



Knights of Columbus

Bishop Ruocco Council, No. 9275
Chelmsford/ Littleton/ Westford, Massachusetts
knights9275.com

January 2025
Vol. 39, Number 5

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.....

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, January 2025

Thank you to all brother Knights, their families and friends, for the charitable contributions of time, talent, and treasure to year 2024.

Our Council has accomplished much during the past year thanks to the superb participation of all. We are now embarked on the second half of our 2024-2025 fraternal year and I'm looking forward to many more significant accomplishments for the Bishop Ruocco Council.

Our watchword will continue to be **KINDNESS**.

Our activities will continue to be grounded in Charity, Unity and Fraternity.

There are about 60 days between Christmas and Ash Wednesday, a good time to think of the promise of the Birth of Jesus and the guarantee of eternal life and salvation granted by His death and Resurrection at Easter.

Looking forward:

- Semi-annual audit takes place on Monday, January 6 at 6:30 PM
- Member meeting on January 13 will feature our two essay contest winners.
- COR will be restarted after a holiday hiatus.
- Plans are in place for our annual anniversary dinner and for Pancakes for Supper on Holy Thursday.
- Our financial condition is sound and should enable us to proceed with many programs.
- A joint Council Fraternal Benefit Night is being planned as well as membership drives. We need 14 participants for Fraternal Benefit and 10 more NEW members, we'll get it done with God's grace.
- Fun night at Princeton Station for Super bowl on January 27.

We would like to have a Mardi Gras event; all suggestions are welcome. There's also a St Patrick's Day CBC dinner coming up as well as Valentine's Day. Leave lots of room on your calendar for Knight's events and activities. Let us all be thankful for the brotherhood of fellow Knights and families.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Michelle Mosher, daughter of Dave Breen

Ruth Malnati, wife of GK Bob Malnati

Tim Fitzgerald; Luigi Iacoviello; John Miller; George Dixon - visitors welcome

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

Or Chancellor Adam Rypinski at arypinski@yahoo.com

Super Bowl Party, Jan. 20

From Paul Rigazio

Not this year for Pats



The council is planning a SOCIAL Evening of BEER, WINE, FOOD and FUN at 7 PM Monday, January 20 at the Princeton Station on RT 4 in North Chelmsford. Enjoy a social evening with your brother knights. \$100 of appetizers will be provided by the council, with added beer/wine/food to be paid by each attendee. Enter through the back parking area.

This is also a final time to sign up for the Super Bowl raffle. Buy a square at \$5 with four chances to win \$100, depending on the quarter/end of game Super Bowl score. If any questions or need directions, call Paul Rigazio at 508-574-2436.

Newsletter deadlines/ Check Spam folder weekly

Articles that are intended to be included in the February 2025 issue of this newsletter must be e-mailed to Bill Pacino at knights_news@yahoo.com by January 26. 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.

Welcome to three new Knights who joined in December: Robert Russo, Salvatore Russo, and Peter Contos.

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

Spotlight on charity agencies supported by Bishop Ruocco

Monday, November 25, presentations were made from organizations that we support. We had guests from Lazarus House Ministries, Pregnancy Care Center, and the Paul Center.



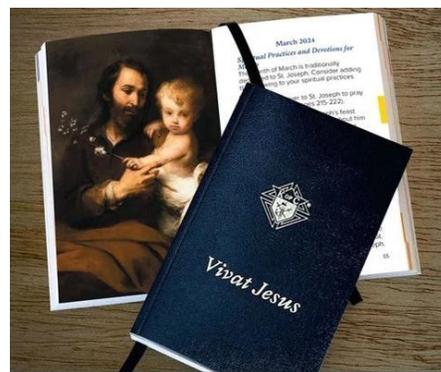
Left to right, Kathy McMillan, Pregnancy Care Center; Cindy Isabella, Paul Center; Marcy Furse, Lazarus House; Ellen Bedrosian, Lazarus House

Prayer guide, spiritual resource

Knights of Columbus has created this unique spiritual resource for men to deepen their prayer lives. This spiritual planner is designed to help you build a personalized prayer practice.

It includes:

- Suggested daily prayer plans and practices
- Space to build your own daily prayer routine
- Monthly calendars with liturgical feasts
- Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge
- You can purchase Vivat Jesus in English, Spanish or French! Officers can also purchase bulk orders on Supplies Online.



Vivat Jesus 2025

Order your copy today.

<https://shopcatholicinfo.com/products/vivat-jesus-spiritual-planner-2025?variant=46930624250164>

Bishop Ruocco council knight joins 4th degree knights

Q and A with SK Declan Reidy



Photos of Declan Reidy at November 2024 4th degree exemplification

4th degree knights James Barrows and Bob Malnati stand with new Sir Knight Declan Reidy

Questions: Where did you grow up? What church did you attend? Did that church help you with your spiritual path? Where do you live now, as well as where you go to university?

Answer: I have grown up and lived my whole life in Littleton. From an early age, my family and I attended St. Catherine of Alexandria in Westford, where I was baptized and received my first reconciliation and first Eucharist.

When St. Catherine joined with St. Anne in Littleton to form the Blessed Trinity Parish, we started regularly attending Mass there. A few years later we started going to St. Mary in Chelmsford, where I was eventually confirmed, and now my home and primary parish is St. Stanislaus in Nashua, which celebrates a Traditional Latin Mass.

Each parish I have attended regularly over the course of my life has offered something unique to help my spiritual journey. At St. Catherine, I received my baptism, first reconciliation, and first Eucharist, some of the most important milestones in my life of faith. At St. Anne, I was a bit older, and so I became an active member of the community with altar serving and other events.

