



# Knights of Columbus

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

May 2026

Vol. 40, Number 9

*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.....  
 Robert Wilson Jr

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  
 978-273-24097

## Grand Knight Report – Robert Malnati

*Dear brother knights, May 2026*

Just as the twelve apostles of Jesus grew to over 1.5 billion Catholics today, the Bishop Ruocco Council has indeed continued to take off!

The team of K of C brothers achieved many good things in April, most of which are shown in more detail in this newsletter. Most importantly, the brothers are busy doing God’s work as we grow together in Faith.

- In April, we have recognized TWO Families of the year, one each in Blessed Trinity Parish and Holy Rood Collaborative
- In a similar fashion, two \$1000 scholarship winners have been selected
- The Polar plunge raised money for Special Olympics
- Holy Thursday simple supper was served at St. Margaret’s
- A slate of officers was announced for 2026-2027
- Meetings at the Paul center are so well-attended that we are running out of chairs

I’m certain that Jesus likes what we are doing and guiding us always.

The council held a gala 40th anniversary event at Il Forno in Littleton. Knight of the year is Adam Rypinski. Lots of other fun awards were given out and we were honored to have four state officers and their spouses present. Now the tempo increases.

Volunteer to participate as you are able, please:

- New fund raiser – Flea, Food, Fun on Saturday, May 9
- July 3 Food booth in Chelmsford
- 4th of July grand parade in Chelmsford
- Special Needs Prom, May 14 in Tewksbury
- Special Olympics, June 6 at Harvard
- Special needs summer fair, August 9 at the Paul Center
- One million Hail Mary challenge in May begins May 1
- Providing collation for member meetings (proceeds support our outreach of Food for Families)

The fellowship that you will enjoy practicing Charity, Unity and Fraternity with your brother Knights, will truly enrich your life. Please pray for Peace.

## God's Special People Prom – 2026

*From prom committee members Adam Whitehouse & Paul Sidari*

The prom for the special needs young adults and older adults is coming up on Thursday May 14, 2026.

This year they want the Bishop Ruocco Council to cook the food at the Tewksbury Knights of Columbus Hall starting around 2:30 PM on May 14. We are cooking hotdogs and hamburgers and transporting everything to the Tewksbury High School where the prom is going to be held.

The rest of the volunteers can arrive at the Tewksbury High School around 4:00 PM

Signup for cooking and/or signup for volunteering at the Tewksbury High School. See a separate email sent to all council members on April 29.

The Bishop Ruocco Council will be serving the food. We will have to be wearing a hat on our heads. There is going to be food for the volunteers after the attendees have their dinner.

The address for the Tewksbury High School is 320 Pleasant Street Tewksbury, MA 01876

The address for the Tewksbury Knights of Columbus Hall is 2068 Main Street Tewksbury, MA 01876

## Night of Reflection at Saint Benedict's Abbey, May 18

*From Adam Whitehouse, awhitehouse21@gmail.com*

The night of Reflection is going to be Monday May 18, 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.

## Special Olympics Summer Games, June 6

*From Charlie DeStefano*

Michelle Henrikse (Volunteer Operations Manager, Special Olympics MA, is excited that the knights are again returning to judge the Volleyball games at the Summer Olympics Games.

Event: 2026 Summer Games: Volunteers

Job Assignment: Volleyball Line Judge, Knights of Columbus

Date and check in time, June 6, 2026, 8:30 AM

End date/time, June 7, 2026, 4:00 PM

Duration of volunteer shift: 7.5 hours

Location: Harvard University - 65 N Harvard St Boston MA 02134

A week prior to the event we will receive a confirmation which will include parking areas. Anyone interested that would like to carpool, we will meet behind St Anne Church in the rear parking lot between 7:00AM and 7:30AM.

