



# Knights of Columbus

Bishop Ruocco Council, No. 9275  
Chelmsford/ Littleton/ Westford, Massachusetts  
[knights9275.com](http://knights9275.com)

April 2025

Vol. 39, Number 8

## The Knight Reader

### COUNCIL OFFICERS 2024 – 2025

Grand Knight.....  
Robert Malnati, GK

Chaplain.....  
Father Fernando Ayala

Deputy Grand Knight.....  
Matthew Bartos

Chancellor.....  
Adam Rypinski

Warden.....  
Ricky Walsh

Financial Secretary.....  
James Barrows, PGK, FS

Treasurer.....  
David Breen

Recorder.....  
William Pacino

Advocate.....  
Eugene Bartos, PGK, FDD

Lecturer.....  
Ed Ciampa

Inside Guard.....  
Richard Zuppardi

Outside Guard.....  
Jean Croteau

3rd Year Trustee.....  
Adam Whitehouse, PGK, DD

2nd Year Trustee.....  
Louis Soracco, PGK, PFN

1st Year Trustee.....  
James O'Keefe

District Deputy.....  
Paul Sidari, PGK, PFN, DD

Field Agent.....  
Matt DiCalogero (interim)

## Grand Knight Report – Robert Malnati

*Dear brother knights, April 2025*

April 1, halfway through Lent, Easter and the celebration of the centerpiece of our Faith is on the horizon. At the COR meeting at St. Catherine's on March 20, Fr. Joe got us focused on almsgiving, prayer and fasting, as defined in Matthew Chapter 6. For a prayerful moment in our busy lives, it is recommended to read and think about this short, but most important chapter. Note that it also includes the Lord's prayer as Jesus taught it.

During the Month of March, the brothers of our council were busy practicing Charity, Unity and Fraternity. Corned beef and cabbage were prepared and served at St. John's; Soup and Stations at St. Mary, Pizza and Stations at St. Anne; COR at St. Catherine. Then the heavy lifting of membership drives at St. Margaret, St. Anne and St. Catherine. Our "fishers of men for Jesus" brought in seven new members.



An in-person exemplification is scheduled for Sunday, March 30 at 2 PM at St. Catherine/ Westford. ALL Knights, friends and family are welcome. For those who cannot be there live, there will be an on-line exemplification on April 9. Seven brothers participated in an on-line Fraternal Benefit event on March 11. Our council is very close to completing all goals for Star Council, Thank You All!

The Knight of the year and Family of the year committees have completed their work, thank you for making great choices. Our council's proposed resolutions were finalized and will be reviewed by the Resolution Review Committee under direction of State Advocate Mike Gibson, after April 14.

In April: EASTER, April 20! Mark your calendar for April 10 Holy hour, Rosary and Adoration at St. Mary's. A special presentation on on-line scamming by Declan Reidy at April 14 members meeting and Pancakes for supper at St. John's on Holy Thursday April 17.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please keep the following brothers and their families and caregivers in your prayers:

Brother knight Michael O'Malley, as he battles cancer

Brother knight Greg Gallagher, also battling cancer

Michelle Mosher, daughter of Dave Breen

Ruth Malnati, wife of GK Bob Malnati

Brother knight Charlie DeStefano, recovering from knee surgery

For those who are sick or in distress, please remember that you are in our prayers at each meeting and in the private prayers of our hearts. If you know of a brother knight or family member who would like to be included in our prayers, please contact one of the individuals below:

Grand Knight Robert Malnati at [randrmalnati@gmail.com](mailto:randrmalnati@gmail.com)

Or Chancellor Adam Rypinski at [arypinski@yahoo.com](mailto:arypinski@yahoo.com)

## **Night of Reflection at Saint Benedict's Abbey, May 19**

*From Adam Whitehouse, awhitehouse21@gmail.com*

The night of Reflection is going to be Monday May 19, 2025 at Saint Benedict's Abbey in Harvard. Starting at 6:00 PM with vespers in the chapel. Following vespers, we will have a delicious meal cooked by the monks, and a talk from one of the Abbey's monks.

The price to attend is \$20 per person. Indicate your interest by contacting Adam. This visit is limited to 25 knights.

Looking forward to a wonderful evening in the Easter season.

