

# THE BLESSING WORD



Msgr. Peter E. Blessing Council #5273 Knights of Columbus



## Grand Knight's Corner

WILLIAM JAKABEK, GRAND KNIGHT

Blessing Council Brothers All!

Well, April came and went in a flash!!! It was an extremely eventful month for us ...

We held our annual Funny4Funds Comedy Show on the evening of Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, and it was a huge success. About 80 people were in attendance to support our Community Program "Coats for Kids." Between Ticket Sales, Sponsorships, Donations, Beverage Sales and Raffle Sales, we obtained net proceeds of a little over \$3,200. Great job Team Leaders John Pizzo and Brian Mattias, and sincere thanks to all Blessing Brother Knights that helped so much.

We held a major New Membership Drive at Saints John and Paul Church on April 18-19, with a follow-up Information Night on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Using a "New Format" provided by Supreme, we had "historically tremendous success." We ended up getting seven new Knights - a RECORD amount!!! Thank you Membership Director Neil Fidler! Your wonderful effort, along with all the Brother Knights that helped out at all Masses, made this drive an unprecedented success. An additional "big" shout out to the four Brother Knights that volunteered to speak at each Mass. Brian Mattias, John Pizzo, Johann Donall, and myself. I know these speeches absolutely made a huge difference!!!

As a result of the extraordinary recruitment efforts that our Council made in during the month of April, we already held two Exemplification Ceremonies, and we have another scheduled to be held just before our May Membership Meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>. More details will be forthcoming via email. With the Lord's help, we now have 11 new, fantastic members joining our Fraternity of Brother Knights.

Please make every effort to attend out May Membership Meeting that will be held on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, as we have a full agenda. Besides our normal business Meeting starting at 7 pm, we will also be holding a pre-meeting Exemplification at 6 pm, and a Collation at 6:30 pm. Speaking of agenda, our Council's Nominating Committee will be presenting their suggested slate of Officer Candidates for the upcoming 2026-27 Columbian Year. Additionally, our Council's Financial Committee will be presenting their 2026 suggested Donation Recipient list, and the associated donation dollar amount for each. The Exemplification Ceremony will be held in Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, and the following Collation & Membership Meeting will be held in Classroom #3 in the OLC School.

The Memorare ... Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions.

Vivat Jesus!  
William Jakabek  
Grand Knight

## Upcoming Events

### May Officers Meeting

Place: OLC School Room 3  
Date: Wednesday, 5/6/2026  
Time: 7:00 PM

### Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity

Place: Our Lady of Czenstochowa Church  
Date: Monday, 5/11/2026  
Time: 6:00 PM

### May Membership Meeting

Place: OLC School Room 3  
Date: Monday, 5/11/2026  
Time: 7:00 PM with collation at 6:30 PM

### Knight Out

Place: Khoo Asian Restaurant, W. Warwick  
Date: Monday, 6/1/2026  
Time: 6:30 PM

### June Officers Meeting

Place: OLC School Room 3  
Date: Wednesday, 6/3/2026  
Time: 7:00 PM

### June Membership Meeting

Place: OLC School Room 3  
Date: Monday, 6/8/2026  
Time: 7:00 PM with collation at 6:30 PM

### Columbiettes Membership Drive

Place: Saints John and Paul Church  
Date: Weekend of 6/13-14/2026  
Time: All Masses

### Columbiettes Information Hour

Place: SSJP Parish Center  
Date: Sunday, 6/14/2026  
Time: 1:00 PM

### Men of St. Joseph - COR Meeting

Place: SSJP Rectory Chapel/Conf. Room  
Date: Every Last Thursday of the Month  
Time: 6:30 PM

MSGR. PETER E. BLESSING COUNCIL #5273  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
445 WASHINGTON STREET  
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## Chaplain's Message

FATHER PAUL LEMOI

No Chaplain's Message this month.



## Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM LORI

May 2026 Challenge



**[Jesus] said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."** (Gospel for May 24, Jn 20:21)

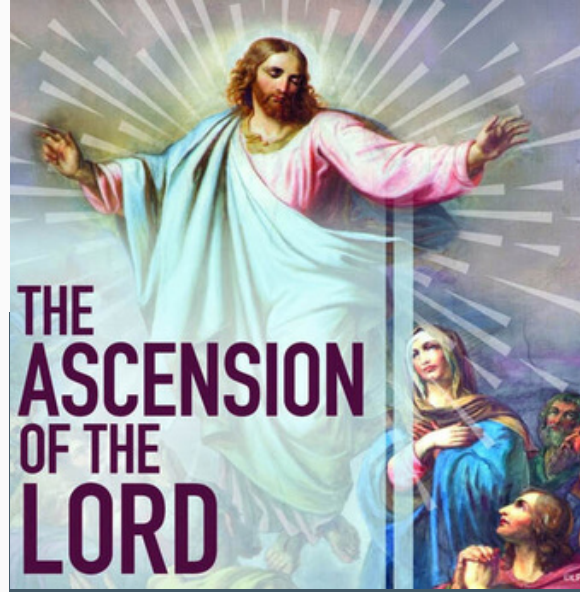
Jesus sends us into the world, just as the Father sent him. Jesus had a sacred, divine mission — to proclaim the Good News of salvation and build the kingdom of God — and we are commissioned to do likewise. As his faithful disciples, we continue his saving mission on earth, consistent with our state of life. We are not just "receivers" of the Gospel; our mission is to bear witness to the Good News in word and action, living the Gospel through our example and outreach to others

### Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to take a few minutes each morning and prayerfully ask Jesus how you can use your gifts for his mission, and set one clear, specific resolution (large or small) for what you will do on that particular day.

### Questions for Reflection:

How seriously do you take this mission that Christ has given you? What specifically has Jesus sent you into the world to do? How can you better live out this mission in the workplace, in your family life, and through your participation in the Knights of Columbus?



## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

## Prayer Intentions

- Our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV
- Bishop Bruce Lewandowski
- All Bishops and Priests
- GK William Jakabek
- PGK/PFN Herb Knott
- PGK/PFN Frank Laiter III
- PGK David Legault
- Brother Anthony Machado
- Brother Len Denomme
- Brother Paul Lacroix
- Brother James Kmon
- Brother Matt Parent
- Brother Gerard Legault
- Brother Frank Laiter, Jr.
- Brother Lucien Laporte
- Brother Peter Blais
- Brother Rob Brodeur
- Brother Nicholas Delfino-Whitaker
- Brother Devin Favino
- Brother Louis Pinga
- Brother Bernie George
- Lucille Ferrer
- Roberta Lemek
- Mary Deary
- Shirley Laiter
- Sue Rossetti
- Mary Lawlor
- Michel Brouillard
- Eric Thatcher
- Charles Gemmell
- John Dolan
- Joe McCarthy
- Matthew Mahar
- Doreen Jakabek-Wittig
- Robert Firth
- Ellen Deck
- Julia Sottnik
- Karen Clark
- Jessica Maynard
- Anita Laporte
- Diane Cayouette
- April Moreno
- Jeff Holme
- Brad White
- Hallie Sorenson and Family
- All US military personnel active and former
- SSJP Church receives a good and Holy Senior Priest
- SSJP Church receives a replacement for Al Harel
- The Unborn

# Welcome New Brother Knights



## May Birthdays

John Izzo (91)	May 1
Matthew McGuire (54)	May 3
Thomas Noel (86)	May 7
Paul Campbell, Jr. (64)	May 8
Deacon Walter Foster (81)	May 9
Gilbert Fernands (44)	May 12
Charles Tamuleviz (69)	May 14
Michael Kiley (69)	May 15
Austin Kairnes (56)	May 16
John Pedro III (50)	May 16
Edgar Brouillard (94)	May 19
Lawrence Parenteau, Jr. (76)	May 22
Matthew Parent (36)	May 23
Nicholas Parent (36)	May 23
Devin Favino (25)	May 25
Johann Donall (37)	May 27
Ronald DeLalla (80)	May 30

Brothers, the Lord has blessed us in the month of April. We've conducted two Exemplification Ceremonies of Charity, Unity and Fraternity and have welcomed **TEN** new Brother Knights to our council and our order! Welcome aboard to Brothers:

- Lawrence Parenteau
- Scott Morin
- Robert Picozzi
- Michael Gonzalez
- Ying Khang
- Jason Lague
- Kyle Kettelle
- Donald Hall
- David Wood
- Mark Rivard

Seven of these Brother Knights joined as a result of our recent Membership Drive at SS John and Paul Church during the weekend of April 18-19 as well as the Information Night on April 20.

## Brother Bernard George



Brother Knight Bernard George went to his final reward on the evening of Easter Sunday. He was 83. Brother Bernie just joined the Knights and our council in July of 2024, but for you Brother Knights who are SS John and Paul parishioners, you have likely known Bernie for a long time. He could always be seen at Daily Mass with his Missal, and he always had a pleasant greeting for everyone.