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Bishop Ruocco council of Knights of Columbus, Chelmsford/ Westford/ Littleton**



**Nine Past Grand Knights attended the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner:**

(Left to right): Ken Desilets (2001-2002); Lou Soracco (2022-2023); Charlie DeStefano (2020-2021); Paul Sidari (2019-2020); Adam Whitehouse (2021-2022); Paul Rigazio (2006-2007, 2007-2008); Bob Malnati (2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026); Gene Bartos (2009-2010, 2016-2017); Bob Chevalier (2011-2012)

*For more photos, as well as the award winners, including Knight of Year, see pages 3-6.*

**Bishop Ruocco Council Fraternal Year 2026-2027**

**Slate of Officers, Proposed by Nomination Committee  
Vote at June 8 election**

Grand Knight	Matthew Bartos
Deputy Grand Knight	Adam Rypinski
Chancellor	Derek Quirbach
Warden	Jeremy Tucker
Financial Secretary	James Barrows (appointed)
Treasurer	David Breen
Recorder	Daniel Gregory
Advocate	Richard Walsh
Lecturer	Robert Wilson Jr. (appointed)
Inside Guard	Raymond O'Neil
Outside Guard	Declan Reidy
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee	Joseph Molligi
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee	Robert Chevalier
1 <sup>st</sup> Year Trustee	Robert Malnati

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversar, the Bishop Ruocco council of Knights of Columbus, Chelmsford/ Westford/ Littleton**

***Celebration of service to church, town, and all in need***

**Welcome to 40th anniversary dinner and awards**

*From Bob Malnati, Grand Knight*



Good evening welcome, Reverend Clergy, State Knights of Columbus officers, Brother Knights, wives, family and friends, to this celebration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of Bishop Ruocco Council 9275, Knights of Columbus

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as Grand Knight during this challenging and very rewarding time. Our beloved council is on the cusp of change. With my upcoming retirement, the change to the next generation of much younger council leaders will be complete.

Bishop Ruocco council is now firmly connected to and participates with the Holy Rood collaborative and Blessed Trinity parish. We are partners in spreading the Good News of Jesus by practicing Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism together with them.

To highlight just a few of the Council’s major activities:

- Routinely one of the best Tootsie Roll Drive major fund raisers for State Charity Fund
- Consistently a leader in membership [more than 40 new members and 8 transfer members in the recent three-years]
- Regular sponsorship and participation in parish hospitality. Many brothers serving on parish councils, and as lectors, Faith formation teachers, greeters, ushers and Eucharistic ministers
- Greatly expanded programs to provide Food for Families [for example over \$5,000 in food and cash so far this year]
- An aggressive Coats for Kids program together with St Vincent DePaul [over 90 coats this year]
- Implementation of COR for men seeking to strengthen their faith
- Prayer services such as million Hail Mary’s, pilgrim icon and Silver Rose
- Support for the unborn and mothers.
- Fun events like our signature Paul Center summer fair.

Our beloved council participated in over 36 events so far this year. All of this is made possible by dedicated Knights and family members, working harmoniously together for over 5,000 volunteer hours per year.

The foundation was laid 40 years ago, Faithful men of Chelmsford, Littleton, south Lowell and Westford, have been building on it by putting into practice the charge laid down to us by Jesus Christ,

To Love the lord our God with our whole heart and mind and spirit and our neighbor as ourselves. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Bishop Ruocco Knights will continue to grow, prosper and contribute to the well-being of our fellow human beings. Thank you.



**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Bishop Ruocco council of Knights of Columbus, Chelmsford/ Westford/ Littleton**

*Anniversary awards presented by brother knight Matt Bartos and Grand Knight Bob Malnati.*



**Knight in Shining Armor,  
Declan Reidy**



**Joan of Arc, Joan Croteau**



**Founder's Award Tony Cotroneo**



**Founder's Award, Brian Muise**



**Mother Mary Guadelupe, Barbara Bartos**

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Bishop Ruocco council of Knights of Columbus, Chelmsford/ Westford/ Littleton**



**Blessed McGivney, Robert Chevalier**

*In the photo to the right, Fr Fernando delivers the invocation at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner.*

**Father Fernando becomes a pastor**

In an announcement in the weekly church bulletin, Father Fernando is facing a big life change in that he has been named the Pastor at All Saints church in Haverhill, MA. He leaves the Holy Rood collaborative in mid-June.

As chaplain of the Bishop Ruocco council, he will be missed.



**Knight of the Year, Adam Rypinski (shown with his family)**



This year’s recipient has frequently gone “above and beyond” with exceptional service. Service to OTHERS is a way of life for him. He is a true and dedicated family man and exemplary Catholic Christian. His leadership and dedication to the order’s principles of CHARITY, UNITY and FRATERNITY have served as an inspirational model to us all.

