



The Navigator



January 2026

Christopher Columbus

Father John E. O'Brien Council #3361
3259 Old Goldie Rd., Oak Harbor

Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney

GRAND KNIGHT

Ben Young (GK)
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DISTRICT DEPUTY

Ralph Byars (DD/FDD/PGK/PFN)
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ACTING FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR

Rich Mueller (PGK)
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Officers' Business Meeting

1st Tuesday - 6pm

Council Meeting

2nd Tuesday - 7pm

Assembly Meeting

3rd Tuesday - 7pm

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!***Monday, January 19th***Martin Luther
King Jr. Day**

Grand Knight's Message

Teamwork and Cooperation

Many years ago, I read an article describing quarterbacks of two different National Football League teams. During practice the week before a game, the home team's defense mimics what the opposing team's defense does. By doing this, the home team's offense sees what the opposing team's defense does and may potentially spot weaknesses that the home team offense can exploit. Essentially the home team's defense helps their offense prepare for the next game.

In the news article, several of Team XXX quarterback's passes were intercepted by his team's defensive players during practice. The quarterback was having difficulty moving his offense down the field. In frustration, the quarterback allegedly yelled at his team's defense to stop working so hard.

The quarterback of Team YYY had a different approach during practice. When his team's defensive players intercepted his passes, he supposedly praised them and encouraged them to intercept more of his passes. By studying when the defense was able to intercept his passes, he could see where his mistakes were and learn from them. This would potentially improve how he performed during the game.

The quarterbacks of these teams had different approaches during practice. One quarterback's team would win about the same number of games as it lost at the end of the season. The other quarterback's team had a successful season and won the Super Bowl.

Now why do I mention this? Do I envision the Knight's forming a football team and playing competitively? While that may be an enticing thought, no, I do not see that happening.

Grand Knight's Message (cont.)

Rather I am thinking about how our teammates have supported our Brother Knights and our activities over the years.

Over the more than three years that I have been a member of this council; I have observed the wives of our Brother Knights assisting them with their activities. Sometimes their support has been highly visible such as working at the fireworks stand or selling treasures at the rummage sale. Other times they have toiled in the background such as preparing soup to sell at Bingo Games or desserts for some of our events. And by allowing us to leave home during the evenings or weekends, they have also supported us. Because they assisted us, oftentimes with no recognition, we were able to succeed. Now that our spouses have their own organization, the Columbiettes, it is time for us to be good spouses (teammates) and help them with their activities.

On Saturday, January 17, the Father John E. O'Brien Columbiettes Auxiliary will be providing coffee at the Northbound and Southbound Smokey Point Highway Rest Stops. They have supported our activities for years; let's start supporting theirs.

Prayer Knight

Monday, January 12th, is the next prayer knight. The "Our Lady of Fatima Rosary" and "Divine Mercy Chaplet" will start at 6:30pm followed a dessert social. Please bring a dessert to share.

All Knights and their family and friends are welcomed.



Family Knight

Friday, January 30th is the next Family Knight. We warmly invite all Knights and their family and friends to come together for an evening of fraternity and comradery. It's a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and share good times together. So, please come and join us for a great knight of fun and fellowship!

Knights Club Bingo



Knights Club is always looking for volunteers to work Wednesday Night Bingo. Volunteers are needed for the cash cage, callers, verifiers, and kitchen help is needed to bring success for each Bingo night. Bingo games run between 6 to 9pm. Please consider volunteering one week out of the month.

Council Christmas Party Wrap-Up

Thank you to all who made our council 75th anniversary and Christmas party a huge success. To Francis and Ralph who flexed their culinary muscle. Doug for the awesome atmosphere and decor. Dave for great door prizes.

Our special guest bartender and pie lady, Natalie. Our servers W.G.K. Ben and Denese and our favorite power couple Dan and Monique. And of course, our MC, Kurt B. Most of all to all the brothers and sisters that came and made it great.

See you next year!
Rich M.



Columbiettes Auxiliary

Coffee Service at Smokey Point Rest Stop

On Saturday, January 17th, the Fr. John E. O'Brien Columbiettes Auxiliary will be providing complimentary coffee at both the Northbound and Southbound Smokey Point Highway Rest Stops. This event is an opportunity to offer hospitality and refreshments to travelers passing through our community.

