

# 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 3

March 2026

## Lenten Pillars

### Brother Knights,

As our Lenten season progresses, let us reflect on our goals for this holy season. Many of you have surely taken on challenges during Lent; maybe you gave up something pleasurable or decided to do something extra for the Lord. Of all the Lents I've been observing in my life, my favorite was a few years ago where I made a series of ink drawings, each illustrating a particular Christian concept such as prayer, faith, and the Trinity.

However, amidst all the talk about sacrifice and discipline, it is easy to forget the reason we challenge ourselves during this season. Of all our spiritual disciplines, fasting certainly receives the most attention, and we too often make an idol of giving things up or restraining ourselves for its own sake or to prove something to others or ourselves. We fast not as a test of endurance, but to build our endurance.

It is through restricting food or pleasurable things that we are better able to resist the temptations of sin and are focused on how much we need God. I've heard it said that one can never pray effectively if they are completely satisfied, and I'm inclined to agree. It is through deprivation that our focus is lifted from the belly to the Heavens, and by practicing aestheticism during Lent, we are radically reminded that "man does not live by bread alone."

Fasting is not the only pillar of Lent which we observe. Prayer and almsgiving are essential pieces of our journey. Last week, a few of the children I work with asked me how they could practice almsgiving during Lent. I told them they

could give people other things besides money: their time, their energy, their love. Almsgiving does not just involve throwing money into the collection basket, it is a conscious giving of what we have to those who have not. During Lent, we should look beyond our wallets when we think of ways to give. Is there someone you can spend more time with? Is there someone with whom you could share the Gospel? Is there a task that no one wants to do, but needs to be done? All these involve a selfless giving which unites us closer to our Lord.

Finally, prayer needn't be explained. Prayer is the most common and most basic way we commune with the Almighty, and I can testify from my own experiences that prayer works. However, many of our prayer lives could use some renovation. I know mine sure does. Maybe now is the time God is calling you to reopen the lines of communication. Maybe He is waiting for you on the other end of the line.

This March, we have a few things to look forward to! On March 8th, we are serving pancakes at St. Matthew's parish, and volunteers are still needed! On the 17th is St. Patrick's Day and the Grand Marshals are having their annual Mass at Holy Family in Grand Blanc. Finally, we are having our MI Drive on Palm Sunday weekend - the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29th.

Vivat Jesus!

With regards,  
Ronan Streby  
Grand Knight  
810-444-6458



## March 2026 Calendar of Events

- 5 Assembly 510 Meeting, Holy Redeemer Family Life Center, 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 8 Pancake Breakfast - St. Matthew
- 10 Msgr. Dunigan Council 695 Meeting, St John Vianney, K of C Room, 7:30 p.m.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 19 Feast of St. Joseph
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 25 Solemnity of The Annunciation
- 28 - 29 MI Drive at Churches
- 29 Palm Sunday

### Council Connection

Phone: 810-235-6333  
Email: [gk695@mikofc.org](mailto:gk695@mikofc.org)  
Website: [www.kofcflint.org](http://www.kofcflint.org)  
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As of March 1, 2026

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 Financial Secretary .....PGK Michael McCarthy  
 Grand Knight ..... Ronan Streby  
 Deputy Grand Knight .....PGK Dr Harvey Yee  
 Warden .....Robert Ragnone  
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 Chancellor .....PGK Mark Davidek  
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 Inside Guard ..... Dennis Rodgers  
 Outside Guard .....PGK Ken Pelletier  
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**PUBLICATION STAFF**

Editor .....Mike McCarthy  
 Advertising Manager .....Joe Goergen

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## Council Dues and Voluntary Assessments

Membership cards have been mailed to all members who paid their dues prior to February 13. The next batch will go out in mid-March.

If you have not yet submitted your annual dues renewal, please do so as soon as possible. A 2<sup>nd</sup> notice reminder will be sent later this month if council has not heard from you. If you need special consideration due to financial hardship, please let the Financial Secretary know by email to fs695@mikofc.org

Thank you to everyone who has responded thus far.

# Happy Lent

See your parish bulletin or website  
 for the many opportunities  
 available this season at:

St. John Vianney Church  
 St. Mary Mission Church  
 St. Matthew Church

## Become a Columbus Crusader Patron

For \$15 a year, you can have your name and your wife's name, if applicable, listed among those who help underwrite the cost of The Columbus Crusader. For over 87 years, this monthly publication has brought news and advertising to council members. Complete the simple form below and mail with your \$15 donation to Council 695, 2415 Bagley St., Flint, MI 48504.

