



March--April 2026

Grand Knight's Report



Worthy Brothers and Friends of Patuxent Council,

As we journey through this sacred season, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who supported and participated in our Council's Lenten activities: the Fish Fry, Men's Retreat, and Capital Campaign FUND Drive. Your presence, generosity, and commitment continue to strengthen our brotherhood and advance our shared mission of service.

While Lent may be drawing to a close, the call to conversion does not end. Let us carry forward the spirit of prayer, sacrifice, and charity into our daily lives—remaining steadfast in faith and intentional in our service to others.

In a world that longs for healing, let us also be instruments of peace. As St. Francis of Assisi reminds us: *"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace."* May we sow love where there is hatred, hope where there is despair, and light where there is darkness.

Let us continue this journey together, with purpose, humility, and unwavering faith.

Vivat Jesus!

Eloka Ifudu
Grand Knight

**Resolution for Patuxent Council Donation in Support of the
St. Mary of the Mills 2026 Capital Campaign**

WHEREAS the Council's Atlantic Union certificate of deposit that matured January 20, 2026, yielded a final balance of \$46,685.76,

AND WHEREAS the account balance is unbudgeted and available for disbursement at the discretion of the Council,

AND WHEREAS the physical facilities of the church and school are in need of repairs and upgrade that could total more than \$1.5 million,

AND WHEREAS the Parish has initiated a capital campaign to raise the necessary funds,

AND WHEREAS part of our primary mission is to support the parish,

AND WHEREAS the parish has always been very generous to Patuxent Council with respect to facilities usage,

IT IS HEARBY RESOLVED THAT Patuxent Council shall donate to the capital campaign \$20,000 from the certificate of deposit final balance.

Approved by Council vote:  Date: 10 MAR 26
Grand Knight

Council Meetings: Planning - 1st Tuesday; Membership - 2nd Tuesday; Social - 3rd Tuesday

All Meetings 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Location

Kutzera Room of the Keesler Parish Center, 800 Main Street, Laurel, MD 20707

Mailing Address: K of C Patuxent Council 2203, P.O. Box 95, Laurel, MD 20725

SEND *Patuxent Ripple* submissions TO: roberttenney47@gmail.com

St. Mary of the Mills Church
114 St. Mary's Place
Laurel, MD 20707
(301) 725-3080
Fax (301) 725-2409



April 15, 2026

Knights of Columbus #2203
P.O. Box 95
Laurel, MD 20725

Dear Knights of Columbus,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$20,000 to our capital campaign. With the Lord's help, and the response of generous parishioners like you, the campaign will be a great success.

This endeavor is certainly an historic event in the life of our parish. Your gift, along with those of others, will enable us to continue to renew and restore our parish and help us to meet the challenges of the future.

I am most grateful for your generosity and your prayers for the success of this campaign.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marco Schad". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Fr. Marco Schad
Pastor

Council Meetings: **Planning** - 1st Tuesday; **Membership** - 2nd Tuesday; **Social** - 3rd Tuesday

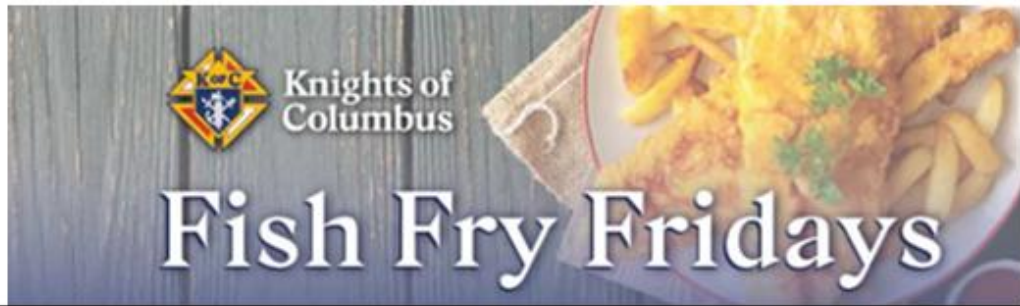
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Fish Fry Menu
Friday, March 14, 2026

