



Knights' Notes – Feb '26 Issue

Service to Parish & Community Since 1901 • Fr. John D. Ring Council #574
Serving Holy Trinity, Historic St. Patrick's, St. Mary's parishes & St John Paul II Newman Center

CLUBROOM HOURS

Sunday: Noon - 9pm

Monday - Friday: 2pm - 10pm

Saturday: 11am - 10pm

May stay open later if there is sufficient business.

KEY DATE REMINDERS

- **Saturdays, Burgers and Corndogs!**
- Feb 5th, Ladies Aux meeting, 6pm
- Feb 5th, Council mtg, 6pm
- **Feb 8th, Souper Bowl at the Clubhouse**
- Feb 12th, 4th Degree meeting, 6pm
- **Feb 14th, Valentine's Day**
- Feb 17th, Mardi Gras
- **Feb 18th, Ash Wednesday**
- **Feb 19th, Open House, 6pm**
- Feb 27th, Friday Fish Fry



HOLD THE DATES

- **Mar/April - Friday Fish Fry**
- **Mar 17th, St Patrick Day Celebration**
- Mar 19th, St Joseph's Day
- Mar 25th, Annunciation

SICK OR IN DISTRESS

Heal your servants, O Lord, who are sick, and who put their trust in you. Send them help, O Lord, and comfort them from your holy place.

Let Jim, any officer, or Terry know of someone Sick or Deceased to have name put on a prayer list. They should be affiliated with the K of C.

IN GOD'S CARE

- All faithfully departed safely in the Arms of God.

FOR THE MONTH

HONORING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Visit us at: <http://www.kofc574.com> for previous Knights Notes, Parishes, and more. Contact GK Jim Smith at 309-530-5703 or jsmith1002@aol.com for a printed Newsletter. **Club Ph: 309-828-9671**

Grand Knight Report-55th Edition

Brother Knights and Knights Friends,

Your Knights of Columbus Council 574 is going to be very busy during the month of February. Because there is so much information enclosed the KNIGHT NOTES, I would like to summarize the following upcoming events.

2/5: This is the 1st council meeting to include FOOD! JOIN US!

2/7: Free throw contest @ 9:00 AM Corpus Christi (ages 9-14)

2/8: Souper Bowl Party (bring your fav soup and see the game)

2/19: OPEN HOUSE for new members, do you know someone?

2/21: Spelling Bee @ Council Hall 2:00 PM (ages 9-14) 2/28: 1st Lenten fish fry @ Council Hall

These events are part of our continued efforts to sustain the lofty goals that our founders set for us 125 years ago. As always, I'm asking for volunteers to assist with these events. Contact me if you are willing to help.

We've got a lot to be done and a short time to get there!!

LET'S KEEPING IT DONE ON DUNN!

Jim Smith: Grand Knight (309) 530-5703 jsmith1002@aol.com

The
Season
of
Lent



What is Lent?

Lent is the season where the Church prepares for Easter. Starting with Ash Wednesday, Lent spans 40+ days until Holy Thursday. In Matthew, Jesus spends 40 days in the desert, fasting, praying, preparing for his mission.

Lent is your opportunity for that same focus. Lent is an invitation to take your spiritual life seriously and discover the abundant life Jesus invites us to at Easter. **Are you ready?**

Blood Drive March 9th at the Club

Call 309-662-0500 or go to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>

and schedule a time between 12:30 and 5:45pm.



Blood Drive!



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

Ladies Auxiliary Notes

Our next meeting on Thursday, Feb. 5, '26 @ 6:00 pm will cover all the events/initiatives we will work on in 2026. Please plan to attend and sign up for committees for the coming year. Plans for the "Souper Bowl" party on Sunday, Feb 8. '26 are rolling. Posters are up and we will be ready for chili, soups, and football! Please see the details for that day in the newsletter below.

Stay safe and warm – Tina

Monthly Council Meeting Space Change

We outgrew our meeting room so starting February 5th, we will meet in our Banquet Room. Appetizers and Snacks will be served at every 1st Thursday Meeting.

Our council made 173% of the 2025 goal!

All Active Card-Carrying Members are WELCOME.

Meetings Start at 6pm, so come early and enjoy appetizers, mingle with Brother Knights, and stay after to watch a game or shoot the breeze.

Who can join the Knights of Columbus? Any practical Catholic man, at least 18 years old, in good standing with the Catholic Church.

