

Christopher Columbus

The Navigator



Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney

March 2026

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

GRAND KNIGHT

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DISTRICT DEPUTY

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ACTING FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR

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Officers' Business Meeting

1st Tuesday - 6pm

Council Meeting

2nd Tuesday - 7pm

Assembly Meeting

3rd Tuesday - 6pm



FOUNDER'S DAY

SUNDAY MARCH 29th

Blessed Michael J. McGivney



Grand Knight's Message

I would like to begin by speaking about recruitment.

Recruitment is vital for a social organization such as ours to identify, attract, and retain men who are passionate and who are necessary to help fulfill our mission and to ensure the continuity of our organization. Effective, transparent recruiting of new members boosts morale and ensures that Brothers with the right talent and beliefs are present to deliver sustainable community activities.

Some reasons why recruitment in a social organization are important:

Securing Mission-Aligned Talent. This ensures that the club attracts men who are not just skilled, but passionate about our beliefs and cause.

Grand Knight's Message (cont.)

Building a Strong Volunteer Base. Finding the “right” volunteers is crucial to help boost what the organization can do and its impact.

Ensuring Operational Stability. Promptly filling vacant positions prevents disruption to vital community activities that we conduct.

Adapting to Change. Recruitment oftentimes brings in men with new perspectives, skills, and talent which helps our organization stay both relevant and effective.

I recall a story about one college football coach's approach to recruiting high school seniors to come play for him. While he could have said something like “If you come with me, I guarantee that you will become an NFL star,” he did not. On the contrary he told the student's parents that the chances of their son becoming a professional athlete were very small and that the educational opportunities available at his university would prepare him for life after his playing days were over, whenever that may be. I guess that his approach was successful. Before he left that university, he became that program's coach with the most victories and many of his players became professional football players.

During March weekends of 14th-15th and 21st-22nd, our Council will hold Membership Drives after Masses at St. Augustine and St. Mary Catholic Churches. Perhaps we should speak with the man's spouse or significant other by asking her how proud she would be seeing her husband doing things that will benefit their church such as:

On Friday, March 27th, helping to feed hungry parishioners after that evening's Stations of the Cross, or

On Sunday, March 29th, helping to make the church grounds and prayer garden beautiful for Holy Week.



Family of the Month – December '25



DGK Heath Garcia presents Evan and Brianna Lallensack with the KofC Family of the Month Award during coffee & doughnuts following the 9:30am Mass.

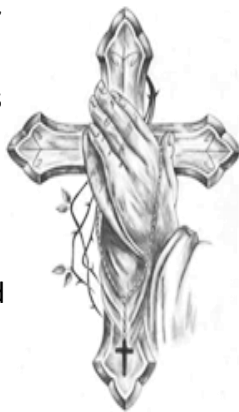
The Lallensacks are a Navy Military Family with two young children, and Evan just returned from deployment. He and his wife jumped right in and helped with St. Augustine's 1st Sunday Pancake Breakfast, setting up and serving parishioners their meals.

They are an outstanding family who help with Knights of Columbus and church functions, when possible, without question. Congratulations to the Lallensacks who are quite deserving to be our Family of the Month for December.

Prayer Knight

Monday, March 9th, is the council's next Prayer Knight. Prayers begin at 6:30pm followed a Potluck dessert social.

As always, Knights, their family and friends are welcomed.



Thank you to all of you who made the 1st Fish Fry possible. It takes many hands to make light work of these events.

If you missed out on the first one you still have two more opportunities. Our next Fish Fry is scheduled for March 13th with our final one scheduled on March 27th. Hope to see you there after Stations of the Cross.

Looking for fellow Knights and Columbiettes to volunteer to help with serving and clean-up after these events. Help if you can.

The other March Fridays, March 6th and 20th, are Soup Suppers.

Founder's Day

KofC Founder's Day is celebrated annually on March 29th, marking the anniversary of the organization's incorporation in 1882 by Blessed Michael McGivney at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut. It commemorates the founding of the Catholic fraternal service organization dedicated to charity, unity, and fraternity.

