

Owatonna



Council 945

The Key

to greater Council unity

MARCH
2026

ANYONE NEED HELP?

If you or a fellow Knight is in need of assistance of any kind, your Brother Knights are here for support. Please contact Grand Knight Mark Stadtherr at 507-251-5239 to let us know how we can help.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 4 - Officer Meeting
Columbian Center
Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
March 11 - General Meeting
Columbian Center 7:00 p.m.
March 25 Fourth Degree Meeting
Columbian Center 7:00 p.m.

COLUMBIAN CENTER and LOUNGE

820 Elm Avenue South
P.O. Box 623
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-451-6103
Open: Mon-Sat 3:30-12:30
Happy hour Mon-Fri 4:00-6:00 pm
Free Hors d'oeuvres during
Friday happy hour.

KC WEBSITE

Visit our website
www.kofccouncil945.org
for the latest Council
information. You can look up
members, see information on
Council Officers, review
current and past Key
Newsletters, and check the
calendar for events.

WHEELCHAIRS

The Knights have purchased 4 additional wheelchairs. If you or a family member have a long or short term need to borrow a wheelchair, please contact a member of the officers' board.

Upcoming Council Events

OFFICERS' MEETING

Wednesday, March 4
Columbian Center
Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 11
Columbian Center
Speaker - 7:00 p.m.
Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

BENEFIT BREAKFAST for

St. Mary's Music Boosters
Sunday, March 15, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
St. Mary's School
\$9.00 advance, \$10.00 at door (free under 6)
Two sensational breakfast choices and table service!
KC Omelet Breakfast: 3 egg omelet selections
KC Country Breakfast: eggs - fried to order or scrambled eggs, ham or sausage
All served with pancakes or french toast, milk, or coffee

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 2026 SERVICE AND COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET

Celebration of Community
Friday, April 10 - Columbian Center
\$20.00 per ticket
Social Hour: 5:30 - 6:30 pm
Dinner: 6:30 - 7:30 pm
3 cheese Encrusted Chicken,
Sliced Pork Tenderloin with
roasted garlic potatoes, green beans, and
dinner roll.

Gourmet Cheesecake (by Jo Matejcek)
Speaker/Program: 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Guest Speaker: **Steele County Sheriff
Lon Thiele**

congratulate our awardees, & enjoy an evening of
delicious food and fellowship. Door prizes and
complimentary cocktails included.
RSVP by April 2 to Deputy GK Tom Kubista
(507) 451-4214 or tomkubista@charter.net

Upcoming Columbian Center Events

TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE CLUB

Tuesday, March 3, 10, 24, & 31
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Columbian Center Lounge
Serving BLTs, burgers, spring salad, and soup

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Tuesday, March 17
5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Columbian Center Lounge
Serving Corned Beef and Cabbage

BAR BINGO

Every Tuesday in March
Columbian Center Lounge - 7:00 p.m.

BAR TRIVIA

Get your team of one to four together
to play trivia, at the KC Hall at 4:00 p.m.
Weekly winners receive a \$25.00 bar tab.

BENEFIT LENTEN FISH DINNERS

Every Friday during Lent - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Columbian Center (KC Hall)
Fried or Baked Fish plate, whipped potatoes with
country gravy, vegetable, cole slaw, roll, milk,
& coffee
Presale tickets -\$15.00, \$17.00 at the door
Kids under six eat free - *All you care to eat*
See inside of the Key for the dates and beneficiaries.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE SILVER ROSE PRAYER SERVICE

Sunday, March 8 - 1:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart Parish
Everyone is invited to join in a special celebration of
prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe in the Silver Rose
Prayer Service.
Join us for this special holy hour to Life honoring the
Holy Ever Virgin Mother of God.

Grand Knight's Message by Mark Stadtherr

Greetings Fellow Knights ~

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped at the Shrimp Dinners and at the KC breakfasts. The Lenten Fish Dinners have started, and although they are a Fourth Degree fundraiser, our Brother Third Degree members are always welcome to lend a hand.

At our February meeting we presented checks to the groups listed below from the profits of our 2025 charitable gambling operations. Earlier in the year we also donated funds to Let's Smile and Faith Formation.

