

Christopher Columbus

The Navigator

October 2026

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



Blessed
Fr. Michael McGivnev

GRAND KNIGHT	DISTRICT DEPUTY	FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR
Ben Young	Ralph Byars (*DD/FDD/PGK/PFN*)	Rich Mueller (*PGK*)
gk@kofc3361.org	rwbyarsjr@gmail.net	richard.mueller2@comcast.net

Officers' Business Meeting	Council Meeting	Assembly Meeting
1st Tuesday - 6pm	2nd Tuesday - 7pm	3rd Tuesday - 6pm



Columbus Day - October 12th

Grand Knight Message

By GK Benjamin Young

Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25: 34-40

One of the seven Corporal Works of Mercy is feeding the hungry. And every Monday afternoon at 4:30pm in the St. Augustine Catholic Church Fellowship Hall, there is an Agape community Meal. Volunteers from the parish community, including several Knights of Columbus, cook and serve a delicious meal to anybody who is hungry.

Another opportunity to feed the hungry usually occurs on the first Sunday of the month when the St. Augustine Catholic Church hosts a Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers from the parish community, including many Knights of Columbus, cook and serve pancakes, sausage, and assorted beverages to parishioners who attend either the 8am or 9:30am Masses (assuming there are enough volunteers available to support each seating).

GK Message (cont.)

Another opportunity to help feed the hungry occurs on Saturday, October 24th at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor at approximately 9am. Several thousand pounds of potatoes will be delivered to us in large crates. Volunteers, many of whom will be Knights of Columbus and their family members, will grab the potatoes from the crates, place them in plastic bags, and then be loaded in different trucks for delivery to several community food banks located in both Island County and Skagit County. Some of the potatoes will be delivered to the St. Augustine Catholic Church for their Agape Community Meal, and some potatoes will be delivered to a senior citizen community. And after earnestly working in the morning, we will probably enjoy a delicious lunch of potato soup and bread.

If you are interested in helping feed the hungry, please consider volunteering for one or all of these events. No experience is required; just a desire to help. And bring a family member or a friend with you too; isn't it more fun doing things together with friends and family?



Prayer Knight

Monday, October 12th • 6:30pm

Please join us at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor for Prayer Knight with the Divine Mercy Chaplet beginning at 6:30pm followed by the Rosary.

A dessert potluck follows. And, as always, Knights, their families and friends are welcome.

Let's prayer together.



Faith Director News

by Steve Boneau

Our council continues to do a wonderful job supporting St. Augustine, St. Mary (Coupeville), and the base chapel ministries. I'm deeply grateful for the Knights and Columbiettes who give their time and talents to these ministries.

At the same time, frequent active-duty transfers and parishioner relocations mean that new helping hands are always needed. Many of our members generously serve in several roles in these ministries, so please consider getting involved. Even a small commitment can make a meaningful and measurable difference—share the joy and responsibility of these ministries.

St. Augustine Church has an urgent need in Religious Education (RE) ministry, particularly for security during RE hours. We need at least two volunteers to help monitor the vestibule entries while RE is in session: one from 4:00–6:00 p.m. (1600–1800) and another from 6:00–8:00 p.m. (1800–2000). Ther presence of these volunteers provides valuable support and creates a more welcoming and attentive environment for the Parish children and families.

There are many other ways you can volunteer. The weekly Agape staff are always grateful for additional help. Alos, consider attending the council's monthly Cor and Prayer Knights, and participate in the Pro-Life Vigils held every first Friday of the month, which would strengthen the message.

Please consider adding these events to your calendar and join us when you can. Your involvement in these ministries will help our parish community—and may enrich your own faith and friendships in ways you do not expect.

KofC Priest Appreciation Dinner

On Friday, November 13th, the Oak Harbor Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Priest Appreciation Dinner at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor. Social hour begins at 5pm (1700) followed by dinner at 6pm (1800).

Only 100 event tickets will be available. Cost is $25.00 per person or can be purchased at the door at a cost of $30.00. per person.

Menu consists of roasted Cornish game hens, mashed potatoes with cream gravy, fresh green beans, leaf salad and potato dinner roll. Desserts to be provided by the Columbiettes.

