

Father Maher's Knightly News

FR. PETER PAUL MAHER COUNCIL 6793 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Chartered April 21, 1976 ♦ District 30 ♦ Member of McNamara Chapter
Charter Council of the Sullivan Brothers Assembly 2861
P.O. Box 570 Olney, MD 20830 ♦ www.kofc6793.org



February 2026 ♦ VOLUME XLVI ♦ ISSUE 8

Motto: "Mary, fill our Hearts with Charity and Love."

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

**Chaplain - Reverend James Boccabella, Pastor
Our Lady of Grace Church**

**Assoc. Chaplain Reverend Linus Nviiri, CSC
State Chaplain's Message**

Fr Donald Grzymiski OFM Conv

At State Council meetings the chaplain is invited to share some remarks, and I try to think of something that has some meaning beyond just announcements. At the January 10th meeting I shared a few thoughts on prayer, and I did this shortly after the opening Holy Hour (the Order's new "Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady of Guadalupe" was used). These Holy Hours have become the customary ways of opening these meetings, and many have commented that they set a great tone for the "work" of the day.

I noted that while we are good at the formality of prayer (e.g. our meetings open and close with prayer), I asked "are we as good with our intentionality?" I share this thought because it really applies to all of us, and every time we pray. It's not just at a prayer beginning or ending a meeting, it's in our personal prayer, it's when we go to Mass, it's when we ask God to bless the meal we are about to share, and so on. Intentionality changes everything, for it places us in God's presence, it reminds us to put other thoughts to the side, it prompts us to focus on the important moment we are beginning.

This is rarely an easy effort, for our minds are easily flooded by distractions, by the tasks we will move to after prayer, maybe even by temptations to put prayer aside as not worth the effort, but as we are called to focus on another person when in a conversation, think how important it is to focus when we are conversing with God or one of the saints.

As a priest celebrant I can, of course, see the congregation. Regularly I see many who are silent not only in singing, but even with responses, or in reciting the Creed or the Our Father. We know that being passive leaves us with a diminished appreciation of a concert or a sporting event, and so it is with prayer. There can also be distractions, like when a baby cries, but I always think "it's good there are children in church," so we accept those little interruptions (intentionality again). As an aside, I do love celebrating Knights of Columbus Masses and services where the response rate is truly different in a positive way. It's a great example the Knights and Ladies share with their parish communities.

As we move into Lent on February 18th this might be

something to think about. "Intentionally" choose a practice or a discipline or a sacrifice that will make Lent 2026 a time of grace, growth and blessing.

Vivat Jesus!
Fr. Donald

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Mark Perez, GK



As we enter February, three things come to mind. First, we will soon be entering Lent. Second, Presidents Day makes me consider our country and 250 years of history. Third, and probably the most pressing, the snow and ice event that recently has affected millions of us.

The ice has made things difficult for many. Certainly, there have been casualties. Many school age children are not going to school. Many of us have had to change our schedules and daily routines. Other than casualties, things that change our habits and comfort zones are probably good things. How many times in the Bible have people made major changes at God's prompting?

Time for change? Here comes Lent, a time of preparation, a time of fasting, prayer, and alms giving. When things change for us, how do we react? Do we welcome the change, or do we get "cranky"? Here is a time to look at ourselves and consider what changes might be beneficial. What is God asking of us? How shall we prepare to better serve God?

How shall we prepare to serve our fellow man? This is the best way to serve God, who does not need anything. He asks us to serve others and thereby serve Him. If we do this will our neighborhoods, our towns and cities, our country and our world be a better place? I am certain they will. *

We will have many opportunities to participate in February

- | | | |
|--------|----------------------|---|
| Feb 04 | Rosary at St Peter's | 7:00 pm |
| Feb 05 | Executive Mtg | 7:30 pm zoom |
| Feb 06 | First Friday | 9:00 am OLOG |
| Feb 11 | Business Mtg | 7:30 pm ST PETER'S |
| Feb 17 | Shrove Tue | TBD St Peter's Hall
(Pancakes/sausage) |
| Feb 28 | Chili cook off | 5:00 pm OLOG |

