

Star of the Sea Council 4245
324 Bedford Street
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
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Council Officers

GRAND KNIGHT- Daniel A Norris **DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT** – Matthew J. Gromiller **CHAPLAIN**- Father Alan Thomas
CHANCELLOR –SK Jim L. Hodge **WARDEN** –SK John K. Longenecker **FINANCIAL SECRETARY** – Timothy J. Surkovich
TREASURER – SK Daniel Weaver **ADVOCATE** – Shawn P. Sullivan **GUARDS** – Daniel T. Moringiello, Gary C. Nocek
RECORDER – SK Edgar E. Dunning, III **TRUSTEES** –SK David T. Karl, Matthew J Becker, SK Lee R. Zimmerman
WEBMASTER – SK Timothy J Surkovich, **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**—SK Timothy J. Surkovich



Charity



Unity



Fraternity



Patriotism

April 2026 Edition

STAR NEWS

Council meetings are held on the FIRST THURSDAY of the month

324 Bedford Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Phone: 814-695-4752 Email: kofc4245@gmail.com

[HTTP://www.kofc4245.com](http://www.kofc4245.com)

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April 2026 Grand Knights Message



Brother Knights:

During the month of April instead of highlighting the lives of two saints I have chosen to write about Lent in my message.

The Catholic Church's formalization of the 40-day Lenten period, as a period of preparation for Easter, began shortly after the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, although the practice of fasting before Easter existed earlier, some believe since apostolic times.

The three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through the three pillars we journey to develop a closer relationship to God. The 40 Days of Lent should be filled with reflection, service and

prayer. The most overlooked pillar of Lent is prayer. There are so many ways to pray during Lent. More time given to prayer during Lent should draw us closer to the Lord. We can pray for the grace to live out our Baptismal promises more fully. We can pray for the candidates who will be baptized at Easter and support their conversion by our prayer. We can give up time typically spent watching TV or on our phones or tablets and use that time in prayer. Begin adding the Rosary or The Chaplet of Divine Mercy to our daily prayers. Or add the "Bible in a Year" to our phones or devices and listen to it daily. During Lent, Catholics are encouraged to practice the Pillar of fasting (and abstinence) as a spiritual discipline, with mandatory fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and abstinence from meat on those days and all Fridays of Lent. On these fasting days, Catholics are permitted to eat on full meal, plus two smaller meals that do not equal one full meal. Fasting is a way to imitate Christ's 40 days of fasting in the desert. Abstinence is another form of self-discipline and penance, helping us to focus on spiritual matters. When we think of the Lenten Pillar of Almsgiving we think of donating money. Almsgiving extends beyond money, we might give to CRS Rice Bowls when we save by not eating at a restaurant during Lent. Almsgiving includes our time and talent given

freely to be like Jesus. He identified Himself with our poorest brothers and sisters. The call of Christians to charity is a frequent theme of the Gospels. During Lent we are asked to focus more intently on "almsgiving" and performing other acts of Charity. The Lenten practice of almsgiving is "a witness to fraternal charity" and "a work of justice pleasing to God". (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2462)

Sound familiar? Blessed, Father Michael McGivney based our Fraternal Order on the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. The foremost principle of our Order is Charity, the greatest of all virtues and the crowning glory of a Christian life. Therefore, as Knights, our call to Charity extends past the 40 days of Lent to encompass the entire year. The Knights of Columbus participate in Almsgiving year-round by giving to those in need, whether through donations, volunteering, or acts of service, demonstration Christ's compassion and love for others.

Worthy Grand Knight
Daniel A Norris

April Meeting Date Change To:

Wednesday
April 1, 2026

To Avoid a Conflict with Holy Thursday!



Begins February 18th

Ends April 2nd

Drop off at the hall anytime!

Non-Perishable Food Items & Cash Donations.

Collection also on April 2nd 7 AM to 10 AM

Help us reach 1 1/2 Ton!

Prayer Request Mondays

This service is available through our email system.

“Prayer Request Mondays”

All requests for prayers received throughout the week up until 6 PM on Sunday will be sent every Monday. If you are in need of prayers use the power of prayer and have your Brother Knights pray for you.





