



**MARCH-APRIL  
2026**

**OUR LADY OF THE LAKES,  
COUNCIL 7053**

# NEWSLETTER

## **A Grateful Thank You for a Successful Fish Fry Season**

Our sincere thanks go out to the many Brother Knights of Columbus who volunteered their time and talents to make this year's Fish Fry such a success. Because of your dedication, we were able to provide tasty meals and a welcoming experience for our community.

Events like the Fish Fries are about more than just service—they are also an opportunity for fellowship. Working side by side allowed us to get to know one another better and strengthened the bonds that unite us as Brother Knights. This shared effort strengthens the sense of fraternity that continues to grow within our Council.

A special thank you to Mike Wyss, whose leadership and organization were key to the event's success. We are also grateful to the Altar & Rosary Society for their generous donation of delicious homemade desserts, which were enjoyed by all.

Thank you again to everyone who helped make this event a success. Your commitment to service, fellowship, and fraternity truly reflects the spirit of the Knights of Columbus.



### **Winning Pots of Gold – Weekly Church Raffle Results**

Thinking green is always a hope for our Weekly Parish Raffle ticket holders...but in March, those greenbacks were found at the end of the rainbow in pots of gold. This month's lucky leprechauns were:

Norm Gasemski  
Louise Knotek  
Jane Osterholt  
Doug Olsen  
and  
John Peters



There are many remaining chances to win in this year's raffle, so lots of Irish luck to everyone!

### **Easter Basket Raffle Winners**

Drawings took place on April 5<sup>th</sup> after the 12:30 Spanish Mass for the annual Easter Baskets Raffle. Our winners were Sally Zontsmaster, Carol Keegan, and Bridget Frey!

Proceeds from this raffle and Mother's Day Bake Sale go to support our Annual College Scholarship program for area high school seniors. Some of this year's prizes are season tickets for Trine football, hockey, and basketball, restaurant gift cards to local businesses like Caruso's, Timbers, and Pawsitively Paradise!

Special thanks to committee chairman Ed Wise and the many volunteers who help sell tickets following all Masses.





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## Calling all Candidates for Council 7053 Officers



The **nomination process** begins this month, **with interested candidates** being announced at our April, May, and June council meetings. Contact Grand Knight Kelly Raugh if you are interested in serving as a council officer. Positions for nomination are **Chancellor, Recorder, Treasurer, Lecturer, Advocate, Warden, Inside/Outside Guards, and Trustees.**

We are also looking to fill appointed positions of **Membership Director, Program Director, and Evangelization and Faith Formation Director.** Please prayerfully consider serving your council in one of these leadership roles.

### Thank you's

- To Knight Tom Miller for repairing the wobbly kitchen countertop
- To Altar & Rosary bakers Mary Ann Wiegand, Jo Ann Vitek, & Donna Blesch, who spearheaded the abundance of sweet treats for this year's fish fries
- To Tom Miller, Tom Blesch, & Kelly Raugh for helping on numerous days for each fish fry event
- From Florida Knight Marc Gazal for keeping him and Amy in the loop of Angola happenings."Come on Down"
- To Liz Ickes for organizing the Annual Euchre Party in honor of her deceased 4th degree Knight father, Richard Douglas, raising \$460 for our local Compassion Pregnancy Center.
- To Knight Dan Caruso for his \$200 discount from our Exemplification catering bill

### Upcoming Events Calendar

**April 15**

5:00 PM

**Taking of the Habit/Renewal of Priestly Vows Mass (w/ Bishop Rhoades)**

St. Anthony of Padua Church

**April 17-19**

See schedule

**Knights of Columbus Indiana State Convention**

Fort Wayne, IN

**April 21**

6:00 PM

**Monthly Officer Meeting**

Conference Room, St. Francis Hall

**April 21**

6:45 PM

**Monthly Council Business Meeting**

Social Hall, St. Francis Hall

**April 18-19**

After Masses

**Cinnamon Roll Sale**

St. Anthony of Padua Church

**May 19**

6:00 PM

**Monthly Officer Meeting**

Conference Room, St. Francis Hall

**May 19**

6:45 PM

**Monthly Council Business Meeting**

Social Hall, St. Francis Hall

**June 5-6**

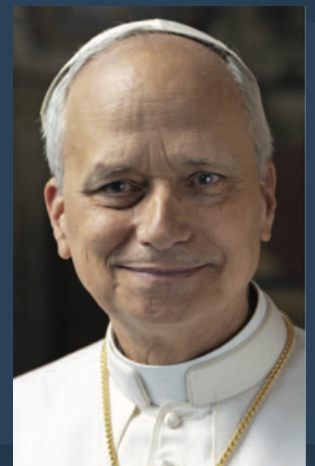
Varies by Volunteer


**Tootsie Roll Drive**


WalMart, Angola, IN


### Holy Father's Monthly Prayer Intention

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.



