



JULY 2026

OUR LADY OF THE LAKES,
COUNCIL 7053

NEWSLETTER

Salute to Our Program Chairmen

Please join us in welcoming our newest 3rd degree Brother Knight, Andrew Vachon! Andrew was exemplified on August 1 at Immaculate Conception Church in Auburn. We are excited to have Andrew join our brotherhood and look forward to his involvement in our council's many charitable and service activities. Welcome, Brother Andrew, and congratulations!



It takes a lot of dedicated men willing to step up and lead to make our council as active and successful as it is. These program chairmen give generously of their time, energy, and talents to organize events, rally volunteers, and help make each program a success.

So, a HUGE shout-out and THANK YOU to the following Brother Knights for their leadership and commitment:

- Gibault Liaison: Ted Pulver
- Tootsie Roll Drives: Jim Scott
- Family Director: Ken Rauch
- Easter Basket Raffle: Ed Wise & Steve Schneider
- Fish Frys: Mike Wyss
- Weekly Church Raffle: Ted Pulver & Glen Fischer

Your leadership and willingness to serve are greatly appreciated. Thank you for stepping up and helping make our council strong, active, and successful!

Winner List Heats Up!

The excitement is building as our Weekly Church Raffle races toward its grand finale on August 30, with just five more chances to win—or even win again!

In the meantime, we congratulate our July winners, each of whom is \$150 richer.

Thank you to everyone who supports this fundraiser, and good luck to all who are still in the running!

🎉 Theresa Wiemer (7/5)
🎉 Barry Vande Zande (7/12)
🎉 William Langscheid (7/19)
🎉 Frank Freeman (7/26)
and
🎉 Norm Gasemski (8/2)

Fundraiser Wrap-Ups

One of the greatest joys of being a Knight is raising funds to support those in need. Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners and community, our recent fundraising efforts continue to make a meaningful difference.

Proceeds from our Fourth of July Tootsie Roll Drive at St. Anthony of Padua and St. Paul's Chapel enabled our council to present \$900 donations to Steuben County Special Olympics, Easterseals RISE, Promise Land Community, and The Autism Center.

Our July 11-12 Cinnamon Roll Sale raised \$1,200 for our St. Vincent de Paul Society, helping provide assistance to local families in need.

Finally, our Brother Knights joined volunteers at the July 18 Pancake Breakfast in Fremont, helping raise \$3,700 in support of Promise Land Community.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, and participated. Your generosity allows our council to continue living our mission of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity by serving those in need throughout our community.



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2026 Weekly Church Raffle Ticket Sales Update

We're off to a great start! As of this writing, 175 of the 300 available tickets have already been sold. Ticket sales will continue through Labor Day weekend, if needed, but with everyone's help, we're hoping to sell out well before then.

Now it's time for every Brother Knight to get involved. Please purchase a ticket—and then sell a ticket! Every ticket sold supports the charitable work of our council and helps us continue serving those in need throughout our community.

Raffle Chairman Ted Pulver is also looking for volunteers to assist with ticket sales after all weekend Masses. If you're attending Mass, please consider heading to the Gathering Space a few minutes before the final blessing to help greet parishioners and sell raffle tickets as they exit. Even a few minutes of your time can make a big difference.

Together, let's make the 2026 Weekly Church Raffle another sellout success!



Thank you's

- Gibault Children's Services for the memorial donation made in memory of Iris Thomas.
- The Joe and Barb Caruso family for our generous donation in appreciation of the Memorial Masses, as well as for the friendship and support shown during their time of loss.
- Scholarship recipients Nadia Cline and Elijah Antos for their thoughtful thank-you notes expressing gratitude for the college scholarships awarded by our council.
- All of the Brother Knights who generously volunteered during the Altar & Rosary Rummage Sale—helping to lift, carry, load, deliver, set up, tear down, and store equipment and remaining items. Your willingness to serve was essential to the success of this event.
- Brother Knight Keith Geise for his sincere appreciation of the council's prayers and support during his recovery. We continue to pray for his continued healing and good health.

Upcoming Events Calendar

August 18

6:00 PM

Monthly Officer Meeting

Conference Room, St. Francis Hall

August 18

6:45 PM

Monthly Council Business Meeting

Social Hall, St. Francis Hall

All Sat & Sun Masses

Varies

Weekly Church Raffle Ticket Sales

St. Anthony of Padua Church & St. Paul Chapel

September 4

9:00 AM

Chicken Halves Sale prep

St. Francis Social Hall Kitchen

September 6

Following all Masses

Chicken Halves Fundraiser Sale

St. Anthony of Padua Church

September 11 & 12

10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Tootsie Roll Drive

Walmart, North Wayne, Angola

Holy Father's Monthly Prayer Intention - July

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.





