



Christopher Columbus

The Navigator

August 2026



Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney

Father John E. O'Brien Council #3361
3259 Old Goldie Rd., Oak Harbor

GRAND KNIGHT

Ben Young
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DISTRICT DEPUTY

Ralph Byars (DD/FDD/PGK/PFN)
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FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR

Rich Mueller (PGK)
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Officers' Business Meeting

1st Tuesday - 6pm

Council Meeting

2nd Tuesday - 7pm

Assembly Meeting

3rd Tuesday - 6pm

MS Deception Pass Classic Bike Ride

Chair – Rich Mueller

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. The July 4th celebrations seem like it was just last month. Oh, wait it was, never mind. It is time for the final beach party of the summer season!

This year's theme for the Deception Pass Classic MS Bike Ride Rest Stop will be "A Day at the Beach!"



Join us for a day of fun in the sun and support this great cause. Every year, we are known as the best rest stop on the ride and this year will be no different.

I need volunteers to help setup and decorate on Friday 27th and again for the rest stop on Saturday 28th. Grab your trunks (no speedo's PLEASE) and a Hawaiian shirt and help support this great cause.

An email for signing up will follow.

Summer Picnic

Chair – Rusty Waters



Sunday August 30th
@ Noon thirty

Potluck style, bring your favorite dish!

Council to provide hamburgers, hotdogs, brats, & roasted pig

Come join us at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor
3259 Old Oak Harbor Rd., Oak Harbor, WA 98277



Grand Knight Message

Not long ago on a restful weekend day, I looked outside at some flower boxes mounted on our storage shed. My wife and I had purchased some flowers and planted them in the flower boxes a month or two before. The flowers bloomed, and then they withered and died. Or so I thought.

But my wife, who is smarter than I, told me to place some plant fertilizer in the soil and to make sure that the flower boxes were watered. And after some warm days of sunshine, the plants reappeared. Green stems standing tall displaying green leaves and red flowers. Beautiful begonias were present where seemingly dead plants had been.

And after noticing that there was a bare spot in the flower box where neither leaves nor petals were present, I thought that the flower box was somewhat analogous to our Council. The flower box represents our Council which is composed of many individual Brothers. At first, certain Brothers stand tall and are visible because they are the officers or the Brothers who always participate in the Council activities.

But over time, life happens and the Council membership changes. New Brothers join the Council, some Brothers choose not to participate, some Brothers may not be physically able to participate, some Brothers may have moved away, ... etc. And it is up to the established Brothers to guide and nurture our new Brothers so that they can stand tall and bloomer, I mean, take responsibility as the new officers and program directors for our Council.

For example, during my first year as a member of this Council, I was just a Brother who volunteered to do activities. The next year, I was asked if I would like to become more involved with the Council; as Chancellor I started learning what made the Council function. Over time, with the mentoring provided by many more experienced Brothers, training provided by the Washington State Knights of Columbus leadership, and the suggestions that I still receive, I have progressed through the officer positions to my current position.

And it is incumbent on the current slate of officers and me to find Brothers, who have the talent and desire, and to nurture them so that in time they can stand tall and bloom.



Prayer Knight

Monday, August 10th • 6:30pm

Knights Club of Oak Harbor



Please join us for Prayer Knight with prayers beginning at 6:30pm with the Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by the Rosary.

A potluck dessert social follows. Please bring a dessert to share.

As always, Knights, their families, and friends are welcome.

4th of July Wash**Pro-Life Ministry**

Thank you, Knights Club of Oak Harbor, for providing the big, one-of-a-kind, yellow school bus with prominent posters and photos.



This bus with its displays was openly applauded all along the parade route! People were reading the signs, then clapping, and giving thumbs-up as well as moving their heads up and down with approval and smiles. I don't know if any other entry had such a continued response! This "moving billboard" with several walkers, plus people in the bus waving and smiling from the open windows was well noticed. Again, we thank the Knights for their continued support, and especially Rich Mueller for the long hours he dedicated to this event. We also extend our sincere thanks to the entire team for their hard work, commitment, and continued support.





