



Knights of Columbus

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

March 2025

Vol. 39, Number 7

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, March 2025

Beautiful New England snowstorms plus some holidays and school vacations, have caused the shortest month of the year to fly by. Planning meetings in January and February held virtually were very successful and enabled most officers and program directors to participate without risking bad weather travel and with an economic use of their time. We intend to occasionally continue virtual planning meetings.

The February 10 members meeting was opened by Grand Knight Bob Malnati, then the gavel was handed over to Deputy Grand Knight. This load-sharing is good for the health of our council leadership.

Lots of behind-the-scene work has been going on to prepare for upcoming events such as St. Patrick's dinner; Anniversary dinner; Pilgrim Icon prayer service (see page 7); July 4th Chelmsford Town Fair; Polar plunge; Special Olympics bowling; new branding and promotional videos; two membership drives; Soup and Stations; Scholarship program; Night of Reflection at the Abbey; Family and Knight of the Year; pancakes for supper; exemplification ceremony. The Bishop Ruocco council will "hit the ground running" in March.

The charity grant from State K of C was approved. Funds have been received from State charity account and work is authorized to start as soon as weather permits. THANK YOU, Ken Desilets for leading this effort.

The most important event on the near horizon is the Membership drives. Be prepared to tell prospective knights about how much you enjoy being part of a community of catholic men, dedicated in serving others and having a positive impact on the world around us. Each knight is unique and enriches both the council and our Hold Church. Our commitment to Charity, Unity, and Fraternity bring to each knight a sense of peace and self-worth, personal growth, fellowship, and the satisfaction of knowing that we are making a difference. We are KIND. Reach out to your friends and neighbors and new acquaintances. INVITE them to become knights.

Watch your emails for sign-up opportunities (Signup Genius) and try your best to participate in one or more than fit you.

I am privileged and honored to lead the Bishop Ruocco council and be your brother.

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

Brother knight Peter Contos passed away in February 2025

Brother knight Michael Greeley passed away in May 2024

Brother knight Donald LeBeau passed away in January 2025

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

Save the date, 39th Anniversary Dinner

From Jean Cocteau 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 – To Be Held at: The Establishment Restaurant, North Chelmsford
5:30 -9:00 PM



Charity · Unity · Fraternity · Patriotism

Newsletter deadlines/ Check Spam folder weekly

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

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

A reflection from our council Chancellor Adam Rypinski

The Humility of Jesus

Recently our council was blessed to hear the beautifully written essays from two participants in the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest. Interestingly, both Theresa and James Hudelson selected humility as one of the virtues that they believe a president should possess. Listening to their work got me thinking, how did our greatest leader, Jesus Christ, demonstrate humility? Humility, of course, is the quality of having a modest view of one's own importance and putting others before oneself (humbleness). As I thought about His life on earth, I recalled example after example of this quality. Indeed, humility is a cornerstone trait that makes Jesus so very loved.



Humility – Francesco Ciccolella Studio for NY Times

Although he was divine, he came to Earth to live as human. This start to his Earthly journey is a beautiful demonstration of humility. His birth, in a manger, among barn animals, was of course very humble. Through His many acts of selflessness, helping others, raising the dead, feeding the hungry, forgiving sins, and more, he showed us humility. In the Beatitudes, he said, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5), directing us to put others before ourselves. And, most profoundly, Jesus' willingness to suffer and die on the cross, while possessing the power to avoid it, was the ultimate act of humility. The examples are countless.

Alas, demonstrating humility in today's world is challenging. It is overwhelmingly easy to succumb to the opposing qualities of arrogance, self-centeredness and disrespectfulness that are so prevalent in society. However, throughout his life on Earth, Jesus showed that people who possess humility will have stronger relationships, be more resilient, become better leaders, have stronger reputations and, of course, be closer to God.

Please join me in praying that each of us as well as our church and government leaders strive to be humbler and grow the quality of humility within ourselves.

