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|  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Arma Dextra</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Knights of Columbus<br/>Fr. Baker Council #2243<br/>Lackawanna, NY 14218 Suite 205</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Editor in Chief: Gary Sitarski</p> |  |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Click Here for Council Website</a></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Call/Text: 1 (716) 374-5606</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Click to Email</a></p>                   |

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>April 2026 Calendar</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup></b><br/>Sr. Knights Mtg at Glab Post<br/>1:30PM – Page 5</p>   |
| <p><b>Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup></b><br/>Good Friday – Liturgy of the<br/>Lord’s Passion –3PM – Page 9</p>  |
| <p><b>Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup></b><br/>Regular Council Mtg at Office -<br/>6:30PM – Page 4</p>   |
| <p><b>Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup></b><br/>WNY Chapter Mtg at Fr. Justin<br/>Council 5670<br/>8:30AM – Page 4</p>  |
| <p><b>Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup></b><br/>Doughnuts &amp; Discipleship<br/>After 8 &amp; 10AM OLV Mass At<br/>Marian Room – Page 6</p>  |
| <p><b>Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup></b><br/>Council COR Program<br/>At OLV Community Room<br/>6:30PM –Page 6</p>  |
| <p><b>Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup></b><br/>4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemption<br/>Ceremony at the Hamburg Council<br/>Registration 12PM – Page 4</p>  |
| <p><b>Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup></b><br/>Columbette Mtg at OLV<br/>Community Room<br/>6:30PM – Page 7</p>   |
| <p><b>Monday the 27<sup>th</sup></b><br/>Council Business Mtg at Office -<br/>6:30PM – Page 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GK – Glenn Reid<br/>(716) 830-3993<br/>FS – John Radwan<br/>(716) 830-1804<br/>Insurance Agent – Mike<br/>Gruszewski<br/>(716) 579-4312</p> |

“My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will.” - Matthew 26:39

Today we enter into the Passion of the Lord. From the Upper Room to Gethsemane, from betrayal to the cross, we witness the depth of Christ’s love.

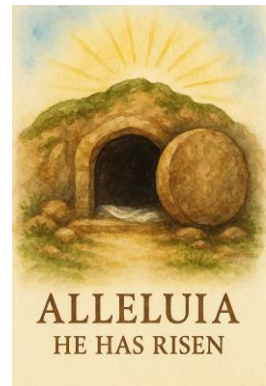


Jesus does not resist the Father’s will. He embraces it, even when it leads to suffering. In His silence before His accusers, in His forgiveness from the cross, we see love poured out completely.

Holy Week invites us to walk with Him. To remain near in prayer. To trust that even in darkness, God’s plan of salvation is unfolding.

Lord, give us the courage to follow You through the cross, trusting in the promise of the Resurrection.

- KofC Facebook page.



**Glenn’s  
Knightly Nook**  
(Wisdom & words  
from our Grand  
Knight.)

“One of my favorite philosophers, Marcus Aurelis once said, The Happiness of your Life depends upon the Quality of your Thoughts, therefore guard accordingly: And take care that you entertain no Notions unsuitable to Virtue and reasonable Nature.’

## Greetings, Brothers in Christ!

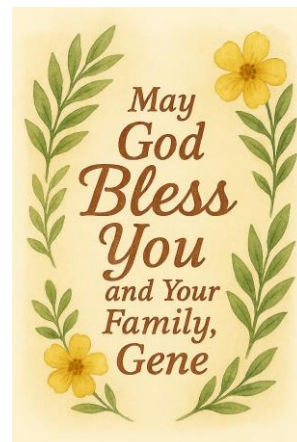
I am pleased to introduce myself as the new editor in chief of the Arma Dextra monthly newsletter. My name is Gary Sitarski. I am 41 years old and blessed with a wonderful wife, a lively 3-year-old son, and a beautiful baby girl who is due to arrive on Friday, July 31st, 2026. I joined the Knights just last September (2025) and am still relatively new to this great brotherhood. My prayer is that, in this role, I can make a meaningful difference for the Knights, for His Church, and for our wider community. I am deeply grateful to God for all the blessings He has poured into my life.