Souper Bowl Party Feb 8th - 3pm + at the Clubhouse

**Bring Appetizers to Share
and have a Blast**

Souper Bowl Soup Cook-off set for Sunday, Feb. 8. Come out to watch the BIG game, enjoy the labor of others by tasting their soups or chilis, voting will start around 3:30 and end at 5pm. 1st, 2nd & 3rd place prizes will be awarded. Get cooking! Other food items are welcome to add to the feast.

\$10 Domestic Buckets!



2 Brian Wright	15 Stephen Young
5 Stephen Petersen	18 Joseph Rondone
6 Robert Kuntz	18 Terrence Shea
8 Jamie Deffenbaugh	20 Fr. Huy Quoc Pham
8 Tom Miller	21 Robert Mikel
9 Larry Law	22 Mark Landsly
11 Troy Craps	26 Charles Brown
13 Chris Brown	26 Brian Loeffler
15 James Stokes	26 Doyle Tjaden
	27 Stephen Racki
	28 William Woyak



**Support
your Council
Attend a
Meeting**

Key MEMBER Contact Information

Grand Knight: Jim Smith	Warden: Brendy Lee
Deputy GK: Steve Scudder	Outside Guard: Dan Carmany
Fin Sec: Mike Tomlianovich	1 Yr. Trustee: Roger Longman
Chancellor: John Hickey	2 Yr. Trustee: Roger Petri
Treasurer: Bob Wefer	3 Yr. Trustee: Tyler Williams
Recorder: Martin Walker III	Terry Kieswetter: Club Manager
Inside Guard: Charlie Kunkel	Tina Weis: Ladies Aux President
Advocate: Martin Walker IV	

Burgers and Corndogs

**11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Saturday's**





Lent Fish Fry's Dinner & Dessert

**Feb 27, Mar 6, 13,
Mar 20, 27 & April 3**

5:30 – 7pm or until we run out

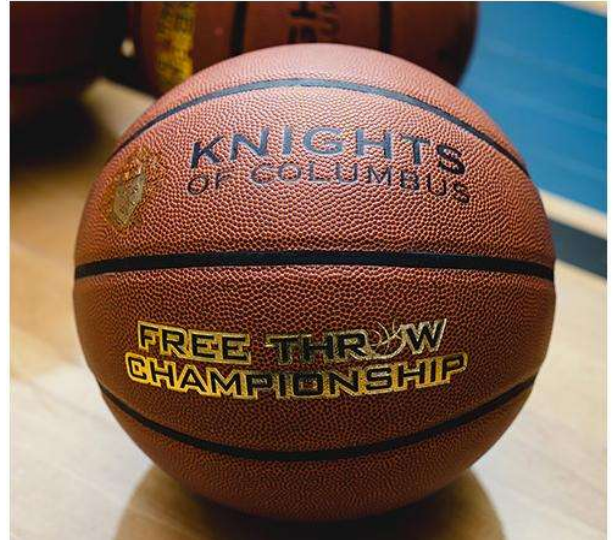
Open to the Public

(Fish, Grilled Cheese, plus weekly extras)

Open to the Public

K of C Free Throw Contest

Come join us Saturday, Feb 7 at Corpus Christi school. This is a District Free Throw Contest sponsored by Council 574 in the Bloomington/Normal area open to all kids 9 -14!



Since 1972, councils have sponsored the K of C Free Throw Championship for boys and girls from the ages of 9 to 14 to encourage the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Kids compete within their own gender and age and progress from local level to district, regional and state/province competitions.

**Council 574 will hold an Open House
on the 3rd Thursday in February (2/19)**

LEARN ABOUT WHAT WE DO, MEET NEW PEOPLE, EAT APPETIZERS

**Open
House**

6pm to 7pm



Give the Gift of Your Time – Please Help with our Fish Fry's!

This is our single biggest fundraiser, raising thousands for local charities every year. HELP...

The Church takes seriously the call to sanctify all things, even time. Time is a gift from God, and with him and through him, all things are holy, and nothing is without meaning.

WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP THIS YEAR



February 2026

Club Phone: 309-828-9671

We are a Catholic organization. Please refrain from using Inappropriate Language on our Property



**Support your Council
Attend a Meeting**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 1	Knight's Rosary 2 6 pm St Patrick Church Feast of the Presentation of the Lord	3 Our council works wonders through our programs. However, we depend on you to make it all work.	4	5 Council Mtg 6pm	6	7 11:30 - 1:30 Burgers & Dogs Crew: Tom Miller
8 	9	10	11 	12 4 th Degree mtg 6pm	13 Happy Hour	14 11:30 - 1:30 Crew: Buttitta Family
15	16 	17 MARDI GRAS FAT TUESDAY	18 Ash Wednesday Lent	19 Council Mtg 6pm	20 Happy Hour	21 11:30 - 1:30 Burgers & Dogs Crew: Jim Smith
22 	23 Ask Someone to Join 	24 Don't FORGET! Pay Dues	25	26 	27 FISH FRY FRIDAY	28 11:30 - 1:30 Burgers & Dogs Crew: John Braucht
Mar 1 	2	3	4	5	6 FISH FRY FRIDAY	7 11:30 - 1:30 Burgers & Dogs Crew: Mike Weis Memorial