St. Mary's School accepted by Jen Swanson; St. Joseph Church presented to Fr. Marreddy; Sacred Heart Church presented to Msgr. Cook; St. Vincent DePaul Society, accepted by Joe Stiles; Boy Scout Troop 253 accepted by Von Petersen and Ryan Hayes; Pregnancy Options accepted by Gina Little; Healthy Seniors of Steele County accepted by Edna Ringhopher; Lighthouse of Southern Minnesota accepted by Amanda Starks; Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota accepted by Sarah Vetter; Two Rivers Habitat for Humanity accepted by Ken Quattrin; Izaak Walton League; Diocese of Winona Seminarians Education Fund accepted by Msgr. Cook; Exchange Club Center for Family Unity accepted by Dean Schuette; and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

This amounts to a 2025 grand total of \$66,650 gifted to non-profits. Because of all of you, and all those who support our efforts, we are able to make a substantial difference in our parishes, school, and community at large.

I would encourage you to continue to work on recruitment and retention by getting and keeping our brother Knights involved. Ask someone that you know who is not active to help with one or two events this year.

If I can assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to get in touch. My number is (507) 251-5239, send a text or leave a message.

Vivat Jesus!



Membership by Brandon Fandel

We will be having an Exemplification at the Columbian Center in Owatonna in the near future. Our goal for this Fraternal year is to achieve Star Council.

If you need any help in signing up your new member give me a call at (507) 456-4161. Don't wait any longer! Call and visit your prospective member today. Explain our Council's accomplishments and invite them to join us. They will thank you!

Anyone who is a First Degree Knight, please join us at an Exemplification to achieve Third Degree Knight status.

The members in the KCs who are involved in our projects have a lot of enthusiasm and enjoy the projects that they participate in. We need to continue to sign up new members to provide us with new ideas for projects that we could bring into our Council.

Please get your dues paid as soon as you can. We need the money from our dues to make ends meet for our Council expenses.

Benefits by Dan Sawyer



Life Insurance • Long-Term Care Insurance
Retirement Annuities • Disability Income Insurance
Protecting Catholic families since 1882.

Field Agent

Office: 952-686-7720
Mobile: 612-840-6608
Dan.Sawyer@kofc.org
660 Lee Street NE
Owatonna, MN 55060

Brothers,

Tax season is here! Whether you're ahead of the game and done filing, or you're putting it off for another couple weeks, this time of year is a good opportunity to consider whether your tax rate or bracket has changed. If so, do you know the implications for your long-term financial strategy?

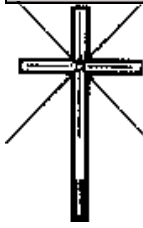
People can end up in a higher tax bracket than they anticipate when their income fluctuates — for example, if your salary changed, or if you retired and are drawing on different income sources. Paying a higher tax rate may mean less disposable income or less money to leave to your family as you planned.

You can protect yourself against these potential losses and build dependable cash value through permanent life insurance with the Knights of Columbus. Permanent life insurance allows you to build cash value that you can access tax-free while you're alive. You can also create an income tax-free inheritance for your loved ones after you pass allowing permanent life insurance to be useful in a range of situations. Of course, we always recommend that you work with a qualified tax advisor or CPA in addition.

By helping to secure your financial future and legacy with the Knights of Columbus, you're living out the vision of Blessed Michael McGivney, who founded our Order 144 years ago this month.

Reach out to your field agent at www.kofc.org/faa to set up an appointment today.

Aid & Assistance by Greg Nelson



Please remember in your prayers and thoughts all of our sick or injured members of the Knights of Columbus and their families. Let's also offer up prayers for all deceased members and their families.