Finally, I want to express my sincere thanks to Gene Mendrysa for his many years of dedicated service as editor. His beautifully crafted newsletters have been a blessing to all of us, and I am personally grateful for his guidance during this transition. We will miss his work, and I wish Gene and his family God's richest blessings in the years ahead.



With that in mind, I want to extend a warm and open invitation to all Brother Knights and Columbiettes: If you have any talents, skills, or ideas you'd like to share — whether it's poetry, photography, inspiring quotes, words of wisdom, helpful home-life tips, favorite recipes, anniversary announcements, family traditions, or anything else — please send them my way! You can reach me by clicking the link above or emailing [Armadextra@pm.me](mailto:Armadextra@pm.me). My vision for the Arma Dextra is simple: to create a newsletter for you, by you, while continuing to include all the important council updates and news you need.



## Financial Secretary Message

### Council Annual Dues

Council 2243 members: **Please pay your 2026 dues ASAP.** Honorary: \$10 • Regular: \$40. Mail checks to: **John Radwan, 130 Main St., West Seneca, NY 14224 (payable to Fr. Baker Council 2243).** Online payment is also available: [Click Here](#), scroll to the PAY DUES logo, select your amount, and Pay Now. PayPal option adds a fee. (Dues would then be \$11 Honorary / \$42 Regular).

### NYS Council sponsored high school scholarships & tuition grants

NY State Council Catholic High School Scholarships & Tuition Grants are now available.

**Eligibility:** Applicant must be the son, daughter, grandchild, or legal ward of a Knights of Columbus member in good standing in a New York Council (or child of a deceased member who was in good standing. **For students entering 9th grade at a New York State Catholic high school in September 2026.** One \$500 Tuition Grant is awarded per diocese (renewable up to 4 years, totaling \$2,000). Students may apply for both scholarships and grants but can receive only one.

Applications must be received by **April 10, 2026.** Apply at: [Click Here](#)

### College Scholarships for incoming freshmen

Catholic college scholarships for incoming freshmen are now available from the Knights of Columbus.

Eligible: U.S. students entering freshman year at a U.S. Catholic college or university who are K of C members in good standing or the wife, widow, son, or daughter of such a member (including deceased members).

Applications accepted **March 5 – April 15, 2026.** Call (855) 670-4787 or [Click Here](#) to request an application and get more details.

## **Announcements & Event Details**

### **Council #2243 Meeting**

**Next Council Meeting is Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 6:30 PM sharp Council Office, 780 Ridge Road**

This meeting will cover fraternal activities for the upcoming year and the formation of the nomination committee who will then announce in May who's running for office. Brother Knights, it's time to get involved in the future of your Council!

### **WNY Chapter of the KofC Meeting**

**Saturday, April 11 at 8:30 AM at the Fr. Justin Council 5670, Cheektowaga, NY**

### **KofC Color Corps Training and Ceremony of the 4th Degree**

The Color Corps meets on the second Thursday of each month from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at Fr. Justin Council in Cheektowaga. All 4th Degree members are welcome. Current members: please bring your beret, sword, social baldric, and white gloves. Contact Paul Sawaya at (716) 401-4334 for more information.

**Upcoming 4th Degree Exemplification Saturday, April 18, 2026, at Hamburg Council.**

3rd. Degree members interested in joining should contact: Paul Sawaya (716) 401-4334 or Mike Clunie (716) 913-2022. Applications available from John Radwan at (716) 675-1804.

### **Council #2243 Business Meeting**

**Monday, April 27, 2026, at 6:30 PM sharp Council Office, 780 Ridge Road**

This meeting will focus on fraternal activities for the upcoming fraternal year. Brother Knights, it's time to step up and get involved in the direction and future of your Council. Remember, this is your Council!

## Announcements & Event Details Continued page 2

### Hallow Prayer Group

Join the Father Baker Council #2243 Praying Community! [Click Here](#) or scan the QR code below.



