **Friday, May 15**, we will reminisce on the past year, and the 124 years before with a social gathering of friends and family. On Saturday, we will open the 125th Convention with a morning mass and civic opening. After which we will look forward to the next year, and 25 years after that. It is at the annual state meeting where we set the focus of the Knights of Columbus for the next year. Together, we will refresh and renew our focus to bring Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney's vision of building a brotherhood of strong Catholic men who protect their families, live their faith boldly, serve their communities generously and humbly, while remaining united to the Church and their country for life.



Register [here](#) OR click on the green "2026 State Convention Site" from our Wisconsin KofC [homescreen](#).

REMEMBER: Meal prices increase by \$5 on March 16.

NEW WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL WEBSITE

JUSTIN KNAPP

THE WISCONSIN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS State Council is excited to announce the launch of a newly redesigned state website at the upcoming State Convention. The State Website Team has worked hard to create a modern, easy-to-use site that makes information quicker to find and easier to use.

The new website features a streamlined navigation menu, improved layout, and a clean, contemporary look designed to appeal to all members, especially younger generations. Key resources, forms, and updates are now more accessible, saving time and improving communication across the state.

New features include individual State Program pages with detailed information to help councils plan and carry out activities effectively. The Council Locator allows visitors to find local councils and contact information easily. Star Council and Star District Trackers provide up-to-date progress tracking and recognition. Upcoming state and district events are also easier to find, ensuring no opportunities are missed.

This website redesign represents an investment in the future of the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus. Watch for its official launch at the State Convention and explore all that's new.

Vivat Jesus!

Achieving Safe Environment Compliance: A Call to Action for Wisconsin Knights



AS WE CONTINUE OUR MISSION of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism within the Knights of Columbus, one of our most sacred responsibilities is ensuring the safety and well-being of those we serve—especially our youth and vulnerable populations. The Safe Environment program is not just a requirement; it's a

fundamental commitment to protecting the innocent and upholding the trust placed in us by our communities, families, and the Church. Today, I want to emphasize the critical importance of achieving full compliance for key roles in every council: the Grand Knight, Program Director, and Family Director.

Why Compliance Matters

In the Knights of Columbus, our Safe Environment training equips leaders with the knowledge and tools to create secure spaces for all activities, from youth programs and family events to community outreach. This training covers essential topics like recognizing signs of abuse, reporting procedures, and maintaining ethical boundaries. When our Grand Knights, Program Directors, and Family Directors are fully compliant, it sets a tone of accountability and vigilance throughout the council. It demonstrates to our members, volunteers, and the public that we prioritize safety above all else.

Compliance isn't merely about checking boxes—it's about living out our Catholic values. By ensuring these key positions are trained, we mitigate risks, foster trust, and align with the directives of the Supreme Council and local

dioceses. In a world where threats to vulnerable individuals are all too real, our proactive stance through Safe Environment compliance protects our Order's reputation and, more importantly, safeguards lives. Remember, one lapse can have far-reaching consequences, but collective diligence builds a stronger, safer brotherhood.

Our Current Progress and the Path Forward

I'm proud to report that Wisconsin is making strides in this vital area. As of February 2026, we have 113 councils in full compliance—meaning their Grand Knight, Program Director, and Family Director have all completed the required training. That's a testament to the dedication of many of our brothers!

Even more encouraging: 49 councils are just one step away from 100% compliance. They need only one more person in those key roles to finish their training. This is low-hanging fruit, Brothers—let's seize it!

In a perfect world, we'd achieve 100% compliance across all councils, ensuring every Knight in a leadership position is fully prepared. While perfection may be our ultimate goal, we must continue working toward the highest levels possible. Let's set an ambitious but achievable target: 162 councils in full compliance by the end of March 2026. That's just one month away—plenty of time to rally, remind, and complete those trainings.

Brothers, our Order was founded on principles of protection and service. By prioritizing Safe Environment compliance, we honor that legacy and ensure a brighter future for the Knights of Columbus in Wisconsin. Let's push forward together.

Vivat Jesus!