Please pray for the following:

Les Abraham, Carl Adams, Jerry Bahe, Randy Balausky, Dan and Julie Bauer, John Berning, Dale Besonen, Don Boesen, Bonnie Bremer, Barb Claeys, Lucy Coleman, Cody Concannon, Pete Connor, Mark Cunningham, Sylvia Dalle, Jim and Margaret Deml, Marilyn Dillemoth, Dan Glaser, Cathy Glowka, Mick Grennan, Gerry Gunderson, Sherri Heim, TJ (Tony) Jacobson, Lorraine Jirele, Jim Kenney, Jim Klecker, Phil Klein, Teresa Klecker, Larry Klocek, Marlys Knight,

Dave and Mary Lax, Mary Mamer, Gene McShane, Mary Meixner, Suzanne Meidema, Dorothy Mulert, Greg and Cathy Nelson, Karen Pirk, Kevin Raney, John Rice, Tim Rice, Laura Richter, Steve Roden, John Rose, Pat Rose, Mark Rypka, Al Rysavy, Paul Schneider, Mike Schroeder, Filberto Silva, Anne Skalicky, Jim Skalicky, Ivan Snorek, Jeanine Snyder, Susan Swenson, Mary Thamert, Garrett Thigpen, Mary Lou Thurnau, Joe Wagoner, Eric Wandersee, Jerry Weber, Irene Wierzbinski, Steve Wiese, Sharon Wiggins, and Tim Ziemke.

And all other Brother Knights and their families in need of our prayers.

If anyone knows of a Brother Knight who is sick or injured, please call Greg Nelson at (507) 676-1748.

ST. MARY'S OPEN HOUSE BENEFIT BREAKFAST



Terry Kuck and Jerry Wacek Supervising

It was a very cold week, but that did not stop over 300 happy customers from attending the KC Breakfast for the St. Mary's Open House. The Owatonna Knights of Columbus partners with St. Mary's School as they held their Open House and kick-off Catholic Schools Week. Besides the breakfast, there were tours of the school and activities for kids. The volunteers were the wonderful teachers and students at St. Mary's School. The KC members, family, and friends who volunteered: *Eric Tucker, Mark Pfeifer, Matt Thurnau, Ron Wolf, John Oberstein, Greg Lenz, Lyle Snider, Mark Stadtherr, Steve Fisher, Gary Fisher, Rich Gerdts, Tom Bremer, Al Nelson, Tom Docksey, Terry Kuck, Jason Wilker, Corey Harguth, David Orfei, Lauro Zunigo, Ron Heim, Mike Oldenburg, Stephen Franks, Al Macius, Rick Wittrock, Dave Pfeifer, Filberto Silva, Eric Wandersee, Gerald Wacek, Doug Kloos, Tom Gebur, Gregg Radtke, Dan Sawyer, Jeff Vortherms, Gene McShane, Jim Kaplan, Patrick Baldwin, Richard Meier, Kris Klinger, Charlie Clubb, Paige McGrath, Luke Burnett, Cora Burnett, and Tim Chicos.*

OHS ROBOTICS TEAM & OWATONNA IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE SUCCESSFUL BREAKFAST

We hope you enjoyed Valentine's Day and joined us for breakfast on February 15. Nearly 500 people attended, including more than 100 walk-ups. Tickets for any KC Breakfast are available at the KC Hall.

This breakfast event benefited both the Owatonna High School Robotics Team and the Owatonna Izaak Walton League chapter. The Robotics Team showcased a robot capable of picking up balls and tossing them into the air, impressing attendees of all ages. Meanwhile, volunteers from the Izaak Walton League enthusiastically explained their mission: encouraging community-based conservation and scientific volunteerism, while supporting robust state and national policies to safeguard air, water, and wildlife. The KC members, family, and friends who volunteered: *Eric Tucker, Tom Bremer, Greg Lenz, Lyle Snider, Matt Thurnau, John Oberstein, Ron Wolf, Mark Stadtherr, Gary Fisher, Steve Fisher, Tony David, Al Nelson, Tom Docksey, Terry Kuck, Jason Wilker, Ray Bissen, David Orfei, Mark Kearin, Ron Heim, Mike Oldenburg, Stephen Franks, Josh Spielman, Rick Wittrock, Dave Pfeifer, Filberto Silva, Trent Tucker, Gerald Wacek, Doug Kloos, Rick Bothum, Steve Graff, Tom Gebur, Gregg Radtke, Dan Sawyer, Richard Gerdts, Richard Meier, Patrick Baldwin, Curt Supalla, Kris Klinger, Al Macius, Paige McGrath, Luke Burnett, Cora Burnett, Zach and Averi Bissen, and Charlie Clubb.*

If you are interested in assisting with Saturday preparation or Sunday morning breakfast service, please contact Brian Carlson at brianbcarlson55@gmail.com or 507-456-8971. Volunteer participation is appreciated as your schedule allows.



