



**Knights of
Columbus**

Kirkwood Council 2117

Website: www.kofc2117.org

Facebook: [KofC2117](https://www.facebook.com/KofC2117)

X (Twitter): @KofC2117

January 2026 Newsletter

Grand Knight Message

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! This is a joyful time of year as we celebrate the birth of our Lord while also looking forward to our own “rebirth” in the new year.

If 2025 was a good year for you, what can you do to continue or strengthen the positives from the past 12 months? If 2025 was a difficult year, what steps can you take to help make 2026 better? And if 2025 was “just another year,” what can you do to make 2026 extraordinary?

Council 2117 has grown substantially in recent years, and we are thrilled to welcome many new members. This growth has helped expand our Man the Can, Tootsie Roll Drive, and other fundraising efforts throughout the year.



We hope to see our new members -and our less-active long-time members - helping make 2026 an extraordinary year for Council 2117 through volunteer efforts and by bringing new ideas to the Council to help us better serve our communities.

Upcoming Events Calendar

Visit Council website Calendar (www.kofc2117.org) any time for most current event information

January 2026

Thur	1	NEW YEAR'S DAY	
Thur	1	SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	
Thur	1	Officer Meeting...(<i>Rescheduled as Email communication</i>).....	Email
Thur	8	Business Meeting (6:30pm - Social, 7:10pm - Rosary).....	7:30 pm
Sat	10	Tour - Our Lady's Inn...(<i>After 9:00 am Mass at St Gerard Majella</i>)....	10:00 am
Sat-Sun	10-11	Man-the-Can for St Josephine Bakhita Food Pantry (<i>St Peter</i>).....	All Masses
Wed	14	Assembly 565 - 4th Degree Meeting.....	7:30 pm
Mon	19	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY	
Fri	23	Annual March for Life (<i>Washington DC</i>)	
Mon	26	St Louis Chapter Meeting.....	7:00 pm
Sat	31	Tour - Fisher House -...(<i>After 8:15am Mass at St Peter</i>).....	10:00 am

February 2026

Thur	5	Officer Meeting.....	7:30 pm
Sat-Sun	7-8	Man-the-Can for St Josephine Bakhita Food Pantry (<i>St Peter</i>).....	All Masses
Wed	11	Assembly 565 - 4th Degree Meeting.....	7:30 pm
Thur	12	Business Meeting (6:30pm - Social, 7:10pm - Rosary).....	7:30 pm
Sat	14	ST VALENTINES' DAY	
Mon	16	PRESIDENTS' DAY	
Mon	23	St Louis Chapter Meeting.....	7:00 pm

January Knight Birthdays

1 William Combs
2 Aloys Litteken
8 Lawrence Nelms
8 Rev Christopher Rubie
17 Mike Hatke
22 Patrick Burgess
22 Ray Rodriguez



23 Matthew Eversole
24 John Meesey
25 Oliver Bates
26 John Kleiss
26 Christopher Sturm
30 Travis Rodden

CORRECTIONS REQUESTED

Spot an error? Your big day missing? Please email corrections to kofc2117editor@gmail.com

Knight of the Month

At the December business meeting, **GK Tony Jarboe** presented the Knight of the Month Award to **Buzz Jelinek**.

His leadership role as Deputy Grand Knight has made him an important partner for GK Tony Jarboe and his willingness to accept roles of leadership is matched by his willingness to pitch in wherever needed.

Most recently, Buzz accepted the role of Council Membership Director and, just six months into the Columbian year, has built a team that has already achieved the new member goal needed to attain Star Council status for 2025/2026. While a major accomplishment on its own, this was achieved after multiple years of Star Council membership growth.

The enthusiasm and involvement of many new members have greatly increased our Council's ability to continue and expand our services to our parishes and local communities.

Congratulations and many thanks to Buzz for his personal commitment to our Council.



New Insurance Agent Nathan LeBlanc Introduced



At the December business meeting, recently installed Insurance Field Agent Nathan LeBlanc visited Kirkwood Council 2117 to introduce himself to the members in attendance.

In addition to his personal introduction, Nathan presented GK Tony Jarboe with a copy of *The Knights of Columbus: An Illustrated History* by Andrew T. Walther and Maureen H. Walther.

The arrival of the New Year serves as a good reminder that now is an excellent time to review your insurance and investments.

Nathan would be happy to share his services and product knowledge to help you build a solid financial foundation for 2026 and beyond.

You can reach Nathan at Nathan.Leblanc@kofc.org.

Council Travel Events - January

The officers of Kirkwood Council 2117 are in the process of scheduling some new Council activities, and one starting in January will be site visits to introduce members to the works of some of our important, supported charities

Plan on making time for one, or both, of this month's initial visits and become better acquainted with the facilities and services of Our Lady's Inn and the St Louis VA Medical Center Fisher.

Tour of Our Lady's Inn – New Building Site



Saturday January 10, 2026, 10:00 am

Meet at facility at 10:00 am or join Brothers and families at St Gerard Majella for Mass at 9:00 am before the tour

13205 Big Bend
St Louis, MO 63122

Please RSVP to Keith Beardslee at keith.beardslee@gmail.com so the facility can plan for our visit.

MISSION: Our Lady's Inn Maternity Homes serve as a safe-haven for pregnant women and their children in need of housing and services.

Tour of the St Louis VA Medical Center Fisher House



Saturday January 31, 2026, 10:00 am

Meet at facility at 10:00 am or join Brothers and families at St Peter for Mass at 8:15 am before the tour

1 Jefferson Barracks Dr, Building 59
St Louis, MO 63125

Please RSVP to Keith Beardslee at keith.beardslee@gmail.com so the facility can plan for our visit.

MISSION: St Louis VA Medical Center Fisher House provides a "home away from home" for families of veterans and active-duty personnel receiving care at the St Louis VA Medical Center.



Knights of Columbus®

Kirkwood Council 2117



2025/26 - Roster of Council Officers

Grand Knight	Tony Jarboe	tonyjarboe@wustl.edu
Deputy Grand Knight	Buzz Jelinek	jelineksmail@gmail.com
Chancellor	Keith Beardslee	keith.beardslee@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Frank Mostek	fbmiea@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	David Anderson	dmandrsn@hotmail.com
Financial Secretary	Tom Foy	thomasfoy@gmail.com
Advocate	David Renard	drenard2015@gmail.com
Lecturer	Steve Minowitz	markmino@swbell.net
Warden	Chris Byrne	cbyrne42@gmail.com
Chaplain	Fr John Seper	frseper@sgmparish.org
Inside Guard	Mark Ryan	trebornayr@sbcglobal.net
Outside Guard	Chris Sturm	cwsturm1974@gmail.com
Trustee First Year	Dennis Buchheit	dabuchheit@yahoo.com
Trustee Second Year	Dan Koskovich	dkoskovich@gmail.com
Trustee Third Year	Larry Nelms	ljnelms@charter.net

District Deputy	Ken Gebken	
Insurance Field Agent	Nathan Leblanc	Nathan.Leblanc@kofc.org

Roster of Council Directors

Program Director	Dave Anderson	Membership Director	Buzz Jelinek
Faith Director	Dennis Buchheit	Recruitment Director	Mike Putnam
Family Director	Tony Jarboe	Social Media Director	Neil McCloskey
Community Director	Dave Renard	Website/Newsletter Editor	Dan Koskovich
Life Director	John Heck		