



Christopher Columbus

The Navigator

September 2026



Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney

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

GRAND KNIGHT

Ben Young
gk@kofc3361.org

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



25th Anniversary



September 11



Knights of Columbus

Fourth Degree
Whidbey - Fidalgo Assembly #2276
Oak Harbor, WA



Exemplification
Of The
Patriotic Degree

Honoring
Jack Newman, Jr.
Former Master

One Nation Under God

Saturday, September 12th
185 Nth Oak Harbor St.
Oak Harbor, WA

September 12

Grand Knight Message

As I turn the pages of my calendar and daily planner to the month of September, I can feel the excitement in the air. For with the arrival of September, there is a sense of renewal and optimism. Children begin a new school year, and their parents hope that they have good teachers, that they study hard, and that they do their best. Football season begins, and all teams whether they are high school, college, or professional have dreams of winning every game on their schedule. During September, professional baseball has their pennant races which lead to the World Series in October.

And your Council has a similar sense of renewal and optimism. Your new slate of officers and Program Directors are full of energy and good ideas. We begin September with the Men's Retreat. This will be followed by the Fourth-Degree Exemplification for any interested Brothers from the three Councils at St. Mary (Anacortes), St. Augustine and St. Mary (Oak Harbor and Coupeville), and St. Hubert (Langley). During October we will have Membership Drives at St. Augustine and at St. Mary. Later in the month we will have our potato bagging event which supports local food banks on both Island County and Skagit County. And during November, we host our Priest Appreciation Dinner.

And this does not include our regularly scheduled BINGO Knights every Wednesday night, our Pro-Life Vigil on the first Friday afternoon of each month, our Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary Night on the second Monday evening of each month, our Cor sessions on the fourth Tuesday evening of each month, and our Family Knight on the last Friday evening of the month. And don't forget about the Pancake Breakfasts hosted by the Men of the Parish, the Catholic Daughters, the Columbiettes, and other willing volunteers.

And your Council is not limited to only these activities. If one of our brothers has a special interest, tell your Council Officers about it. We will discuss it, and if there is enough interest we may do it. For example, your Council did not provide a rest stop for the Bike MS: Deception Pass Classic in the past. But because some of your brothers told your Officers about it, we volunteered to provide a rest stop for the bicyclists. And not only do we provide a rest stop, we provide the best rest stop offering fresh bacon, warm chocolate chip cookies, chocolate milk, and other tasty treats to the racers. Another new activity that a brother proposed is our Random Acts of Kindness Program. If you have a good idea, don't keep it to yourself.



Prayer Knight

Monday, September 14th • 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.



From the Financial Secretary Desk

Exemplification Team

The Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity is the gateway through which candidates enter our Order and advance to the Third Degree. It is not merely a formal ritual—it is a solemn, inspiring presentation of who we are as Catholic gentlemen, bound by our faith and dedicated to serving our families, church, and Christ. A well-conducted ceremony leaves a lasting impression on new Knights and their families.

To present this ceremony with the dignity, passion, and decorum it deserves, Fr. John E. O'Brien Council 3361 needs dedicated brothers to step forward and bring these parts to life. You do not need prior experience or total script memorization; clear speaking, passion, and a commitment to practice with your brothers are all that is required. Ceremonial Parts to be filled:

- Presiding Officer (Master of Ceremonies) - serves as the leader of the proceedings, welcoming candidates and guests, introducing presenters, and administering the formal Promises.
- Chaplain - leads the assembly in opening and closing prayers, invoking God's grace and leading the prayer for the canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney.
- Presenter on Charity - teaches the fundamental lesson on Christ's redeeming love as the true measure of charity, raising the crucifix, and delivering the Discourse on the Rosary.
- Presenter on Unity - delivers lessons on shared purpose, leading the symbolic demonstration comparing single breakable fibers to an unbreakable cable.
- Presenter on Fraternity - speaks on Catholic manhood, integrity, and our steadfast solidarity with our parish priests.
- Warden - directs candidate floor logistics, hands out ceremonial materials, and escorts candidates into the sanctuary.
- Investing Officer - formally invests candidates with the Holy Rosary and Emblem lapel pin.

Learn By Watching -- Exemplification Video.

Interested in a role but unsure what it looks like in practice? We can watch the official exemplification video together at our next meeting so everyone can get the hang of it and see how the parts flow before taking the floor!

How to Step Forward. We will watch the video and begin walk-through rehearsals as soon as our team is assembled so everyone feels fully confident in their delivery. Do not wait for someone else to step up—reach out to a council officer at our next meeting or send an email today to let us know which part interests you.