Please pray for the repose of Brother Bernie's soul and for his family. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

And we're not done yet! There were three Catholic gentlemen who filled out membership forms but were not able to attend the Exemplification Ceremony at SSJP on Monday, April 27, but two of the three have committed to attend the next Exemplification Ceremony prior to our May Membership Meeting on Monday, May 11, at 6 PM which will take place at Our Lady of Czenstochowa.

At current time, our council has eleven new Brother Knights for the 2025-26 Fraternal Year putting us three over our new member quota. **MORE IMPORTANTLY**, we have new Brother Knights who are bringing their experience and new ideas to our council. Please join me in welcoming them to our council at our next Membership Meeting on May 11!

Neil Fidler  
Membership Director

# Brother Knight Spotlight!



## Chancellor John Pizzo

**Name:** John Pizzo

**Council Role:** Presently serving as Chancellor and Community Director for Blessing Council. I have also held the position of District Deputy, Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight.

**Years as a Knight:** 15

**Parish:** Saints John and Paul

**Faith Formation:** I was raised Catholic and have always known it is the true faith, that will lead all souls to Jesus' saving grace.

**A Scripture verse that has shaped your life:** Psalm 23 has always been a scripture that has inspired me, it always reminds me that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of courage and that we are never alone, for he is always with us. Yea though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil for Thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff comfort me."

**Knights of Columbus Journey:** I was looking to join an organization, I wanted to be part of something and make a difference, when a friend mentioned the Knights of Columbus, so in August of 2011 I began my journey. Just a few months in at my first wake call, the Grand Knight asked me to be the Deputy Grand Knight, that was quite memorable. Since becoming a Knight, I've especially enjoyed our work for kids, like the Coats 4 Kids drive. I would really like to re-engage the council with the Toys 4 Tots' program with the Marine Corps Reserves, growing up in a single parent home I appreciate the value of waking up Christmas morning and having something from Santa and if we as Knights can assist then we should.

Being a Knight has really helped me grow and appreciate our mission of Charity, and like Jesus said, when you give do not let the right hand know what the left is doing and the Knights really exemplify this.

**Service and Vocation:** I have been a Registered Nurse since 2010, and I presently work as a Nurse at the Naval Station in Newport. Prior to that I worked as a Correctional Officer for 21 years and the four years prior to that I was an Active-Duty Marine. I also recently retired from military service after 40 years.

**Personal Touch:** I really enjoy fishing, both fresh water and salt water. I also love to go camping. With regards to a favorite Catholic movie, I love all the classics and am a fan of the Chosen series, but my absolute favorite Bible story movie is The Story of Ruth (1960).

**Closing Reflection:** I look forward to the coming year. I see the quality of men that are joining our order and I see amazing potential. I have hopes that this council is going to really touch the lives of the people of our community and show them the love of God and by our example bring more people to the faith. Gentlemen I have the utmost respect for all that every one of you does. Vivat Jesu!

## JUNE KNIGHT OUT!

### KHOO ASIAN RESTAURANT

Monday, June 1, 2026 @ 6 PM



Come one, come all!!! Join your Council Brothers, Families, and Friends to have a fun time, while enjoying good food, drink, and comradery at Khoo Asian Restaurant, 255 Cowesett Ave., West Warwick on Monday, June 1, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

Worthy GK and Family Director Bill Jakabek will need to provide the restaurant with a head count so RSVP to him at 401-269-9811 or biljak53@gmail.com by 5 PM on Friday, May 29.

# FAITH IN ACTION



## LIFE

### Diocesan Walk for Life



The Knights of Columbus were well represented, including our Life Director Jerry McEvoy, at the Third Annual Fall River Diocesan Walk of Life held at Lasalette Shrine on May 1. The special guest speaker was Franciscan Friar of the Immaculate Father Josemaria M. Barbin.

## COMMUNITY

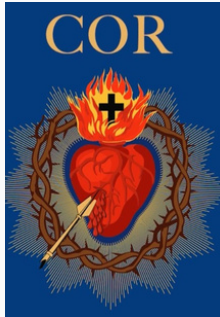
### Funny4Funds Comedy Night

SSJP PARISH CENTER  
FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026



Our Funny4Funds Comedy Night, with our friends from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, which too place on Friday, April 10, at the Saints John and Paul Parish Center was another success! We've had seven Funny4Funds events since our first one in 2018, and they have always been great fundraisers, and a great opportunity to enjoy a night out laughing to great comedians! This year we raised a little over \$3,200 which goes directly to our purchase of warm winter jackets for children of needy families as part of our Coats for Kids program! We're already looking forward to next year's event, God willing!