 <https://tinyurl.com/yc6tezbfb>

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## Prayer Requests

- Iris Thomas
- George Knotek
- Janet Rauch
- Alan Wiegand
- Devan Terrell
- Don Wise, Sr.
- Kedric & Laurie Beard
- Ken Drew, Jr.
- John Kesson
- Jack Kobak
- The VanGessel Family
- Lorrie Haines
- Kevin McHugh
- Lucy Michel
- Aiden Lingo
- June Patterson
- Frank O’Konski
- Cindy Weslowski
- Mary Ann Wiegand
- Harvey Lechleider
- Marilyn Karpinski
- Larry Steinbacher
- Keith Geise
- Lois McHugh
- Tom Karpinski
- Ben Helmsing
- Dan & Annette Stobierski
- Fr. Fred Pasche
- Fr. Bernie Zajdel
- J.P. Souilliere
- Barbara Kruk
- Maria Garcia (Fr. Jorge’s grandmother)
- Betty Langshield
- Carl Praski

St. Anthony of Padua...pray for us! St. Paul...pray for us!

Blessed Michael McGivney...pray for us!

Our Lady of Guadalupe...pray for us!



## Prayer and Card Request

We recently received a heartfelt letter from Diane O’Konski with an update on her husband, Frank, one of our former and very dedicated Brother Knights. Many will remember Frank faithfully serving at the dishwashing station during our council food events.

Frank is now in a nursing care facility in Bowling Green, Ohio, facing muscular dystrophy, Parkinson’s disease, and some dementia. Diane shared that he would truly enjoy receiving cards or pictures from our Council activities. Let’s help lift his spirits and remind him he remains in our thoughts and prayers.

Please send cards to:  
Diane O’Konski  
7060 Whiddenmill Dr.  
Whitehouse, OH 43571  
813-336-2198

## Monthly Social Event Interest?


As part of our regular monthly social activities, we are considering hosting an open-to-the-public Euchre Card Party from September through May.

We’d love your input! Would you be interested in attending or participating?

If so, please reach out to potential chairmen Steve Schneider (574-202-8769) or Mike Howe (260-463-7585) to share your thoughts and level of interest.



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## Fish Fry Moments



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March 17, 2026

## Council 7053 Meeting Minutes

- The meeting was called to order by Grand Knight Kelly Raugh with an opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- We had 24 members in attendance, with 11 of the 15 officers present.
- The Recorder read the minutes, and they were approved without correction or additions.
- The Chaplain was not present; there was no message.
- Grand Knights Report -
  - Shared that we have Men's Rosary on April 1st at 6:30 pm. Bill San Giacomo volunteered to organize the Rosary leaders and social gathering afterward.
  - Help is needed to begin setup for the Altar & Rosary Society Rummage sale on Monday, June 22, after the morning Mass.
  - Please join as a group to support the St. Paul Chapel Fish Fry and wear your blue council polo shirts.
  - Reminder about officer elections and the need for new volunteers for these positions. The slate of officers seeking election will be announced for three consecutive months.
- The Treasurer's Report was read, with ~\$8,169 in checking. Savings at ~\$2,335 and CDs remain the same as last month, and ~\$8,200 in the gaming account, with many checks now disbursed and drawing down that balance. The majority of the increased income comes from the fish fry events. Expenses were for fish fries, Euchre event seed money, Exemplification catering, and Supreme. The report was approved.
- Membership report presented. Eight new members and 85% of 2026 dues have been collected.
- Stan Fisher reported that additional cars are available for painting. Please contact him to coordinate.
- Mike Wyss shared updates from the Fish Fry Committee, praising all the volunteers. Approximately 225 & 217 people attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> fish fries. Many volunteers are supported with one remaining fish fry.
- Ed Wise provided updates for the Easter Basket raffle. Tickets will be sold after all the Masses on March 21, 22, 28, & 29<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers needed.
- KofC Annual Scholarship forms will be available on March 1st and due back by April 12th.
- Steve Schnieder and Mike Howe volunteered to coordinate a monthly public Euchre social night.
- District Deputy Report: Excellent exemplification event. Continue to encourage new members to join the council. Invite them to participate in council events and consider officer roles for the upcoming cycle.
- Good of the Order - Jim Scott shared a letter from Diane O'Konski regarding the health issues of her husband and brother Knight, Frank. All were encouraged to send a card or letter.
- Gene Burd led the men in a brief talk on St. Joseph and his important role in protecting the family and the Church. For our closing prayer, Gene led us in a Litany to St. Joseph.

 <https://tinyurl.com/yc6tezbF>

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**These minutes will be referenced for approval at our April 21 council business meeting. We intend to share the minutes with all brothers in advance so that you have time to review and offer any corrections.**