Council Membership Drive

Brother Knights are needed for our Council Membership Drive!

Brother Knights, our council, now more than ever, are needed to meet our community and parish needs. Our council must continually grow and expand to support our charitable service.

Recent research, commissioned by the Supreme Council, reveals a compelling fact: millions of Catholic men say they are willing to join the Knights of Columbus, but nearly half of them have never joined simply because nobody has asked them.

During October, a three-weekend membership recruitment campaign will be launched and held after all weekend Masses at both St. Augustine and St. Mary Catholic Churches. To make this a success, we need your time and fraternal support. Please consider where you can step in to help build our brotherhood during this time.

How Can You Help Today? A successful church drive is built entirely on the personal invitations of brother Knights. Even if you can only spare an hour before or after the regular Mass you already attend, your presence has a massive impact.

Please contact our Grand Knight or Membership Director to sign up at either St. Augustine or St. Mary:

Grand Knight: Ben Young / gk@kofc3361.org

Membership Director: Jim / jimsp@whidbey.net

Let us work together to be the "fishers of men" God is calling us to be, welcoming the next generation of Knights to our council!

Opportunities for Service & Leadership Support

Our council is continuously looking for brother Knights to lend a hand in our leadership initiatives.

Please note, while most of these positions are currently filled, every chairman and director welcomes dedicated brothers to join their committee, assist with upcoming events, and learn the role. Taking on a role or supporting a committee is a meaningful way to put your faith into action, build lifelong bonds of fraternity, and strengthen our parish and local community. Below are our key program and council activity areas where you can lend your support:

Program & Executive Teams

- Program Director (Heath Garcia) - assists in overseeing all council programming, supporting category directors and guiding charitable initiatives.
- Faith Director (Steve Boneau) - helps organize spiritual development programs—such as Holy Hours, RSVP, and the Rosary Program—that draw members and families closer to God.

- Vocations Chairman - supports activities that promote and encourage vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life.
- Family Director (Doug Warren) - assists with events that strengthen the domestic church, including Family Prayer Nights, Food for Families, and Consecration to the Holy Family.
- Community Director (Rich Mueller) - helps coordinate local outreach, civic initiatives, and youth programs such as Coats for Kids, Helping Hands, and the Free Throw Championship.
- Life Director - supports efforts to defend human dignity at every stage, including Novenas for Life, Silver Rose services, and pregnancy resource center support.
- Health Service Chairman - assists in organizing health-related initiatives, blood drives, and wellness awareness for council members and the parish.

Membership & Retention Teams

- Membership Director - works on membership growth strategies, recruitment drives, and welcoming new members.
- Recruitment Committee - engages Catholic men in our parish and introduces them to the Knights of Columbus.
- Admission Chairman - assists with the application process, candidate interviews, and orientation for prospective members.
- Retention Chairman - helps keep current Knights active and engaged in council life.
- Retention Committee - reaches out to brother Knights, helps re-engage inactive members, and ensures every brother finds value in his membership.

How to Get Involved

If you would like to support any of these roles or join a committee, please reach out to us:

Grand Knight: Benjamin W. Young Jr.
Deputy Grand Knight: Heath Garcia
Financial Secretary: David L. Morgan

Next Step

Please contact the GK, FS or the respective committee chairman after our next council meeting to see how you can assist brother Knights.

Family of the Month – August

Congratulations to Monty and Karen Montenegro as our Knights of Columbus Family of the Month. Their quiet faithfulness and generous hearts remind us that love of God is best shown in service to His people.

Together, Monty and Karen serve our parish as dedicated Sacristans, preparing the altar with care so that we may encounter Christ more fully in the Eucharist. Their attention to this sacred work is a gift to all of us.

At Agape, Karen's homemade cookies and desserts bring warmth and welcome to the table, while Monty faithfully washes dishes behind the scenes—both living out the Gospel call to hospitality. Monty also deepens his spiritual life by attending our monthly Cor gatherings, seeking fellowship and growth with brother Knights.

Their willingness to serve extends beyond the parish walls. Both Monty and Karen pitched in at our annual Summer Picnic and cheerfully participated in the Fourth of July Parade, sharing the joy of our community with the wider neighborhood.

In all these ways, large and small, Monty and Karen show us what it means to be a family rooted in faith. We thank God for their example and ask Him to continue blessing them richly.

Please join us in offering a prayer of gratitude for this beautiful couple!

Knight of the Month – August

Congratulations to Walt Daspit as the council's Knight of the Month!