### Sr. Knights Meeting

The Sr. Knights Social Club meets **Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 1:30 PM at the Matthew Glab American Legion Post 1477 Dining Room (1965 Abbott Road).**

All KofC members age 50 and over are welcome.

- Yearly dues: \$10
- Meeting cost: \$6 (lunch + 2 drinks)
- Optional split club: \$10

Come enjoy great conversation and laughs and meet new Club President Brian Gannon! For info, contact Brian Gannon: (716) 824-4000 (office) or (716) 863-2858 (cell), or [Click Here](#) to email.

### Council #2243 MARCH Lottery Number Daily Drawings

The complete list of winners of our March lottery number daily drawings will be posted in the **May edition** of the Arma Dextra newsletter.



### Pray for the Sick

Please remember our ill Council, Columbiette members and family members in your prayers, namely Jim Tojek, Don Thompson, Sal & Sarah Howard and Elaine Sowinski.

## Announcements & Event Details Continued page 3

### "Doughnuts & Discipleship"

#### **Coffee & Doughnuts (Doughnuts and Discipleship)**

**Sunday, April 12th after the 8:00 & 10:00 AM Masses OLV Basilica – Marian Room (lower level)** Enjoy free coffee, juice, and doughnuts. Sponsored by Fr. Baker Council 2243 Knights of Columbus and hosted by the Columbiettes. Come say hello and learn more about the Knights and Columbiettes!

### Evangelization & Faith Formation - Program

#### **Monthly COR Meeting**

All men of the parish, age 18 and older, are invited to join Father Baker Knights of Columbus Council #2243 for our monthly COR meeting **every third Thursday of the month**. Light refreshments, group Rosary, and engaging discussion about our faith in Christ. Come take the next step in your journey closer to Christ!

**Location: Community Room (lower level of the Basilica)**



Best birthday wishes to all Brother Knights celebrating this month. May your special day be filled with joy, good health, and the company of those you cherish most. May God continue to Bless you always.

Leonard Quinn, John J. Travis Sr., David D. Rose, John W. Radwan, Martin F Tobin,  
James R. Folan Jr., Jason C. Shell, Chistopher A. Duncan, Harry N. Plotycia,  
Michael G. Iwankow, Brian P O'Toole, Joseph P. Wenzel, Gary M. Toomey, Robert E.  
McNiff, Peter D. Margerum, Louis P. Verino Sr., Michael H. McMahon, Thomas E. Reid,  
Edward J. Kuwik, David A. Sasiadek, Rev. Justin J. Steeg, Robert F. Wirth,  
and Gerald J. Barbic.

## **Announcements & Event Details Continued page 4**



### **SAVE THE DATE**

Hamburg Council Knights of Columbus 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Clergy Night Appreciation Dinner.

**Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

5PM – 6:30PM Open Bar (Lounge)

6:30PM Dinner (Upper Hall)

**\$25 per Person**

For more info, please email Larry Ott by [clicking here](#) or call (716) 628-5254

### **Columbiettes Corner**

**The Columbiettes will be meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 6:30 PM OLV Community Room (basement of OLV Basilica)** The meeting will focus on planning programs and activities for 2026.

#### **Finally, Spring Has Sprung!**

Submitted by,

Linda Smolen

President, Father Baker Columbiettes #2243

As we welcome the return of warmer days, bright sunshine, and the first blossoms of the season, the Father Baker Columbiettes #2243 are also celebrating new growth within our Auxiliary.

We are delighted to welcome our newest member, Suzy Behr! Suzy was initiated on March 11th during a lovely ceremony where District Deputy Christa Stewart presented her with her pin and prayer card. We are thrilled to have Suzy join our group and look forward to her presence at future meetings and events. Welcome, Suzy!

## Columbiettes Corner Continue page 2



The Columbiettes were busy throughout February and March gathering donations to create Easter baskets for the students at OLV Elementary School. Ladies generously contributed jellybeans, plastic eggs, bunny ears, bubbles, books, chocolate bunnies, and many other cheerful items. Together, we were able to fill 30 beautiful Easter baskets.

