



# Knights of Columbus

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

March 2026

Vol. 40, Number 7

## *The Knight Reader*

### **Grand Knight Report – Robert Malnati**

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

*Dear brother knights, March 2026*

The groundhog blew it!

However, the foul weather has not stopped the brother knights of the Bishop Ruocco Council. Both planning and member meetings in February were well-attended and full of great camaraderie and progress. A delicious collation was prepared by Joe Molligi. Donations of surplus from collations continues to fuel our Food for Families outreach.

On February 16, our field agent Tom Mahan led a highly-informative Fraternal Benefit event at the Paul Center. It has been recorded and is well-worth the 30-minutes investment in time to watch it and learn more about fraternal benefits.

February 18 was Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the 40-day Lenten season. As a Lenten challenge, we are urged to practice one moment of honest, peaceful speech every day. Maybe it is a sincere “Yes” to something important, or a humble “No” to something you cannot do. Let it be a quiet step into the freedom Jesus offers.

Committees for the Flea Market and 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner are hard at work. Be sure to reserve a flea market space and make a reservation for the gala anniversary dinner. Nominating committees for 2026-2027 council officers and Knight of the Year 2026 are busy as well. An urgent need for winter coats was promptly met. COR meets monthly. Dan Gregory has apprenticed to Bill Pacino as Recorder (Thank you Dan). On Friday, February 27, we will serve pizza after Stations at St. Anne (4:30 PM).

Please volunteer to serve at the following events in March (see Calendar of Events on the last page of this newsletter): Membership drive at St. Mary; Friendship dinner for District Deputy Paul Sidari; Stations and Soup at St; Mary; Seder supper at St. Caherine’s.

Brother knights Gene and Matt Bartos (son) were saddened by the death of Gene’s 100-year-old mother, Louise. We pray that she will enjoy a speedy entrance to paradise. We offer our prayers and sympathy to Gene and Matt.

As we sprint to Easter; I pray that our council will continue to grow and participate actively in our Catholic Christian community.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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



## Membership Drive, St. Mary, March 14-15

*From Gene Bartos*

Brothers. We are hosting a membership drive March 14/15 at St. Mary Church at the Saturday 4:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 and 11:00 AM 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 Delta 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.

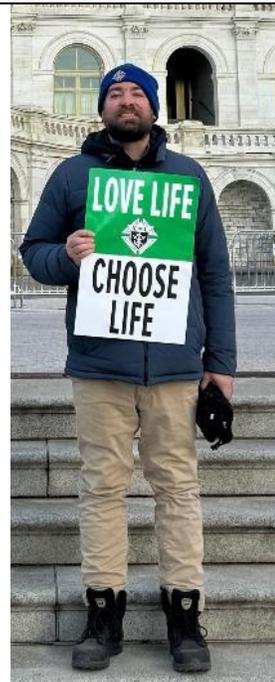
Please contact membership director Gene Bartos in advance that you will help. Contact information is [farmergb@aol.com](mailto:farmergb@aol.com) or 508-517-5677.

## 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.

Local council knights march in Walk for Life in Washington DC



Brother knight Adam Whitehouse stands behind the capitol building



Tens of thousands of pro-life advocates gathered in the nation's capital in January for the 53rd annual March for Life, marching from the National Mall to the Supreme Court to voice their opposition to abortion.



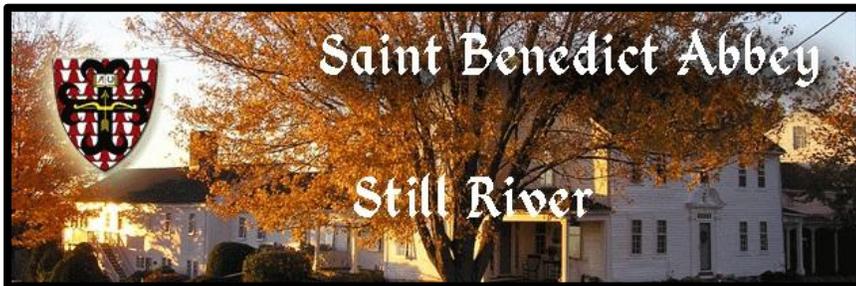
Brother knight Declan Reidy and his fiancée Catherine stand behind the capitol building



The group of Walk for Life pilgrims from St. Jude Waltham, led by Fr. Jeremy St. Martin, pose in front of the capitol building. Adam is in the first row, first person right. Declan and Catherine are in the second row, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> persons (holding sign)

## Night of Reflection at Saint Benedict's Abbey, May 25

From Adam Whitehouse, [awhitehouse21@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### **40<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:barrows020@gmail.com)

Reservations must be made by April 1<sup>st</sup> 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

## **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](mailto:paulrigazio@gmail.com)).

## **Flea Market meeting, March 14**

*From Matt Bartos*

The Flea Market meetings will take place on Zoom from 9-10AM on 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.