Classic Meals		
	Regular Fried Fish Dinner 1 portion of fried battered Whiting, 2 sides, drink, dessert	\$16.00
	Extra Portion Fried Fish Dinner 2 portions of fried battered Whiting, 2 sides, drink, dessert	\$22.00
	Kids Fried Fish Dinner 1 portion of fried battered Whiting, 1 side, drink, dessert	\$13.00
	Salmon Dinner 1 portion of honey teriyaki salmon, 2 sides, drink, dessert	\$16.00
	Shrimp Basket Dinner 1/2 lb of shrimp tempura (about 6 or 7 shrimp), 2 sides, drink, dessert	\$16.00
	Shrimp Basket 1/2 lb of shrimp tempura (about 6 or 7 shrimp), no sides	\$8.00
	McKnight Fillet O-Fish Sandwich fish fillets on a brioche bun with cheese and tartar sauce, 1 side, drink.	\$8.00

Setup, cashiers and serving line volunteers vary each week and are too numerous to list. They include Council Brothers, parishioners and student volunteers.

Following Ash Wednesday on February 18, Patuxent Council began our annual series of Friday Lenten Fish fries continuing for six weeks. Our organizer and leader is, as always, **Stan Potter, PGK**. Our irreplaceable kitchen team is led by **master chef Chris Walker**, assisted by **Brothers Mark O'Dea, and Ted Gambogi**, plus parishioners **Kate Monagan and Jo Saunders**.



Premium Meals		
	Lobster Tail Dinner 1 4oz lobster tail, 2 sides, drink, dessert	\$18.00
	Lobster Tail Extra Dinner 2 4oz lobster tails, 2 sides, drink, dessert	\$24.00
	Lobster Roll 2 4oz lobster caught on a roll	\$24.00
	Lobster Roll Meal 1 Lobster Roll, 1 side, drink, dessert	\$21.00
	Lobster Tail 1 4oz lobster tail, no sides	\$24.00
	Regular Snow Crab Leg Dinner 2 portions of snow crab legs, 2 sides, drink, dessert	\$22.00
	Extra Portion Snow Crab Leg Dinner 3 portions of snow crab legs, 2 sides, drink, dessert	\$30.00
	Snow Crab Leg Cluster 2 clusters of snow crab legs, no sides	\$8.00

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2026 Knights of Columbus State Basketball Free Throw Contest

The 2026 Maryland State Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship was open to all boys and girls for ages 9 to 14. Our Council participated in the Council and MD State competitions. There were seven CYO teams evaluated by Adam Novak and Rick Novak to determine the Council winners. There was a total of 75 (21 girls and 54 boys) participants. Each of them received certificates signed by our Grand Knight Eloka Ifudu. Council winners were recognized by receiving Council champion certificates.

The Council winners were: Girls: Evelyn C., Rosa C., Chloe W., Margaret S., Francine T. and Olivia G. and Boys: Michael B., Anthony T., Javier C-R., Benjamin C-R., Logan J. and Lexington T.

Since Council 2203 was the only Council in District 10 participating, each winner was considered a District Winner and eligible for the State Free Throw Contest. Each of the winners received medallions recognizing their accomplishment.

This year, 2026, the MD State Council hosted the MD State Basketball Free Throw Competition on Saturday March 14th, at **St. Vincent Pallotti High School** in Laurel, Maryland.

Each of the District 10 winners participated with winning Trophy awards for 1st place provided to Evelyn C., Anthony T., Benjamin C-R., and Lexington T. (each as State Winners).

All CYO coaches and parents of the participants in the Shootout expressed their appreciation and thanks to the Knights for conducting the annual event.

Rick Novak, Free Throw Team Lead

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2025-2026 Community Awards

Catholic Teacher of the Year (2025/2026)

Sandra DosSantos

Recognized for her faith-filled service at St. Mary of the Mills School as an **Elementary Physical Education teacher (K-5)**. She fosters confidence, teamwork, and sportsmanship aligned with the school's Catholic mission and has served since 2021 as a **CYO Girls Basketball coach**, mentoring student-athletes and modeling servant leadership.



Faith Formation Teacher of the Year (2025/2026)

Delysha Henry

Honored for **15 years of service** to the St. Mary of the Mills community and nearly **25 years in catechesis**. As a Kindergarten catechist, she delivers engaging, hands-on faith formation and volunteers broadly in parish ministries, inspiring children and families to live their faith.



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2025-2026 Community Awards Ceremony
March 17
Award Recipients

Emergency Medical Technician of the Year (2025/2026)

Monica Hendrix

A **volunteer EMT-B** and Life Member of the Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad with **22+ years** of service. She continues active response while mentoring new EMTs, supports training and membership onboarding, and exemplifies excellence in volunteer emergency medical service.



