



Knights of Columbus

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

February 2026
Vol. 40, Number 6

The Knight Reader

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, February 2026

Charity, Unity, Fraternity - During the recent past weeks, I've been graced with the full understanding of these pledges, as my brother Knights have supported me through my own illness and the passing of my beloved wife Ruth. I'm truly most grateful and thankful.

Council was very busy during January, Planning and organization meetings took place for the Flea, Food, Fun event, Anniversary Dinner planning, Nominating committee, Fraternal Benefit event. Confirmation retreat dinner for 90 was prepared and served. Busy and interesting planning and member meetings took place.

We are about to slide into LENT time for Reflection, Repentance and Preparation for Easter. It's also a good time for us to pray for peace, person-to-person, domestically and internationally. Knights lead by example: now is the time to step up our visibility and lead the way.

It is worth noting that there are 12 separate events mentioned in this newsletter with a wide spectrum of leadership and participation; Way to go, Brothers!

ALL Brothers are urged to consider running for office or to be program leaders in the 2026-27 fraternal year. PLEASE contact either Ubaldo Mendez, Gene Bartos or Bob Malnati with your interest.

Plan on attending the Fraternal Benefit Information presentation being conducted by field agent Tom Mahan on February 16.at the Paul Center, bring a friend.

Reserve a space at the Flea market and clean out your stuff, Reserve the dates for the 40th Anniversary dinner and for the Feb 28 Friendship dinner in support of our DD Paul Sidari attending the Supreme convention in Denver. Simple supper and stations will be at St. Anne, 4pm, on Friday Feb 27.

There is much happening and lots of need for volunteers. If you have questions or feel lost or left out, please ask.

Member meeting in February will feature a delicious plate by Joe Molligi. Hoping to see you at as many events as possible.

Save the date, 40th Anniversary Dinner. Bishop Ruocco council

From Lou Soracco

Save the Date: April 17, 2026

For the 40th Anniversary dinner celebrating 1986-2026

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

Knights and families welcome – To Be Held at: Il Forno restaurant, Littleton 5:00 -9:00 PM



Charity · Unity · Fraternity · Patriotism

ACTS Retreat, April 30 – May 3 in Billerica

From Paul Rigazio

St. John’s Church is sponsoring a men’s ACTS Retreat on April 30-May 3 2026 (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).

Special Olympics Polar Plunge

From Charlie DeStefano

The 2026 Polar Plunge will be held on Saturday, March 28 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.

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 2026.

The required application, and terms of the required essay can be found at www.knights9275.com

Click on “SCHOLARSHIP INFO” center top screen, 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

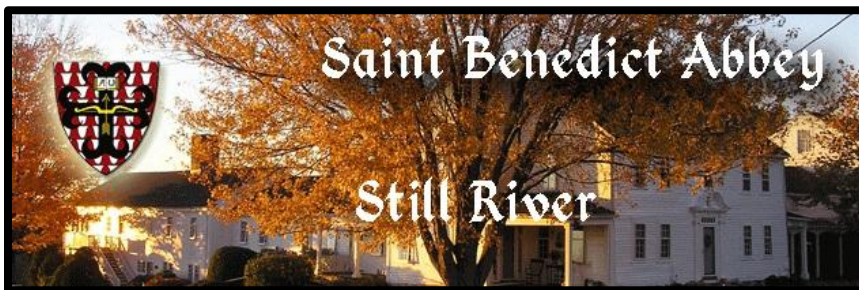
1521 Gorham Street

Lowell, MA 01852



Night of Reflection at Saint Benedict’s Abbey, May 25

From Adam Whitehouse, awhitehouse21@gmail.com



The night of Reflection is going to be Monday May 25, 2026 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



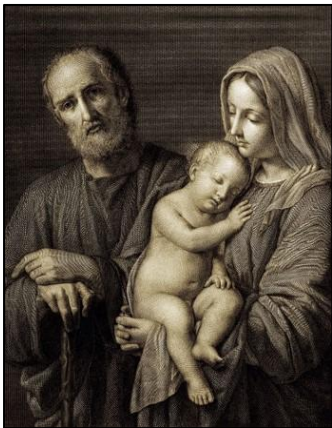
Looking forward to a wonderful evening in the Easter season.

Membership Drive, St. Mary, March 14-15

From Gene Bartos

We are hosting a membership drive March 14-15 at Holy Rood Collaborative’s St. Mary Church at all Masses. 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 St. Mary. 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.

 <h2>Knights of Columbus</h2> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would like to become a member of the Knights of Columbus.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would like more some information regarding membership in the Knights of Columbus.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a former member interested in rejoining the Knights of Columbus.</p> <hr/> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Street Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State or Province: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____ Parish: _____</p> <p>E-Mail: _____</p> <p>Please contact me by: <input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Text <input type="checkbox"/> Email</p> <p>Best time to contact: <input type="checkbox"/> Morning <input type="checkbox"/> Afternoon <input type="checkbox"/> Evening</p>	 <p>Why Join?</p> <p>FOR LIFE</p> <p>GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY</p> <p>DEFEND LIFE</p> <p>Knights of Columbus</p> <p>Lead with Faith Protect Your Family</p> <p>Serve Others Defend Your Values</p>
	

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 13 members meeting.

COR meetings, Feb-April

From Matt Bartos

The next meetings of COR will be February .26, March. 19, April 16. Going forward, The Supreme Chaplain's monthly reflections & challenges will be used as topics.

Knights will participate in St. Patrick's dinner, March 14, 2026

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 14, 2026.

Tickets are being sold at St John the Evangelist Church after Mass on weekends of Feb 28/March 1 and March 7/8. You can also request tickets at the Parish Office through Friday, March 13 (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.