### **Newsletter deadlines/ Check Spam folder weekly**

Articles that are intended to be included in the May 2025 issue of this newsletter must be e-mailed to Bill Pacino at [knights\\_news@yahoo.com](mailto:knights_news@yahoo.com) by May 21. The newsletter will be published before the first meeting of the month.

**Note:** Check your Spam folder every week to make sure your email provider is not electronically judging the messages and monthly newsletter from your local council as Spam mail. You will be surprised how many legitimate email messages end up in the Spam folder.

**Meeting times** -The monthly planning (first Monday), members (second Monday) and social (fourth Monday) meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Meetings are held at The Paul Center, 39 Concord Road, Chelmsford.

**knights9275.com** – Use the Bishop Ruocco council web site for past newsletters and meeting minutes; for officer links; Supreme news.

**Return address for physical mail:** Knights of Columbus, Bishop Ruocco Council, No. 9275 Chelmsford/ Littleton/ Westford, 1521 Gorham Street, Lowell, MA 01852

## Sacred Heart of Jesus Pilgrim Icon Prayer Service Receives Supreme Attention

*From Paul Sidari, Faith/COR Director*

Whenever I begin to plan a prayer service for the council to participate in, I always set goals to make it a successful event. By that I mean there is first a main theme or topic for which we will pray about or discuss during the ceremony. Occasionally, I choose a Knights of Columbus “Faith in Action” event such as the Silver Rose or the Pilgrim Icon Program. There are of course rosary events and outdoor processions with the Blessed Mother Statue every Fall, along with the Divine Mercy Chaplet & Seven Sorrows of Our Blessed Mother prayer service. These Faith events have come to define and create a lasting relationship with our parishioners.

In devising the prayer event, I envision what I would find enjoyable and heart-tugging to sit and attend, or what would keep me faithfully involved and wanting me to not just be there, but to cause me immense desire to participate and grasp afterwards the true meaning of what was conveyed.

I have found success while including as many Brother Knights of the Council as possible to participate, and also invite parishioners to also become actively involved. The more that enlist to read or recite, stand guard or sing, or assist in some way, the better it becomes a whole council and church community event.

This fraternal year, the Supreme Knights of Columbus, along with all of the states, received a new Pilgrim Icon. These Icons are mass produced and then blessed by the Pope in a ceremony in Rome, where they are then to be used in prayer services regarding whom the Icon reflects. In January 2025, three-hundred fifty such icons were sent out across the states and nations of the Knights of Columbus with the beautiful 1767 Botani Painting of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

*Continued on the next page*



*PGK Paul Sidari with his wife Margie in front of the Pilgrim Icon, the focus of the prayer service on February 24. This prayer service, from the Bishop Ruocco council, was chosen to be filmed and was selected to represent the new Sacred Heart Icon for the Knights of Columbus.*

Each Icon when received by a council comes with prayer cards and a prayer service booklet. Like past icons that our council has presented, a specific church is chosen to host a prayer event with the Icon, or if desired, it is set on a tripod for show during the mass.

Depending on how many parishes are within the geographical area of your council, prayer services or displays can occur at more than one church. That of course is all up to working closely with the councils District Deputy. This year, as District Deputy, I had to work directly with five other councils to schedule around during the span of only one week. Through the hard work and blessings of all the Grand Knights involved, the new Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon was revealed with a prayer service at four out of six councils churches I serve.



On Thursday February 20<sup>th</sup>, I received in my e-mails a notice that Supreme was looking for a council who was going to be showing the Icon and holding an actual prayer service for parishioners. They wanted to send out a production company from Chicago to film the service and make a short movie regarding the Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon. I responded to the e-mail telling Supreme of how the Bishop Ruocco Council 9275 hosts wonderful and faithful prayer services of several kinds during the fraternal year, and that we had already planned a COR Gathering/Icon worship Service for Monday February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at St Mary Church in Chelmsford, which included a prayer program with the Icon. When I sent the email, I said a Hail Mary, and asked the Blessed Mother to please carry the email to where it needed to go. I joked that I didn't want it to sit in someone's file and never be read.