### The Men of St. Joseph - Cor



Our council partners with the local chapter of The Men of St. Joseph for our Cor program. You are cordially invited to join us on the last Thursday each month starting at 6:30 PM at the SS John and Paul Rectory Conference Room. The mission of Cor is to refocus Catholic men on Jesus Christ and to form and strengthen them in faith and virtue through a brotherhood committed to prayer, formation, and fraternity, and this aligns nicely with the mission of The Men of St. Joseph.

# Funny4Funds Photos

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026  
SS JOHN AND PAUL PARISH CENTER



# WHAT'S GOING ON AT OUR CHURCHES

## Saints John and Paul

### JOIN THE COLUMBIETTES!



The Columbiettes, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus, will be holding a membership drive at Saints John and Paul Church on the weekend of June 13-14. During the Masses on that weekend, Lisa Roberts, Rhode Island Territorial Deputy, will be speaking about the Columbiettes.

If you are a Catholic woman 18 or older and are interested in working for your church and your community, this is your opportunity to join other Catholic women in this noble endeavor. The Columbiettes are a unified organization of over 13,000 Catholic women, 18 or older, dedicated to faith, fellowship, and service. Founded in 1939 in New York, they work in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus to support charitable causes, parish life, and community needs. They are active across 23 states.

On Sunday, June 14, at 1 PM, there will be a Columbiettes Information Hour in the SSJP Parish Center. Lisa Roberts will give a presentation about the Columbiettes, and we'll have refreshments. Families and friends are most welcome! We pray you will be interested in joining us!

If you have any questions joining the Columbiettes, please contact Sister Anne Eden by phone/text: 401-269-9891 or email: [eden.sisteranne@yahoo.com](mailto:eden.sisteranne@yahoo.com) or Neil Fidler by phone/text: 401-632-7922 or email: [Narragansett55@gmail.com](mailto:Narragansett55@gmail.com)

### Roses for Life



will be sold after Mass  
May 9 & 10 in support of



[motheroflife.org](http://motheroflife.org)

Suggested donation: \$3 per rose



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The Book of Genesis begins with the story of Adam and Eve, whose sin of disobedience breaks their relationship with God. God does not abandon his people but gradually prepares them for the coming of his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus, the promised "seed" of Genesis 3:15 is the "New Adam," and his mother, the promised "woman," is the "New Eve."

CONTACT JOHN MURRAY [jmurray3477@gmail.com](mailto:jmurray3477@gmail.com)



#### SSJP Respect Life Breakfast Fundraiser to benefit St. Gabriel's Call

Sunday, June 7, 2026  
after the  
7:30AM & 9:30AM Masses  
in the Parish Center

Adults \$20, Children 12 & under \$5  
Menu: Fruit cup, pancakes, scrambled eggs, grilled sausage, home fires, baked beans, English muffins, toast, juices, coffee & tea

Tickets will be on sale after all Masses beginning Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will also be available at the rectory office beginning Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

# WHAT'S GOING ON AT OUR CHURCHES

## Our Lady of Czenstochowa and St. Vincent de Paul

### **Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 13, 2026.**

Our Annual Polish American Day will be held from 3 PM to 9 PM with hot Polish food being served from 4 PM to 7 PM in the school gym.

Frozen food will be available starting at 3 PM. American food will also be available.

We will have Raffles, Games and our Famous Cow Chip Bingo.

*Plan on joining fellow parishioners and friends on this fun filled day!*

### **Pro-Life Rose Sale**

Long-stem red roses will be available after Masses this weekend, May 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds from the sale will benefit Catholic, pro-life **Mother of Life Pregnancy Center** in Providence ([motheroflife.org](http://motheroflife.org)). The Center provides free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling, client advocacy, parenting classes, material goods for babies & moms, and much more. The suggested donation is \$3 per rose. Contributions in addition to or in lieu of rose purchases will also be gratefully appreciated. Thank you for your generous support!



### **Happy Mother's Day**



### **A Prayer of Gratitude for Catholic Mothers**

*Lord Jesus, we thank You for the gift of Catholic mothers, who nurture our faith and guide us with love. May their hearts be filled with joy and strength as they fulfill their sacred calling. Bless them with Your grace, and let them feel our appreciation for their sacrifices and unwavering devotion. May they continue to inspire us in our journey of faith. Amen.*

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Brothers, going forward, the final page of the newsletter will be one for free advertising for your business or any business that you may work for or know that might benefit from Brother Knights patronizing it. Please contact FS Neil Fidler if interested.