Knights are kindly requested to support this activity. Your assistance is needed to help serve coffee, greet travelers, and represent our organization in a spirit of service and fellowship. Volunteers may be asked to assist with setup, cleanup, and ensure a welcoming environment at the rest stops.

If you are available to volunteer, please contact the event coordinator, Erlinda Signo-Warren at signowarren@gmail.com, or sign up at the next Knights meeting. Your participation is greatly appreciated and will help ensure the success of this community service activity.

- Sign up for a shift at either the Northbound or Southbound location.
- Help with preparing and serving coffee.
- Engage with travelers and promote our community's outreach efforts.
- Assist with setup and cleanup before and after the event.

Thank you in advance for your support of the Fr. John E. O'Brien Columbiettes Auxiliary and for helping to make this event a welcoming experience for all travelers.

New Year's Fireworks Sales Wrap-Up

As we welcome a new year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who braved the cold to help make this year's New Year's fireworks sale a success. Your commitment and resilience truly made a difference.

The first few days of the sale were slow, but as always, the Oak Harbor community showed up. Your willingness to brave the chilly weather, greet customers with a smile, and keep the spirit high did not go unnoticed. It takes a dedicated and caring group of people to pull off an event like this, and I am deeply grateful to each of you.

Thank you for your hard work, teamwork, and positive attitude. Because of you, we were able to serve our community and celebrate together. Here's to a wonderful year ahead, and to the memories we've created together.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Rich M. and Doug W.

Patriotic Degree Social

Worthy Sir Knights,

What a fantastic time we all had at our last meeting and dining out. I heard some really good ideas for programs and activities. The food was awesome and so was the staff. It was nice to have Fr. Paul Nkolombidzo join us as well.

KUDOS to D'Arcy for the loan of the bus and Doug W. for driving.

Rich M.

Faithful Captain



Superbowl Sunday

Super Bowl LX Potluck Watch Party

Get ready for one of the most exciting events of the year! Super Bowl LX (60) Sunday is right around the corner, and we're thrilled to invite you to our annual council watch party. So, mark your calendar, Sunday, February 8th. The date will be here before you know it!

Date: Sunday, February 8th
 Time: Kickoff at 3:30pm (PT)
 Location: Knights Club of Oak Harbor

Come join us for the 3 F's: Food, Fellowship, and above all—FUN! Whether you're a die-hard football fan or just in it for the commercials there's something for everyone. Enjoy delicious snacks, great conversation, and the excitement of the big game with friends and family.

Super Bowl LX (60) will be played at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, CA with kickoff at 3:30pm (PT). Bad Bunny will be headlining the halftime show. The game will be broadcasted on NBC and streamed on Peacock.

Financial Secretary Update

2026 Membership Billing

Membership billing will be sent out at the end of December. **Please do not send money or make electronic payments until AFTER December 31, 2025.** Adhering to this timeline is crucial for year-end recordkeeping and auditing purposes.

Included in these mailings are three important forms:

- *Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity* is an essential data report Supreme requires reporting of our collective activities.
- *Member Information Update* ensures our contact lists are current so we can keep you informed.
- *Member Experience/Interest Survey* helps the council incorporate your specific interests into our future planning.

Deadlines: These surveys must be received, compiled, and reported to Supreme before January 30, 2026. Because of this tight turnaround, we ask that you complete and return them as soon as they arrive!

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Email Distribution Lists

Challenges were encountered during the attempt to transition to Gaggle Mail, which, eventually, did not proceed as smoothly as anticipated. A primary issue arose from a discrepancy between the "Trial Period" benefits and the actual features available after the trial concluded.