Family of the Month: Dan and Monique Olvera

Congratulations to Dan and Monique Olvera on being selected as Fr. John E. O'Brien Council's Family of the Month for August 2026.

Dan, who serves as Council Advocate, and Monique, who serves as Columbiettes President, are both dedicated ushers at the 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Augustine. In addition to their regular parish service, they consistently support council events with generosity, reliability, and enthusiasm.

Their commitment was especially evident during the busy weekend of August 29–30, when the council hosted both the End of Summer Picnic and supported the Deception Pass Classic MS Bike Ride. Dan and Monique brought the same energy and dedication to both events and were instrumental in staffing a rest stop that needed additional support for the Century MS riders.

Their willingness to step in at the last minute made a meaningful difference. MS staff expressed deep appreciation for the extended support provided by the Knights and Columbiettes, noting that their efforts had a significant impact. As one staff member put it, Dan and Monique "saved our bacon!"

Thank you, Dan and Monique, for your outstanding service, dedication, and example. Your selfless contributions reflect the spirit of the Knights of Columbus and the Columbiettes and provide a model for others to emulate.

Potato Bagging

On Saturday, October 24th, the council's annual *Potato Bagging* event will be held at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor's Potato Hut starting around 9am. Check the weather and dress accordingly. Soup and bread lunch will follow in the club hall.

Knight of the Month: Rich Mueller

Please join us in warmly congratulating Rich Mueller on being named our council's August Knight of the Month! Brother Rich, a Past Grand Knight and our current Faithful Navigator, brings remarkable energy, dedication, and heart to everything he does for the council and our community. His outstanding leadership was on full display during August's Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Deception Pass Classic Bike Rally, where his organization and hard work once again made our rest stop along the 100-mile route a tremendous and memorable success.

Brother Rich truly wears many hats—as CRE Board President, a director of the Knights Club of Oak Harbor, and a familiar, dependable presence at the Knights Club's BINGO nights. We are grateful for his enthusiastic spirit and generous commitment to service, which inspire us all and help our council continue to be a strong, positive force in the community. Congratulations, Brother Rich, and thank you for all you do!

Pro-Life Vigil

St. Augustine's Pro-Life Ministry will hold its next Pro-Life Vigil on Friday, October 2nd 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.

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 rental manager, Ralph Byars, for additional details.

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

KofC Cor (Heart)

Prayer, Formation, Fraternity

The next Cor meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27th at 5pm at St. Augustine's Fellowship Hall. For more info, contact DGK Heath Garcia at either (360) 969-0092 or <*sotanomad@gmail.com*>.

Knights in Action – Acts of Kindness

THANK YOU! – Rusty Waters

My sincere appreciation goes to the Knights who graciously and generously gave their time and talents to answer a Knight's call for assistance in helping pack his mother's and sister's household belongings. His mother and sister decided it was time to move back to an area that will provide them with greater opportunities to strengthen their spiritual lives beyond what they have experienced here in Oak Harbor. This thoughtful act of charity and fraternity reflects the very best traditions of our Order. I'm deeply grateful for their service, compassion, and brotherhood who gave of themselves in support of this family.

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

Columbiettes News

– by President Monique Olvera

In August, the Columbiettes assisted the Knights at their famous MS Bike Ride Rest Stop! We truly enjoyed decorating the hall and helping/greeting the riders as they came into the rest stop. This is always a great event, and we were happy to be invited/take part.

Over Labor Day weekend, several Columbiettes and Knights were serving free coffee and snacks to weary travelers at the Smokey Point southbound rest stop on I-5. Special thanks to immediate Past President Erlinda Signo-Warren for coordinating and working both days; Nellie, Lodi, Donna and Helen for working; and Doug Warren, Pete Caldwell, and Rusty Waters for working and helping at the booth as well. End of day Sunday, we met a lovely woman from Mary Queen of Peace parish in Sammamish, who wants to start a Columbiettes chapter there. It was a great weekend of community service and outreach. All the travelers stopping for refreshment and a little conversation or just to donate were kind and truly grateful for coffee and snacks. And we made almost $150.00 in donations.