Praise God! We returned from our annual retreat to your overwhelming contribution of gift cards! Amazing! These cards help in so many ways. May God bless you and your families abundantly.

We will keep the members of the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Councils and generous parishioners in our prayers.

The Seminarians of
Saint Francis de Sales Seminary
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Gabriel Flores
 Matthew Rosenheim
 Joshua Miller
 Ben Adams Widdell
 Dan. Andrew
 Daniel d Meyer
 Thom Stroup
 Benjamin
 Den. Andrew
 Ben
 Alex
 Ben
 Noah
 William
 Peter
 Patrick
 Robert
 Michael
 James
 Michael
 Rev. Mr. J. Kolb
 Charles
 Peter
 Tyler
 Steven
 Spencer
 Peter
 Bennett
 John
 Michael
 Rev. Mr. J. Kolb
 Oliver
 Gabriel
 Joshua
 Dan.
 Daniel
 Thom
 Benjamin
 Den.
 Ben
 Noah
 William
 Peter
 Patrick
 Robert
 Michael
 James
 Michael
 Rev. Mr. J. Kolb
 Charles
 Peter
 Tyler
 Steven
 Spencer
 Peter
 Bennett
 John
 Michael
 Rev. Mr. J. Kolb
 Oliver

JOIN THE 4TH DEGREE

AS WE TRANSITION INTO THE 126th year of the 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus and the 250th year of the United States, consider joining the Patriotic Degree in 2026. We are inviting all 3rd Degree Knights to take their patriotic degree (4th Degree). The Masters of the Eastern and Western Districts will have the following opportunities to join in the months of March and April.

- > **March 14, 2026** – St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fort Atkinson
- > **March 21, 2026** – St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Kenosha
- > **March 21, 2026** – St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Chippewa Falls
- > **April 11, 2026** – Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in De Pere
- > **April 25, 2026** – St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Marshfield

These are five wonderful opportunities to join the Patriotic Degree prior to the 250th birthday celebration of the USA. All the materials for joining have been sent to the Faithful Navigators and Faithful Comptrollers of the Assembly and to all District Deputies, Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries. With your help, these could be the 5 largest exemplifications this year. We do prefer to



know who is attending before the actual event but we both will accept walk in candidates. The first three dates above are mini type exemplifications. Ask to see the details from your officers.

The Patriotic Degree is the visible arm of the Knights of Columbus that helps support the growth of the entire Order. Examples of where the 4th degree can assist our Councils by being visible is at our Brother Knights funeral wakes and masses, being available to our Bishops and Priests when they request us, participating in parades and Honor Flights as well as Special Olympic events across the state. Remember that honor flights start soon and the Knights of Columbus should have a presence at the return flight to greet our veterans.

Remember that the Patriotic degree is not separate from the Third Degree. We are all one body of Catholic men with a common purpose. The 4th degree is the Patriotic Degree, and we are watched over by District Masters at the state level. We are all under the jurisdiction of the State Deputy Patrick Reiff. We need all of you to consider joining the 4th degree. We have had over 800 men join the third degree since July 1, 2025. Let us now work to get these new Brother Knights to join the Patriotic Degree! And Sir Knights – please recruit men to join your local Councils!

Vivat Jesus!

ULTRASOUND PROJECTS

CareNet Dane County, Madison; and Lillies of Hope, Grafton. Congratulations to Council(s) #4586, and #4520 for your leadership on these ultrasound initiatives. If your council would like to help, please send your checks to:

St. Joseph Council #4586

Charles Risler
1102 Timothy Ave.
Madison, WI 53716
(608) 574-9935
risler5@yahoo.com

San Salvador Council #4520

Dave Breidenbach
P.O. Box 341
Cedarburg, WI 53012
(262) 665-8215 C
david.breidenbach@gmail.com

NEED HELP WITH ULTRASOUND FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN?

There is a great pro-life organization out in Yelm, Washinton (state) called [4US](#). They will help with **25%** of the cost of the ultrasound. **Yes**, that is **half** of your council's obligation! Here's their [website](#).

