



The Arma Dextra

Knights of Columbus

Fr. Baker Council #2243

Lackawanna, New York 14218
Google.fatherbakerkofc.com



Gene Mendrysa
Editor 716-207-9036

2026 March Calendar

Sun. Apr. 12 UPCOMING
Doughnuts & Discipleship
After 8 & 10 AM OLV Mass
At Marian Room – Pg 4

Thurs. Mar. 5
Sr. Knights Mtg.
At Glab Post
1:30 PM – Pg 4

Wed. Mar. 11
Regular Council Mtg
At Office
6:30 PM – Pg 4

Sat. Mar. 14
WNY Chapter Mtg
At Fr. Justin Council 5670
8:30 AM – Pg 5

Thurs. Mar. 19
Council COR Program
At OLV Community Room
6:30 PM – Pg 5

Mon. Mar. 23
Council Bus. Mtg
At Office
6:30 PM – Pg 5

Wed. Mar. 25
Columbette Mtg
At OLV Community Room
6:30 PM – Pg 5

GK – Glenn Reid
716-830-3993
FS – John Radwan
716-675-1804
Insur. Agent – Mike Gruszewski
716-579-4312

Husband, Father, Saint!

The Great St. Joseph

Dear Brother Knights,

All saints are unique, and each one has a beautiful story of love for the Lord, but a few of them are above even other saints. One of these extraordinary saints is the earthly father of Jesus and the spouse of the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph.

He appeared like any other man of his time. He was a husband, father, and a diligent worker. But we know from Sacred Scripture that he was so much more. We see in the first chapter of the New Testament (Matthew 1:19) that Joseph was a just man. He had the faith to marry the Blessed Virgin when she was with child. He had the courage to take his young family to Egypt when Herod threatened to kill Jesus. He had the virtue to protect Mary's virginity.

Through the centuries, many Catholics have had a strong love for St. Joseph. Here are a few quotes about the beloved head of the Holy Family.

“As Jesus was subject to St. Joseph while on earth, recognizing in him the authority of foster father and guardian, so now in Heaven He is pleased to grant all his requests” ... **St. Teresa of Avila**

“Truly, I doubt not that the angels, wondering and adoring, came thronging in countless multitudes to that poor workshop to admire the humility of him who guarded that dear and divine Child, and labored at his carpenter's trade to support the son and the mother who were committed to his care” ... **St. Francis de Sales**

“In every child, every husband or wife, God entrusts us with His Son, with His Mother, just as He did with St. Joseph, so that together with them, we may be a foundation, influence and witness of God's love among humanity” ... **Pope Leo XIV**

reference: Fr. Joseph Mary Wole, MFVA - EWTN

On another topic, I am sad to report that the March edition of the Arma Dextra will be my last newsletter as Editor. Preparing the Arma Dextra has been a humbling and gratifying experience. Keeping our membership informed was and always should be a top priority. If anyone is interested, please contact GK Glenn Reid. I will certainly help you get started. Thank you for your interest in reading our Council Arma Dextra newsletter.

Our Lady of Victory – Pray for Us!

Gene Mendrysa - PGK

Financial Secretary Message

Council Membership

Congratulations and welcome to Francis Norman, our newest member of Fr. Baker Council 2243! Francis is a great addition to the Council and is already getting involved.

Fr. Baker Council 2243 Annual Dues for 2026

“Honorary” and “Regular” Council 2243 members are reminded to pay their council dues as ASAP. Council dues is \$10 for Honorary members; \$40 for Regular members. Email reminders will again be sent to members who gave us their email addresses. A list of members and the dues amount each owes, will be attached to the email. Payment should be sent to John Radwan, 130 Main St., West Seneca, NY 14224. **Make your check payable to Fr Baker Council 2243.** Dues can also be paid online by going to our website. <http://www.fatherbakerkofc.com>. On the home page, click on "News & Announcements" in the column on the left. Scroll down to the PAY DUES logo, select your payment amount, and click on the Pay Now button to complete the transaction. Payments made online, via PayPal, will be \$11 for Honorary members and \$42 for Regular members because of fees paid to PayPal.

Fr. Baker Council 2243 “Faith-in-Action Program” Donations

Recently, Council 2243 made \$500 donations to the Russell J. Salvatore Food Pantry in Lackawanna and the St. Gianna Molla Pregnancy Outreach Center of OLV Charities. Deputy Grand Knight, Neal Goldwater made the presentation to Bill Larsen, Coordinator at the Food Pantry. This money will help feed those in need.

Sarah Lindsstrom, Director of the St. Gianna Molla Pregnancy Outreach Center accepted a check from little Santiago Sanchez on behalf of his dad, Gaetano Solis-Sanchez, the Warden of Council 2243. This money will help mothers who chose life for their unborn babies and need support.

Also, Treasurer, Bruce Coleman Sr. and PGK, Gene Mendrysa presented a check for \$1,000 to Erica Raeppe, Director of Western New York Special Olympics. This money will allow Olympian athletes to participate in athletic activities.