On Sunday, March 29th, the council is planning on cleaning the church grounds and prayer garden followed by a family meal at Knights of Oak Harbor Hall with doors opening at 5pm. Dinner is scheduled to start at 5:30pm with a planned meal of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots with a Potluck dessert.

The Patriotic Degree

Worthy Sir Knights,

I first want to thank all of you who attended last month's meeting. The meeting was smooth and efficient, only 20 minutes! The best part was the two hours of fellowship and food that followed!

Reminder that our March meeting is participation the Oak Harbor St. Patrick's Day Parade. I need flag and banner bearers as well as folks just to walk with us. Family and Friends are welcome.

I will be setting up the Nominating Committee soon to fill the "Slate of Officers" for the fraternal year. For the remainder of Lent, please pray and consider stepping up to be a true patriotic leader.

Last weekend, Faithful Comptroller Ralph B. and I went to the Biennial Meeting with the District Master and the Vice Supreme Master. I will be sharing the big takeaways with you when we gather next. Until then, below is an excerpt from the VSM's address to those gathered. I was impressed and thought you would benefit from these words as well. Please take the time to read them carefully.



**Knights of Columbus
Archbishop Blanchet 4th Degree Province
Biennial Meeting 2026
Vice Supreme Master Address**



Worthy Sir Knights,

It is an immense honor to be here with each of you today at this Biennial Meeting. I am Ken Anderson, Vice Supreme Master of the Archbishop Blanchet 4th Degree Province of the Knights of Columbus. The region I cover includes the 4th Degree membership in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Each of you have taken upon yourselves the "Highest Honor of Knighthood" by joining and participating in the 4th Degree, the highest Degree of our Order. Being a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus is something to take great pride in. If all men truly knew just how much of an honor it is to be a 4th Degree Knight, I believe many more would join our ranks.

I would like to share more about the vision that the Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and Supreme Master Michael McCusker have for the Patriotic Degree. Having celebrated the 125th Anniversary last year, there is a need now, more than ever, to focus our efforts as an Order towards demonstrating the virtue of patriotism and supporting our country. Both men have some inspiring words to share for us to put into practice in our everyday lives.

We live in a society that is often confused about what patriotism is. On one hand, some consider it to look like blind nationalism, where we follow the currents of our country without question. If leaders enact immoral and unjust laws, this model would dictate that we blindly follow and obey. On the other hand, others greatly dislike the direction our country is going and the decisions made by leaders and those of societal influence and therefore view our country with contempt and absolutely refuse to even fly our National Flag.

This is not so with the Knights of Columbus Patriot. Well formed in the Catholic Faith and having demonstrated firm commitment to the morals and virtues taught by our Church, we stand ready to be a witness to the world in regard to what true patriotism looks like. Jesus has called us to love God and love one another. He has also called us to render unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. This is what true patriotism looks like: when we serve God first and put God above anything else, including our country, but then, when that is put in its proper place, we serve God by showing fealty and deference to our country.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly has defined Patriotism as the virtue that flows naturally when we are thankful to God for the land in which we reside, for hearth and home. Part of observing the Greatest Commandment and rendering unto God what belongs to God involves giving Him thanks for our land, our system of government, and those placed in authority over us to safeguard the common good. Whenever we fly the American Flag, we should think to ourselves, "God is so good! This Flag represents the ways that God has blessed us!"

Pivoting now to the Second Greatest Commandment and the exhortation of Jesus to render unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar, we consider how Patriotism involves loving one another. When we love someone, we want what is best for them, we want to will their good. This means that we want what is best for our country. We want our country to thrive and prosper. Most importantly, we want our country to serve God to the best of its ability. We want our leaders to guide our country towards fulfilling the will of God and serving the common good. We will take action according to our means to bring this about. We pray for our country and our leaders, we lobby and petition for just laws to be enacted, and we honor those who have given their lives in service to the defense of our country: our veterans. This is what true Patriotism looks like for a Knight of Columbus.