ASAP GRANTS

Hopefully the month of February left your council's checking account **empty** after giving away all your money to pregnancy centers in your area. For every \$500 your council or assembly donates to a pregnancy resource center or maternity home (up to \$2,000), the match it with \$100. But, you have to [apply for it!](#) It is always best to apply online. If you need help, let me know and I'll walk you through it. You can also provide me with the information and I will apply for you online! There are only two forms you need, [Donation Receipt Letter](#) and a [W9](#).

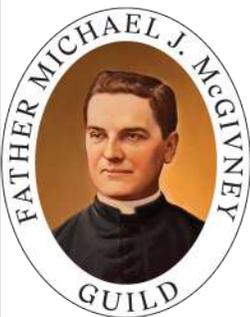


CHOOSE LIFE WISCONSIN GRANT FUND

Any pro-life pregnancy center or maternity home can apply for a grant from Choose Life Wisconsin, the Choose Life Plate People! Apply [here](#) any time. You can also purchase Pro-Life license plates. The more plates we have on the road, the more the pro-life message will be shared, and the more money there will be for the Pregnancy Resource Centers. The extra \$25 you pay for the plate is **tax deductible** if you itemize on Schedule A. More information [here](#).

Vivat Jesus!

JOIN THE FATHER MICHAEL MCGIVNEY GUILD



Honor His Legacy. Advance His Cause.

Strengthen Your Faith During the Jubilee Year of Hope.

As the Church celebrates the Jubilee Year of Hope, Catholics everywhere are called to renew their faith and walk more closely with Christ. What better way to respond than by drawing inspiration from our founder, Blessed Michael J. McGivney, who gave his life to strengthening families, building parish communities, and bringing hope to those on the margins.

By joining the Father McGivney Guild, you can (1) support his cause for sainthood and pray for his canonization, (2) deepen your spiritual life through his intercession during this Jubilee of grace, and (3) Publicly witness to our Catholic hope as a member of his spiritual family.

Membership is free and open to all who believe in his mission. Guild members receive inspiring newsletters, spiritual reflections, and invitations to special devotions honoring Blessed McGivney. Let's help make our founder a saint.

McGivney Guild Chairman

Jack Wrbanich, PSD



With February ending and the month of March is at hand; what a delightful month it can be! March brings some exciting days as spring approaches and we are gearing up for warmer outside activities.

Let's start out by highlighting some important March dates. To begin with; Daylight Savings time starts on March 8th, March 17th gives

us St. Pat's Day & March 20th is the First Day of Spring! March 25th is the Feast of the Annunciation where the Archangel Gabriel "announces" to the Virgin Mary that she would bear a son and call him Jesus Christ, the Son of God! As we wind the month of March down brings us to March 29th which this year is Palm Sunday followed by Holy Week. We can discuss more about Holy Week next month.

As I mentioned last month, we are in the time of Lent which is the preparation of Easter. Are we strengthening ourselves and our Family's this Lent? Am I reaching more toward Jesus through my wife, children and grandchildren or am I merely living outside of my family? There are several Family activities that can inspire all of us in being better Husband's, Father's, Grandfather's and just better Family men.

For your convenience, I have attached a link below to "Family Activities" and remember, you can create any

"Family Activity" in whatever way works best for you & your family. On the flip side of that coin is: "The Family that Prays Together, Stays Together" which can be a blessing in disguise!

I must also add that we need to remember and keep looking for that "Family of the Month" within our Parish. Let's give many families that encouragement and recognition of simply being a loving, caring and sharing family. Please remember, the head of the household for a "Family of the Month" entry does NOT have to be a member of the Knights of Columbus. Next time in church, look around, I am sure you will find many dedicated families to Jesus!

The final item that I need to mention is the "Food For Families" program. As we are still experiencing winter weather in Wisconsin which can be brutal; let's share our good fortunes, if possible, with the less fortunate in however that calling transpires us.

I know in our Tri-Parish we have a "Food Pantry" which donates food to people in need twice a month. What an opportunity to distribute food to help a family stay strong!

