



# Knights of Columbus

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

[knights9275.com](http://knights9275.com)

*The Knight Reader*

November 2025

Vol. 40, Number 3

## COUNCIL OFFICERS 2025 – 2026

Grand Knight.....  
Robert Malnati, GK

Chaplain.....  
Father Fernando Ayala

Deputy Grand Knight.....  
Adam Rypinski

Chancellor.....  
Ricky Walsh, DD, PGK, PFN

Warden.....  
Derek Quirbach

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

Treasurer.....  
David Breen

Recorder.....  
William Pacino

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

Lecturer.....  
Ed Ciampa

Inside Guard.....  
Jimmy O'Keefe

Outside Guard.....  
Ray O'Neil

3rd Year Trustee.....  
Louis Soracco, PGK, PFN

2nd Year Trustee.....  
Joe Molligi

1st Year Trustee.....  
Bob Chevalier, PGK

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

Field Agent Tom Mahan  
978-273-2409

## Grand Knight Report – Robert Malnati

*Dear brother knights, November 2025*

Throughout October you all rose to the occasion. The “WELCOME MAT” was out! With great energy and spirit, many wonderful things were accomplished. Knights of Bishop Ruocco Council were highly visible to the community and our efforts are gaining traction and recognition.

October members meeting with restored collation drew 26 brothers; new Field Agent Tom Mahan was joyously welcomed; RSVP donation to Salesian Sisterhood Postulant Erin O'Neill (see page 3) was made and gratefully accepted; \$1,525 of Market Basket gift cards were given to Martha's Food Pantry at Lazarus House and were matched by a \$1,500 grant from a private foundation for a total gift of \$3,025.

The 2,000 cans of tuna drive (Food for Families) is well underway. Coats for Kids is underway (80 coats to start) and almost half gone.

Membership Drive at St. John's and additional signups have yielded six new prospective brothers and two transfers in. Thank you, Jesus.

A BOOtiful and joyous Hospitality and Pumpkin painting event at St Catherine was a spectacular success. Thank you, Joan and Jean Croteau, Matt Bartos and Bob O'Neill. Eleven Knights participated. Paul Sidari, James Barrows and Bob Malnati attended the annual Regional Meeting.

As we move into November, great progress continues in planning for the new Flea, Food and Fun event for May 9, 2026. Thank you, Adam Rypinski and Matt Bartos. Cooperative events with Holy Rood and Blessed Trinity Faith Formation programs are in progress. Thank you, Adam Rypinski. There will be both a membership drive at Blessed Trinity and an Exemplification in November at St. Catherine.

Let's keep “The Pedal to the Metal” as we practice being humbly Charitable, Unified and Fraternal. Remember to vote responsibly and to enjoy a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving for America the Beautiful.

## Warm clothing drive held in memory of Tom Callery

*From Bishop Ruocco council*



*James Barrows delivering the clothing collected to the Eliot Day Center in Lowell*

A clothing drive was held in October, in memory of brother knight Tom Callery of the Bishop Ruocco council, who had a Homeless Outreach ministry. In this ministry, he walked the cities of Cambridge and Boston at night and supplied the homeless he met with basic clothing such as t-shirts, sweat pants, underwear and socks. Tom Callery died in June 2023.

Our council has continued to collect basic clothing for the homeless and brother knight James Barrows filled his SUV with what we collected to a local homeless agency, the Eliot Day Center in Lowell.



*A full SUV, with more clothing to be added.*

## Superbowl raffle in January

*From Paul Rigazio*

The annual SUPEBOWL Raffle is now open, with FOUR chances to win \$100, based on 2026 Superbowl scores at the end of first three quarters or game end. Each of the 100 squares can be purchased at \$5, at the Oct/Nov/Dec KofC meetings. The remaining \$100 will be used to buy finger food at the January 26 Social gathering at the Princeton Station on North Road in Chelmsford. Come join the Social at 7 PM and/or purchase any remaining squares. Contact Paul Rigazio at 508-574-2436 for more information.

## RSVP donation to Salesian Sister

A donation was made, by the Bishop Ruocco council to the RSVP program, and gratefully accepted, by Salesian Sisterhood Postulant Erin O'Neill.

The last woman in the front row right of the reprint below, is the newly professed postulant to Salesian sisterhood.

*Knights of Columbus stand in solidarity with our priests and religious.*

Keep the faith alive by supporting our seminarians and men and women religious postulants and novices. As the strong right arm of the church, Knights of Columbus are committed to providing moral, financial and spiritual support to our future priests and religious at all stages of their formation.

Through this program, council and parish families will raise funds to support seminarians and men and women religious postulants and novices in their area. For every \$500 given to an individual, the Supreme Council will refund the council or assembly \$100.