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

Retirement planning with K of C

From Tom Mahan, Field Agent

Learn how Knights of Columbus can help you protect your family and plan for your retirement, while supporting an organization that contributes to important charitable causes aligned with your Catholic values. You are invited to join us for a Fraternal Benefit Event to learn more about the financial services and fraternal benefits offered by the Knights of Columbus. Event details: Monday, Feb 16, 2026, 7 PM, Venue: The Paul Center for Learning, 39 Concord Rd, Chelmsford, MA 01824.

Open to members & non-members. For more information, contact Tom.Mahan@kofc.org

Flea Market meetings, Jan-March

From Matt Bartos

The Flea Market meetings will take place on Zoom from 9-10AM on Jan. 31, Feb. 14 & 28, and Mar 14. Brothers and families are welcome to purchase spots to sell items or may donate items to be sold at the council's spot.

Practical ways to live out your Catholic faith boldly

Navigating how to live out your Catholic faith in today's modern world can be challenging

In a fast-paced, constantly changing world, it can sometimes feel difficult to stay grounded in your faith. But living out your Catholic faith authentically doesn't mean you have to retreat from the world. Instead, it's about integrating your beliefs into every aspect of your daily life— it's about being IN the world but not OF the world.

- **Begin and End Your Day with Prayer** – Start and end each day with prayer. It can be as simple as thanking God for the gift of a new day and asking for His guidance and protection. At night, reflect on the day's blessings and challenges, seeking His grace and mercy. I encourage you to make time for sustained prayer— aim for 30 minutes a day, where you can just sit and meditate on God's Word, presence, or how He is working in your life.
- **Read Scripture Daily** – Incorporate reading the Bible into your daily routine. Even if it's just a few verses each day, immersing yourself in God's Word can provide guidance, comfort, and inspiration. If you need some guidance and inspiration check out this short bible study you can do on your own or in a small group with friends.
- **Evangelize with Love** – Share your faith with others, not by preaching aggressively but through loving example and encouraging conversation. Be ready to explain the faith and hope that you have in Christ, always with respect and kindness. Be excited to share about how you've grown in your faith, how you have seen God work in your life, or how the sacraments have nourished you. Sharing your testimony, your story with others is so powerful.
- **Practice the Sacraments** – Regularly participate in the sacraments, especially Confession and the Eucharist. These are profound encounters with Christ that cleanse, heal, and fortify you on your spiritual journey. Every great saint emphasizes this practice over and over.
- **Live Out the Corporal Works of Mercy** – Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. Look for opportunities to serve those in need in your community both physically and financially.
- **Witness Through Your Actions** – Live in a way that reflects your faith in everyday interactions. Be kind, honest, and compassionate. Live a life that outwardly SHOWS that you are Catholic and are proud to be it. Share Catholic content on the social media you use, invite friends to go to Mass with you, pray and fast regularly, etc. Your actions can be a powerful testimony to your faith.

<https://westcoastcatholic.co/blogs/news/10-ways-to-live-out-your-catholic-faith-in-todays-modern-world>

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, passed away on January 20
- Brother knight Chris Cantrell
- Brother knight Paul Sidari, managing chronic issues
- Brother knight Joseph Thomas Connolly, who passed away in January

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

Chancellor Ricky Walsh at rwalsh1981@icloud.com

Newsletter deadlines/ Check Spam folder weekly

Articles that are intended to be included in the February 2026 issue of this newsletter must be e-mailed to Bill Pacino at knights_news@yahoo.com by January 21. The newsletter will be published before the first meeting of the month of February.

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

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

Social media and Bishop Ruocco council

Watch us on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC01b6-j0e6c6msaoiqiLi8Q>

Follow us on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/bishopruocco/reels/>

Find us on Facebook,

<https://www.facebook.com/people/KofC-Bishop-Ruocco-Council-9275/61581013854916/>

2025-2026 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Chair	Time & Place
February 2026			
2	Planning Meeting Virtual meeting	Bob Malnati	7 PM, Virtual meeting. Login link will be sent out before meeting
9	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	Council meeting begins at 7:00 PM
16	Fraternal benefits	Tom Mahan, Field Agent	7 PM, Paul Center. Learn about the financial services and fraternal benefits offered by the Knights of Columbus
27	Family stations & simple supper	Bob Malnati	St. Anne, 4 PM
March 2026			
2	Planning Meeting Virtual meeting	Bob Malnati	7 PM, Virtual meeting. Login link will be sent out before meeting
17	St Patrick's Day dinner	Bob Chevalier	St. John's
14-15	Membership drive	Gene Bartos	St Mary, all masses
9	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
16-18	State convention	Bob Malnat/ Adam Rypinski	
21	Seder supper with institution of Eucharist	Bob Malnati	St. Catherine's After the 4 PM Mass
24	Social meeting	Bob Malnati	Knights and family members welcome at social meetings
28	Polar plunge	Charlie DeStefano	Long Lake in Littleton, 10 AM
April 2026			
6	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
13	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM start of meeting
17	40 th anniversary dinner	Lou Soracco	6-8 PM, il Forno, Littleton
19	Local Walk for Life	James Barrows	From St. Mary
18-19	Spring diaper drive	James Barrows	Place diapers, formula and other baby items in the children's crib set up the church you attend
20	State K of C Patriots Day dinner	Lantern Award presentation	Sheraton Framingham
21	Catholic Men's Conference	Worcester	For more information, https://catholicmenworc.com
30 - May 3	ACTS Retreat	Paul Rigazio	St. John's in Billerica
May 2026			
1	Hail Mary Challenge begins	Paul Sidari	
4	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
9	Flea, Fun, Food	Matt Bartos	Flea Market at St. Ann's, Littleton
11	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm council meeting
14	Special Needs Prom	Paul Sidari, Adam Whitehouse	5:00 pm Tewksbury High School
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