Ana, Sallie, and Rose continue to knock it out of the park with coffee and donuts served at the Base Chapel after Mass every Sunday. A million thanks!

We had great participation and attendance by our Columbiettes for Family Knight! Thank you, Rich and Doug, for a delicious dinner and heartwarming movie.

Our next meeting is Thursday, October 8th, at 6PM at the Knights Hall.

If you know of anyone who'd like to join the Columbiettes or would like more information, please call Monique at 831-236-1323.

Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) Christmas Card Sales

With the arrival of Autumn, the council is preparing for their annual *Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC)* Christmas Card Sales event! This program offers beautiful religious cards and seasonal items to our parish communities with the proceeds benefiting the council's charitable initiatives and community outreach throughout the year.

The council will be selling KCIC Cards after all weekend Masses at both St. Augustine and St. Mary churches throughout the months of October and November beginning on October 10th. To ensure this event is a success, we need Brother Knights (and family members!) to step up and lend a helping hand.

How Can You Help? We need volunteers for the following:

- Table Setup & Preparation. Arrive 15 to 20 minutes before Mass to set up the card displays in the vestibule or in the breezeway
- Mass Coverages & Sales. After Mass, assist parishioners with card selections, cash/check handling, or processing payments
- Takedown & Inventory. Spend time to conduct pack up and tally inventory

Volunteer Schedule & Sign-Up

- Whether you can cover a single Mass after your regular weekend service or volunteer for a couple of weekends, your assistance makes a huge difference.
- Locations at either St. Augustine or St. Mary (Coupeville)
- Sales start October 10th through November

If you can assist with sales at any Mass, please contact the Faith Director (Steve Boneau) at your earliest convenience or speak up at our next council meeting. Let's work together to help our parish community keep Christ at the heart of the Christmas season!

The Patriotic Degree

By Faithful Navigator

Sir Knights,

I thank all of you that made the exemplification of patriotism on September 12th a wonderful success! This event went very smoothly and the food was amazing. For those that choose not to attend, you missed out!

Welcome to our two new SK's Emanuel (Monte) and Udo. Congratulations on this achievement!

The next opportunity for advancement to the 4th Degree will be held on October 24th in Federal Way. I am planning on organizing transportation for those that wish to participate.

I received a wonderful letter from the Most Reverend Thomas Msula, the Archbishop of Blantyre Archdiocese, Malawi. He took time to personally thank us for the donation of chalices. I know it took a little time to finally achieve this goal. Thank you to everyone who played a role in donating chalices. Let us discuss the future of sacramental gifts.

Congrats to SK Ralph, our very own Comptroller who has become a District Marshall for the Northern District.

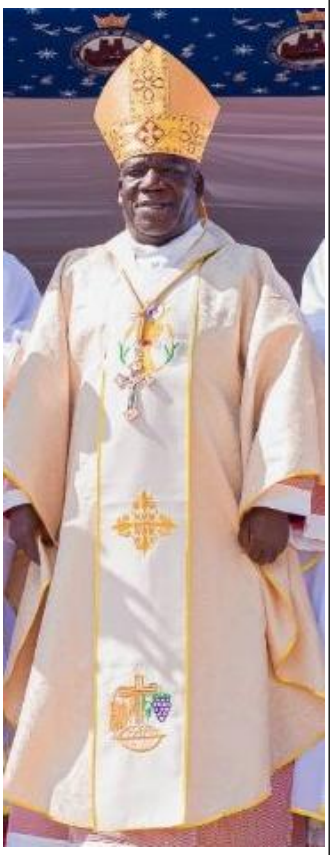
I will be in Vancouver, WA over the weekend of the 10th and 11th attending the Provincial meeting of the 4th Degree. I will make a full report at our next meeting.

Since we are on the subject, the next 4th Degree meeting will be held on October 20th, at 6:00pm. The location will be the Knights Club of Oak Harbor. We will have a formal business meeting. I will send an email with details including the agenda. I look forward to seeing you all there.

4th Degree Chalice Program

13 Chalices – The Journey's End

The 13 Chalices arrived safely in Malawi after nearly two years since this journey began.