Firefighter of the Year (2025/2026)

Lt. Joseph Harding

Recognized for exceptional service and leadership with the Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad since **2016**. A skilled Fire Officer and EMT, he exceeds staffing needs, supports training and administration, and serves as a trusted mentor and role model.



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2025-2026 Community Awards Ceremony
March 17
Award Recipients

Citizen of the Year (2025/2026)

Shannon R. Mouton

Honored for civic leadership as Executive Director of **Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services (LARS)**. Since 2022, her results-driven leadership has expanded services, strengthened organizational capacity, and increased community reach across the region.



Healthcare Worker of the Year (2025/2026)

Dr. Cylburn E. Soden, Sr.

Recognized for a **35+ year** career in dermatology and lifelong community service. A U.S. Army veteran and retired Colonel, he founded **Soden Dermatology** and is known for clinical excellence, compassionate care, and leadership.



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2025-2026 Community Awards Ceremony
March 17
Award Recipients

Family of the Year (2025/2026)

The Robert “Bob” Tenney Family

Honored for living Catholic values through faith, service, and dedication. Bob Tenney, a retired U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer and Vietnam veteran, and his family—spanning healthcare, education, and service professions—exemplify Christian family life and community commitment.



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Clean Your Closets for the Capital Campaign

The Knights of Columbus are raising funds for the Capital Campaign by collecting gently used items:

- Soft goods (clothing, linens, etc.)
- Small household goods
- Books and media

Our Goal: \$2000

Collection Dates: March 14, 2025; March 21, 2025

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Keesler Center

Patuxent Council Brings \$700+ to the St. Mary's Capital Campaign

Under the leadership of **Stan Potter, PGK**, our **Clean Your Closet Campaign** went very well. During Saturday mornings March 14 and 21 Knights and other volunteers collected 2480 pounds of soft goods (clothing, linens, etc.), 862 pounds of household goods, and 1390 pounds of books and media. Over the two Saturdays, we had about **17 volunteers** working at various times. Dozens of parishioners and others drove through to donate. Our plan was to use the Keesler Center upstairs Wilson Room as a temporary storage site between collection sessions. That presented a serious challenge March 14 because the elevator was out of service. Several Knights, especially **Ted, Dominick & Nick Gambogi**, did the leg work on the steps! Soft goods were stored in the Council Kutzera Room office.



Stan Potter & Bob Tenney sort donations

Mark O'Dea lifts a load of books



On March 21, The City of Laurel, through **Adam Novak**, kindly donated the use of a 20-foot truck which we used to collect and transport over 2 tons of donations.



Student Volunteers



Adam Novak plans and packs the load



Download at 2nd Avenue Thrift Store



At the Second Avenue Thrift Store drop-off 5 Knights assisted with off-loading and filling up receiving bins. We netted an estimated \$651.70 in weighed donations. We should receive a \$50 bonus for bringing in over 700 pounds of books. Second Avenue gave us credit for 6 pallets and one keyboard. In all, we expect at least \$701.70 for the Capital Campaign.



**Patuxent Council
Will Hosts
INOVA Blood Drive
February 21, 2026**



With ongoing blood shortage in our area hospitals, Patuxent Council #2203 hosted INOVA Blood Donor Service in a blood drive on Feb 21, 2026.

22 Donors donated 22 Pints of blood to save lives in hospitals.

30 Donors, 2 Brother Knights and a Scout (high school student) volunteered at the blood drive.

*Augustine Nwabueze, PGK
Family Programs Director*



On Saturday, February 21, 2026, 35 total volunteers, including 13 Brother Knights and 22 family members and friends of Patuxent Council, distributed an estimated 3,431 pounds of food to individuals, families, two local convents, and the food pantries at LARS and Elizabeth House. A total of 159 food packages, 145 Value Packs and 12 specialty items, were distributed with a value of at least \$4,730.

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The Value Packs weighed in at more than 21 pounds each this month and included chicken drumsticks, ground chicken, beef, fish, and eight different produce items including cabbage, grapefruit, kidney beans, onions, and potatoes. There were two specialty items this month, a seafood box and smoothie box.

After February, we stand at an estimated 980,107 pounds of food distributed in the lifetime of the Council's participation in the SHARE program. We estimate we will surpass the 1,000,000-pound mark at either our July or August 2026 distribution.