In closing, I'd like to reiterate that there are numerous ways to enjoy a "Family Activity" in whatever way you so desire, as long as it works for you and your family! Remember, Lent is an extremely good time to strengthen us and our families through Jesus Christ! I believe that's all for now. Until we meet again: Take care, stay healthy, and may God bless us all!

Vivat Jesus!

FOR A LIST OF ALL PROGRAMS, [GO HERE.](#)



AS WE BEGIN THE Solemn season of Lent we begin to put aside our earthly pleasures and surrender ourselves to 40 days of prayer, fasting and penance. Like St. Anthony of the Desert, we contemplate our mortal desires and passions and cast them off to prayer and

submission to God's Will as we look forward to the joys of Our Lord's Resurrection at Easter. There is another word that is sometimes practiced during Lent and that is Almsgiving. That word is not only for giving money to the poor and outcasts, which we do as Knights of Columbus however, but it also for the giving of our time and talent even more during this 40-day period.

During this Lent, let us focus more on the need for more "Chairty" and "Almsgiving" as Knight of Columbus, families, parishioners, neighbors, etc. The charity raffle program can be a part of that effort but let's focus on the importance of one another and cast off any hatred, anger, disappointment and work on improving ourselves spiritually.

A quick reminder that revisions have been made to forms for the Charity program. We are still seeing old deposit forms being turned in.

- > Begin using the revised Charity Raffle Deposit Form (2025-2026) provided in the white ticket packets at your Diocesan Huddle meetings last fall. The previous forms are obsolete and will not be accepted. I am working on getting the updated form uploaded to the State website. Thank you for your patience.
- > For submitting an Individual Charity Grant Request Form (2025-2026) please use the updated form also inserted into the white packets. The previous forms are obsolete and, again, will not be accepted. You can find the updated form [here](#).
- > The Council Charity Grant Form (2025-2026) that is due on May 1, 2026, has also been revised. Older versions of this report are obsolete and will

not be accepted if submitted. When completed, please post mail or email the form directly to [me](#) as State Charity Director. Do not send to the State Office or email to the State Form Reporting [address](#). With the State Convention being later again this year (May 15 – 17) the CCFG form, again, needs to be turned in by May 1, 2026. So please make the best effort to turn them in before that date. The revised form can be found [here](#).

These updates and delivery revisions have been to help better streamline the collection process to a single person for better uploading and accounting practices.

HELP WANTED! Two of our current Diocesan Coordinators, Dennis Berendes from the Diocese of Superior and Robert Pizur from the Diocese of Madison, have announced their retirement from the State Charity Committee at the end of this season. **We are actively seeking to fill these vacancies as soon as possible. Anyone who is interested or would like more information on the duties and responsibilities of the role please reach out to either one of these fine gentlemen or me and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Brothers Dennis and Robert have served on the Committee for many years and have been a great asset to the State Charity Committee for their time and service. May God bless them for the sharing of their time and talent.**

Please continue to keep up the great work that we do as Knights of Columbus to follow in the footsteps of our founder Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney. With the season of Lent, again, upon us, one way we can encourage our neighbors is to support charitable causes such as our State Charity Raffle program.

Wishing you, your families and Brother Knights all a blessed and holy Lenten season.

Vivat Jesus!

"Charity is certainly greater than any rule. Moreover, all rules must lead to charity."

+ **St. Vincent de Paul, Priest & Confessor (1581-1660 A.D.)**



WHILE WE ARE IN THE Lenten Season we are in the season of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. While it is a season where we humble ourselves and prepare spiritually for these holidays we need to prepare for the many events that will follow. While Easter Sunday is April 5th, Divine Mercy Sunday is April 12th. The Ascension of the Lord May 14th, Pentecost Sunday May 24th, Trinity Sunday May 31st, and Corpus Christi Sunday June 7th. Following Easter, we also have many other Sacramental events, First Communions, Confirmations, Marriages, and Ordination. All packed in with secular events like Graduations in these months ahead. But as Knights it is our job to not only to Celebrate these events, but also to show our gratitude and recognition of those involved.