Over the weekend of 2/21-23/25, I attended a 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at St Patrick's Cathedral in NYC for the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights of Columbus. Thousands attended the beautiful events of the weekend which included the commemoration & unveiling of the new Bronze statue of Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney, and the exemplification of 800 new 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights. While in my hotel room on Friday evening, I received



*Bronze statue of Blessed Michael McGivney in NYC*

word that Supreme had indeed received my email answer and had chosen our council to be filmed and represent the new Sacred Heart Icon for the Knights of Columbus. Totally surprised and so thrilled for our council and our State, I couldn't wait to get back to Chelmsford and finish final arrangements for our councils blessed debut and honor to represent Supreme and the Knights of Columbus in this very special way.

For those that participated, you all did a wonderful job and I say thank you. That includes all those who came and prayed with us or viewed the service from the live feed, and even those who were with us in thought and prayer. The Bishop Ruocco Council will present to the world when the film is released, the wonderful Catholic men that truly are standing in todays breach, while living their faith and putting into practice the founding principles of the Knights of Columbus.

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### Quotes about **KINDNESS** to uplift and spread positivity

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." – Aesop

"Courage. Kindness. Friendship. Character. These are the qualities that define us as human beings, and propel us, on occasion, to greatness." – R.J. Palacio, "Wonder"

"The true greatness of a person, in my view, is evident in the way he or she treats those with whom courtesy and kindness are not required." – Joseph B. Wirthlin

"Hate ricochets, but kindness does too." – Robin Roe, "A List of Cages"

"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud." – Maya Angelou, "Letter to My Daughter"

### Serving God and each other



The group of brother knights, from Bishop Ruocco council 9275 (shown in the photos), made and served an assortment of soups at St. Mary church for the hundred or so parishioners who attended the Stations of the Cross. It was a wonderful night of collation and fellowship.



*(L to R) Council knights Adam Whitehouse, Joe Molligi, Adam Rypinski, GK Bob Malnati, Jean Croteau, Fr. Fernando, James Barrows, Ricky Walsh, Lou Soracco, Deacon John Hunt, Tony Paulo*

## Avoid online scams and scammers getting to you

*From Declan Reidy*

On Monday, April 14, 2025 brother knight Declan Reidy will be delivering a presentation on "Online Scams and Scammers." This presentation will educate council members and guests about things like online scams, common scammer tactics, and how to avoid getting scammed. The presentation includes audience participation and the opportunity to ask questions. The presentation will also be recorded and posted online. Please contact Declan Reidy (declanreidy3000@gmail.com) or Adam Rypinski (arypinski@yahoo.com) with any questions.

## 14-hours of work to feed 200 at St. Patrick's Day dinner

*From Bob Chevalier*

On Saturday March 15, 2025, our Council #9275 once again sponsored a St. Patrick's Day dinner at St. John church in North Chelmsford. These council knights prepared and cooked the entire menu of Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots and Turnip.



*(L->R) Council knights Dave Sousa; Phil Bellinghieri; Cliff Houde; Ron Bator; Bob Chevalier; Paul Brezenski; Drew Jubinville; Tim Fitzgerald; Ubaldo Mendes*

With 175/200 in attendance, who had a wonderful dinner and desert and, a drawing event which offered individual baskets of (all sorts of goodies) to lucky ticket holders.

The photo above, taken before the meal was delivered (the key was how neat the serving pans were) shows the council Members who made their way into the St. Johns kitchen at 7 AM Saturday and closed out at about 8 PM. Long day, but lots of fun putting a smile on so many faces. *Erin go Bragh*

## 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, May 8

*From Jean Croteau and Lou Soracco*

**Date: May 8, 2025**

For the thirty-ninth Anniversary dinner celebrating 1986-2025

Knights of Columbus, Bishop Ruocco council #9275 Chelmsford/Westford/Littleton

Knights and families welcome, \$45 per person – To Be Held at: The Establishment Restaurant, North Chelmsford 5:30 -9:00 PM.

## Two \$1,000 Scholarships available from local K of C council

*From James Barrows*

The Knights of Columbus is again awarding two \$1,000 Scholarship to graduating seniors from the Holy Rood Collaborative and Blessed Trinity parish that will be attending an accredited school or institution of higher education—2- or 4-year college or trade school—in the fall of 2025.