These chalices were distributed by the Archdiocese of Blantyre Archbishop the Most Rev. Thomas Msusa of Malawi to newly ordained priests.

Thank you to all who donated a chalice to these new priests!

And finally, thank you Fr. Paul Nkolombidzo of Malawi who finalized and coordinated the effort to get these chalices to the final destination.



Archdiocese of Blantyre – Most Rev. Thomas Msusa (4th from left) with newly ordained priests holding these new chalices.



Most Reverend
Archbishop Thomas L. Msusa

Archdiocese of Blantyre

Archbishop's House,
P. O. Box 385,
Blantyre,
Malawi, C. Africa.

Telephone : (265) 1 637 905
Direct: (265) 1 637 516
E-mail : archbishopmsusa @ gmail.com

Our Ref. TLM/CAL/OFC/2026/08(12)

3rd September,2026

Dear Benefactors and Friends in Christ,

RE: VOTE OF THANKS FOR THE DONATION OF CHALICES TO THE ORDAINED PRIESTS

It is with profound gratitude and pastoral joy that I write to express the sincere thanks of the Archdiocese of Blantyre for the generous gift of chalices presented, through the kind mediation of Reverend Father Paul Nkolombidzo, to our newly ordained priests.

On the auspicious day of their priestly ordination, the 22nd of August, these sacred vessels were solemnly handed over as a tangible sign of your charity and of the communion that unites the faithful in supporting the Church's sacred ministry. The chalices, destined for the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist, will accompany these young priests as they begin their service at the altar of the Lord, enabling them to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass with fitting dignity and devotion.

Your thoughtful generosity not only provides for a practical liturgical need but also constitutes a spiritual offering that strengthens the bonds of ecclesial solidarity. On behalf of the newly ordained priests, their families, and the entire Archdiocese, I assure you of our heartfelt appreciation. May the Lord, who is never outdone in generosity,

With the assurance of my prayers and fraternal regard, I remain

Yours devotedly in Christ,

+Thomas Luke Msusa,
Archbishop of Blantyre Archdiocese, Malawi.

✝MOST. REV. THOMAS L. MSUSA
ARCHDIOCESE OF BLANTYRE
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Blantyre - Malawi
Tel: 01 637 905
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All Hands-on Deck!
Knights of Columbus Membership Drive

Our annual Fall Membership Drive is around the corner, and we need your support to make it a success! Growing our council allows us to continue our charitable programs, support our parishes, and build stronger Catholic families across our community.

To make this drive effective, we have structured a simple, three-week plan, and we need volunteers at every Mass across both St. Augustine and St. Mary.

Knight of Columbus Membership Drive - 3 Week Strategy

Week 1: October 17/18 - Hospitality & Connection (At All Exits). Our goal is to make eye contact, offer a warm greeting, and welcome every man exiting Mass. Your role is to simply stand near the doors in your Knights attire (badge/vest/shirt), smile and greet fellow parishioners and hand out information flyers to interested men.

Week 2: October 24/25 | The Main Push (Parish Hall & Exits). Our goal is the major recruitment weekend! Your role to be stationed near an exit or assist at the Knights table which should be setup in the parish hall after Mass. Volunteers will be needed to staff the Knights table, share council accomplishments, answer associated questions, or help prospective members fill-in and complete interest cards or scan the QR code to join.

Week 3: October 31/November 1 - Follow-Up & Final Presence (At All Exits). Our goal is to approach any possible candidates we may have missed during Week 2 and to reinforce our presence. Your role will be greeters once again and be stationed at one of the exits to thank parishioners, offer last-chance prospect cards, and follow up with men who expressed interest earlier.

KofC Membership Drive *(cont.)*

How Can You Step Up?

It only takes 15 to 20 minutes before or after Mass to make a significant impact on the future of our council. Council 3361.

If you can assist as an exit greeter or help staff the table in the hall during any of these weekends, please speak up at our next council meeting or contact our Grand Knight (Ben Young) or Membership Director (Jim Spoltman) to sign up for a slot.

Upcoming Council Events

October

24th Council's annual *Potato Bagging* event at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor.

November

13th KofC Priest Appreciation Dinner 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

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