He has led new efforts such as our Apprentice program and Communications team. He steps right up to recruit and train new brothers; there is never any reluctance to get “down in the trenches” (like cleaning the attic, cleaning up after a function and such). Sharing his many talents and skills with others is a hallmark of his contributions to the Council, our Parishes and the community at large.



**Lantern award**



*Brother Knight Adam Whitehouse PGK knows where to meet up with Boston archdiocese leaders. Adam met up with the Most Reverend Richard G. Henning, S.T.D at the presentation of the Lantern award at the State K of C Patriot’s Day dinner in Framingham. Leader of the Boston archdiocese, Bishop Henning was honored with this year’s Lantern award.*

**Notes for May and June council meetings**

*From GK Bob Malnati*

- Collation for May 11 members meeting will be linguine with shrimp scampi by Joe Molligi.
- There's a live exemplification at 6:15 PM before the May 11 meeting.
- NOTE: time change, 5:30 to 6:30 PM June 1 planning meeting is virtual by DGK Adam Rypinski.
- June members meeting collation will be from Jean and Joanie Croteau.
- Changing of the guard social meeting will be on Monday June 22, 7 PM, Paul center.

**RSVP seminarian profiled in Pilot newspaper**

*From Adam Whitehouse*

Through the RSVP program in 2023, your local council supported seminarian Johnathan Saniuk.

His ordination is May 16, 2026.

He is profiled in an article in the Pilot catholic newspaper.

He has invited all to join him at his ordination. Pray for him and all seminarians.

<https://www.thebostonpilot.com/article.php?ID=202310>

**Freezing Knights at Long Lake in Littleton for Special Olympics “Polar Plunge” fund-raiser**



*April 11 – It was a cold Polar Plunge for brother knight Paul and his wife Margie, and brother knight Adam Whitehouse. Special Olympics is the clear winner.*

## May 2026 message to council

*From Tom Mahan, Field Agent*



Brothers,

A consistent income brings financial stability and well-being to your family. If it were to vanish unexpectedly, whether because of death or disability, consider what might happen next:

- Would your loved ones need to sell or downsize their home?
- Would your children need to change schools?
- Would it impact retirement savings?

Insurance from the Knights of Columbus can help replace that crucial income, protect savings and prevent major lifestyle disruptions.

Depending on your stage of life, there are products designed to fit your needs.

If you're a young man, you may be working hard to pay rent or cover basic living expenses. As you age into your prime working years, there may be mouths to feed, a mortgage and a car payment. Then finally as you approach or enter retirement, you might be looking for supplemental income or to protect what you've built.

If you're supporting a family, term or permanent life insurance can help give you peace of mind that they will be financially protected if you or your wife should pass away. Even amid tragedy, it helps give the people you love stability and time to adjust without the added weight of financial hardship.

Term life insurance, which gives you coverage for a specified time period, can be a great option if you have a young family with temporary needs. It's an affordable choice that typically provides coverage for 10, 15 or 20 years.

Later, you could choose to convert your policy to whole life, which can provide coverage for your entire lifespan and accrue cash value. This can be helpful if you want a potential way to supplement retirement income or if you're interested in using insurance as part of your estate plan.

Not sure what coverage is right for you?

Please come see me after the meeting, and I would be glad to schedule a time to sit down and talk about your needs. I'm here to help you protect your family and the life you've built.

**Tom Mahan, Office 781-769-3277, mobile 978-273-2409**

\*\*\* Life insurance, annuities, long term care insurance and disability income insurance are offered through Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510. For costs, terms, conditions and complete details regarding these products, please contact your agent directly or the KofC office at 1-800-380-9995. Products may vary by state. Insurance solutions are available to eligible KFC members in the US and Canada.

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**PRAYER REQUESTS+**

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

- Michelle Mosher, daughter of Dave Breen
- Brother knight Chris Cantrell

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 June 2026 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 of June.