God Bless, Adam Rypinski

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Humble quotes from brainyquote.com

I'm always asked, 'What's the secret to success?' But there are no secrets. Be humble. Be hungry. And always be the hardest worker in the room – Dwayne Johnson

Talent is God-given; be humble. Fame is man-given; be thankful. Conceit is self-given; be careful.

-- Harvey Mackay

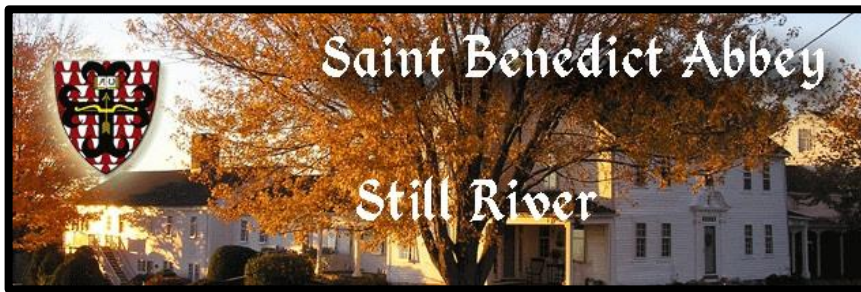
ACTS Retreat, April 3-6 in Billerica

From Paul Rigazio

St. John’s Church is sponsoring a men’s ACTS Retreat on April 3-6, 2025 (Thursday night through Sunday morning) at St. Thecla’s Retreat Center in Billerica, MA.

This is a 4-day program of Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service for retreatants. Each person will have their own private room and wash sink, with community bathrooms.

This will be an opportunity to remove yourself from our busy world, enjoy a closer relationship with God, join and pray with other liked-minded, God-fearing men, and enjoy good home cooked food. The cost is \$320 per attendee, payment assistance is available. Contact Paul Rigazio for more information (paulrigazio@gmail.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

Looking forward to a wonderful evening in the Easter season.

Special Olympics Polar Plunge

From Charlie DeStefano

The 2025 Polar Plunge will be held on Saturday, March 29 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’s 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.



Swimmers and their “towel holders” welcome.

Membership Drive, St. Margaret Church March 9
Membership Drive, St. Anne and St. Catherine churches March 16


From Gene Bartos

We are hosting a membership drive March 9 at Holy Rood Collaborative’s St. Margaret Church at the 10:00AM Mass and on March 16 Blessed Trinity Parish’s St. Anne and Catherine churches at the 8:30AM and 10:30AM Masses, respectively.

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

We will be conducting the drive at the Sunday Masses at these locations. We need at least 6 brothers per Mass to help and your family is welcome to be part of this effort

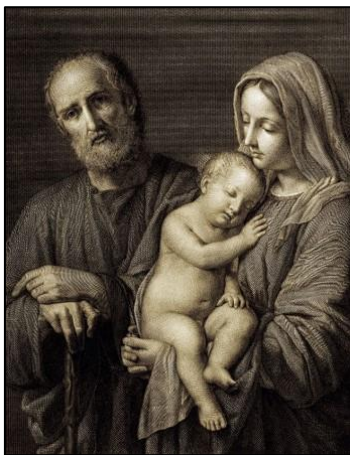
Please contact membership director Gene Bartos in advance that you will help. Contact information is farmergb@aol.com or 508-517-5677.

 **Knights of Columbus**

I would like to become a member of the Knights of Columbus.
 I would like more some information regarding membership in the Knights of Columbus.
 I am a former member interested in rejoining the Knights of Columbus.

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State or Province: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Parish: _____
E-Mail: _____

Please contact me by: Phone Text Email
Best time to contact: Morning Afternoon Evening



Why Join?



 **Knights of Columbus**

Lead with Faith Protect Your Family
Serve Others Defend Your Values

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

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*

Email deadline is April 1

USPS deadline is March 25

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.

Knights will participate in St. Patrick's dinner, March 15, 2025

From Bob Chevalier

We are pleased that our #9275 Council Knights have been asked to prepare the Corn-Beef, Cabbage, and other dinner delights, while cooking for the St John's annual Saint Patrick's dinner. This late winter feast will be held at St John the Evangelist (downstairs hall) after the 4 PM Mass on March 15, 2025.

