



Knights of Columbus

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

April 2026

Vol. 40, Number 8

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

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David Breen

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William Pacino

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

Lecturer.....
Ed Ciampa

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Jimmy O'Keefe

Outside Guard.....
Ray O'Neil

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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, April 2026

It is a season of HOPE. There is much angst and fear all around us. However, Spring is sprung, we are privileged to live in the Land of the Free and with Easter upon us we have the guarantee of salvation and the very best reasons to be HOPEFUL.

Bishop Ruocco Knights have been living the message of Jesus in March. Successful membership drive at St Mary's, Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner at St John, Seder/Passover celebration at St Catherine, Stations and Soup at St John's, Fraternal Benefit meeting with Tom Mahan, Selection of Knight of the year and Families (2) of the year, Exemplification of new brother Knights at St Catherine, an insightful COR gathering, receipt of scholarship applications for judging, final planning for 40th anniversary celebration, final planning for the new Flea, Food and Fun event at St Anne, and in summation, meeting all requirements for Star Council for the 3rd consecutive year.

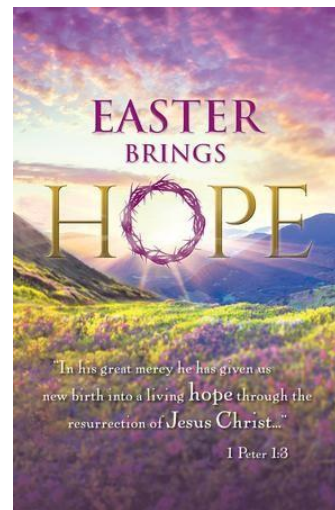
Easter is the celebration of HOPE.

The death and resurrection of Jesus in reparation for our common sinfulness, gives us HOPE for our eternal joyful salvation with God.

We Knights of Bishop Council 9275 have much to celebrate as we work in harmony with our fellow brothers and sisters, both locally and as part of the world community of God's children.

In the next few days, we celebrate and renew our Hopefulness with joyous Easter services; a joyous 40th anniversary celebration; and, many excellent opportunities to put our Faith into practice.

Be HOPEFUL, be joyful, rejoice.
Christ has Risen!



*"In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ"
1 Peter 1:3*

Council Knights cook at St. Patrick's Dinner

From Bob Chevalier

Our Council #9275 Knights cooked the St. Patrick's feast of Corn-beef, cabbage, and other delights during their 10th year of assisting the St John's Hospitality Ministry to offer its highly popular charity dinner. Our Knights (pictured L/R.) Dave Sousa, Phil Bellinghieri, Bob Chevalier, Drew Jubinville, Ron Bator and Paul Brzezinski). In addition to the widely acclaimed feast, the evening included brother knight Ed Ciampa, welcoming all who attended with Irish tunes on his accordion.



Deacon John Hunt, served as MC for the evening (with a laugh or more of Irish fun), and included an assembly of "Heavy Quinn Irish Step Dancers" and raffle baskets for the lucky winners. We were delighted to have Fr. Brian, Fr. Ray, Fr. Patrick, Fr. Fernando, (Holy Rood Collaborative) join in attendance and so pleased that Fr. Sannella and Fr. Raju Muringayil (Immaculate Conception, Lowell) joined us, in our Irish tribute. Great Job Knights!

40th Anniversary Dinner, Bishop Ruocco council

From Lou Soracco

Friday, April 17, 2026, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Il Forno Restaurant, 29 King Street, Littleton, MA

Cost: \$45.00 per guest (Brothers, Wives, Significant Others and Guests)

Please RSVP: James Barrows tel. 603-860-0075 or barrows020@gmail.com

Reservations must be made by April 1st payment by April 6, 2026.

If sending by check, use the address below:

Knights of Columbus, Bishop Ruocco Council, No 9275, 1521 Gorham Street, Lowell, MA 01852

Special Olympics Polar Plunge

From Adam Whitehouse

We aren't cancelling the polar plunge this year. We have created a team for the Special Olympics Polar Plunge for close to 10 years and we have raised a lot of money. We will be doing the Polar Plunge the second Saturday in April (April 11) 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 "Freezing Knights" and submit your information.

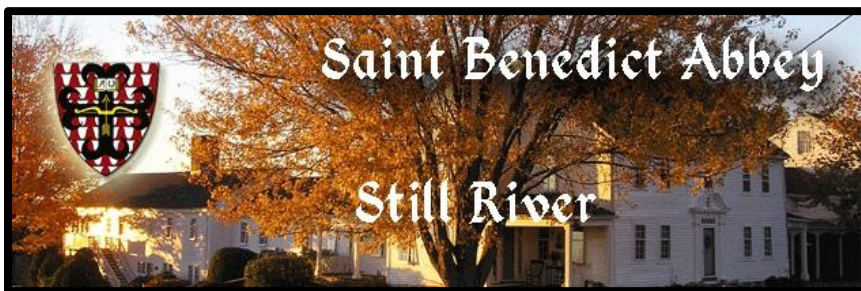
Questions? Contact Adam at awhitehouse216@gmail.com



Swimmers and their "towel holders" welcome.

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.

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 home-cooked food. \$320 per attendee; payment assistance available. Contact Paul Rigazio for more information (paulrigazio@gmail.com)

Last chance, annual State Raffle

From James Barrows

Last chance for 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, April

From Matt Bartos

The next meeting of COR will be April 16. Going forward, the Supreme Chaplain's monthly reflections & challenges will be used as topics

April 2026 field agent message to council

From field agent Tom Mahan

Brothers, trying to achieve financial strength and stability can feel overwhelming, especially when life is already full.