Dave Pfeifer, Trent Tucker and Josh Spielman on the serving line.



Kids watching the robots.

BENEFIT LENTEN FISH DINNERS

Every Friday during Lent - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Columbian Center (KC Hall)

Fried or Baked Fish plate, whipped potatoes with country gravy, vegetable, cole slaw, roll, milk, & coffee

Presale tickets -\$15.00, \$17.00 at the door - Kids under six eat free - *All you care to eat*

2026 Beneficiaries

February 20	Owatonna Catholic Daughters of the Americas
February 27	Medford KC and Medford Catholic Daughters
March 6	Knights of Columbus Council 945, Grandparents for Education, and St. Vincent DePaul
March 13	Knights of Columbus Assembly #2300 and Exchange Club for Family Unity
March 20	Boy Scout Troop #253
March 27	Izaak Walton League of Owatonna and Medford KC and Medford Catholic Daughters



SHRIMP DINNERS A HUGE SUCCESS!!



Picture from week 6 dinner - L to R: Steve Fisher, David Fisher, Dean Schuette, Mark Stadtherr, Margaro Mayo, Luis Martinez, Dan Sawyer, Jose Lopez, John Thamert, Lauro Zuniga. Not included in picture: Lee Jardine, Gregg Radtke. Also no shown are the great volunteers from the prior weeks.

Thank you to a great Shrimp Dinner Team! We held six Shrimp Dinners at the Hall and served 557 happy customers. On our final night we served 127 customers in just over an hour! We received numerous compliments on the meals. We had a total of 19 volunteers over the six weeks.

A huge thank you goes to: Lee Jardine, Dustin and Harrison Reese, Dan Wolfe, Lauro Zuniga, Gregg Radtke, Ray Bisen, Dan Sawyer, Dean Schuette, Mark Stadtherr, Jose Lopez, Luis Martinez, John Thamert, Brandon Fandel, Pat and Mona Rose, Steve Fisher, David Fisher, and Margaro Mayo.

2025-2026 BENEFIT BREAKFASTS

April 12, 2026 Owatonna Clay Target Team
May 3, 2026 Owatonna Youth Fishing Team and St. Vincent De Paul

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. St. Mary's School
\$9.00 advance, \$10.00 at door (free under 6)

Two sensational breakfast choices and table service!

KC Omelet Breakfast: 3 egg omelet selections

KC Country Breakfast: eggs - fried to order or scrambled eggs, ham or sausage

All served with pancakes or french toast, milk, or coffee

If you are interested in helping on Saturday morning for breakfast preparation or Sunday morning breakfast, please contact Brian Carlson at brianbcarlson55@gmail.com or 507-456-8971. You can help as often as your schedule allows.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Event in La Crosse

March 13-15, 2026 at Diocese of La Crosse

The "Madre Peregrina" (Pilgrim Mother) is a life-size sculpture depicting the Virgin Mary in her apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas. Originating from the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, this replica is crafted to closely resemble the original miraculous image as a living apparition. The primary purpose of the Madre Peregrina sculpture is to bring the spiritual presence and intercessory power of Our Lady of Guadalupe to communities worldwide, fostering peace, love and hope among Catholic pilgrims.

Veneration Experience: includes a 30-minute presentation that is bilingual with time for veneration afterward. Each pilgrim is given a white ribbon for prayer intentions. The prayer intentions will be taken to the Shrine of Our Lady in Mexico City where Archbishop Grob will preside over a Mass for the intentions later this Spring.

Friday, March 13, 2026, 9:00 am Opening Mass celebrated by Bishop Gerard Battersby

Veneration Times: Every 2 hours

Friday, March 13, 12:00 – 6:00 pm

Saturday, March 14, 8:00 – 6:00 pm

Sunday, March 15, 12:00 – 6:00

More info at this site: <https://guadalupewi.odoo.com/lacrosse>

Our Lady of Champion Marian Conference

May 22-23, 2026 at Champion Shrine

Register Today

Marian Conference
MARY, REFUGE OF SINNERS
May 22-23, 2026 Friday + Saturday
The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion + Champion, Wisconsin

SPEAKERS

Bishop David L. Ricken
The 12th Bishop of Green Bay, he declared the apparitions at Champion, Wisconsin, worthy of belief in 2010.