4th of July Fireworks Sales

Thank you to everyone who supported the Council's 4th of July Fireworks Sales last month. As the Council's largest fundraiser of the year, this event's success was made possible through your generous commitment of time, effort, and service.

Special thanks are extended to Brothers Kurt Bauch and Rusty Waters, who opened and managed the first half of each day. Their leadership, together with the dedication of all who helped complete each day, provided event chairs, Rich Mueller and Doug Warren, with the assurance that daily opening, stocking, and sales operations were carried out successfully.

It was truly inspiring to see Knights, Knight families, especially the Rivera family, spouses of Knights, and the Columbiettes come together in support of a common cause. Throughout the week-long fundraiser, each person contributed to a spirit of camaraderie, service, and mutual support.

Thank you once again to all who helped make this important fundraiser a success!

Pro-Life Vigil

St. Augustine's Pro-Life Ministry will hold its next Pro-Life Vigil on Friday, August 7th at the 4 corners of SE Pioneer Way and US20 between 3:45 and 4:45pm. Signs are provided. Please contact Mike or Barb Thelen at either (360) 661-0311 or (360) 320-3959.

Thank you to the 12 volunteers that stood for Pro-Life on July 3rd at our Friday Vigil. We were well received and encouraged over this hour of Faith for the Unborn lives that should be brought into this world to make a difference and bring us closer to the reality of Heaven

Family of the Month – June

Congratulations to Kurt and Carlotta Bauch on their selection as Fr. John E. O'Brien Council's Family of the Month for June 2026!

Kurt and Lotta are truly deserving of this recognition. They can often be found attending the early Mass at St. Augustine with their children and grandchildren. Kurt currently serves as the council's Chancellor, Treasurer on the CRE Board of Directors, a member of the Knights Charities Board of Directors, and bingo office manager. Lotta is also a very active member of our Columbiettes Auxiliary. Both were instrumental during our most recent fireworks sales, the council's leading fundraising event of the year. Without their dedication and effort, the event would have struggled to manage its sales operations.

We express our sincere gratitude for Kurt and Lotta's steadfast dedication, faith, and joyful service, and we formally recognize this well-deserved honor.

Knight of the Month – June

With great appreciation and joy, we congratulate Steve Boneau on being named the Fr. John E. O'Brien Council's Knight of the Month for June 2026!

Steve's generous spirit of service is seen throughout our parish and council community. As the Council's 1-Year Trustee and Faith Director, he faithfully supports the work and mission of the Knights. He also shares the faith with young people as a St. Augustine Catholic Religious Education educator, helping students grow in their understanding of Catholic doctrine, Scripture, and traditions, and he proclaims the Word as a liturgical reader at Mass. In addition, Steve lends his time and energy to Knights Club Oak Harbor weekly Bingo and gave daily support to the Council's largest fundraiser at last month's Fourth of July Fireworks Booth.

We extend our sincere gratitude for Steve's steadfast dedication, enduring faith, and cheerful service, and we are honored to recognize this well-deserved distinction. May Steve continue to be blessed in the years ahead and may his example of faithful service remain an inspiration to all who know him.

From the Financial Secretary

Item 1: Council Functions/Events SOPs

The council is working on creating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for council events. Event reports should be submitted to the recorder and inputted into the historical council files. There are a couple of forms that need to be filled out and submitted to the Washington State Council (WSC) and KofC Supreme.

Standardizing the input parameters will be very helpful when submitting forms and reporting at Council Business meetings, etc.

I am currently gathering all report forms to ensure all pertinent data is included in this venture. The assistance of event chairs is greatly appreciated!

Item 2: Honorary Membership/Honorary Life Cards

Currently, delivery of Honorary Membership and Honorary Life cards can take up to eight weeks. Supreme is working hard to speed up printing and mailing.

I am holding Honorary Life Membership cards for *Cristobal Garcia* and *Richard Duggar* and an Honorary Membership card for *Rene Abadesco*.

Please attend the August Officer Business meeting or come to the Council Summer Picnic to receive your card.