This month, I want to share a simpler way to think about it: holistic financial wellness. You can work toward this goal by developing an overall financial strategy and determining how Knights of Columbus products can be a part of that foundation.

A good place to start is protecting your family through life insurance. Term life coverage can help with temporary needs, while whole life coverage can last your entire lifetime and build guaranteed cash value over time. Next, let's think about retirement. Whether it's years away or right around the corner, having a strategy for income in retirement matters. The Knights of Columbus offers solutions that can be part of an overall plan you feel confident about.

It's also important to prepare for the unexpected. Thinking ahead about how your family would handle an extended care need or a disruption in income due to disability is part of protecting what you have worked hard to build. The Knights has products to help ensure your family's life will not be financially disrupted in either case. Attaining financial wellness doesn't need to feel overwhelming. You can start right away by simply using our life insurance calculator at www.kofc.org/calculator. With a few key details, it will help you assess your insurance needs.

If you have any questions, please contact me to schedule a time to meet. ***Book time to meet with me***

https://outlook.office.com/bookwithme/user/71920663e0b1446595008711f5ef5689@kofc.org?anonymous&e_p=bwmEmailSignature



Knights of Columbus
DiCalogero Agency

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**Life Insurance • Long-Term Care Insurance
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Brother knight Adam Whitehouse always gets his opportunity to meet face-to-face with leaders of the Boston archdiocese, this time with Archbishop Richard G. Henning at the installation of a new pastor in Shirley



Brother knight Paul Sidari and his wife Margie were the focal point of a reception to help Paul pay for his trip to the Supreme convention in Denver Colorado in August. Paul, all by himself, will represent the state of Massachusetts K of C..

Exemplification ceremony on March 29



*Three new brother knights join Bishop Ruocco council, Knights of Columbus.
In the left-hand photo, starting with the second person on the left, in the front row: (L to R) Ramsamy Jesuraj (known as JJ), David Normandin, Brian Child*

Passover Seder reenacted for faith formation students

From GK Bob Malnati

A Passover Seder supper was proposed and approved for students in faith formation at Blessed Trinity Parish. This event took place on March 21 at St. Catherine's

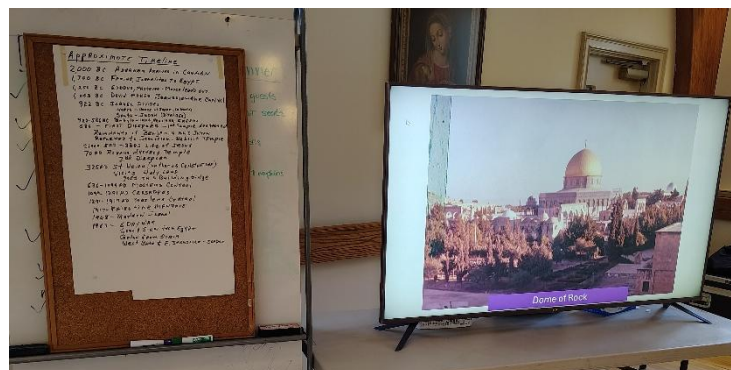
The ancient (4,000-year-old) Passover meal (the Seder), commemorates the Israelites deliverance from Egyptian slavery. It foreshadows our deliverance from sin through the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, our lamb of God.

The presentation was put together by GK Bob Malnati and DGK Adam Rypinski together with Arianne Lokuta, Nicole McDonald and Kathy Mancini.

The presentation of about fifty minutes, featured the following:

- Thirteen students as Jesus and the apostles.
- One student as Moses
- Full samples of all Seder foods
- Four students asking the traditional questions
- Three faith leaders leading the DAYENU (Hebrew word meaning "it is good enough for us")
- Students and parents sharing Matzoh, "wine", eggs, other seder foods with explanation and prayers.

The whole presentation was projected on a big screen with selected video clips such as Moses confronting Pharaoh, the death of the firstborn, Moses leading the first seder, and, the Jewish people leaving Egypt. Text and prayer responses were also shown (kudos to A/V genius Adam).



The presentation culminates with Jesus and the Apostles seated to celebrate the Passover on Holy Thursday with Jesus instituting the Eucharist of Bread (his body) and wine (his blood).

Thus, we show the continuity of God's promise of a Messiah and the fulfillment of the promise by Jesus with the beginning of Christianity as a continuation of our Jewish heritage.

Knights of Columbus participants, on the day of the event, were: Adam Rypinski; Peter Barbella; Jean Croteau; Lou Soracco; and, Bob Malnati together with the faith formation team of Blessed Trinity Parish.

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

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 May 2026 issue of this newsletter must be e-mailed to Bill Pacino at knights_news@yahoo.com by April 21. The newsletter will be published before the first meeting of the month of April.

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
April 2026			
2	Holy Thursday, simple supper	Bob Malnati/ Adam Rypinski	St Margaret's 6 PM
6	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
13	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	Council meeting begins at 7:00 PM, collation at 6:30 PM
16	COR	Matt Bartos	7 PM, Paul Center
17	40 th anniversary dinner	Lou Soracco	5:30 – 9 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
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	Council meeting begins at 7:00 PM, collation at 6:30 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
25	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
June 2026			
1	Planning Meeting	Adam Rypinski	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
	Special Olympics at Harvard University	Charlie DeStefano	Volunteers sought
8	Members Meeting - Elections	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
22	Social Meeting, Changing of the Guard	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
July 2026			
3- 4	July 4 th 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