COUNCIL LEADERSHIP #6793

<http://kofc6793.org>

OFFICERS:

Chaplain	Rev Linus Nviiri
Associate Chaplain	Mark Perez
Grand Knight	Paul Lockwood
Deputy Grand Knight	Andrew Colliton
Chancellor	Joe Brown
Warden	Sebastian Rainone
Recorder	Donald M Hemke
Financial Secretary	Christopher Schneider
Treasurer	Ralph Frey
Advocate	Jack Giacalone
Lecturer	Paul M Boccabella
Inside Guard	Joseph Lockwood
Outside Guard	Joseph Feakes, PGK
Trustee One Year	Martin G Peschke, PGK
Trustee Two Year	Eugene Kane, PGK
Trustee Three Year	

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN:

Program Director	Paul Lockwood
Faith Activities Dir.	Paul Lockwood - Dana E Perry
Community Activity Dir	Bill Studenic
Family Activities Dir	Eugene I Kane Jr
Life Activities Dir	Joseph M Feakes - Sebastian Rainone

Membership Chairman	Dr Norman Salem Jr
Retention Chairman	Donald M Hemke
Vocation Chairman	Walter Fred Taylor
Food for Families Chair	Bob Amato
Tootsie Roll Chairman	James E Street
Pro-Life Couple	
Sweepstake Chairman	Donald M Hemke
Newsletter Editor	David C Czarnecki
Webmaster	John R Feldmann
Fourth Degree	Joe Feakes
District Deputy, 30	Yen Le, PGK

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Locations of council meetings rotate between Parishes and are generally held at 7:30PM. Check calendar for next meeting location

Officer's meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month. Council meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month and the Social meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

CHURCH NEWS

Consult with the Church Bulletin Website for the latest Parish news.

OUR LADY OF GRACE

Website: <https://www.ologlw.org/>

Reverend James Boccabella, Pastor



Church Bulletin website: <https://ologlw.org/bulletin/>

ST. PETER'S PARISH HIGHLIGHTS

Website: <http://www.stpetersolney.org>

Reverend Thomas M. Kalita, Pastor



Church Bulletin website:

<https://fataonline.com/bulletins/StPeterOlney>

Sons of Saint Peter 16th Annual Men's Retreat

Registration is now open for the SOSM Men's Retreat. This is the 16th annual retreat to be held February 20-22, 2026 at Priest Field Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, WV. We are blessed to have Fr. Tukura, O.P. as our retreat leader.

If you have not experienced this retreat in the past, we highly encourage you to consider signing up. We will have mass each day, confessions, and Eucharistic Adoration throughout. We also have fellowship time with a bonfire and adult beverages.

Connect with men from St. Peter's and experience a life-changing retreat. In addition, this will be a Lenten Retreat - begin Lent by developing a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Single rooms are limited so if that is a priority for you, please sign up quickly. The link to register is below. Let me know if you have any questions.

<https://www.stpetersolney.org/mens-retreat>

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH HIGHLIGHTS

Website: <http://www.stpatricksmd.org>

Monsignor Charles J. Parry, Pastor



Church Bulletin website:

<https://www.fataonline.com/bulletins/StPatrickNorbeck>

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fr. Peter Paul Maher Apparel

Ralph Frey, Chairman, contributed by Jack Giacalone

Knights of Columbus, Fr Peter Paul Maher Shirts, Jackets and Caps are now available for your purchase. Simply sign onto the local website: <https://www.GORMANSGG.COM/KNIGHTS-OF-COLUMBUS.HTML> choose the item you want to purchase, and then follow the instructions on the site. It's that easy! If you have any questions please contact Ralph Frey, 301 814 1098 or email rpfrey45@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Norman Salem, Membership Director

Do you know someone who might benefit from becoming a Knight? Please talk to them as only a friend can do. If help is needed, reach out to me, Norman Salem at 410-446-9727 (cell/text) or nsalemjr@gmail.com.