At St. Mary, I continued to altar serve until the pandemic, after which I transitioned to singing in the choir and eventually even cantoring. At St. Stanislaus, I am able to attend the Mass of the Ages, that same Mass that nourished the souls of some of the most important saints and leaders in the history of the world.

I still live in Littleton, but attend the University of Massachusetts Lowell on a full-ride scholarship with a major in history and a minor in legal studies on a pre-law track. During the school year, I regularly attend Mass on campus where I often serve as a lector.

Continued on next page

Continued from last page, Q and A with SK Declan Reidy



Charity · Unity · Fraternity · Patriotism

Q: What religious influences or background do you have?

A: I have always been raised Catholic, and from a young age my parents have taught me about the Church and about the faith. As I have grown up and matured, I have developed a deeper understanding of and relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. But I'm still always learning, and I will be for the rest of my life. There is no end to the depth of the great mysteries of Our Lord.

Q: What drove you to become a first-degree knight? How did you find the Knights of Columbus? What do you seek in the Knights of Columbus?

A: I was always vaguely aware of the Knights of Columbus as a child, as I saw them at Mass or doing their annual Tootsie Roll Drive. I don't remember exactly how it happened, but at some point soon after my 18th birthday, I remembered the Knights and had the idea to join. I looked into the organization some more and decided that was definitely the course of action that I wanted to take.

Tradition, ceremony, and grandeur are good and lofty things that are often looked down upon in our modern age, but they are things embodied by the Knights of Columbus. As Catholic men, it is not only our duty to uphold the sacred Tradition of the Church, but also the lowercase "t" traditions that form the bedrock of our society, culture, and religious practice.

Just as the Knights of old crusaded against the world in the name of Jesus Christ, so too must we do the same. In practice our actions may be different, as we serve others rather than fight them, but our underlying and animating mission remains the same. We must band together to do good and reject evil in every way, helped by our Traditions and our traditions.

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Devoted to the Heart of Jesus

The Order's latest project to preserve the artistic patrimony of the Church is taking place in the Church of the Gesù, the mother church of the Jesuit order. A side chapel there was renamed the Chapel of the Sacred Heart in 1920, when an 18th-century image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was enshrined above the altar.

In honor of the 350th anniversary of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring the restoration the 325-year-old chapel, as well as the renowned image itself. The 1767 painting by Italian artist Pompeo Batoni will also serve as the centerpiece of the Order's upcoming Pilgrim Icon Program.



Special Olympics Polar Plunge

From Charlie DeStefano

The 2025 Polar Plunge will be held on Saturday, March 29th at Long Lake in Littleton at 10:00 AM.

To sign up online, once you are on the Special Olympics Massachusetts website click on the Polar Plunge and then enter our team name “Knight Riders” and submit your information.

Or contact me at deltasuv@gmail.com with your name, phone number, email address, and t-shirt size



Join in the March for Life, Jan. 25 in Washington, DC

The right to life is a human right. The defense of that right is a joyful witness to the beauty and dignity of every human person.

The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country. Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall and march on Capitol Hill on the anniversary of the Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states. It’s the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. But this is not just a protest, **TOGETHER, WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE LIFE.** We celebrate each and every life, from the moment of conception. We envision a world where every life is celebrated, valued, and protected.

Mass for Life in suburban Virginia, Jan 23-24

Our culture needs your joy-filled witness to protect the dignity of every human life.

You’re invited to Life Fest, a two-day, pro-life event leading up to the March for Life in our nation’s capital this January.

Join the movement at EagleBank Arena in Fairfax, VA, on Jan. 23 and 24, 2025. The event will feature dynamic speakers, music, a relic chapel, Eucharistic adoration, confession and Holy Mass.

Don’t miss out. Order your tickets today. Get Tickets! <https://www.lifefestrally.com/>

Led by the Sisters of Life, Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Life Fest is the perfect way to prayerfully prepare for the March for Life with your family, council, parish or youth group.

Bishop Ruocco Council, 2024-2025 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Chair	Time & Place
January 2025			
6	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
6	Semi-annual audit		Grand Knight, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Trustees
13	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	Council meeting begins at 7:00 PM
27	Social Meeting - Superbowl Party	Paul Rigazio	7:00 pm @Princeton Station
February 2025			
3	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
10	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	Council meeting begins at 7:00 PM
	Special Olympics bowling	Charlie DeStefano	Auburn bowling center
24	Social Meeting		TBD
March 2025			
3	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
10	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	Council meeting begins at 7:00 PM
	Membership drive	Gene Bartos	St. Catherine, St. Anne
24	Social meeting	Bob Malnati	Knights and family members welcome at social meetings
	Soup and Stations	Paul Sidari	Soup and Stations of Cross, St. Mary, 5:30 PM to 8 PM
29	Polar plunge	Charlie DeStefano	Long Lake in Littleton, 10 AM
	Catholic Men's Conference	Worcester	For more information, https://catholicmenworc.com
April 2025			
7	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
14	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM start of meeting
27	Pancake dinner	Adam Rypinski	At St. John's, after Holy Thursday mass
	Anniversary dinner	Jean Croteau/ Lou Soracco	The Establishment, North Chelmsford
	State K of C Patriots Day dinner	Lantern Award presentation	Sheraton Framingham
	A night of Reflection at the Abbey	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

Holy Thursday breakfast for dinner, April 27

From Adam Rypinski

The traditional Palm Sunday pancake breakfast has been designated for Holy Thursday, after the 7:00 PM liturgy at St. John's. Food to be served beginning at 5:30 PM.

More information and details for volunteers will follow as time gets nearer.