For tickets see any Knight or call:
Matt Gromiller 1-203-450-1961 or Bob Hazenstab Jr 1-814-935-4562

Saturday April 11, 2026

**East Freedom Fire Hall
 139 Municipal Street
 East Freedom, PA 16637**

**Doors open at 5:30 PM
 Small Games/Basket Raffles
 start at 5:30 PM
 Dinner at 6:00 PM**

Last Ticket Pulled Wins \$600!!

\$50 Per Ticket

**Includes 2 Dinners, Beverages
 and 1 Entry in the Drawing**

MUST BE 21 OR OLDER TO ATTEND



**Spaghetti
 Dinner**

**Our Annual Spaghetti Dinnner to plan the
 Hand in Hand will take place**

Tuesday April 7, 2026

Happy Hour 5-6 PM

Dinner 6 PM

Cost \$12

Sign up by emailing kofc4245@gmail.com
 or put an envelope in the council mailbox with your
 payment. All patment must be received by:
 March 31, 2026



For the latest information
 visit our website:
[HTTP://www.kofc4245.com](http://www.kofc4245.com)



Knights of Columbus Council 4245

March 2026
Council
Meeting Minutes

Reading of the minutes from the previous meeting:

There were no changes to the February 5, 2026, meeting minutes as posted on our web-site. Minutes were accepted as posted on the website and published in the newsletter. Vic Ballash presented a motion to accept the minutes; Rich Moyer presented the second; motion passed.

Application for membership:

Application for Jerome Strittmatter, a member at St. Catherine, proposed by Jerry Kovach.

Grand Knights Report presented by DGK Matthew Gromiller:

NA

Treasurers Report: Information presented by Dan Weaver:

- Beginning Balance as of February 1, 2026: \$11,560.89
- Deposits: \$915
- Disbursements: \$1,017.80
- New Balance as of February 28, 2026: \$11,458.09

Membership Director – position vacant; update provided by Tim Surkovich:

We have 179 members in our council. Welcome Peter Kamecki, a member of Our Lady Queen of Peace, transferred to our council.

Financial Secretary presented by Tim Surkovich:

The 2026 dues are currently due. 3rd notice will be mailed on April 15, 2026; we have 16 delinquent members and some of those are brothers in distress; please donate to the distressed members' fund.

Program Director – Information presented by Rich Moyer:

- Please sign up for our hospitality meals in 2026.
- Please participate in the Lenten food drive; 40 cans for 40 days and pray each day for those less fortunate. Deliver your food donation on April 2, 2026, from 8:00-10:00 AM at the council home.
- The Ham and Cheese sale will be held in March; assembly on March 18; delivery on March 19, 2026; money is due by March 16, 2026.
- The spaghetti dinner with the Shriners will be held on April 7, 2026, at a cost of \$12/dinner. 5:00 PM for social hour; dinner at 6:00 PM
- The Chicken BBQ for Relay for Life will be held on March 14, 2026. Tickets are available now and due back by March 7, 2026. Cooking time starts at 7:00 AM.

Fund Raising Committee: Chairman position is vacant – please volunteer:

Cash Bash planning is well under way with the date set for April 11, 2026, at East Freedom Fire Hall. Please sign up tonight and volunteer for this worthy cause. Matt Gromiller is managing the ticket sales. Please donate lottery tickets & gift cards to restaurant, as these will be used as part of the fundraising at the event. You must have a ticket to enter the event; 200 tickets will be sold. Please help to sell tickets!

Bills and Communications:

We received thank you notes from the following:

We received a thank you note from the St. Michael and St. Mary Prayer Shawl Ministry for our recent donation. The money was used towards the purchase of a new sewing machine and additional supplies. They have created over 500 prayer shawls, baby blankets, and alter materials.

Request for Donations:

NA

Report of the 4th Degree - Information presented by Lee Zimmerman:

- The next monthly meeting will be held on March 26, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Council Home.
- Fund raising in process, selling Marianna's hoagies – see a 4th degree member for orders. Proceeds to be used for the Chalice and Uniform support. Orders are due by March 14, 2026; Food will be available on March 26, 2026, from 1:00-2:00 PM at the council home – see Ron Harella if you are interested in ordering.