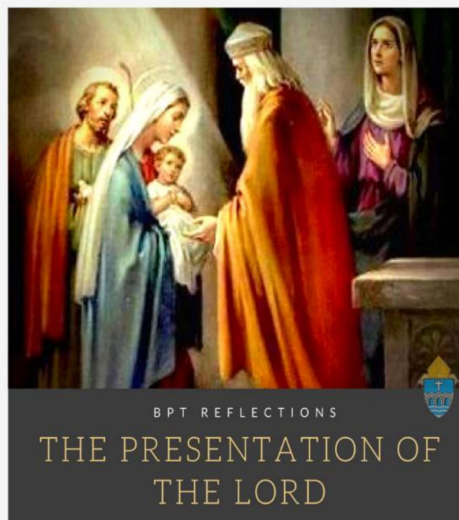
St Patty's Day Party Tuesday Mar 17
We need volunteers, so look for a sign-up sheet at the bar soon!

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord:

The Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2, which occurs 40 days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas Day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in today's liturgy.

A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.

Lk 2:32



Ash Wednesday:

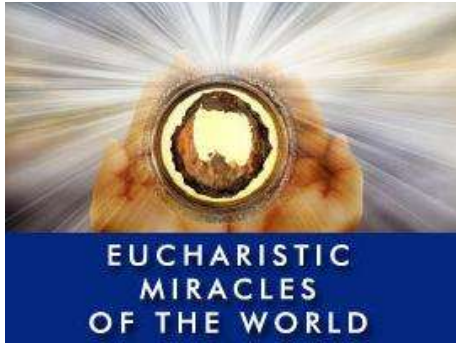
A Catholic observance in which ashes are marked on the forehead of parishioners in the shape of a cross. The ashes are meant as a reminder of our mortality and sinfulness.

It marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period that ends with Easter. This is a period observed by prayer, repentance, fasting, & moderation.

Sundays are excluded as they are considered a celebratory day that represents the resurrection of Jesus and the Sabbath day of rest.

February: The Holy Family

The Holy Family is an earthly reflection of the Holy Trinity. By meditating on the Holy Family, we can learn the meaning of love, obedience, and true fatherhood and motherhood. We are also reminded that the family is the foundational unit of both society and the Church.



"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." (John 6:51-52)

Eucharistic miracles have occurred throughout our history. A Eucharistic miracle involves the body and blood of the Eucharist taking on biological qualities of Christ's blood, flesh, or both. These extraordinary events have helped people see the spiritual reality of God behind the physical world, reminding us there is more to our existence than we can understand with our 5 senses alone. **(a Monthly Series)**

Our Lord Appears to

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

1224-1274

During the years of his theological maturity, from 1269 to 1272, St. Thomas Aquinas was called to Paris to resolve the complicated question of the nature of the Eucharistic Sacrament. Before St. Thomas started his dissertation, he went in church to pray and then finally wrote the actual text. Once the exhibit was concluded, St. Thomas returned to church and that is when Our Lord Jesus appeared to him to confirm the righteousness of his writings.



During his second tenure as professor in Paris, St. Thomas found himself in the middle of a dispute taking place among the professors at the Sorbonne University in regard to the Eucharistic sacrament. The dispute was about two points: a) if the senses perceive the presence of the so-called "accident", such as color, taste, durability and quantity, it would be the concrete extension of the true and real Eucharistic Bread and Wine; b) faith confirms that in the sacrament exists the Body and Blood of Christ, which is an apparent contrast with the former theory. Parisian theologians were clearly divided between the objective theory and the value of faith.