Knights Club of Oak Harbor

The club welcomes volunteers to support Wednesday Night Bingo in a variety of roles, including cashiers, callers, verifiers, and kitchen assistance. No prior experience is required—members and supporters are encouraged simply to attend and lend a hand.

Interested in hosting a private event, contact the club manager, Ralph Byars, for additional details.

WA State Council Links

WA State Council

<https://kofc-wa.org/>
<https://kofc-wa.org/Bulletin>

Form 10784 Online Submission

<https://www.kofc.org/en/forms/spa/invite.html?lang=en&form=10784C>

Submit Knights in Action Form

<https://www.kofc.org/en/contact/knights-in-action-news.html>

Fraternal Operations

<https://www.kofc.org/en/for-members/resources/fraternal-operations.html?icon-tabs=2>

Update Member Contact Info

<https://www.kofc.org/en/contact/update-contact-information.html>

4th Degree Form 4

<https://knights-of-columbus-form-4.pdfFiller.com/>

Degree Apparel

<https://knightsgear.com/>

4th Degree Uniform Packages

<https://www.kofcuniform.com/uniform-packages/package/knights-of-columbus-executive-fit-uniform-package-uniform-package/>

Fr. John E. O'Brien Links

"Join Us" Form

<https://kofc3361.org/Join-Form.php>

"Join Us" Email

joinus@kofc3361.org

Incoming Picture Album

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Sx7yv16dLnVXvX1X6>

Praying on Every Tuesday Sunrise (POETS)

From the Faith Director – Steve Boneau

All Knights and men of the parish are invited to join POETS, a men's faith and prayer group hosted by Mike Thelen at his home, 1401 SE Dock Street, #101. The group meets every Tuesday morning from 8:00 to 9:15 a.m.

Each gathering begins with a decade of the Rosary, followed by time to share personal challenges of faith, faith experiences, God moments. The group also reads and discusses the upcoming Sunday Mass liturgy, offering an opportunity to reflect on Scripture and grow together in faith.

The morning concludes with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, with prayers offered for those in need of prayer.

POETS began about 15 years ago when Mike felt inspired by Mother Mary to begin a prayer group for men. What started as a simple invitation to prayer and fellowship continues today, with an average of about eight members attending and an additional member often joining by phone.

Brother Knights and other Catholic men who would like to deepen their faith, strengthen fellowship, and begin the day in prayer are warmly encouraged to attend.

Coats for Kids

Chair – Rich Mueller

What a glorious summer we are having! The days have been bright and warm, with plenty of outdoor activities to keep us busy. But you know what that means: it is time for Coats for Kids. Before we know it, school will be back in session, the days are growing shorter, and the skies will turn gray. A cold wind will begin blowing across our beautiful island, temperatures will drop, and too many children will head off without a proper warm coat.

Last year, the council did a wonderful job helping provide coats for children in need. This year, I believe we can do even better. My team and I have set a goal of raising \$6K to purchase coats. Will you help us reach it? You can sponsor a case of 12 coats for \$300 or sponsor a single coat for \$25. We gratefully accept monetary donations of any amount, large or small.

To make a pledge or tax-deductible donation, please reach out to me or Brother Ralph. Checks should be made payable to Fr. John E. O'Brien CRE Fund (JEOCRE). One hundred percent of your donation will be used for this very worthy cause.

Will you help us keep God's children warm this winter?

Faith Formation: Cor

Cor meetings are held monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 5pm at St. Augustine Fellowship Hall. For more details/questions contact DGK Heath Garcia at either 360-969-0092 or <sotanomad@gmail.com>.

Whidbey-Fidalgo #2276 Assembly

The assembly's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18th. This will be an important gathering, as it is our final meeting before the upcoming exemplification on Saturday, September 12th. We would also like to use this meeting as an opportunity to welcome new prospects and invite them to consider becoming 4th Degree members.

All Third-Degree Knights are eligible to attend the 4th Degree Exemplification!