Name

Address

*Please remember  
in your daily prayers*

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Dcn. Tony Verdun  
Fr. Giroux  
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Gloria Accardo  
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Joseph V. Dunn (dcd)  
Paul Osocki (dcd)  
Raymond Blind (dcd)  
Richard A. Kirbitz (dcd)  
Fred Oginsky (dcd)

## Attention Needed

Thank you to those non-695 members who responded last month to keep receiving The Columbus Crusader. You have been kept on the mailing list. We did learn of several individuals who had passed away. They are noted in the prayer list on this page. We are now adding new council members to the mailing list who have joined from the St. Pius X 8245 council.

### 92nd Exemption

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.

### Annual Tootsie Roll MI Drive

March 28 -29 after All Masses

Volunteers needed to collect donations. You can help at your normal Mass time.

## Honorary Life and Honorary Membership Explained

If you saw the list of Honorary Life members in the February issue of The Columbus Crusader, you may have wondered what the criteria are for Honorary Life and Honorary membership. It's been a few years since the Crusader last wrote about that topic.

Honorary Life Membership in the Knights of Columbus is a special recognition for long-serving members, granting lifetime membership without regular dues. A member is eligible for Honorary Life Membership if they meet one of the following conditions: Age 70 with 25 years of continuous membership in the Order, or membership of 50 consecutive years, regardless of age. The benefits of Honorary Life include: exemption from regular dues,

continued access to all council activities, eligibility for K of C insurance and fraternal benefits, subscription to Columbia magazine.

Honorary Membership is for other long-serving members. The criterion for honorary status is age 65 with 25 years of continuous service. By council agreement, dues are reduced to one-half the dues for regular council members. The benefits are the same as listed above.

Both Honorary and Honorary Life members are issued a permanent Knights of Columbus membership card and also receive an annual membership card from the council. Council 695 is blessed with about 100 Honorary Life members and about 20 Honorary members.

#### March Birthdays

- 1 Benjamin J Hutchins
- 2 Patrick J Caughlin
- 4 Ryan J Liwak
- 5 Stanley B Blood
- 5 Richard J Fox
- 5 Donald A Neumann
- 6 Erik K Caughlin
- 6 Philip W Hawley
- 7 Angelo A Disena Jr
- 7 Richard Frock
- 9 John C Mellott
- 10 Thomas J Sutter
- 12 Joel R Cuttitta
- 13 John C Laney
- 13 Andrew M McCarthy
- 15 Ethan P Sperla
- 16 Mark A Williams
- 17 Patrick N Palmeri
- 18 Wayne M Lynch
- 20 Dr Harvey K Yee

#### ANNUAL EASTER K of C POLISH SAUSAGE SALE

The Knights of Columbus Flushing Council #8489 will be selling their secret recipe homemade Polish sausage this Easter season. The sausage is \$7 per pound. To order, call Ed Warren at (810) 241-4847 or e-mail your order along with your name & number to [kofcsausage@gmail.com](mailto:kofcsausage@gmail.com). Please order by Saturday, March 21. Orders will be available for pick-up in Angel Hall on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> between 11 am-1:00 pm and in the Activity Center after the 5 pm Mass or on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> after the 8:30 am and 10:30 am Masses.

- 21 Jerome Sysko
- 26 Edward G Bruff
- 28 Deacon Andrew Cocagne
- 29 Ronald W Klocek
- 30 Connor Owen
- 30 Spencer Owen
- 31 Dennis A Kellett

#### Anniversaries

- 3 Raymond & Juliana Rust
- 12 Angelo, Jr. & Carlota Disena
- 12 Ronald & Linda Klocek

## Council News from February Meeting

Council meeting: Tuesday February 10, 7:35 pm - 8:50 pm. Council chambers at St. John Vianney. Led by Grand Knight Ronan Streby. Eight council members and one guest member.

Grand Knight Report: The breakfast at St. Matthew was a big success. Thank you to all members who helped that morning. Council profit was about \$150. Several members and parishioners attended the Seminarian dinner on February 12. GK Streby reported that Fr. Daniel noted the proceeds help seminarians a lot. Council is asked to approve delegates for the State Convention.

Treasurer and Financial Secretary reports were accepted.

Assembly 510: The Admiral's Ball is coming February 14.

Note: the council table still has two seats available.

Program reports: A planning meeting will be scheduled (tbd) to discuss future pancake breakfasts at St. Matthew and

other council activities. MI Drive will be held March 28-29. A program lead is needed. New vests will be ordered. Aid and Support after Pregnancy (ASAP) donation was discussed. Council did one in December and may need a fundraiser to support a future donation. A date is needed for the next council hall clean-up.

New Business: Council approved nomination of GK Streby as delegate to the State Convention in May and alternate delegate of PGK Mark Davidek. A decision on sending one or two delegates was deferred to a future meeting, along with a decision on expense amounts.