And as previously mentioned in the February edition on the Arma Dextra, Council Recording Sec'y, Len Fusco presented a \$500 check to Jim Hatem, Coordinator of OLV Society of St. Vincent de Paul. This organization offers person-to-person assistance to those in need. Members meet monthly to pray and share insights regarding client visitations. Activities include investigation of needs, home visits, pick-up and delivery of food, and phone calls to meet the needs of clients.

Great Job Council! And a special “Thank You” to the members who participated in these presentations. Your effort is very much appreciated!

Victory Cash Bash – OLV School Fundraiser

Support OLV Students and Win Big! Join us for the 31st Annual Victory Cash Bash (formerly “Sweeps”) on **Saturday, March 21 at 6:00 PM at Our Lady of Victory Elementary School gym.** This long-time favorite fundraiser isn't just about great prizes. It's about coming together to support the students of OLV Elementary and the programs that help them learn, grow and thrive. Tickets are \$50 each (cash, check or credit card) and give you a chance to win: \$10,000 Grand Prize, \$4,000, \$2,000, two \$1,000 prizes, four \$500 prizes, plus more)! Each ticket admits two adult guests to an exciting 21+ night of fun at the school. Tickets are available before and after all weekend Masses in the Basilica, as well as the Gift Shop, School and Rectory during business hours. Your support is an investment in our students' future. Thank you for your help!

Financial Secretary Message – cont.

Lottery Number Daily Drawings

Yes, tickets are still available for the upcoming MARCH daily number raffle. Tickets are only \$5 each. Get them while there still available. Contact John Radwan (716-675-1804).

KofC Fr. Baker Council #2243 March 2026 Daily Number Raffle

Daily Prize - \$25.00

St. Patrick's Day 3/17 - \$100.00

St. Joseph's Day 3/19 - \$100.00

Founder's Day 3/29 - \$100.00

Winning Ticket Determined by NYS Evening Daily #

\$50.00 Incentive to the Top Seller of Tickets

Tickets Must be Received by 2/28/2026

DONATION \$5.00

Winners Will be Paid by Check & Mailed 4/5/2026

KofC Color Corps Training and Ceremony of the 4th Degree

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

We are fast approaching April 18, 2026, the day of the 4th Degree exemplification ceremony at the Hamburg Council. Current 3rd Degree council members who would like to attain the Order's final degree should call Paul Sawaya at 716-401-4334 or Mike Clunie at 716-913-2022 for ceremony information. Fourth Degree applications are available by calling John Radwan at 716-675-1804.

Pray for the Sick

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

Senior Knights Social Club

The next meeting of our Council's Senior Knights Social Club will be on **Thursday, March 5th at 1:30 PM at the Matthew Glab American Legion Post**. This is a terrific club! All Fr Baker Council members, age 50 and over, are welcome to join. Simply contact Sr Knight's treasurer, Otto Johnson (716-998-4433), for information. Stop in for great conversation and laughs with old friends! Also, a good opportunity to meet new Club President, Brian Gannon.

Doughnuts & Discipleship @ OLV Basilica

The next Coffee and Doughnuts, aka "Discipleship and Doughnuts" will take place on **Sunday, April 12th, after the 8 & 10 AM Masses at OLV Basilica in the Marian Room** on the lower level. Come for Mass and stay for free coffee, juice and doughnuts afterwards. This event is sponsored by the generosity of the Fr. Baker Council 2243 of the Knights of Columbus and hosted by the Columbiettes. We will be using this time to inform parishioners about the Knights and particularly, Fr. Baker Council and the Columbiettes.

Council 2243 Regular Meeting

Our next regularly scheduled Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 6:30 PM sharp at our COUNCIL OFFICE at 780 Ridge Road, Suite 205.** The meeting will focus on the fraternal activities for the upcoming fraternal. Brother Knights, it's time to step-up and get involved with the direction and future of your Council. Remember, this is your Council!

Trivia Contest – February 2026

We are sad to report that there was no winner of the February 2026 trivia contest.

Question – What did Saint John Paul II encourage for the Stations of the Cross? Please be specific. Remember to email your answer to Gene Mendrysa at gene.mendrysa@gmail.com. The winner will receive a \$10 gift card from Tim Horton's. A reminder, those who won in the last 90 days are ineligible. Good Luck!

March 2026 “Happy Birthday” Brothers

Best Birthday wishes to all Brother Knights who have birthdays in the month of March. Hope you enjoy your day and may “God Bless You Always”!

Happy Birthday to: William F. MacDonald, Edmund J. Callahan, Rev. Paul R. Bossi, James E. Hall, David S. Whiteman, Joseph A. Bunk, Gary M. Sitarski, Mark S. Rojek, Michael F. Russell, Eugene R. Mendrysa, Arthur T. Pluta, John D. Zak, Joseph F. Ferron and Patrick J. Gannon.

