

The Columbus Crusader

Msgr. Patrick R. Dunigan Council No. 695, Knights of Columbus



ONE NATION UNDER GOD



COUNCIL MEETING 2ND TUESDAY

FOURTH DEGREE 1ST THURSDAY

Volume 87, Issue 2

February 2026

A Valentine Story

Brother Knights,

This month, we leave behind us the thrill of a new year and the bitter cold of January, only to put on the slightly-less-bitter cold of February. I sincerely hope that the proverbial groundhog will not see his shadow this year, and I have drafted a letter to him on behalf of our council with my request. You all may sign it at our next meeting.

Something we have to look forward to in February (aside from Mardi Gras) is, of course, Valentine's Day. I can still remember back in elementary school having a box on my desk filled with suckers stuck into cardboard Valentines. Though I am past the age of receiving these trinkets, I do believe that Valentine's Day, like many holidays, has lost much of its original meaning. On this day we honor the priest and martyr Saint Valentine, and though his story may not ring of flowers and cards in red envelopes, it is certainly a story of love.

Saint Valentine was an early Christian clergyman (often said to be either a bishop or priest) in the mid-3rd century who lived in or around the city of Rome, where Christianity was still persecuted. One common story says that St. Valentine was jailed for his faith and was imprisoned at the house of a certain Judge Austerius. The judge listened to Valentine talking about Jesus on whose account he was imprisoned and was moved by Valentine's passionate defense of Jesus' power and love. So, Austerius decided to put Jesus to the test. Austerius had a young daughter who was blind, and he told Valentine that if Jesus could heal his daughter from

blindness, he would do anything Valentine asked. Valentine accepted this offer and brought the daughter before him, laid his hands on her, and asked Jesus to heal her from blindness...and she was! Dumb-founded and grateful for this miracle, Austerius honored his promise and was baptized along with all 44 members of his household.

After his release, Valentine continued his work, presiding over Christian marriages in secret. However, Valentine's freedom did not last long. He was again arrested for illegally practicing Christianity and was said to even have gone before emperor Claudius II himself. Despite an initially friendly reception, Valentine's defense of the faith enraged Claudius who had Valentine clubbed and beheaded after refusing to recant his faith. Valentine was buried by the Via Flaminia, whereafter his body was taken by his followers and buried elsewhere.

While St. Valentine's feast day is associated with romantic love, Valentine's story reflects the two greatest expressions of love we can offer. St. Valentine loved God to the point of imprisonment and death, and he loved God's people enough to minister to them in spite of persecution. This Valentine's Day, let us consider his story and reflect on the kind of love we show.

We have been blessed with an eventful February! On The 1st, we are serving a pancake breakfast at St. Matthews. On February 12th, Council 4090 is hosting their Seminarian Fundraiser Dinner at 5:30. If you want tickets, please



contact me. On February 14th, the 4th Degree is having their Admiral's Ball at 6:00 PM, which our council is supporting. We also begin Lent on the 18th, so begin to prepare for this penitential season.

In Christ,
Ronan Streby, Grand Knight
Vivat Jesus!

February 2026 Calendar of Events

- 1 Pancake Breakfast - St. Matthew
- 2 Presentation of the Lord
- 5 Assembly 510 Meeting, Holy Redeemer Family Life Center, 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Msgr. Dunigan Council 695 Meeting, St John Vianney Parish Center, 7:30 p.m.
- 11 World Day of the Sick
- 12 Seminarian Dinner, St. John Davison, 5:30 social, dinner 6:30
- 14 Admirals Ball
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 18 Ash Wednesday
- 22 First Sunday of Lent

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The Columbus Crusader
 Official Publication of
 MSGR. PATRICK R. DUNIGAN
 COUNCIL #695

Flint, Michigan 48504

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 once a month, to report on activities. Subscrip-
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* renewed for 2026

Council Dues and Voluntary Assessments

Dues are currently being collected. Regular - \$40/year, Honorary - \$20/year,
 Honorary Life - no dues.

Honorary Life membership cards were mailed last month. Other members will
 receive cards when dues are paid. Invoices were mailed in mid-January. The first
 set of cards will go out by mid-February. Dues cover the per capita assessments
 from Supreme and State Council. The balance of dues allows for local charitable
 work by the council and a small amount covers our minimal operating costs.



Council Connection

Phone: 810-235-6333
 Email: gk695@mikofc.org
 Website: www.kofcflint.org
 Facebook: kofcflint
 State: mikofc.org
 Supreme: kofc.org

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 For over 84 years, this monthly publication has
 brought news and advertising to council members.
 Complete the simple form below and mail with your
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Name

Address

*Please remember
in your daily prayers*

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Dcn. Tony Verdun
Fr. Giroux
Linda Reynolds
John Davidek
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Gloria Accardo
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Attention Needed

If your name appears below, you are scheduled for removal from the Crusader mailing list beginning next month. If you wish to continue receiving this Crusader newsletter, please leave a message for Mike at fs695@mikofc.org or the council phone, 810-235-6333.

Note: It is thought that most of the names are 4th degree Assembly members who are not part of Council #695 but may have had direct affiliation with 695 in the past. There are possibly a few surviving spouses in the list. We are happy to continue sending the newsletter to you, but please respond to let us know.

Allan N Karl	John B Miller	Paul Ososki
Andres Enriquez	John D Giedrojc	Peter A Daunt
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Anthony J Dryfuse	John L Seeley	Raymond Blind
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Why now? 80-90% of the content in The Columbus Crusader is specific to Council 695 in Flint and is likely not of interest to those listed above. We are discontinuing the Assembly #510 Faithful Navigator column, but will feature 4th degree promotional and event information for our council members. We have about 80 new council members to add to the mailing, so cost is also a factor.