Whidbey-Fidalgo Assembly 2276 sets sail for the new Fraternal Year

On July 21st, the officers of Whidbey-Fidalgo Assembly 2276, along with Sir Knights and their ladies, embarked on a memorable journey beneath Deception Pass for the installation of this year's assembly officers. The ceremony took place aboard the *Island Whaler*, creating a distinctive and inspiring setting as the Assembly began a new fraternal year.

District Master Western Washington Darren Parsons (pictured below right with his wife) presided over the installation under the iconic Deception Pass Bridge, marking the occasion with dignity, fellowship, and a strong sense of tradition. With this unique installation on the Salish Sea, Whidbey-Fidalgo Assembly 2276 officially set sail for another year of service, unity, and fraternity.

Sir Knights and their families participated in a one-hour cruise that combined assembly business with an opportunity to reflect upon and appreciate the beauty of God's creation. The scenery and wildlife were truly remarkable!

Special thanks to SK D'Arcy Morgan for generously providing the bus to drive everyone from the Knights Club of Oak Harbor to Crescent Harbor and back.

Congratulations to Michael Ptacek on being the recipient of a 4th Degree uniform ticket draw.

As Faithful Navigator, I am challenging all current SKs to rededicate themselves to our assembly. Let us work together to ensure we are a "Star Assembly." Come out from the shadows! Become, again, the proud public face of the Knights of Columbus!

On Saturday, September 12th, we have the honor of hosting a Patriotic Degree Exemplification at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor. To all 3rd Degree members, this assembly warmly invites you to join us for this meaningful occasion as we stand together in patriotism, charity, unity, and fraternity in honoring our Church, our Country, and our commitment to serve our fellow man.

Rich Mueller, FN (PGK)





Upcoming Events

August

- 2nd St. Augustine Men of the Parish will host a 1st *Sunday Breakfast* after the 8am Mass.
- 21st *Family Knight* at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor. Doors open at 5:30pm.
- 29th Council will host their annual Rest Stop support for the *MS Deception Pass Classic*.
- 30th Council will host their annual Summer Picnic at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor starting at 12:30pm.

September

- 6th St. Augustine Men of the Parish will host a 1st *Sunday Breakfast* after the 8am Mass.
- 12th Whidbey-Fidalgo Assembly #2276 will host a Patriotic Degree Exemplification at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor.

October

- ??th Council's annual *Potato Bagging* event at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor.

December

- 12th *Army vs. Navy Game Party* at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor.
- 19th Council Christmas Party



Upcoming Events

August

- 29th Assist Fr. John E. O'Brien KofC Council's Rest Stop for Bike Multiple Sclerosis (MS) during the Deception Pass Classic at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor

September

- 5th/6th Will host a free coffee fundraiser at Smokey Point South Bound Rest Stop
- 10th Cooking lessons and Tai Chi exercise from 9am to 4pm at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor. This event takes place of the regular schedule meeting.

Fourth Degree Exemplification

Saturday, September 27 at Oak Harbor St. Augustine's Catholic Church
185 N Oak Harbor St, Oak Harbor, WA 98277



Host Assembly

Whidbey -Fidalgo Assembly #2276

Ceremonial District Marshal

Bill Smith

Degree Team

Western Washington Fourth Degree Team

Exemplification Honoree

The Honoree for this Fourth-Degree Exemplification is Jack Newman, Jr.

Schedule of Events

Registration:	12:30 - 1:45 pm
Rehearsal of Degree Team / Color Guard:	11:30am to 1:30pm
Lunch (Provided by Host Assembly):	12:00 to 12:30 pm
Exemplification Ceremony:	2 - 3:20pm
Pictures:	3:30 - 4 pm
MASS:	5:00 - 6:00 pm
Banquet:	6 - 8:30 pm

Fees

The exemplification fee for each candidate, except priests is \$90.00. The fee includes Fourth Degree lapel pins and one banquet ticket. There is no exemplification fee for priests or religious brothers; however, their assembly will pay \$25.00 to cover the cost of the Fourth-Degree pin and the dinner. The candidate's or the assembly's check is to be made payable to the Masters Fund, Knights of Columbus. Evening banquet cost for candidates' wives, Sir Knights, and guests is \$25.00. Host-provided lunch is \$10 per person. Advance reservation and payment are required. Make checks for the banquet tickets payable to Masters Fund, Knights of Columbus. DO NOT ABBREVIATE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ON CHECKS FEES.