Good of the order: members asked to attend visitation for James Adams, Jr. GK Streby will present a certificate. Lecturer Ragnone read from the day's Gospel and council closed the meeting with Prayer for Vocations.

## Memorial Services Explained for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Degree

Did you know? 3<sup>rd</sup> degree members in good standing with the local Council are eligible for a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree memorial service as part of their funeral arrangements. 4<sup>th</sup> degree members in good standing with a local Assembly are eligible for a 4<sup>th</sup> degree chalice memorial service as part of their funeral arrangements.

What does this mean? The 3<sup>rd</sup> degree memorial service consists of a twelve-minute prayer service led by council brothers. It honors the service of the deceased member. Following the prayer service, the family is presented with a framed certificate of condolence from the council and a prayer card announcing a Mass intention at Trinity Missions. This service is conducted during an evening visitation. The 4<sup>th</sup> degree chalice service consists of a prayer service led

by Sir Knights of the 4<sup>th</sup> degree Assembly. A chalice with the deceased's name engraved on the bottom is presented to the family and will be sent by the 4<sup>th</sup> degree to a priest serving in a domestic or international mission. For 4<sup>th</sup> degree members, both services are typically performed.

What should you do? Knights should make family members aware of their wish to have a Knights of Columbus memorial service. When making funeral arrangements, the funeral home staff should be told you are a Knight of Columbus member and you would like a memorial service. The council Grand Knight should be contacted. For 4<sup>th</sup> degree members, contact can be made with the Faithful Navigator. If those contacts are not known, the funeral home can arrange through the church hosting the funeral.

**Msgr. Patrick R Dunigan Council #695  
Welcomes  
All Former Members of  
Fr. John A. Blasko Council #8245  
to Membership in  
Council #695**

You have been added to the mailing list for this monthly newsletter. We hope you will be able to participate in Council events. If you have any questions, please contact our Grand Knight or Financial Secretary.

You may opt-out of receiving this newsletter. We will recognize birthdays and anniversaries by month. We do not have anniversary or spouse information for you. Send an email to fs695@mikofc.org to update our records.

### Council 695 Monthly Meeting

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month (e.g. March 10)  
7:30 pm in K of C Office in St John Vianney rectory  
basement. All are welcome!

Remote attendance is available by conference call.  
Phone: 720-740-9610. Code is 7291729#

**Pancake Breakfast  
St. Matthew - Flint  
Sunday March 8, 2026  
following 10:00 am Mass**

Sponsored by Council 695 and St. Matthew Church  
Volunteers are needed. Contact the Grand Knight.

## 38 Honorary Life Members Welcomed from Council 8245

Cesar Alcid  
 Michael Alexander  
 John Allen  
 Martin Anthony  
 Ralph Cabot  
 Thomas Capua  
 Patrick Caughlin  
 Curtis Collier  
 David Cramer  
 Douglas Drago  
 Robert Gauthier  
 Thomas Goergen  
 Thomas Goggins

Joseph Gramz  
 Thomas Green  
 Amerigo Grossi  
 Jack Hallwood  
 Peadar Hogan  
 Alan Inman  
 Vincent King  
 James Kostyla  
 Charles Lewis  
 William Lowendick  
 Craig Ockerman  
 Robert Pickell  
 Thomas Prieur

Gregory Promenchenkel  
 Samuel Ragnone  
 Steven Raica  
 Sharold Robinson  
 Thomas Royal  
 Mark Schowalter  
 Ronald Tomasik  
 John Trecha  
 Robert Versola  
 Robert Voto  
 Eddy Vrbensky  
 Lawrence Wichlacz

The process to merge Fr. John A. Blasko Council #8245 into Msgr. Patrick R Dunigan Council #695 took a long and winding path from 2020 to 2025. We are still verifying contact information and integrating all members who wish to continue with Council 695. As part of that effort, Council 695 wishes to recognize the Honorary Life members who are joining from Council #8245. Last month The Columbus Crusader recognized the 60 Honorary Life members from legacy 695.

Where we have valid addresses, Honorary Life members have been added to the distribution of The Columbus Crusader, the monthly newsletter of Council 695, Flint. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, please send a request to Mike McCarthy at fs695@mikofc.org.

Note: In validating addresses, we have learned of the passing of several council members. If you see someone listed above who has gone on to eternal life, please notify Mike at the above email or phone 810-620-5117.



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 ticket sales. Tickets: \$5.

Drawing: April 16, 2026 8:00 pm

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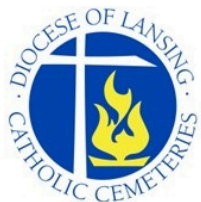
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search the internet for details.