**Whidbey Island
St. Patrick's Day
Parade**

March 17, 2026 · 4:30pm

Pioneer Way, Downtown Oak Harbor

**Featuring Grand Marshals
Jim & Sue Riney!**

Blessing & Kissing of the Blarney Stone will be prior to parade at 3pm
Parade route will be on Pioneer Way from Ely Street to Midway Blvd
Parade applications at: www.oakharbormainstreet.org/events

Thank you to our sponsors & supporters: Whidbey Weekly Irish Wildlife Society



Come celebrate our Irish Catholic Heritage! Come walk in the St. Patrick's Day Parade alongside St. Patrick himself. Show off our Catholic Pride! Dress for the weather, wear your best green and/or KofC clothes.

For 4th Degree Sir Knights, participation in the parade counts as meeting attendance.

3rd Degree Knights and their family members are strongly encouraged to participate as well.

NOT Irish! Neither was St. Patrick; he was Welch. No excuses, come celebrate!

From the Desk of the Financial Secretary

2026 Membership Dues Update - 2026 Billing is nearly complete. Currently, the council has 14 members in arrears which these dues total \$513.00.

With these members being in arrears, the Grand Knight (GK) directed the Retention Committee to carry out a **Personal Contact Phase** where each member was to be contacted to identify the reason of nonpayment. This phase is now finished found multiple members having outdated contact information in Supreme records.

Next Phases are:

- **Review Phase** - GK and Trustees will review cases to waive dues, offer payment plans, or approve affiliate transfers. Currently, the Retention Committee is working through the Documentation Phase. This phase will complete their review and be submitted to the Grand Knight by March 1st.
- **Submission Phase** - GK will finalize and forward report to the District Deputy (DD)
- **Final Phase** - DD will submit report to Supreme

These reports will assist the FS to wrap up the Membership Dues Drive and be final input to the report to Supreme.

KofC /Council Membership Drive

Council 3361 will host a KofC Membership Drives on March 14th and 15th and again on March 21st and 22nd at St. Augustine and St. Mary churches.

The Council is looking for Knights to volunteer in assisting during these drives. Contact the FS if you are available. Knights are requested to wear their council vests, shirts to be seen, to "press the flesh" and answer any questions for men leaving Mass.

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/formembers/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>

Whidbey Island Family of Catholic Churches Upcoming Events



Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, March 1st, the Men of the Parish will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast after both St. Augustine Masses. Come, join your fellow parishioners for pancakes, sausage, juice & coffee in the Fellowship Hall.

Pro-Life Vigil – Friday, March 6th, St. Augustine's Pro-Life Ministry will hold its next Pro-Life Vigil at SE Pioneer Way and State Route 20 between 3:45 and 4:45pm. Signs will be provided.

Contact Mike or Barb Thelen at either (360) 661-0311 or (360) 320-3959.

Baptism Class – The next class is April 25th. Registration is required for both class and baptism. The next available Baptism is May 9th. Please note, we only schedule 4 children per Baptism. Parents and godparents are required to attend a baptism class prior to the child's baptism.

For more information or to register for a class, either email: adultff@staugustineoh.org or call 360.215.3049.



STATIONS of the CROSS

Every Friday at St. Augustine starting at 5pm. Enjoy either a Fish Fry (March 13th, 27th) or a Soup Supper (March 6th, 20th) dependent following the Stations of the Cross.

The Purple Season

continues

The Lenten season of REFLECTION, RENEWAL and PREPARATION will culminate come the PASCHAL TRIDUUM from MANDY THURSDAY to EASTER SUNDAY.

Sunday, March 1st to MANDY THURSDAY, April 2nd

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 survey in Spanish (only English), 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 Seisedos 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 on 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 help to welcome him to the council.

Lisa Schwab
Administrative Assistant

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

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