We also thank everyone who came out to help with our Easter SHARE Distribution on Saturday, March 21st. It was certainly a busy day at the Keesler Center between our distribution, collections for the Council's St. Mary's Capital Campaign Drive, and set-up for the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby. All told, we distributed an estimated total of 3,743 pounds of food, including 146 Value Packs, 86 Easter Hams, and 17 other monthly specialty items. Each of our donate clients received a ham alongside their Value Packs and the parish purchased 55 hams to distribute during the Parish Pantry's pre-Easter distribution. The total dollar value was at least \$6,544.

On April 18, 13 Brother Knights alongside 13 family/friends distributed 3,508 pounds of food to individuals, families, 3 local food pantries, and 2 convents. Food worth at least \$5091. Value Packs included 4 protein and 8 produce items and were above average weight at 23.4 pounds. Estimated 509 meals were provided.

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming distributions: May 16th, and June 27th. Anyone interested in assisting with the run to the Warehouse should arrive to Keesler Center by 7:25 a.m. All other volunteers please arrive at 8:45 a.m.

Jimmy Williams, FDD, PGK, PFN



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Knight of the Month for February

Brother Mark O’Dea

Lenten Fish Fry assistant chef extraordinaire

Family of the Month for February



Ron and Joni Chrismer

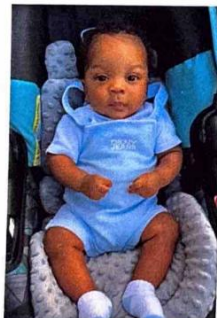
Ron is council Chancellor, Director of Faith Programs, and leads our Laurel Pregnancy Center baby bottle campaign. He and Joni are active in the parish St. Callistus Society; he is the leader. Both serve the homeless and addicted in the community.



Thank you knights!
Tiffany Farley

KofC #2203 Patuxent Council
Gift Date: 3/10/2026
Gift Amount: \$1,000.00
Tax-Deductible Amount: \$1,000.00

No goods or services were provided in exchange for the tax-deductible amount of this donation. Gabriel Network is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Gifts to Gabriel Network are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Please retain this receipt for tax purposes. For more information about our mission and effectiveness, please contact us at 800-264-3565 ex.301, laura.best@gabrielnetwork.org, or PO Box 2116 Bowie, MD 20718.



Thank you for joining Gabriel Network's mission of saving lives through the witness of Christ's love. Together we are equipping the Church to accompany pregnant women and their families, through crisis, to a future filled with hope.

Currently, we have ²¹¹~~200~~ active Angel Friend volunteers helping ²⁰⁰~~200~~ ²⁷⁷ Moms with things like job stability, debt reduction, daycare selection, church community connection and so much more! We train new volunteers continuously so that every Mom who calls our helpline will receive God's love and support through our loving Church Based Ministry teams.

Thank you for supporting life!

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January 21, 2026

Mr. Chieloka Ifudu, Grand Knight
Mr. Chieloka Ifudu, Grand Knight Patuxent Council Knights of Columbus #2203
P.O. Box 95
Laurel, MD 20725

Dear Worthy Grand Knight Ifudu,

On behalf of St. Vincent Pallotti High School, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous and continued support. Your contributions help us provide exceptional educational opportunities, improve our facilities, and create meaning full experiences for our students.

Thank you for your generous support over the past year. It is because of donors like you that we are able to help those in need. Below is a list of your 2025 contributions to our organization.

Date	Gift Amount	Gift Designation	Type of Gift	Check/Reference#
12/12/2025	\$300.00	Scholarships/Awards	Check	1093

Total: \$300.00

Your ongoing support makes a difference in the lives of our students, and we are honored to have you as part of the Pallotti Family.

We are incredibly grateful for your partnership in our mission and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. These gatherings are a great way to celebrate the Pallotti Community and witness the impact of your generosity. Please see the enclosed listing.

Thank you once again for your generosity, and we hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

Claire Rudinski
Claire Rudinski
Advancement Director

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MARY'S HOME MARYLAND INC.

3675 PARK AVE., #301
ELLCOTT CITY, MD 21043
PHONE: 443-574-7746
FAX: 410-480-0013

www.maryshomemaryland.org

Knights of Columbus Patuxent Council
PO Box 95
Laurel, MD 20725

Dear Knights of Columbus Patuxent Council,

Thank you so much for your gift of \$500.00 to Mary's Home on 2/8/2026. This gift enables Mary's Home to fulfill its mission to provide a safe home environment for expectant mothers and their children in crisis and to empower them toward stability.