The maximum refund a council or assembly can receive is \$400 per individual supported. Though financial support is vitally important, it is not the only aspect of the RSVP. Councils are also called to provide their "adopted" seminarian, postulant or novice with moral support and prayers for their success.



*Sister Erin O'Neill*

## Postulants Respond to God's Call

**S**ix young women from St. Joseph Province joined three of their companions from Mary Immaculate Province in the Western United States to become postulants on October 7, 2025 in Bellflower, CA. For the next year, they will be furthering their studies, serving in a Salesian elementary school, and teaching catechism as part of their continuing formation to become Salesian Sisters.

*Sister Colleen Clair, Provincial of St. Joseph Province, hugs postulant Kathy Cabezas.*



*The nine postulants of the United States and Canada.*

# Membership Drive November 15/16 at St. Catherine

*From Gene Bartos*

## *Membership Drive at Blessed Trinity Parish November 15/16*

Brothers. We are hosting a membership drive November 15/16 at Blessed Trinity Parish at the 4:00PM St. Catherine, 8:30AM St. Anne, and 10:30AM St. Catherine Masses.

We need your help in making this a successful event inviting men from the parish to join our council. Unlike church drives of the past, our new way of inviting men is much simpler with the Brandon Chambers Church Drive. We need “ambassadors” to place material in the pews before Mass, greet men and hand out brochures as they arrive, and collecting completed application cards as people leave. It’s that simple! Prospects will then receive an email invitation to join online.

We need at least 4 brothers per Mass to help and your family is welcome to be part of this effort. The only time requirement is to arrive 20 minutes before Mass for orientation and staying 10-15 minutes after Mass.

Please contact membership director Gene Bartos in advance that you will help. Contact information is [farmergb@aol.com](mailto:farmergb@aol.com) or 508-517-5677.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

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

- Brother knight Greg Gallagher and Brother knight Michael O'Malley, cancer
- Michelle Mosher, daughter of Dave Breen
- Ruth Malnati, wife of GK Bob Malnati
- Brother knight Chris Cantrell
- Brother knight Paul Sidari, managing chronic issues
- Grand Knight Bob Malnati, cancer treatment

For those who are sick or in distress, 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)

Chancellor Ricky Walsh at [rwalsh1981@icloud.com](mailto:rwalsh1981@icloud.com)

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

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

**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. *Continued on next page*



## 2,000 cans of tuna fish sought as donation for Food for Families

Tuna fish in a can meets the need of protein in a very portable package.

For the last three years, the Bishop Ruocco council 9275 in Chelmsford, has donated more than 1,000 cans of name-brand tuna fish each year to Lazarus House Ministries of Lawrence, MA and surrounding communities. This is a godsend for families with food insecurity issues.

This year, an anonymous donor has offered to match the first 250 cans.

Martha's food pantry of Lazarus House serves 1,883 guests in the surrounding towns with weekly food packages (as of October 2024). The Knights of Columbus council further supports the tuna fish donation with more than \$1,500 in supermarket gift cards.

Bring your purchased cans of tuna, or a check donation, to the November 10 members meeting.

Donations to TUNA drive can also be made by check to Bishop Ruocco K of C.

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### ***Timely council information – continued from previous page***

**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

**K of C Field Agent** for Bishop Ruocco Tom Mahan, office 781-769-3277, mobile 978-273-2409

## Coats for Kids has new home in St. Mary Parish Center

Knights of Columbus Council 9275 purchased coats for boys and girls of various sizes for those who need, but cannot afford coats. The local Saint Vincent de Paul Society at either the Holy Rood or Blessed Trinity will help. The SVDP society has access to the room with the coats.



### ***Coats for Kids***

*Room 6 at St Mary parish center where kids can try on coats*



# Baby Supplies Drive, November 15-16, 22-23

*From James Barrows*

- November 15-16, at Holy Rood churches
- November 22-23 at Blessed Trinity churches

There will be a container inside the churches for your donations.

## Supporting:

The Pregnancy Care Center and The House of Hope

## Diapers

Newborn to Size 2



## Formula

Urgent Need



Scan this QR Code to be taken to the Knights of Columbus Amazon wish list for the Baby Drive.



Scan this QR Code to make cash Donations



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**Important dates in November:** Nov 1, All Saints Day; Nov 2, All Souls Day; Nov 5, Election Day; Nov 11, Veterans Day; Nov 16, St Margaret of Scotland feast day; Nov 25, St Catherine of Alexandria feast day; Nov 27 Thanksgiving Day

## Food for families via gift cards

*From Bob Malnati, GK*



\$1,525 gift cards donated by Bishop Ruocco council were matched by \$1,500 from a charitable foundation. A generous donor foundation matched us one-for-one, thus our total donation became \$3,025.

