

# CROW'S NEST



Ave Maria Council 5521 61533 Ironwood Rd South Bend, IN 46614-9021 (574) 291-2740  
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## Grand Knight's Message



*"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17)*

**Build fraternity with other Catholic men.** Catholic friendship among men has a dramatic impact on their faith lives. Men who have bonds of brotherhood with other Catholic men pray more, go to Mass and Confession more frequently, read the Scriptures more often, and are more active in the Faith. (pg 21 of *Into the Breach*)

Based on this encouragement from Bishop Olmsted, I am asking Knights to be more involved in activities and coming to meetings in the next year. We have lots of opportunities to do some charitable work but also to work on helping to build this fraternity here at our council. We can do that by coming to meetings and socializing afterwards. We have 12 meetings throughout the year. I am not asking you to come to all 12 but your attendance will help build our Catholic Brotherhood.

I wish you and your family a Happy and Holy Advent and Christmas Seasons.

*Eric Van Meter*  
Grand Knight

## SAVE THESE DATES IN FEBRUARY 2018!!

**February 3, 7:00 p.m. Trivia Night.** Doors open at 6:00 p.m., trivia starts promptly at 7:00. Seating is limited. Call PGK Mike Huszar for reservations.

**February 4, 5:00 p.m. Super Chili Bowl.** Bring your best chili! "Just tasters" welcome too!

**February 10, 7:00 p.m. Second annual Beer and Wine Tasting.**

**February 24, 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Rekindle the Fire, Fort Wayne.**

## 2017-18 Officers

### Chaplain

Rev. SK Eric A. Zimmer, S.J.  
(574) 340-0687

### Grand Knight

SK Eric Van Meter  
[ericvm729@gmail.com](mailto:ericvm729@gmail.com)  
(574) 904-9812

### Deputy Grand Knight

SK Tim Bonadies  
(574) 252-5933

### Financial Secretary

SK George Adams, PGK  
[gcadams@alumni.nd.edu](mailto:gcadams@alumni.nd.edu)  
(574) 273-1198

### Chancellor

*Vacant position*  
*Please consider*

### Recorder

Douglas Gilman  
(574) 291-6408

### Treasurer

Cel Lopez  
(574) 291-4589

### Advocate

*Vacant position*  
*Please consider*

### Warden

Rob Diltz  
(574) 277-5384

### Inside Guard

*Vacant position*  
*Please consider*

### Outside Guard

Thomas Kajzer  
(574) 291-3430

### Lecturer

*Vacant position*  
*Please consider*

### Trustees

SK Mike Huszar, PGK  
(574) 250-1863  
Ryan Grill, PGK  
(574) 387-1628  
Kevin Thibodeau, PGK  
(574) 401-4483

### K of C Insurance Field Agent

SK Andrew Weiss  
(574) 274-6929

### District Deputy 11

SK Gil Martin  
(574) 276-5027

### Editor

SK George Adams  
(574) 273-1198

## Membership and Degree News

Our next admission degrees are scheduled for **December 5 and February 6**. If you have a potential member to propose or sponsor, contact membership co-chairman John Burzynski at [jburzynski@gmail.com](mailto:jburzynski@gmail.com) so we can get the candidate in for one of the exemplifications. Candidates and sponsors should arrive by 6:30 p.m. Guests should arrive by 6:45 p.m.

**The Formation (2nd) Degree will be exemplified** at St. Jude parish on Thursday, December 14. This is an ideal opportunity to advance to the next step in your journey to full knighthood in our Order. If you would like to take this step, contact GK Eric Van Meter as soon as possible. You must be a First-degree Knight in good standing in order to participate. You must bring your current membership card with you. Candidates should arrive between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m.; guest Knights must arrive by 7:15 p.m. The event should end around 8:30 p.m., depending on the number of candidates. There is no additional charge or dues increase to take this degree!

## Watch Your Mailbox



That's right. It's that time of year. **Statements for your 2018 dues will be mailed on December 15**, or shortly thereafter.

**New this year: You can pay your dues online.** However, you will still receive your first statement via U.S. Mail.

## Upcoming Events

Unless otherwise noted, all Council meetings, Admission (First) Degree exemplifications, Council planning meetings, Knights Nites Out, and South Bend Francis Club meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. Fish fries and spaghetti dinners are from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**December 1 – Fish fry**

**December 5 – Admission degree exemplification**

**December 8 – *Immaculate Conception – Holy Day***

**December 11 – Council meeting**

**December 14 – Formation (2<sup>nd</sup>) Degree Exemplification**  
St. Jude Parish 6:30 p.m.

**December 15 – Spaghetti dinner**

**December 16 – Breakfast with Santa,**  
Council Chambers, 10:00 a.m.

**December 17 – Celebration of PGK Tom Lesniak's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday,** St. Paul's, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**December 17 – Family Christmas (Wrapping) Party**  
Council Chambers, 6:00 p.m.