FAITH ACTIVITIES

Paul Lockwood - Dana E Perry, Faith Programs Director

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Eugene I Kane Jr, PGK, Family Programs Director

KOC Family Directorship

Eugene I Kane – Event Chairman

“Love sincerely. . . . Hold on to what is good. Be devoted to each other like a loving family. Excel in showing respect for each other.” Romans 12:9-10 (GW; see also USCCB (New American Bible RE for approved Translations on the same point Romans 12:9-11 on mutual love)

Strong marriages are good for everyone. They benefit

those who are part of those relationships and even help strengthen whole communities.

Throughout history, marriage has been the fundamental building block of every society and culture. When marriages have been strong, nations have been strong. When marriages and families weaken, cultures decline. Fundamental building block is not the man but the family (Bishop Barron, The Biblical Vision of the Family. Additionally, Bishop Barron, How to Fall in Love – Bishop Barron's Sunday Sermon). Bible begins with Community as the fundamental building block. In essence, The Marriage and its Family is the beginning of Catholic Social Teaching about Man.

Healthy marriages also benefit the people around them. God uses these relationships to shape your character, helping you learn how to be unselfish and loving. And if you get married, no other relationship will have a greater impact on your life.

If you're not married, God can still use and will use other people to build your character. You're not off the hook! Single people who are godly and others-focused play a critical role in flourishing cultures. In fact, sometimes they play roles that married couples can't.

Life is a laboratory for learning how to love. Learning to love is the most important thing you can do because God is love, and he wants you to become like him. He wants to make you like Jesus Christ. He wants to build your character—and he wants to do that whether or not you're married.

If you're married, one tool God uses in your life to build Christ-like character is your spouse. Every day, he gives you hundreds of opportunities to think about the other person's needs instead of your own.

The Bible says, “Love sincerely. . . . Hold on to what is good. Be devoted to each other like a loving family. Excel in showing respect for each other” (Romans 12:9-10 GW).

Do you do that in your marriage? Before I got married so many years ago, I really thought I knew how to love a woman. But I knew nothing about love! Now, after 50 years of marriage, I know that love washes the dishes. I know that love takes out the garbage. I know that love puts the other person first.

So, “Love sincerely. . . . Excel in showing respect for each other” so that you grow to be more like Christ. It will lead to a stronger relationship for you and a stronger society for everyone.

A word of caution: The family is the basis (primary) in the Lord's plan and all the forces of evil aim to demolish it. Uphold your families and guard them against the grudges of the evil one, by the Presence of God (St. Charbel Makhlouf).

The Knights of Columbus offer so many faith-based programs focusing upon the Family and Marriage. More (newer) programs are forthcoming and being developed (and updated) to help Knights and their families foster their marriages and families. Please join us when we provide these programs. Even better, you're volunteering to develop

these programs is crucial and necessary. Examples: Food for Families; Consecration to the Holy Family, Family Full Alive; Remembering our Faithful Departed; Family of the Month/Year; Keep Christ in Christmas; Into the Breach; Holy Week Family Promotion (Execution of Christ); Breakfast with St Nicholas; Rosary Program; Sacramental Gifts, etc. Many of our programs conducted by the Knights are hybrid Faith, Life and Community. For example, when we promote a Pro-Life both in Washington DC and Maryland we are promoting support for traditional families. The Marches for Life (2) and the Silver Rose Icon Program and the Sacred Heart Icon Programs are similar hybrid programs.

Come get active. See you soon. Vivat Jesus .

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Bill Studenic, Community Activities Director

Food for Families Program

Bob Amato – Event Chairman

Our Council supports St. Patrick's monthly food drive. You can donate on the third Sunday of every month at the church between 8am and noon in the parking lot, or you can bring food items to our monthly business meeting, and we will deliver them for you. Please support this worthy program.