Walt Daspit was recognized as the council's Knight of the Month for his steadfast leadership and long-standing service to the council's monthly Prayer Knight event. For the past 11 years, Walt has coordinated this important gathering, helping

Pro-Life Vigil

St. Augustine's Pro-Life Ministry will hold its next Pro-Life Vigil on Friday, September 4th 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 manager, Ralph Byars, for additional details.

Thank You!

The council received a thank you card from one of our scholarship recipients.

"Thank you for selecting me out of the pool of applicants! I am honored that you have decided to invest in my future. Your support will help me pursue my educational goals to study aeronautical science at Embry-Riddle. This scholarship will help fund my room and board."

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.

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

KofC Cor "Heart"

Prayer, Formation, Fraternity

The next Cor meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 22nd at 5pm at St. Augustine's Fellowship Hall.

For more info, contact DGK Heath Garcia at either (360) 969-0092 or <sotanomad@gmail.com>.

Whidbey-Fidalgo Assembly 2276

Our next meeting will be the Exemplification of Patriotism to be held on September 12th. Please come out and welcome our new Sir Knights into our ranks.

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>

MS Deception Pass 2026 an Impact not measured in Dollars...

By Doug Warren (PGK), MS Deception Pass Bike Rider

I would like to say with a big heart how much I'm thankful for the volunteers that showed up and supported the MS Deception Pass Classic. You might have thought that it was just another volunteer event but the impact the Fr. John E O'Brien Knights of Columbus and the Columbiettes played this weekend was echoed throughout the weekend from riders who absolutely loved the rest stop to the MS event staff who told me that without the extended support the knights provided to man an additional rest stop at the last minute was huge. One staff member used the words "We saved their bacon!"

To all my brother Knights who stepped up and to Monique and Dan who ran out to Joseph State Park to make sure the 100-mile riders were taken care of there is not enough thanks.

As riders it seems like we do all the hard work by fundraising and then riding miles to find a cure for MS, but in all actuality, it is you the volunteers who make the whole weekend possible.

To put in a short synopsis the Knights and Columbiettes were all over this weekend in support. We had a Columbiette putting in hours at registration Friday night then waking up at 0300 Saturday to be there to help again. We had Knights at the hall starting Thursday setting things up, Knights and Columbiettes supporting two rest stops and then two brother Knights driving a shuttle bus to support riders out at Deception Pass.

To date, this weekend event has raised over \$1.5 million dollars to help find that cure. That's huge in the amount of dollars but the amount of volunteer hours can never be measured in money, but it is immeasurable the impact it made.

Now to shout out to the Knight who put this all together our PGK Rich Mueller, we as knights can't thank you enough, you will never know the impact this weekend has made.

Thank you for all you do.



2026 Deception Pass Classic MS Bike Ride

By Rich Mueller (PGK), Event Chair

Thank you to all who made this year's MS Deception Pass Classic rest stop the rousing success it was. We served close to 200 riders providing refreshments and encouragement. We did so well, we staffed a second rest stop at Joseph Whidbey State Park. Thank you, Dan and Monique. Darcy and I even had to break out to go get stranded riders from the pass back to the start/finish line!

This could not happen with you, my awesome brothers and sisters.

Until next year...



Microsoft Team – Nice Jerseys!

Council End of Summer Annual Picnic

by Rusty Waters, Event Chair

Thank you all for coming out and sharing such a wonderful afternoon of fellowship, food, and good company at our Council End of Summer Annual Picnic. A special thank-you goes to the Knights Club of Oak Harbor, the council, and especially the Knights and guests who brought their favorite potluck dishes for everyone to enjoy.

It was truly enjoyable to see familiar faces, including some we had not seen in a while. I also thank everyone who stayed afterward to help with cleanup. I was honestly impressed by how many people pitched in to get everything back in order. No one had to be told what to do or how to do it—it simply got done.

Thank you all so much for making the day such a great success!





Upcoming Events

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

24th 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



New Columbiettes Officers

Pres. Dominica Olvera
VP. Lodie Holzbauer
Sec. Madeline Yakubchak
Asst. Marivic Jeanquart
FS. Donna Lawrence
Treas. Carlota Bauch
Sentinel: Rosario Pangilinan
Asst. Sentinel: Sally Morgan

Upcoming Events

September

5th/6th Will host a free coffee fundraiser at Smokey Point South Bound Rest Stop

10th Columbiettes meeting at 5:30pm at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor. We are having a short meeting, followed by a potluck and a dance party! Bring your significant other and eat and dance the night away (well, maybe till like 9pm) with the Columbiettes. Any questions, please call/text Monique at (831) 236-1323.

More Picnic Pics



Fourth Degree (Patriotic) Exemplification

Saturday, September 12 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®

Lisa Schwab
Administrative Assistant

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Member
MDRT®

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