Announcement & Event Details

Sun. Apr. 12 – UPCOMING “Doughnuts & Discipleship” at OLV Basilica

The next “Meet and Greet” will take place on **Sunday, April 12th, after the 8 AM and 10 AM Masses at OLV Basilica in the Marian Room** on the lower level. Come for Mass and stay for coffee, juice and doughnuts afterwards. This event is sponsored by the generosity of the Fr. Baker Council #2243 of the Knights of Columbus and hosted by the Columbiettes. We will be using this time to inform parishioners about the Knights and particularly, Fr. Baker Council and the Columbiettes. This is also another opportunity for the Knights and Columbiettes to recruit new members.

Thurs. Mar. 5 - Sr. Knights Meeting

The Sr. Knights meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 1:30 PM at the American Legion Glab Post.** This is a terrific club! If interested please contact Otto Johnson at (716) 998-4433 or our new Club President, Patrick Gannon.

Wed. Mar. 11 – Regular Council Mtg – 6:30 PM

Our regular Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 6:30 PM sharp** at our **COUNCIL OFFICE at 780 Ridge Road.** The meeting will focus on the fraternal activities for the upcoming fraternal. **Brother Knights, it's time to step-up and get involved with the direction and future of your Council. Remember, this is your Council!**

Thurs. Mar. 12 - KofC Color Core of the 4th Degree

The Color Corps of the 4th Degree meets **every second Thursday of each Month from 6 PM to 7:30 PM at the Fr. Justin Council** in Cheektowaga. All 4th Degree members interested in joining the Color Corps, are welcome to attend. Current Color Corps members should bring your beret, sword, social baldric and white gloves.

Announcement & Event Details – cont.

Sat. Mar. 14 - WNY Chapter Meeting – 8:30 AM

The next WNY Chapter meeting will be held on **Saturday, March 14th at 8:30 AM at Fr. Justin Council 5670 in Cheektowaga, NY.**

Thurs. Mar. 19 – Evangelization & Faith Formation – COR Program – 6:30 PM

The Knights of Columbus Father Baker Council #2243 is sponsoring and inviting **ALL men of our parish, 18 years and older, to join us** for our monthly COR meeting in the **Community Room in the lower Basilica**. The format will include light refreshments, saying the rosary as a group, and an engaging discussion regarding our personal faith in Christ. Consider taking the next important step in your journey to becoming closer to Christ. Please consider joining COR.

Mon. Mar. 23 – Council 2243 Business Mtg – 6:30 PM

Our next Council Business meeting will take place on **Monday, March 23, 2026 at 6:30 PM sharp** at our **COUNCIL OFFICE at 780 Ridge Road**. The meeting will focus on the fraternal activities for the upcoming fraternal. **Brother Knights, it's time to step-up and get involved with the direction and future of your Council. Remember, this is your Council!**

Wed. Mar. 25 – Columbiettes Meeting – 6:30 PM

The Columbiette's meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 6:30 PM at the OLV Community Room in the basement of OLV Basilica**. This meeting will focus on the programs and activities scheduled and the planning for 2026.

Columbiettes Corner

Dunkirk Dave sure knew what he was predicting, didn't he? The snow just keeps falling and so do the temperatures. Come on Spring!

Four new candidates have been initiated as Columbiettes! Welcome Jodie, Melanie, Lauralee and Debra. We are all so excited to have them join our Auxiliary. I must credit Donuts and Discipleship Sundays for bringing the four ladies to us. Meeting new people and sharing what we are all about as an organization means a lot. I especially thank the Columbiettes who volunteer to help out on Donuts and Discipleship Sundays. They are true ambassadors of the Columbiettes; striking up conversations as they visit tables of parishioners. Building genuine one-on-one connections with potential candidates is so important. Personal contact is certainly the way to go!

“Getting Involved with the Columbiettes” is the slogan for our upcoming Open House/Social on Sunday, March 23rd from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm in the Marian Room on the Lower Level of the Basilica. Anyone interested in learning more about our Auxiliary, or just finding out what we do, are welcome to attend. Columbiettes will be on hand to answer questions and provide any information that is needed. Light refreshments will be served. Please come down to the Marian Room before or after noon Mass and “Get Involved” with the Father Baker Columbiettes!

Happy February Birthday to Sarah Howard. Sarah celebrated her birthday on February 20th. May she be blessed with many more birthdays.

We also ask everyone's prayers for Columbiettes Maryanne Jackson and Sarah Howard who are recovering from illness and hospital stays.

Finally, food for thought: As the Lenten season approaches, let us seek God's guidance throughout it. Have a blessed month ahead.

Submitted by Linda Smolen, President

Arma Dextra Picture Page



Donation to OLV St. Vincent de Paul Society

(l-r) Council 2243 Recording Secretary, Len Fusco and OLV SVDP Coordinator, Jim Hatem



Donation to St. Gianna Molla Pregnancy Outreach Center

(l-r) Santiago Sanchez, son of Council Warden Gaetano Solis-Sanchez & Sarah Lindstrom, Director of Pregnancy Center.



Donation to Russell J. Salvatore Food Pantry

(l-r) Council Deputy GK Neal Goldwater & Bill Larsen, Coordinator at Food Pantry