On Sunday Jan. 18th, Council #6793 donated 51.3 lbs. of food at St. Patrick's Parking lot. It will be delivered to St. Martin's food pantry. This Fraternal year, Council 6793 has donated 404.4 lbs. to St. Martin's food pantry. Thanks to all Knights for your participation. Fraternaly, Bob Amato 301 385 1017.

Third Annual Council Chili Cook-off

Bill Studenic – Event Chairman

Our Third Annual Chili Cook-off is coming up quickly, on Saturday, February 28, after the 4:00PM Mass at Our Lady of Grace Parish Hall. We need participants to make a big pot of Chili and go for the Champions trophy or claim the People's Choice award. So far, I am aware of the following as expressing interest: Jack Giacalone, Mark Perez, Don Hemke, Joe Krempasky, Andy Colliton, and myself.

Please email Bill Studenic (studenic@hotmail.com) or phone 330-641-4092 and let me know you are planning to participate so I can put your name on the list. More information to follow next month.

LIFE ACTIVITES

Joseph M Feakes - Sebastian Rainone Life Programs Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mulch Sale

TBD – Joe Krempasky

PRAYER REQUESTS

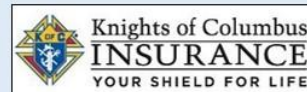
Please keep these Knights and families in your prayers.

INDIVIDUAL'S NAME	RELATIONSHIP
Gary Street	Sibling of Brother Knight
Janie Street	Brother Knight's Spouse
Betty King	Widow of Brother Knight
John Hartinger	Brother Knight
Keith Bielanski	Nephew of Brother Knight
DECEASED'S NAME	DATE OF DEATH
N/A	N/A

Continue to pray for the souls of our deceased armed forces.

FRATERNAL BENEFITS ADVISOR REPORT

Stephen Clites, Fraternal Benefits Advisor



Stephen M. Clites, FICF MDRT

Supreme Knights Club Qualifier
Call: (240) 375-1372

Stephen.Clites@kofc.org

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FOURTH DEGREE NEWS

SULLIVAN BROTHERS ASSEMBLY 2861

"WE STICK TOGETHER!"

Website: www.sullivan2861.org

SK Michael Watson, Faithful Navigator



Assembly Business Meetings are held the **third Thursday** of each month at 8PM. Fr. Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road, Derwood MD 20855.

February AWD meeting. The February district-wide meeting falls on Valentine's Day and during a long weekend. As a result, we'll hold the meeting via Zoom. Details for the Zoom meeting will be sent in a separate email.

Postponed Fourth Degree Exemplification

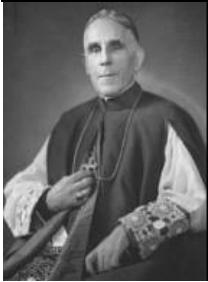
We realize that some of you enjoyed clear streets and good weather last weekend, but that wasn't the case

throughout the archdiocese. The next opportunity given the competing calendars is Saturday, March 21st. We've submitted the request to hold the ceremony in Archbishop Michael J. Curley Assembly 383, and anticipate quick approval. This provides the most central location based on the 20 candidates we have so far. Make good use of this delay to ensure that you achieve your membership growth goal! The tentative plan is at St. Mary of the Mills Church, Laurel, MD:

- 9:00 am set-up team preps chamber and antechamber
- 10:00 am candidate check-in begins
- 11:00 am ceremony begins with antechamber presentation

Gus Gusman, Secretary to the Master, Archdiocese of Washington District, Tel: (301) 537-5461, Email: Guskoc2169@gmail.com

CHAPTER NEWS



**Bishop McNamara Chapter -
Established 1963
Website:
<http://www.mcnamarachapter.com/>
Chapter Pres – Anthony McGrath**

SUPREME NEWS

WEBSITE: <http://www.kofc.org>
Source: K of C Supreme Website

A Future Not Forgotten

Knights in Ukraine offer scholarships to young people who have lost a parent—just as Father McGivney once did
(by Kateryna Kolodii)

Amid the turmoil of war in Ukraine, many children and young adults who have lost a parent are struggling to pursue an education — a reality that prompted the Knights of Columbus to introduce a new scholarship fund named for the Order's founder, Blessed Michael McGivney.