## **COR meetings, March and April**

*From Matt Bartos*

The next meetings of COR will be 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](mailto:knights9275@gmail.com) or Venmo to @James-Barrows-1521

### ***Quote on Living out the Gospel through service (see next page)***

Be true to yourself, help others, make each day your masterpiece, make friendship a fine art, drink deeply from good books - especially the Bible, build a shelter against a rainy day, give thanks for your blessings and pray for guidance every day. – John Wooden, basketball coach UCLA

## Faith in Action: Living Out the Gospel Through Service

The Catholic Church teaches that our faith must be expressed through love and service to others. This principle is deeply rooted in the Gospel. In Matthew 25:35-40, Jesus says:

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.”

These words challenge us to see Christ in every person we meet and to respond with love and compassion. Living out one's Catholic faith through action is about embodying the teachings of Jesus Christ in our everyday lives.

As Catholics, we are called to serve others, especially those who are in need. Volunteering at local charities, participating in parish outreach programs, and donating to food pantries and fundraisers is one way to put faith into practice.

These acts of service not only provide material assistance but also convey love, compassion, and solidarity, echoing Christ's commandment to love one another as He has loved us.

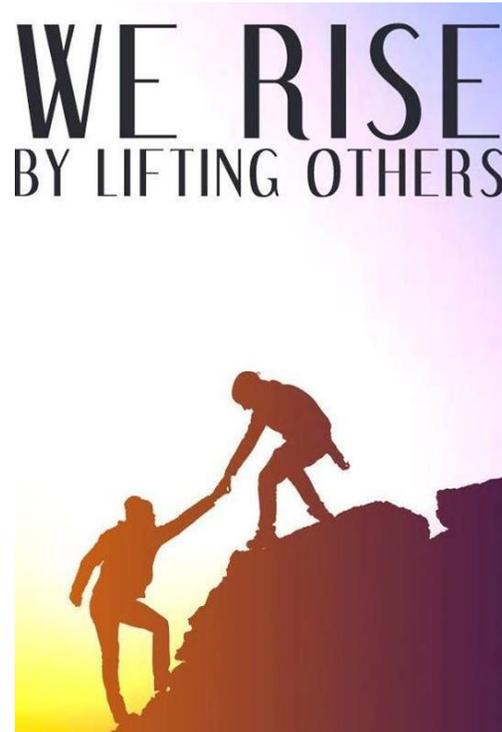
We can look to the Saints for inspiration on how to live the Gospel through service. Saint Mother Teresa's life is a powerful testament to faith in action. She dedicated her life to serving the poorest of the poor in the streets of Calcutta, India. Her Missionaries of Charity continue her legacy, providing care and love to the most marginalized and forgotten members of society.

St. Vincent de Paul dedicated his life to serving the poor, earning him the title of patron saint of charitable societies. He is also the namesake of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a charitable organization dedicated to serving the impoverished.

St. Giuseppe Moscati, dedicated his life to serving the sick and the poor with exceptional medical skills and profound compassion. He frequently treated the poor for free or at reduced costs, ensuring that even the most marginalized had access to medical care. His vocation as a physician was deeply intertwined with his Catholic faith, viewing his work as a form of service to God and an opportunity to embody Christ's compassion.

Acting like a saint doesn't necessarily mean being perfect, but it does mean giving of yourself through your talents and compassion in a way that Christ our Lord would be proud of.

<https://www.catholicministriesappeal.org/post/faith-in-action-living-out-the-gospel-through-service>



## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

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

- Louise Bartos, mother of PGK Eugene Bartos and grandmother of brothers Matthew, Marc, and Steven Bartos, and who recently celebrated her 100th birthday, passed away on February 18, Ash Wednesday.
- 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](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 April 2026 issue of this newsletter must be e-mailed to Bill Pacino at [knights\\_news@yahoo.com](mailto:knights_news@yahoo.com) by March 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
<b>March 2026</b>			
2	Planning Meeting In-person meeting	Bob Malnati	7 PM, In-person meeting for March
9	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	Council meeting begins at 7:00 PM, collation at 6:30 PM
14	Flea Market planning	Matt Bartos/ Adam Rypinski	Vritual meeting, contact Adam Rypinski for Google Meeting link
14	St Patrick's Day dinner	Bob Chevalier	St. John's
14-15	Membership drive	Gene Bartos	St Mary, all masses
19	COR	Matt Bartos	7 PM, Paul Center
20	Soup and Stations	Paul Sidari	St. Mary, 5:30 PM to 8 PM. Soup to follow 6 PM stations
21	Catholic Men's Conference	Worcester	For more information, <a href="https://catholicmenworc.com">https://catholicmenworc.com</a>
21	Seder supper with institution of Eucharist	Bob Malnati	St. Catherine's After the 4 PM Mass
23	Social meeting	Bob Malnati	Knights and family members welcome at social meetings
<b>April 2026</b>			
2	Holy Thursday, simple supper	Bob Malnat/ 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 <sup>th</sup> 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
<b>May 2026</b>			
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
<b>June 2026</b>			
8	Members Meeting - Elections	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center