Field Insurance Agent Report – presented by Mike McAndrew:

- Mike emphasized that most people (~70%) will require assistance as we age and the cost is significant. We work and save all our lives and long-term care insurance is very beneficial to help your family during those times. See Mike for further information.
- Also, if you have a life insurance policy from a company other than KofC, please contact Mike and he is glad to review your policy and help you understand the current state.

Good of the Order:

John Longnecker shared the positive news that our brother, Kevin Longenecker, has recovered and is now back at work, full-time. Many thanks for the prayers.

Brothers in Distress:

Fred (Paule) shared information about a fellow Shriner who is suffering from a rare blood disorder, and he is requesting prayers for him and his family.

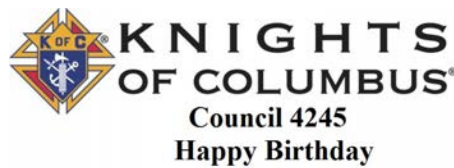


We continue to pray the rosary at 6:30 PM, prior to each meeting. If you would like to provide the name of someone that you would like us to pray for, please notify a member, prior to the meeting. The February intentions were as follows: all military and civilian personnel in the Middle East; the family who lost their home this week and suffered injuries (near Daves Dream); Heath Sharon and Harm - health, friends of Art Chamberlain; Bob Clisivich health – family member of Matt Gromiller; our council’s success in the fund-raising efforts. Thank you to Matthew Gromiller for providing the March meal.



2026 Hospitality Meal Volunteer List

- Jan Ray Gregorchik
- Feb Tim Surkovich
- Mar Matthew Gromiller
- Apr Matt Becker



April Birthdays

- Kevin Longenecker 4/2
- Vince Schneider 4/3
- Stephen Gildea 4/4
- Denis Frank 4/10
- Dennis Dombrosky 4/12
- Corey Weaver 4/15
- Vic Ballash 4/17
- Tim Sheehan 4/22
- Dan Weaver 4/25
- Dave Kozminski 4/26
- Vince Moyer 4/26
- Paul Yakymac 4/27
- Dick Aiken 4/29
- Fr. Brian Norris 4/30



Council Calendar

Council meetings are held on the **First Thursday** of the month at 7:00 pm.

Next meeting: 4/1/26

Hospitality Provided by:
Matt Becker

3/30/26 Fundraising Committee Meeting 6:30 PM

4/1/26 Home Association Meeting 5:45 PM

4/1/26 Praying of the Rosary 6:30 PM

4/1/26 Council Meeting 7 PM
Hospitality Provided By:
Matt Becker

4/2/26 40 Cans Collection 8 AM to 10 AM

4/7/26 Spaghetti Dinner 5 PM

4/11/26 Cash Bash

5/4/26 Fundraising Committee Meeting 6:30 PM

5/7/26 Home Association Meeting 5:45 PM

5/7/26 Praying of the Rosary 6:30 PM

5/7/26 Council Meeting 7 PM
Hospitality Provided By:
Volunteer Needed

5/11/26 Ham & Cheese Orders Sandwich Orders Due 12 PM

5/14/26 Make Ham & Cheese Sandwiches 3 PM

5/14/26 Deliver Ham & Cheese Sandwiches

**COUNCIL 4245
IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE ITS CHARITABLE WORKS AND GIVING FOR 2025:**

Our Brothers Donated 22,335 HOURS of their time to Charitable Works

350 Visits to the Sick

174 Visits to the Bereaved

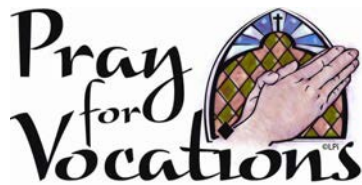
Donated 23 Pints of Blood

Donated 100 Hours in Fraternal Service to Sick or Disabled Members and their Families

Donated 1,800 Pounds of Food to the local Food Banks



Donated \$10,945 to Charity



With 1.9 million members around the world the Knights of Columbus has been investing its time, effort and resources into its values of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

Please Pray For:

Michael McAndrew

**Recruit a New Member
Form 100's available in
the office!**

**SERRAN PRAYER
FOR VOCATIONS**

O God, who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech You, through the intercession of Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, Saint Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of labors for your Church, fellow labors with Christ, to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever, Amen.



Please pray for all the members who have passed away in our councils history.