Since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, one in five Ukrainian children report having lost a close relative or friend. More than 13,000 have been left without parental care, and nearly half have experienced displacement, either within the country or abroad.

In response to this crisis, Ukraine State Council established the McGivney Scholarship Fund this year to help young people who have lost a parent in the war pursue an education at the high school or university level. To date, 15

students from parishes served by 13 councils across Ukraine have each received \$1,000 scholarships. The councils identified and recommended candidates, organized award ceremonies with liturgical celebrations, and remain committed to ongoing prayer and spiritual support — all to ensure that the loss of a parent does not also mean the loss of a future.

Father McGivney's legacy of responding to personal loss with communal support lies at the very heart of the scholarship program, which is sustained through the Order's Ukraine Solidarity Fund.

Father McGivney himself lost his father as a young man in 1873 — a tragedy that forced him to put his seminary studies on hold in order to provide for his mother and younger siblings. With the Church's support, he was eventually able to resume his formation. The experience helped shape to his life's mission.

[Read More!](#)

To learn more about the Knights, visit: <http://www.kofc.org/un/joinus/en/index.html>.

Visit www.kofc.org/training to find online training for state, council, district and assembly officers, as well as important instruction for handling Operations (including Administration, Finances and Forms), Growth & Retention, and Programs & Engagement.

MARYLAND STATE COUNCIL NEWS

[Website: www.kofc-md.org]

\$50 Recruitment Incentive

State Council announced a spectacular new recruitment incentive that can reward you and every Knight in Maryland for inviting men to join the Order! Between the first of the year and end of the fraternal year, each time a Knight recruits a new member to the Order in Maryland, he will be awarded a \$50 bonus per member. To receive credit for recruiting a new member, the Knight's membership number must be included on the candidate's application. There is no limit to the amount of incentive funds a Knight can earn each month. See your GK for additional details.

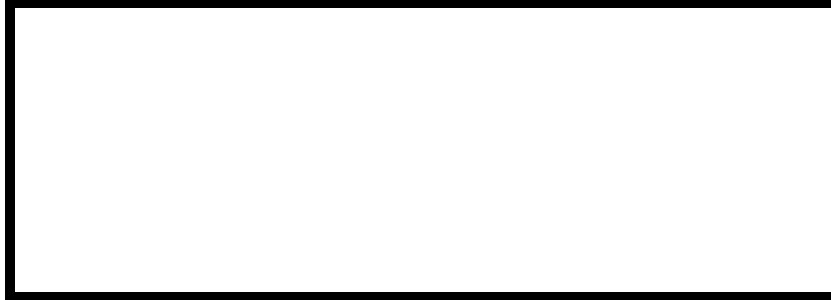
State Council Town Hall Meeting

The State Council conducted several Town meetings across the state earlier this month. These sessions provided an opportunity to ask questions and to engage with State Deputy Tony Salvemini, State Growth Director Terry Waters, State E-Membership Director Bill Newbrough and State Program Director Alan Pultyniewicz as well as Supreme Regional Growth Director Ken Latham in an informal setting that was both enjoyable and informative.

See your GK or DD for additional details.

**Knights of Columbus
Fr. Peter Paul Maher Council #6793
Post Office Box 570
Olney, MD 20830**

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**FEBRUARY 2026
FR. PETER PAUL MAHER COUNCIL #6793**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Friends of St Joseph Rosary 7:00PM St. Peter's	5 Officer Mtg 7:30 PM	6 First Fri Mass. 8:30AM, St. Peter's	7
8	9	10	11 Business Mtg 7:30PM, St. Peter's	12	13	14
15	16	17 Shrove Tues St. Peter's	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Social Mtg 7:30P	26	27	28 Chili cookoff. 5:00PM, OLOG
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

CALENDAR UPDATES ARE AVAILABLE AT ANY TIME BY CHECKING THE COUNCIL WEBSITE. WWW.KOFC6793.ORG