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Prayer Requests

- Rich Holman
- George Knotek
- Janet Rauch
- Alan Wiegand
- Devan Terrell
- Don Wise, Sr.
- Kedric & Laurie Beard
- Ken Drew, Jr.
- John Kesson
- Elizabeth McHugh
- The VanGessel Family
- Lorrie Haines
- Roy Harpenau
- Stan Fisher
- Kevin McHugh
- Lucy Michel
- Aiden Lingo
- June Patterson
- Frank O'Konski
- Cindy Weslowski
- Mary Ann Wiegand
- Harvey Lechleider
- Marilyn Karpinski
- Larry Steinbacher
- Dan Vitek
- Lois McHugh
- Sue Foos
- Ed Wise
- 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
- *Rest in Peace - Ray Hoffman's father*

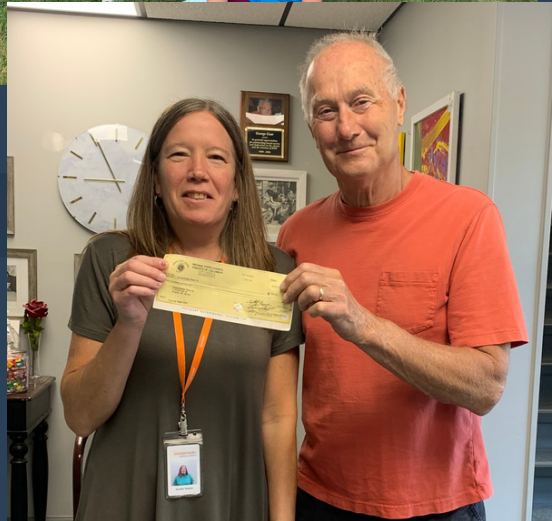
St. Anthony of Padua...pray for us!

St. Paul...pray for us!

Blessed Michael McGivney...pray for us! Our Lady of Guadalupe...pray for us!



Charity Projects and Donations



<https://tinyurl.com/yc6tezbfb>



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July 21, 2026

Council No. 7053, Meeting Minutes

- The meeting began with the formal business meeting, which opened with prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a roll call.
- Leadership: Program assignments were reviewed, with additional volunteers needed for several activities, especially the Fish Fry and faith/evangelization efforts.
- Finances: Treasurer duties are transitioning from Pete to Mark. The council remains in a strong financial position, with approximately \$57,000 in checking plus savings, CDs, and gaming funds.
- Food Assistance: The Food for Families program and Blessing Box continue to meet significant community needs. Members are encouraged to donate food.
- Membership: An exemplification is planned before year-end, with a goal of recruiting 3–4 new members.
- Raffle: 126 tickets have been sold after four weeks. More volunteers are needed to cover all Masses during the remaining six weeks.
- Tootsie Roll Drive: Year-to-date collections are approximately \$7,000, supporting several local charitable organizations. A final Walmart collection is planned for September.
- Promised Land: The pancake breakfast raised approximately \$3,700.
- Recognition: The council achieved Star Council status. Continued attention to faith, community, and family programs will be important for the Columbian Award.
- Key Priorities: Recruit new members, increase volunteer participation, strengthen faith programming, and continue supporting local charitable causes.
- The next council meeting is scheduled for August 18.

Key Council Action Items -

- *Correct and update email lists; ensure newsletter delivery for all members (use snail mail as needed).*
- *Coordinate Christmas dinner planning with Caruso's and Altar & Rosary Society; confirm headcount process to avoid underestimation.*
- *Volunteer coverage gaps for raffle sales, particularly at the 12:30 Spanish mass; designate specific leads and confirm credit card reader logistics.*
- *Assign a co-director for Fish Fries to support Mike Wiss; document responsibilities.*
- *Confirm "Faith Director" assignment with Steve Schneider and define activities; outline a simple quarterly plan.*
- *Conduct treasurer transfer meeting "next Thursday" and transition to Mark Stoops.*
- *Submit required forms (activity survey, audit) per district guidance.*
- *Continue Food for Families donations; members to bring canned goods; allocate the \$500 national check to food needs (e.g., pasta sauce).*
- *Reimburse propane expense for Promised Land upon receipt submission.*
- *Schedule exemplification before the end of the year; identify 3–4 candidates and set a specific date.*
- *Fill raffle volunteer slots for all masses, especially the 12:30 Spanish mass; ensure card reader availability and track ticket distribution.*
- *Prepare Tootsie Roll Drive sign-up for the August meeting; plan Walmart promotion on September 11–12.*



<https://tinyurl.com/yc6tezbz>

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These minutes will be referenced for approval at our August 18 council business meeting. We intend to share the minutes with all brothers in advance so that you have time to review and offer any edits or corrections.