You are truly making a difference in the lives of vulnerable women and children. Your support and goodwill have a generational impact, by helping our residents to achieve their goals, break the cycle of poverty, and build a brighter future for their families. Thank you for giving hope to our clients!

May God's blessings shine upon you!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonia Mejia".

Sonia Mejia
Executive Director
Mary's Home Maryland

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University of Maryland Concessions



2025 Football Season Fundraising Totals Divided By Group

Organization	Date	Event	Last Name	First Name	Estimated Portion	Actual Portion
Knights of Columbus 2203	August 30, 2025	Florida Atlantic University	Baldwin	Christian	144.00	150.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	August 30, 2025	Florida Atlantic University	Baldwin	Steve	144.00	150.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	August 30, 2025	Florida Atlantic University	Chrismer	Ron	144.00	150.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	August 30, 2025	Florida Atlantic University	Potter	Stan	144.00	150.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	August 30, 2025	Florida Atlantic University	Stevick	Ben	144.00	150.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	September 5, 2025	Northern Illinois University	Novak	Adam	167.00	170.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	September 5, 2025	Northern Illinois University	Potter	Stan	167.00	170.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	September 13, 2025	Towson University	Baldwin	Christian	148.00	152.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	September 13, 2025	Towson University	Baldwin	Steve	148.00	152.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	September 13, 2025	Towson University	Chrismer	Ron	148.00	152.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	October 4, 2025	University of Washington	Baldwin	Steve	220.00	223.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	October 4, 2025	University of Washington	Potter	Stan	220.00	223.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	October 11, 2025	University of Nebraska	Nwabueze	Augustine	214.00	220.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	October 11, 2025	University of Nebraska	Onyekweli	Yetunde	214.00	220.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	October 11, 2025	University of Nebraska	Stevick	Ben	214.00	220.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	November 1, 2025	Indiana University	Baldwin	Steve	196.00	201.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	November 1, 2025	Indiana University	Gambogi	Ted	196.00	201.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	November 1, 2025	Indiana University	Onyekweli	Yetunde	196.00	201.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	November 22, 2025	University of Michigan	Baldwin	Steve	209.00	226.00
Knights of Columbus 2203	November 22, 2025	University of Michigan	Potter	Stan	209.00	226.00
Knights of Columbus 2203 Total						3,707.00

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Knight of the Month for March

Brother Chris Walker

Lenten Fish Fry Executive Chef extraordinaire

Family of the Month for March

Geoff & Helen Griffith family

Brother Geoff and Lady Helen are active parishioners. He ushers; she is lectors and takes Holy Communion to the homebound. Their band plays free at church events (e.g., picnic) and community events, and they support many various pro-life events.



**Little Sisters
of the Poor**
HOSPITALITY AT HEART

<https://www.littlesistersofthepoorwashingtondc.org/>

The Patuxent Council #2203 LSOP Regional Collection center accepts donations of non-perishable food, beverages, hygiene supplies, and office supplies on the 3rd Saturday of every month.

In May, the Council is donating \$100 with our monthly delivery to the Sisters

Thanks so much for supporting the Little Sisters.

Patrick Onyekweli, PGK, Trustee

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**State Council Financial Assistance Account
Fundraiser at Pub Dog Columbia
Tuesday, June 23rd**

The Maryland State Council Charity Fund is excited to partner with [Pub Dog Pizza & Drafthouse](#) in Columbia (8865 Stanford Blvd) to hold a fundraiser benefitting its Financial Assistance Account on Tuesday, June 23rd from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.!

Pub Dog will donate **10% of all sales, both dine-in and carry-out**, to the Financial Assistance Account. No flier required! Just show up with your family and friends to enjoy delicious craft pizza and house-brewed beer! 32-oz and 64-oz growlers are available so you can take your favorite beer to go!

The State Council Financial Assistance Account provides grants to residents of Maryland who finds themselves in urgent, temporary financial need. Since 1984, the State Council has granted nearly \$1.3 million to help individuals and families with expenses such as mortgage, rent, utilities, insurance premiums, car repairs, medical bills, disaster recovery, and final expenses for departed family members. Please join us for fun evening raising funds for a great cause!

Jimmy Williams, FDD, PGK, PFN
Chairman, Maryland State Council Financial Assistance Account



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