The required application, and terms of the required essay can be found at [www.knights9275.com](http://www.knights9275.com)

Click on “SCHOLARSHIP INFO” in the left-hand sidebar, and this document will be downloaded to your computer. To be considered for this scholarship, your application and essay must be received by the deadline. *Questions? email [knights9275@gmail.com](mailto:knights9275@gmail.com)*

Email deadline is April 15

USPS deadline is April 8

If mailing, address to:

Scholarship Chairman

Knights of Columbus, Council 9275

1521 Gorham Street

Lowell, MA 01852



## Annual State Raffle

*From James Barrows*

The Annual State Raffle is well underway. The drawing is at the end of April at the State Convention. Either mail your tickets to James Barrows with a check made out to the council or drop them off at a meeting. Tickets are \$15 per book. Contact James Barrows for more tickets. All tickets must be purchased and turned in by the local council’s April 7 members meeting.

**Bishop Ruocco Council, 2024-2025 Calendar of Events**

| Date               | Event   | Chair                          | Time & Place  |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>April 2025</b>  |   |                                |   |
| 3-6                | ACTS Retreat  | Paul Rigazio                   | St. John's in Billerica   |
| 5                  | Catholic Men's Conference                           | Worcester                      | For more information, <a href="https://catholicmenworc.com">https://catholicmenworc.com</a>   |
| 7                  | Planning Meeting                                    | Bob Malnati                    | 7:00 pm @ Paul Center   |
| 14                 | Presentation on online and cyber security           | Declan Reidy                   | Live presentation, Q&A on how to work online and be safe from fraudsters  |
| 14                 | Members Meeting                                     | Bob Malnati                    | 7:00 PM start of meeting  |
| 21                 | State K of C Patriots Day dinner                    | Lantern Award presentation     | Sheraton Framingham   |
| 27                 | Pancake dinner                                      | Adam Rypinski                  | At St. John's in North Chelmsford, before Holy Thursday mass  |
| <b>May 2025</b>    |   |                                |   |
| 1                  | Hail Mary Challenge                                 | Paul Sidari                    | Hail Mary Challenge begins  |
| 5                  | Planning Meeting                                    | Bob Malnati                    | 7:00 pm @ Paul Center   |
| 8                  | 39 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner \$45 per person | Jean Croteau/<br>Lou Soracco   | The Establishment restaurant<br>5:30 PM to 9:00 PM  |
| 12                 | Members Meeting                                     | Bob Malnati                    | 7:00 pm council meeting   |
| 15                 | Special Needs Prom                                  | Paul Sidari, Adam Whitehouse   | 5:00 pm Tewksbury High School   |
| 16-18              | State convention                                    | Bob Malnati/<br>Matthew Bartos |   |
| 19                 | A night of Reflection at the Abbey / social meeting | Adam Whitehouse                | Start at 6:00 PM with vespers in chapel, shared meal, and a talk from a brother. St. Benedict's Abbey, 252 Still River Rd. Harvard, MA \$20 |
| 20                 | Dining for Dollars Bertucci's in Chelmsford         | Paul Rigazio                   | Dine at Bertucci's, council will receive 15 percent of each member's bill   |
| <b>June 2025</b>   |   |                                |   |
| 2                  | Planning Meeting                                    | Bob Malnati                    | 7:00 pm @ Paul Center   |
|                    | Special Olympics at Harvard University              | Charlie DeStefano              | Volunteers sought   |
| 9                  | Members Meeting - Elections                         | Bob Malnati                    | 7:00 p.m. council Meeting   |
| 15                 | Family of the Year                                  | Bob Malnati                    | Holy rood and Blessed Trinity churches  |
| 23                 | Social Meeting, Changing of the Guard               | Bob Malnati                    | 7:00 pm @ Paul Center   |
| <b>July 2025</b>   |   |                                |   |
| July 3- 4          | July 4 <sup>th</sup> booth and parade, Chelmsford   |                                | Volunteer help needed   |
| July 7             | Planning Meeting                                    |                                | 7:00 PM start of meeting  |
| July 14            | Planning Meeting                                    |                                | 7:00 PM start of meeting  |
|                    | Installation of officers                            | Paul Sidari                    | St. Catherine Hall, Westford  |
| <b>August 2025</b> |   |                                |   |
| Aug 4              | Planning meeting                                    |                                | 7 :00 PM at Paul Center   |
| Aug 10             | Special Needs summer carnival                       | Matt Bartos                    | The Paul Center<br>8:00 AM Serve Breakfast<br>8:00 AM Set up Games<br>9:30 AM Start games   |