Important Note

The exemplification fee does not change if the candidate does not attend dinner. Nor does the exemplification fee pay for the candidate's name tag or annual assembly dues or fees relating to the assembly in accordance with Article XIII, Section 24(k). The exemplification is set forth by the Board of Directors under Article IX, Membership, Section 26.

Attire

ARTICLE XI, Section 38, Official Dress. The official dress for the Fourth Degree shall be:

- (a) 4th Degree uniform or plain suit and tie, dress and footwear.

- (b) A member serving in the armed forces of his country, full-time police, and Firefighters shall be considered in proper attire when dressed in a Class A dress uniform.

Ladies, as men are dressed formally, please dress appropriately.

Administrative Procedures

The sponsor will ensure that the candidate prints all information legibly on the Form 4. The applicant, his sponsor, and the applicant's Council FS will sign the Form 4. Ensure the candidate's 3rd Degree is updated with Supreme, so the Form 4 is not rejected. After the Assembly's Admission Committee's action, the FN and FC will sign the Form 4. The FC will forward the signed Form 4 (all copies) and the applicant's check to the District Master. After the degree, the District Master will sign and send Form 4s to Supreme with copies to councils and assemblies.

Membership Requirements

ARTICLE IX, MEMBERSHIP, Section 25. Eligibility for Membership. (a) Applications for membership in the Fourth Degree may be made to any Assembly provided the applicant is:

- (i) Over eighteen years of age.
- (ii) A citizen of the country in which he resides, or with permission from the Master of the District over the area where he claims citizenship, with the understanding that if permission is granted the pledge of allegiance will be to the country of citizenship.
- (iii) A Third-Degree member in good standing in his council.
- (iv) A former member whose membership was terminated for failure to pay dues or by a withdrawal card if he has been readmitted to good standing in his council.
- (v) A practical Catholic in union with the Holy See.

Form 4 Procedures

All Form 4s should be sent to the District Master completed as exemplified above. The form should be complete with all attached copies. No reason for FC/FS/FN to remove any copies. The form is not completed till the District Master signs them. The District Master will send an electronic copy to the FS/FC/FN when requested. The District Master will keep all forms digitally. The *Supreme Secretary Copy* **MUST** be present. The District Master expects the FC/FN to ensure the Form 4 is filled out correctly using the above example and sent to the District Master two weeks prior to the exemplification in accordance with the Laws and Rules Governing the 4th Degree. FN/FC are to call the District Master directly for candidates with short notice.

Knights of Columbus Insurance

**YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE****Fraternal Benefit Night**

Each Wednesday of the month, an online event is available for your viewing in both English and Spanish. The Spanish event is available any day of the week.

Fraternal Benefit Night - English - <https://kofcpacific.com/fbn>

Fraternal Benefit Night - Spanish - <https://kofcpacific.com/fbne>

For your council to receive credit, each member will need to fill out a survey at the end of the event:

<https://kofcpacific.com/survey>

We currently do not have a Spanish survey, English only, but we will be adding that during the next fraternal year. Please have your Spanish speaking members fill out as much of the survey as possible. All surveys automatically get sent to GA Cicero Seisdedos and the appropriate FA. Once the surveys are completed, an online report form will need to be submitted for credit. Supreme is no longer accepting report documents- here is the link to the online report: <https://www.fbn-form.com/>

Once this report is received by Supreme, it is sent to Cicero for his approval. He will then cross reference the surveys to verify the attendance in the report and submit it. At that point, we can't verify the credit so please reach out to your regular channels for verification.

To sign up a new member, please use the following link <https://www.kofc.org/join> and **Agent Referral Code "MSCHWAB"** for a FREE membership. We will be notified of the new member and will help to welcome him to the council.

Lisa Schwab
Administrative Assistant




Knights of Columbus®

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Member
MDRT®

<https://www.kofc.org/en/contact/update-contact-information.html> / [Book Time with me](#)