The Silver Rose

Please review the attached schedule with hopefully the last revision as the Silver Rose in days away from Arriving in Wisconsin at this time. **The official opening of the Silver Rose in Wisconsin will be at St. James Parish, 1032 Caledonia St., La Crosse Wisconsin, on Saturday, March 14, at a special service @ 4:30 PM.** There will be a Mass that follows at 5:30 PM. As with all Silver Rose services the 4th Degree Honor Guard is requested as well as members from nearby Parishes.

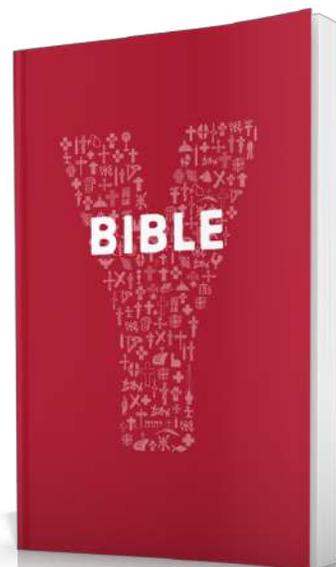
For those councils hosting the Silver Rose please review the schedule as it has several changes and this is the third printed version. Contact the council you are receiving it from and that you will be handing it off too, and make the transfers now. There are several long exchanges do to the tight schedule in getting it shared across the state. I want to thank the councils that have stepped forward, especially this year, during a period of the most important religious celebrations falling in the middle of our assigned time period.

Sacramental Gifts

The sacraments stand as the most significant events in the life of the domestic church. As Knights of Columbus, we should be there to support and embrace our parish families at these essential moments of encounter with Christ. As children and adult members become more integrated into the life of the church and their parish, they should know that members of the Knights of Columbus will always be present in a tangible and meaningful way.

As a state organization we thrive to make this program more economical to our Councils. We are offering at half the retail price a choice of either two books that can be used as gifts to individuals who are receiving the sacraments. The First is the YCAT which is a book of Select reading from the Second Edition of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible with detailed foot notes for geared for our youth. The second book is The Holy Bible complete second revised Catholic Edition of the Standard Version printed by the Ignatius press. They are available at \$12.50 each and can be ordered through the State Council Store with a Credit Card, or directly through the State Faith Director with payment at time of delivery. The Complete Bible makes a fantastic gift for Confirmation, RCA Converts, and many other occasions.

However, there are many other Sacramental occasions where the Knights can show their support. These includes Baptism, First Communions, and Weddings. The gift possibilities are endless. ***Continued on next page.***



Holy Hour

Holy Hours feature the exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and can also include a reflection, communal rosary, prayers for intercession by Blessed Michael McGivney, or St. Joseph, and other devotions as decided by the council and pastor. Eucharistic Processions provide an opportunity to walk with the Blessed Sacrament through your community, bringing Jesus to everyone along the route. While these can be done at any time on the Eucharistic Holidays there is a special connection.

To receive two Credits for Holy Hours the minimum requirements need to be met, of sponsoring four Holy Hours (one each quarter), or two Holy Hours and at least one Eucharistic Procession. For additional information read the Supreme [web page](#).

Vivat Jesus!



SPOTLIGHT



Sun Prairie—Holy Family Council #4879 raises an of \$35K annual for the 10+ Lenten Fish Fry events they host. The money raises goes to support their SP youth groups, namely community groups and sports teams.

Pictured: Bishop Hying assists GK Paul Shepherd in prepping and cooking our deep fried cod filets for the Epiphany of the Lord Youth Group. Father Vince Brewer and Father Rob Butz were also in attendance and joined the Knights for some delicious feasts.





MARCH MARKS THE THREE-QUARTER POINT of our 25-26 Fraternal Year. Hopefully, you are nearing the completion of all or most of your Community programs for this FY. I trust they have proved to be both rewarding and successful, keeping you on track to earn those coveted Columbian and Star Council Awards! Remember to get those 10784s into Supreme and the State Forms address for all those programs when completed.

For Coats, Helping Hands, Global Wheelchairs and Disaster Prep, just close out what you've done, evaluate it, start now to plan for 26-27, especially in those areas where there are programs you haven't done recently or at all. Look for needs and meet them; try something new!