Immaculee Ilibagiza
A New York Times bestseller, inspiring millions with her message of faith, hope, and forgiveness.

AND MORE SPEAKERS COMING SOON

LEARN MORE & REGISTER AT
WWW.CHAMPIONSHRINE.ORG/MARIAN-CONFERENCE/

2025-26 COUNCIL OFFICERS

Chaplain: Fr. Marreddy Pothireddy
 Grand Knight: Mark Stadtherr (507) 251-5239
 Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Kubista
 Chancellor: Corey Harguth
 Advocate: Ray Bisson
 Warden: Open
 Inside Guard: Kris Klingler
 Outside Guard: Dean Schuette
 Financial Secretary: Dan Wolfe (PGK)
 Treasurer: Tom Eichten
 Recorder: Greg Nelson
 Trustee (3 year): PGK Grady Strand
 Trustee (2 year): PGK Michael Schroeder
 Trustee (1 year): PGK Brandon Fandel

Directors and Chairmen

Program Director: Tom Kubista (DGK)
 Membership Director: Brandon Fandel (PGK)
 Adv/Publicity Director: Dan Wolfe (PGK)
 Aid & Assistance: Greg Nelson
 KC Chorus Director Stephen Nelson
 Building Director Open
 Director of Faith Activities: Dave Lax (PGK)
 Director of Family Activities Nic Matejcek (PGK)
 Dir. of Life Activities: Dan Sawyer (PGK)
 Dir. of Community Activities: Tom Jirela (PGK)
 Gambling Manager: Terry Evans
 District Deputy: Tim Chicco
 KC Hall Co-Managers: Brandon Fandel & Dustin Reese

2026 ST. MARY'S NIGHT OF KNIGHTS AUCTION

The Night of Knights Auction is the main fundraiser for St. Mary's School, with 100% of the proceeds going directly to St. Mary's. School.

The 40th Annual Auction will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2026. The doors open at 5 p.m. Live Auction. Silent Auction. Bucket Raffles. Food & Beverages.

Drawing: March 21, 2026

St. Mary's School: 730 Cedar Avenue, Owatonna, MN

MARCH 2026

All Lenten fish dinners are held at the Columbian Center from 5:00 - 7:00 pm.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Tuesday Night at the Club - 5:30-6:30 pm Bingo - 7:00 pm	4 Officer Meeting Columbian Center Meeting - 7:00 pm	5	6 K of C 945, Grandparents for Education, & St. Vincent DePaul Lenten Fish Dinner 5:00 - 7:00 pm	7 Bar Trivia Columbia Center 4:00 pm
8 Our Lady of Guadalupe Silver Rose Prayer Service 1:00 pm Sacred Heart Parish	9	10 Tuesday Night at the Club - 5:30-6:30 pm Bingo - 7:00 pm	11 General Meeting Columbian Center Speaker - 7:00 pm Meeting - 7:30 pm	12	13 K of C Assembly #2300 & Exchange Club for Family Unity Lenten Fish Dinner 5:00 - 7:00 pm	14 Bar Trivia Columbia Center 4:00 pm
15 Benefit Breakfast for St. Mary's Music Boosters St. Mary's School 8:00 am - 12:00 pm	16	17 Tuesday Night at the Club - 5:30-6:30 pm Bingo - 7:00 pm	18	19	20 Boy Scout Troop #253 Lenten Fish Dinner 5:00 - 7:00 pm	21 Bar Trivia Columbia Center 4:00 pm Knight of Nighs Auction 5:00 pm
22	23	24 Tuesday Night at the Club - 5:30-6:30 pm Bingo - 7:00 pm	25 Fourth Degree Mtg. Columbian Center 7:00 pm	26	27 Izaak Walton Leage of Owatonna & Medford KC & Medford Catholic Daughters Lenten Fish Dinner 5:00 - 7:00 pm	28 Bar Trivia Columbia Center 4:00 pm
29	30	31 Tuesday Night at the Club - 5:30-6:30 pm Bingo - 7:00 pm				