**December 18 – South Bend Francis Club meeting**

**December 22 – Council planning meeting**  
Note the change in date: Friday, 7:00 p.m.

**December 25 – *Nativity of the Lord – Holy Day***

**January 1 – *Mary, Holy Mother of God – Holy Day***

**January 2 – Knights Nite Out**

**January 5 – Fish fry**

**January 7, 14, 21, 28 – Host TV Mass at WNDU**  
Volunteers arrive by 10:15 a.m.

**January 8 – Council meeting**

**January 13 (tentative) – Free throw contest**  
St. Matthew School, 11:00 a.m.

**January 15 – South Bend Francis Club meeting**

**January 17-20 – Right to Life March (bus trip)**  
National Mall, Washington, DC

**January 19 – Spaghetti dinner**

**January 22 – Council planning meeting**

## Invitation to Join St. Joseph County Formation Degree Team

Brother Knights,

The Mid-Year District Deputies' meeting in December 2016 brought forth the announcement that there would be a change in degree team responsibilities. Beginning January 2018, the District Deputies would be responsible for organizing the Formation Degree (formerly known as 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree). Former District Deputies Rick Alexander (District 10) and Brad Soule (District 11) agreed to form one degree team for all of St. Joseph County. We see this as a means to benefit our Admission (1<sup>st</sup>) Degree Knights on their journey into Knighthood.

We began putting out the word at Council meetings, looking for brother Knights who would be interested in serving on the Degree Team. We held an interest meeting this past spring and began gathering the Team. Our current District Deputies Rick Burmeister (District 10) and Gil Martin (District 11) have appointed Rick Alexander as the Degree Team Captain. We began in earnest in August to parcel out speaking parts and work out details. Recently, we were surprised to find out that many of our brother Knights were not aware that a Formation Degree Team was being formed here in St. Joseph County. We are now reaching out through our Council newsletters to ask our Brother Knights to join us. We would like to have more Brothers involved to help accommodate situations where one or more team members are not available on a given date.

We were certified in November and will hold our first official degree in mid-December. What are the requirements to be on the team? Simply be a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Knight and have a desire to help your brother Knights advance into the Formation Degree. Expect to give a few hours for the degree ceremony and, as necessary, a few hours periodically for practices. Our standard dress will be a coat and tie, slacks and nice shoes. We will be wearing yellow and white sashes instead of robes.

After our first few degrees, we anticipate holding degrees at least once a quarter, all at councils or parishes in St. Joseph County.

I invite you to join the Formation Degree Team that is here in St. Joseph County.

SK Rick Alexander, PFN, FDD  
Cell/text (574) 302-6034 or  
[rickalexa49@gmail.com](mailto:rickalexa49@gmail.com)

## Adopting Families for Christmas

Council 5521 is again adopting families for Christmas. We have a list of needy families, with individual names and needs. We're asking Knights and their families to select one or more persons on the list and purchase gifts for them, and then drop off the *unwrapped* gifts at the council or bring them to the Christmas party on December 17.

The list will be available for sign-ups at council meetings and events between now and December 17, when we will have our annual Christmas party and gift-wrapping event. For more information, call Jim Kramer at 574-286-4151, or send him an email at [jkramer@holycrossusa.org](mailto:jkramer@holycrossusa.org).


We also need volunteers to help deliver the gifts and groceries, on Saturday morning, December 23.

Watch your email for more information.

## Good of the Order


Please call one of the officers if you know of any member sick or in need of prayer. Please keep PGK Tom and Lady Dottie Lesniak and PGK Ed Willamowski in your prayers.

*Publication and distribution of Crow's Nest is underwritten by:*



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## Knights of Columbus

Ave Maria Council 5521  
61533 Ironwood Rd.  
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Telephone: (574) 291-2740



*The Family Council*

Place  
stamp  
here

### Volunteer Corner

The Council is continuing its Tootsie Roll sale to aid our intellectually challenged citizens. Earlier this year, we raised almost \$1000. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Cel Lopez at (574) 291-4589.

Council 5521 will again host the WNDU-TV Masses on the 4 Sundays in January. To volunteer, call Jim Kramer at 574-286-4151, or send him an email at [jkramer@holycrossusa.org](mailto:jkramer@holycrossusa.org). Volunteers should bring a gallon of milk and a half-gallon of orange juice. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided. Please arrive by 10:15 a.m. You will be able to leave by 11:15.

### Article deadline for next issue: January 10.

*Crow's Nest* is published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December by Knights of Columbus, Ave Maria Council 5521, 61533 Ironwood Rd., South Bend, IN 46614-9021. Article deadline is the tenth day of the month preceding publication.



### It's Not Too Late

Now is the *perfect* time to **go with us to the March for Life in D.C.** on Jan. 19, 2018. This will show your support for the great gift that God gave us and that is life itself. This will be the *best* \$285 you will *ever* spend. Even though the deadline has passed, it's not too late to sign up. Contact State Pro-Life Director Mike Velasco at [prolife@indianakofc.org](mailto:prolife@indianakofc.org), or phone (219) 663-0509.

If you can't make the march in Washington, you will have another opportunity to witness for life at the annual "Walk the Talk for Life" march in late January at Council 553.