They decided to ask St. Thomas because they already had the opportunity of experiencing his philosophical intelligence and his theological sanctity. They asked him to offer and communicate his opinion, in that his theological wisdom would become the rule to follow. Thomas then, as he usually did, retreated himself to prayer and contemplation and started to pray with great fervor and devotion. Soon after, he quickly jotted down in writing the least amount of words with the most precise clarity possible, what his mind was able to understand and what The Lord inspired him to write. He returned in church, went to the altar and laid down his written answers under the eye of the Crucifix and prayed: "Our Lord Jesus, actually and forever present in this Blessed Sacrament, I am asking You to help me understand Your truth and to be able to teach and confer it without any possibility of errors. So, I beseech thee, Oh Lord, to concede me this grace: If the things that I wrote about You and with Your blessing are true, make it possible for me to say and teach them publicly. If, instead, I have written something that is not in tune to the truth revealed and alien to the mystery of the sacrament, stop me from inferring anything that could deviate from the Catholic faith."

This was the humble prayer of the theologian who understands that he is dealing with things much higher than himself and that he has a grave responsibility towards his people. Father Reginaldo, his secretary, and other brethren were fortunate enough to observe St. Thomas while in deep prayer, when suddenly Christ appeared and motioned towards his writings and said: "You wrote well about the sacrament of my Body, and you wrote well and according to truth; you also have resolved the question that was posed to you. This understanding of the Truth defines and holds true, as long as man is present on earth."

Having heard this, Thomas was filled with joy and thanksgiving and prostrated himself and knelt down at the altar in front of our Lord.

Knights of Columbus®



NIEMEYER AGENCY

Brothers, Happy New Year! The Knights of Columbus has very exciting news to share as we begin 2026! Beginning January 1, 2026, a dividend increase took effect for eligible participating insurance policies, for the second year in a row. What does an increased dividend rate mean for you? Dividends are amounts that may be paid annually from the surplus funds of the Knights of Columbus and are paid on an equitable basis by class as determined by the Board of Directors. 1 Guided by the vision of our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, we are dedicated to supporting the financial security of our members. Over the past 30 years, Knights of Columbus has paid more than \$8 billion in dividends to those we serve. If you have any questions about this, or any of the benefits of having a Knights of Columbus insurance policy, contact your local agent to learn more.



Thank you and God bless, Matt Koeniger –
Field Agent - Bloomington, IL. (309) 533-5667



— Matthew D. Koeniger —

ANNOUNCING THE ILLINOIS STATE WINNERS IN THE SUPREME ESSAY CONTEST

Winners have been forwarded to the Supreme Council for the next level of judging. Associated District Deputies will be notified when awards will be mailed.

8th Grade	Amelia Vagnoni	Council 489	Cardinal Bellarmine
9th Grade	Anna Wiltz	Council 574	Bloomington
10th Grade	Theresa Hoffman	Council 658	Rock Island
11th Grade	Giuseppe Vetri	Council 574	Bloomington
12th Grade	Joseph Coletta	Council 574	Bloomington

Come Join Us!

- Video Gaming
- Big Screen TVs
- Full Bar
- Saturday Burgers

Council 574 Receives STAR COUNCIL Award

Your Knights of Columbus Council was recently awarded the prestigious Star Council Award from the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council in New Haven, Connecticut. This award is given to councils who achieve excellence in programming for Faith, Family, Community, and Culture of Life efforts.

We thank our clergy, parish offices, and our fellow parishioners for making this possible. We work hard to provide our services to the community, raise thousands of dollars annually for charities in our community, and appreciate your support and participation.



92.5 FM Bloomington	88.3 FM Champaign	90.5 FM Charleston	88.3 FM Clinton	89.1 FM DeKalb	97.1 FM Lincoln	89.5 FM McLean County	89.3 FM Morris	88.3 FM Pontiac	88.9 & 94.5 FM Rockford	89.3 FM Whitewater, WI
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Knight's Rosary

Our next Rosary will be at 6:00pm Feb 2nd at the Historic St Patrick Church.

We will recite the rosary and have time for group discussion.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Contact Scott at normalscott212@yahoo.com or 309-212-2904... **Yes, I plan to attend**



4th Degree Assembly 213

"All 3rd degree members are eligible to join"

Our next Meeting will be Thur, Feb 12 at Pizza Ranch 1211 Holiday Dr Blm, 6pm.

Everyone will responsible their own meal. Please let Scott know if you will be attending.

Contact Scott at normalscott212@yahoo.com or 309-212-2904 with yes, if plan to attend / no, if not.

Dues for 2026 are now due. Please pay them promptly. Send your dues to Joe Denman as soon as possible.

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KofC

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If you would like to have an image of your business card displayed in this newsletter, please email Dennis: jfdfl143@gmail.com

This is Your Newsletter

Please make suggestions for content by calling Mike at 309-830-6824. If you know of someone that is sick, injured, or has died, please let GK Jim Smith know at 309-530-5703 so we can add them to our prayer list and the Board at the Club.