It was a joy to watch everyone working side by side—filling the baskets and then carefully wrapping them with cellophane and colorful ribbons. A big thank you to all the ladies who contributed and helped assemble these special treats!



President Linda Smolen and Vice President Jackie Tyrpak delivered the baskets to the school just before spring break. Principal Mary Szlosek was deeply grateful for the Columbiettes' kindness and generosity and expressed how much the students would enjoy them.

### Memorial Day Veterans Project – Now Underway!

For the months of April and May, the Columbiettes are once again collecting toiletry items to support WNY Heroes in Buffalo, an organization that assists more than 400 local veterans.

## Columbiettes Corner Continue page 3

Last year's collection was a tremendous success, with over 900 toiletry items donated. This year, we hope to match or exceed that number. Decorated collection boxes have been placed at each entrance of the Basilica. We are asking parishioners to consider donating items such as:

- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Soap and deodorant
- Hand sanitizer
- Ladies' hygiene products
- And other basic toiletry essentials

Please take a moment to read more about the WNY Heroes Project in the OLV church bulletin. Your donations are a meaningful way to show our veterans the gratitude and appreciation they so richly deserve. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

Birthday wishes to Pat Jarosz, who celebrated her special day on March 25th. We hope you had a wonderful birthday, Pat, and many more happy ones to come!

Finally, the Columbiettes wish everyone a blessed Holy Week and a joyful, hope-filled Easter. As Cardinal Basil Hume beautifully wrote: "The great gift of Easter is hope."

### Good Friday!



Bring your family to OLV Basilica to celebrate with us the Passion of the Cross on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. The Celebration starts at 3PM.

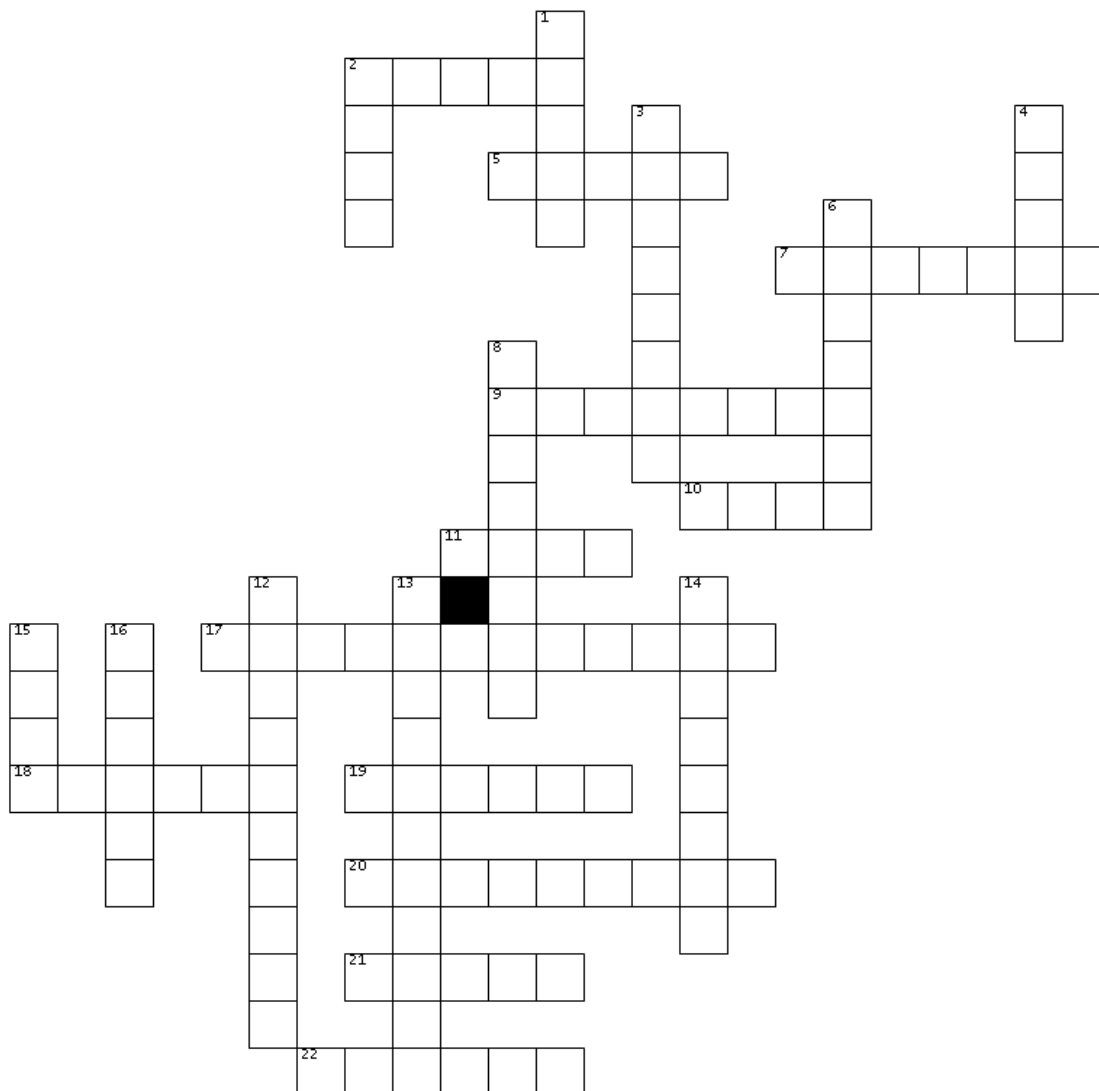
By Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world.