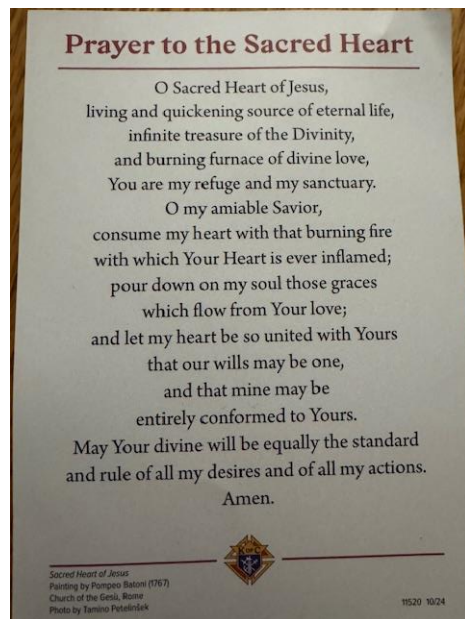
Tickets are being sold at St John the Evangelist Church after Mass on weekends of March 1/2 and March 8/9. You can also request tickets at the Parish Office through Friday, March 14 (if available). No tickets sold at door. Ticket price is \$25 per person. I suggest you buy early, as this event is typically "Sold Out" in the week prior.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon prayer service, February 24

A full account of this prayer service will appear in the April issue of the council newsletter.

The Bishop Ruocco council was chosen to have our February prayer service filmed for Supreme (Supreme hired a professional filming company out of Chicago). Supreme will send the video produced around the country and world later, for the promotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon program.

The ceremony was exceptionally successful, with over 60 participants.



March Madness, a way to raise money for Scholarships

From James Barrows

Former member Scott Bayles is running a March madness for our council. This will raise \$560 for our council scholarships.

The cost will be \$20 per square. 67 chances to win per square as there are 67 games in March Madness. Payouts for each game are \$20, except for the two Final Four games which have a \$40 payout, and the Championship game which has an \$80 payout.

If you would like to buy into this, let me know and I will let Scott know. Send money to James Barrows at 1521 Gorham St., Lowell. Or you can Paypal to knights9275@gmail.com or Venmo to @James-Barrows-1521

Bishop Ruocco Council, 2024-2025 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Chair	Time & Place
March			
	2025		
3	Planning Meeting Virtual meeting	Bob Malnati	7 PM, Virtual meeting. Login link will be sent out before meeting
4	COR webinar	Paul Sidari	8 PM
9 and 16	Membership drive	Gene Bartos	St. Margaret's 10 AM mass, March 9 St. Catherine's 10:30 AM, March 16 St. Anne's 8:30 AM, March 16
10	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	Council meeting begins at 7:00 PM
14	Soup and Stations	Paul Sidari	Soup and Stations of Cross, St. Mary, 5:30 PM to 8 PM
23	Special Olympics bowling	Charlie DeStefano	Auburn bowling center
24	Social meeting	Bob Malnati	Knights and family members welcome at social meetings
29	Polar plunge	Charlie DeStefano	Long Lake in Littleton, 10 AM
April			
	2025		
3-6	ACTS Retreat	Paul Rigazio	St. John's in Billerica, page 3 for details
5	Catholic Men's Conference	Worcester	For more information, https://catholicmenworc.com
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
27	Pancake dinner	Adam Rypinski	At St. John's in North Chelmsford, before Holy Thursday mass
	State K of C Patriots Day dinner	Lantern Award presentation	Sheraton Framingham
May			
	2025		
1	Hail Mary Challenge	Paul Sidari	Hail Mary Challenge begins
5	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
8	Thirty-nine Anniversary dinner	Jean Croteau/ Lou Soracco	The Establishment restaurant 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/ Matthew Bartos	
19	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
26	Social Meeting?	Bob Malnati	TBD
June			
	2025		
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