**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
<b>May 2026</b>			
1	Hail Mary Challenge begins	Paul Sidari	
2	Family of Year		After 4 PM mass at St. Catherine's
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	Matt Bartos/ Joe Molligi (collation)	Exemplification at 6:15; collation at 6:30 PM; council meeting begins at 7 PM,
14	Special Needs Prom	Paul Sidari/ Adam Whitehouse	5:00 pm Tewksbury High School
15-17	State Convention	Bob Malnati/ Adam Rypinski	Hyannis, MA
18	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
<b>June 2026</b>			
1	Planning Meeting	Matt Bartos	<b>Time change:</b> 5:30=6:30 PM @ Paul Center
6	Special Olympics at Harvard University	Charlie DeStefano	Volunteers sought
8	Members Meeting - Elections	Bob Malnati	Collation at 6:30 PM by Jean and Joan. 7:00 PM meeting @ Paul Center
13	Walk for Life	Pregnancy Care Center	Sat 8:30 AM, June 13 in Lawrence at Veterans Memorial Stadium. <a href="https://pccfriends.org/events">https://pccfriends.org/events</a>
22	Family social Meeting, Changing of the Guard	Bob Malnati	Pot Luck supper, 6:30 PM@ Paul Center
<b>July 2026</b>			
3- 4	July 4 <sup>th</sup> booth and parade, Chelmsford	Matt Bartos	Volunteer help needed
6	Planning Meeting	Matt Bartos	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
13	Members Meeting	Matt Bartos	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
	Installation of officers	Paul Sidari/ Matt Bartos	St. Catherine Hall, Westford, 6-8 PM
<b>August 2026</b>			
Aug 3	Planning meeting		7:00 pm @ Paul Center
Aug 9	Special Needs summer carnival	Matt Bartos	The Paul Center 8:00 AM Serve Breakfast 8:00 AM Set up Games 9:30 AM Start games
	Silver Rose ceremony	Paul Sidari	3 PM at St. Catherine
Aug 10	Members Meeting		7:00 pm @ Paul Center

**COR meeting, May –** The next meeting of COR will be May 21 (third Thursday of month)1. Going forward, the Supreme Chaplain's monthly reflections & challenges will be used as topics.

## Jesus Needs You!

### Serve at the Fleas, Food and Fun Event, May 9

This is a call to all brothers. We need as many brothers as possible to assist during this new and premier annual fund-raising event on May 9 (less than 2 weeks away). We will have more than 45 vendors (and counting) and expect a large shopping crowd. The field behind St. Anne's church is large and we are taking advantage of it. We have already made well over \$2,000 from the event with more coming in. This will really help us continue to serve our communities. Here are ways you can help. As they say, many hands make the work easy. Click on the corresponding volunteer link below to sign up or just show up.

1. **Set up** – We will meet at the field behind St. Annes in Littleton on Friday, May 8 at 2:30PM to set up. We have to mark out the field and parking lot and set up our tent.
2. **Donate Items** – We will sell any items donated to the Knights and keep the proceeds for our use to serve the community. Got items you want to offload? Just bring it to the KofC table by 9AM on Saturday, May 9. Brother Knights are welcome to donate saleable items to the KofC booth at the flea market. Place a sticker (painter's tape works) with a suggested sale price on the item. Many thanks for your support.
3. **Buy your Own Space** – Want to sell items and try to make some money? Spaces are still available and we ask for a \$60 donation for each. Anything money you make from selling is yours to keep.
4. **Help on May 9** – There are several ways to help May 9. You can be part of the parking team, help with trash duty, help at the KofC tent, help with clean-up or simply be available to help any vendors or customers. Either reach out to Matt Bartos or show up on May 9.
5. **Spread the Word** – Attached is our latest flyer. Send it out to friends and family. Post it on your social media feeds. Share it far and wide.



**Knights of  
Columbus®**  
BISHOP RUOCCO COUNCIL

# **COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET!**

*FOOD TRUCKS! FAMILY FUN!*

# **MAY 9, 2026**

Saint Anne's Catholic Church | 75 King St. | Littleton, MA 01460

**Rain or shine. 9AM to 4PM**

**Food**

**Baby Goats**

**Clothing**

**Flowers**

**Gifts for Mom**

**Toys**

**Jewelry**

**Household Items**

**Music Instruments**

**and Much More!**

**Vendor Space Available**

**[knights9275comms@yahoo.com](mailto:knights9275comms@yahoo.com)**