For "Bright Futures" and "Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage," check the Supreme website. Find out all you can about these two new initiatives. See where they fit into present parish or school programs and how you can help, direct, fund, support, coordinate, staff – lead! Otherwise, look for needs as to a new parish celebration, new school program, equipment, scholarship, etc. and meet that need for students, staff, teachers, parents, etc.

As to our Youth programs, State winners of the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest were recently announced. Awards will be sent directly to Councils. Culture of Life Essay Contest entries are due to Councils by April 1. They are to be judged, and winners sent on to DPCs by April 15.

Council-level Knowledge and Free Throw Contests are now underway, District Free Throw Contests also. Window closes March 22. Diocesan Contests for Knowledge and Free Throw have now been set in 4 Dioceses between March 28 and April 26. Superior is still being finalized. For dates, sites and details, check with your Diocesan Program Coordinator! In Superior, check with Jim Burhart, Mark Rasmussen or [Todd Kostrzak](#). **Reminder:** ALL Free Throw winners competing at Diocesan or State Contests need to bring their own practice ball! The State Knowledge and Free Throw Contests will be held on Saturday, May 2 at Assumption High School in Wisconsin Rapids. Times again are Free Throw registration and practice 10-11 AM, announcements and start 11:15-11:30 AM; Knowledge registration 10:15-11:15 AM, announcements and start 11:30-11:45 AM. Awards to be presented after competition concludes. Snack bar will be provided.

Soccer Challenge local contests and Hockey Skills local contests can be held indoors or outdoors now through May 31. Please send reports and results directly to your DPC or me when contest is completed. File 10784 with Supreme and State Forms address as well.

Have a great March.

Vivat Jesus!

Lenten Journeys

Joshua Hopper

"IN THESE DAYS OF LENTEN JOURNEY, we have seen and we have heard the call to sow justice in the lives of those we serve." These words start off the popular tune that is often sung in Catholic churches during the Lenten season. As Knights of Columbus, we pride ourselves on our service to others. We even say we are "First in Faith and Charity."

My short message to you all this month is to remember that Lent is more than just a 40-day period of giving something up. It is a season of preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The act of abstaining is to help focus our hearts

and minds on what may be missing in our lives or where we fall short in following God's call.

Oftentimes, we can be very selfish, worried about our families more than anything else in the world—sometimes, we only care about ourselves. But God calls us to love Him first. I implore you, Brothers, to remember to serve God first. This Lenten season provides us with a wonderful opportunity for this type of service, focusing on the "least" of our brothers and sisters. Look for these service opportunities and capitalize on them.

Vivat Jesus!

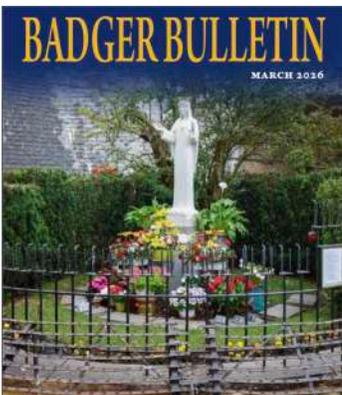


SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Keep articles below 500 words.
- Submit word docs to **kc2055pr@gmail**
- Send photos separately, clearly labeled, with credits.
- Prioritize quality content with articles.
- Proofread thoroughly for spelling and grammar.
- Avoid double spaces after periods.
- Be punctual! Late submissions will be excluded from future publications.



Knights of Columbus®



ON THE COVER: OUR LADY OF THE GOLDEN HEART

Also known as Our Lady of Beauraing or the Virgin of the Golden Heart, this apparition made its appearance to children on thirty-three separate occasions, encouraging them to "pray, pray, pray" for the conversion of sinners. These apparitions started on November 29, 1932, and ended on January 3, 1933. She called for a chapel to be built on the location and showed her golden heart to the children on her final visit. The feast day of Our Lady of the Golden Heart is celebrated on August 22 and was approved by Bishop André Marie Charue on July 2, 1949.

In service to One.

In service to all.