←

*Brother knights Adam Rypinski, GK Bob Malnati, and James Barrows deliver \$3,025 of Market Basket gift cards to Ellen Bedrosian at Lazarus House Martha's Food Pantry.*

Many people in Massachusetts suffer from food insecurity issues. These gift cards permit those who are using the cards to buy food that they like and want, as many people also live with different diets to medical or religious instructions. This is an important ministry, both in funding the gift cards and distributing to who are in need,

*See article on tuna fish cans on page 5*



## Pumpkin painting hosted by Bishop Ruocco council

The crew that helped run a successful hospitality event featuring donuts and pumpkin painting took time out for a group photo. This event took place October 26 at St. Catherine

## Bishop Ruocco Council, 2025-2026 Calendar of Events

| Date            | Event                                                                               | Chair                          | Time & Place                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>November</b> | <b>2025</b>                                                                         |                                |                                                                                                                                       |
| 9               | Exemplification Ceremony                                                            | Gene Bartos                    | 1:00 PM at St. Catherine church                                                                                                       |
| 16              | 4 <sup>th</sup> degree exemplification                                              | Adam Whitehouse                | 12:15 PM to 5 PM Ware, MA                                                                                                             |
| 3               | Planning Meeting<br>In-person                                                       | Bob Malnati                    | On-line via Google Meet, 7:00 PM                                                                                                      |
| 9               | Star Council award dinner                                                           | Ricky Walsh/<br>Derek Quirbach | Norwood council 12:30 PM                                                                                                              |
| 10              | 1. Members Meeting<br>2. 1000+ cans of tuna collection                              | Adam Rypinski                  | 7:00 PM @ Paul Center<br>Bring cans of tuna or a check (more tuna will be bought with these donations) to this meeting.               |
| Nov. 15,16      | Membership drives                                                                   | Gene Bartos                    | Blessed Trinity churches                                                                                                              |
| Ongoing         | Coats for Kids                                                                      | Bishop Rocco council and SVDP  | Room 6, St. Mary parish center                                                                                                        |
| 15-16<br>22-23  | Diaper drive/ formula drive<br><br>Larger sizes of diapers (4,5,6) are most needed. | James Barrows                  | Diaper drive, Holy Rood churches, Nov. 15/16<br>Blessed Trinity churches Nov. 22/23<br>Similac formula is preferred over other brands |
| 24              | Social meeting                                                                      | Charity Night                  | 7:00 PM @ Paul Center                                                                                                                 |
| <b>December</b> | <b>2025</b>                                                                         |                                |                                                                                                                                       |
| 1               | Planning Meeting                                                                    | Adam Rypinski                  | 7:00 PM online via Google meet                                                                                                        |
|                 | Winter Wonderland                                                                   | James Barrows                  | 4-8 PM, Paul Center                                                                                                                   |
| 8               | Members / Social Meeting<br><i>Council Christmas party</i>                          | Bob Malnati                    | 7:00 PM @ Paul Center                                                                                                                 |
|                 | Food for families                                                                   | Adam Rypinski                  | Blessed Trinity churches                                                                                                              |
| 20              | Wreath Saturday                                                                     | Joe MacShane                   | Chelmsford Vets                                                                                                                       |
| 22              | Social Meeting - annulled                                                           |                                |                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>January</b>  | <b>2026</b>                                                                         |                                |                                                                                                                                       |
| 5               | Planning meeting                                                                    | Bob Malnati                    | 7:00 PM online via Google meet                                                                                                        |
| 8               | Confirmation retreat dinner                                                         | Adam Rypinski                  | 5 PM, St. Anne parish hall                                                                                                            |
| 12              | Members meeting                                                                     | Bob Malnati                    | AI presentation and Yankee Swap                                                                                                       |
| 26              | Superbowl party (see article on page 2)                                             | Paul Rigazio                   | Princeton Station, North Road in Chelmsford                                                                                           |
| <b>February</b> | <b>2026</b>                                                                         |                                |                                                                                                                                       |
| 2               | Planning Meeting                                                                    | Bob Malnati                    | 7:00 PM @ Paul Center                                                                                                                 |
| 9               | Members Meeting                                                                     | Bob Malnati                    | 7:00 PM @ Paul Center                                                                                                                 |
|                 | Special Olympics bowling                                                            | Charlie DeStefano              | Auburn bowling center                                                                                                                 |
| 23              | Social Meeting                                                                      | cancelled                      |                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>March</b>    | <b>2026</b>                                                                         |                                |                                                                                                                                       |
| 2               | Planning Meeting                                                                    | Bob Malnati                    | 7:00 PM @ Paul Center                                                                                                                 |
| 9               | Members Meeting                                                                     | Bob Malnati                    | 7:00 PM @ Paul Center                                                                                                                 |
|                 | Membership drive and diaper drive                                                   | Bob Malnati                    | St. Catherine, St. Anne                                                                                                               |
| 21              | Seider supper                                                                       | Bob Malnati                    | After 4 PM Mass at St. Catherine                                                                                                      |