### Happy Easter!



ACROSS

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|---|---|
| 2. The apostle Jesus chose to lead the Church<br>5. The celebration of Jesus rising from the dead<br>7. Lamb symbolic name for Jesus<br>9. Word of joyful praise sung at Easter<br>10. Flower most associated with Easter<br>11. The empty place where Jesus was buried | 17. Jesus rising from the dead on the third day<br>18. Apostle who doubted the Resurrection<br>19. Roman governor who sentenced Jesus<br>20. The followers of Jesus<br>21. He is ___! (Easter proclamation)<br>22. The day of the week Jesus rose |
|---|---|



DOWN

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. What Jesus died on for our sins<br>2. Sunday before Easter when Jesus entered Jerusalem<br>3. Title for Jesus who saved us from sin<br>4. Betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver<br>6. The hill where Jesus was crucified<br>8. Jewish feast remembered at the Last Supper | 12. Garden where Jesus prayed before his arrest<br>13. The act of Jesus dying on the cross<br>14. The holiest week of the Christian year<br>15. Season of preparation before Easter<br>16. Cloth that covered Jesus in the tomb |
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## **Knight Knowledge Trivia**

Congratulations to our March Trivia Contest winner, TOM HUZINEC, who was the first to submit the correct answer to the question, “What did Saint John Paul II encourage for the Stations of the Cross in 1991?” The correct answer is a 15<sup>th</sup> Station of the Cross focusing on Resurrection and Hope. Congratulations again TOM! Hope you enjoy your Tim Horton’s gift card.

### **The Knight Knowledge Trivia Rules**

- 1.) Limited to Council 2243 members
- 2.) GK, FS, & Editors are ineligible
- 3.) Members can win once every 90 days.
- 4.) Answers are taken by the order they are received. No correct answer will result in no prize for the month.
- 5.) Please email you answers to the Editor in Chief by [Clicking Here](#).
- 6.) Most importantly, have fun, get involved, and Good Luck.



As we conclude our time together, I invite you to join me in prayer for the canonization of Venerable Nelson Baker.

### **Prayer for the Canonization of Venerable Nelson Baker**

Lord, you gave us Your servant Nelson Baker as an example of service to the poor, homeless, and young.

By Father Baker’s ardent concern for those in need, inflame our hearts and lives with compassion for the poor, justice for the oppressed, hope for the trouble, and courage to those in doubt.

We pray through the intercession of Our Lady of Vicory. If it be Your will, that Your servant, Nelson Baker, may one day be canonized. Amen

**Say the Glory Be (three times)**

**Our Lady of Victory... Pray for us.**