Council News from January Meeting

Council meeting: Tuesday January 13, 7:35 pm – 8:40 pm. Council chambers at St. John Vianney. Led by Grand Knight Ronan Streby. Eleven council members present.

Grand Knight Report: We are selling tickets for the Seminarian Dinner on February 12, hosted by Council 4090 at St. John Davison. Pancake Breakfast at St. Matthew on Sunday February 1 after 10:00 am Mass. 4th Degree Admirals Ball on Saturday February 14. Propose the council purchases a table for 8 to support the event. Proceeds go to Sacred Heart Veterans Village. Met with Pregnancy Health Clinic staff. They reported 13 abortion-pill reversals in recent months. Help is needed with supplies. Comments from members: North End Soup Kitchen and My Brothers Keeper are seeking volunteers. The PHC mobile ultrasound unit is available for showing at a church or council event. The Flint Rosary Confraternity meets after 11:00 am Mass at St. John Vianney.

Treasurer and Financial Secretary reports were accepted. Assembly 510: The Mott Foundation donated 1800 Wrap-a-Vet coats. The next 4th degree Exemplification will be April 18 and St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing. The Admiral's Ball is

February 14. Tickets are available.

Program reports: Winning posters from the Keep Christ in Christmas K of C poster contest were shared with attendees by GK Streby. A planning meeting for the Pancake Breakfast at St. Matthew will be held January 15 at 4pm in our KofC room. The Singing Knights are seeking new members. Open house: January 28. Contact Jim Lusty. Fr. Daniel will help Knights with clean-up of our meeting area which contains both Knights and Parish items. The St. Luke N.E.W Life Center baby shower will be May 6-7.

New Business: Bulletin ad was approved for 2026 at cost of \$400. \$250 was approved to reserve a council table for eight at the Admiral's Ball. Couples attending will reimburse council \$35 (half-price).

Good of the order: three seminarians from Minnesota are helping at St. Mary until January 26. Our seminarians, Glen and Joseph, are studying in Rome and served Christmas Mass for Pope Leo.

Lecturer Ragnone read from the day's Gospel and council closed the meeting with Prayer for Vocations.

Plans for 2026

Subject to change.

February 1	Pancake Breakfast – St. Matthew
March 28-29	Tootsie Roll (MI) Drive at parishes
May 6-7	Baby Shower Setup at St. Luke NEW Life Center
May 20-22	K of C State Convention
May 25	Memorial Day Mass Refreshments – Old Calvary
July	St. Mary Youth Camp
August 1-2	Brats Cookout – St. John Vianney
August 7	Vocation Night at Lugnuts Baseball
October	Clergy and Religious Appreciation Dinner
November 28	Ring the Bell – Sam's Club
December 14-16	Christmas Gifts at St. Luke NEW Life Center
December 19	Angel's Outreach Christmas Party

92nd Exemplification

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States

Saturday April 18, 2026
St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing, MI

This is your chance to join the 4th degree at an historic event.
 Contact an Assembly 510 Officer for details.

Rest in Peace

James Adams, Jr.
 Born: April 25, 1926
 Died: January 28, 2026
 Member since October 1967

February Birthdays

- 1 Oliver J La Fontaine
- 6 Dr Robert Ddamulira
- 6 Terry M Naderhoff
- 7 Thomas J Ploucha
- 8 Gary R Deitering
- 9 Jonathan M Gildner
- 16 Joseph K Sullivan
- 20 Thomas J Brooks
- 20 Christopher J Kerperien
- 20 Daniel P Kerperien
- 21 Welton Wright
- 23 Richard N Kelley
- 24 Joseph Wilberding
- 27 Gregory A Frixen
- 28 Rev Thomas Firestone

Anniversaries

- 4 David & Joene McAuliffe
- 14 Walter & Janet Ducharme
- 14 John & Sandra McNicol

Admirals Ball - Saturday February 14. Tickets available from 4th degree.

Congratulation to our 60 Honorary Life Members

Rev. Matthew Bonk
 Rev. Thomas Firestone
 Rev. Douglas Osborn
 Rev. Anthony Strouse
 Joseph Bouza
 Edward Bruff
 Michael Burnett
 Paul Busque
 Steve Buszek
 Joseph Crimi
 Craig Damon
 Gary Deitering
 Lance Dicaire
 Max Dolehanty, Jr
 Theodore Eisenbeis
 Anthony Etue
 Edward Flynn
 Richard Folts
 Richard Fox
 Frank Garofalo

Matthew George
 Patrick Goodall
 Lawrence Hackett
 Thomas Halligan
 Frederick Johnson
 Robert Johnson
 Frederick Kay
 Richard Kelley
 Leonard Kerperien
 Ronald Klocek
 William Krebs
 Oliver La Fontaine
 Laurence Macdonald
 John McNicol
 Richard Miller
 Michael Owens
 Kenneth Pelletier
 Carl Pendell
 Joseph Pintar
 Dennis Plamondon

John Ploucha
 George Plunkey
 Paul Plunkey
 Douglas Proconier
 Robert Ragnone
 Mark Ranville
 Thomas Rathsack
 Raymond Rust
 Philip Satkowiak
 Steven Simms
 Thomas Skellett
 Joseph Sullivan
 Francis Sullivan
 Thomas Sutter
 Jerome Sysko
 Stephen Tesler
 Douglas Wagar
 Welton Wright
 Lawrence Wyczalek
 Russell Yahr

Next month the Crusader will list the nearly 40 Honorary Life members who have joined from #8245.



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Big John

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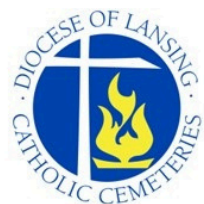
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Check the parish bulletins or
search the internet for details.