As a result, we have migrated back to our original email distribution lists. Please use the following addresses for council communications moving forward:

- All Members: allknights@kofc3361.org
- Local Members: localknights@kofc3361.org
- Newsletter Distribution: newsletter@kofc3361.org
- Officers: officers@kofc3361.org

WA State Council Links

WA State Council

<https://kofc-wa.org/>
<https://kofc-wa.org/Bulletin>

Form 10784 Online Submission

<https://www.kofc.org/en/forms/spa/invite.html?lang=en&form=10784C>

Submit Knights in Action Form

<https://www.kofc.org/en/contact/knights-in-action-news.html>

Fraternal Operations

<https://www.kofc.org/en/form-members/resources/fraternal-operations.html?icon-tabs=2>

Update Member Contact Info

<https://www.kofc.org/en/contact/update-contact-information.html>

4th Degree Form 4

<https://knights-of-columbus-form-4.pdffiller.com/>

Degree Apparel

<https://knightsgear.com/>

4th Degree Uniform Packages

<https://www.kofcuniform.com/uniform-packages/package/knights-of-columbus-executive-fit-uniform-package-uniform-package/>

Fr. John E. O'Brien Links

"Join Us" Form

<https://kofc3361.org/Join-Form.php>

"Join Us" Email

joinus@kofc3361.org

Incoming Picture Album

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Sx7yv16dLnVXvX1X6>

Whidbey Island Family of Catholic Churches Upcoming Events



Pro-Life Vigil – Friday, January 2nd, St. Augustine's Pro-Life Ministry will hold its next Pro-Life Vigil at SE Pioneer Way and State Route 20 between 3:45 and 4:45pm. Signs will be provided. Contact Mike or Barb Thelen at either (360) 661-0311 or (360) 320-3959.

Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, January 4th after both St. Augustine Masses in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for hot pancakes, sausage, juice & coffee. Bring the family, linger for fellowship, and celebrate Advent with full hearts (and full bellies)! Freewill offering welcomed.

Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother – an 8-week DVD Bible Study featuring Dr. Edward Sri. Starts on Monday, January 5th and ends on Monday, February 23rd; 10 - 11:30am. The group will meet at St. Augustine in Classrooms 1 & 2. Optional study guide for this DVD series available at [Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother Workbook – Ascension](#)

Ladies Potluck Luncheon – All ladies of Whidbey Island Family of Catholic Churches are warmly invited to a Ladies Potluck Luncheon at St. Augustine.

Date: Saturday, January 17th
Time: 12 – 3:00pm
Location: St. Augustine Fellowship Hall

Please bring a favorite dish to share with friends old and new. Whether it's an appetizer, entrée, salad, or dessert—your contribution will help make this luncheon a special gathering for all. Join us in fellowship for this wonderful opportunity to enjoy good food, great company, and the warmth of our parish community. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any questions, please contact Marye Kandzor either 360-929-4893 or kandzor@comcast.net.

Baptism Class – Saturday, January 24th is the next Baptism Class. Registration is required for both class and baptism. To Register, either email: adultff@staugustineoh.org or call 360.215.3049.

A Family Retreat: Finding GOD in the Busyness of Our Day – Sunday, January 25th from 10:30am to 3pm at St. Augustine. All families with children: newborn to 12th grade are cordially invited. Registration is required. A parent or guardian is required to attend. To Register, either email: adultff@staugustineoh.org or call 360.215.3049.

Knights of Columbus Insurance
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE



Fraternal Benefit Night

Each Wednesday of the month, an online event is available for your viewing in both English and Spanish. The Spanish event is available any day of the week.

Fraternal Benefit Night - English - <https://kofcpacific.com/fbn>
 Fraternal Benefit Night - Spanish - <https://kofcpacific.com/fbne>

For your council to receive credit, each member will need to fill out a survey at the end of the event:
<https://kofcpacific.com/survey>

We currently do not have a survey in Spanish (only English), but we will be adding that during the next fraternal year. Please have your Spanish speaking members fill out as much of the survey as possible. All surveys automatically get sent to GA Cicero Seisdedos and the appropriate FA. Once the surveys are completed, an online report form will need to be submitted for credit. Supreme is no longer accepting report documents-here is the link to the online report: <https://www.fbn-form.com/>

Once this report is received by Supreme, it is sent to Cicero for his approval. He will then cross reference the surveys to verify the attendance on the report and submit it. At that point, we can't verify the credit so please reach out to your regular channels for verification.

To sign up a new member, please use the following link <https://www.kofc.org/join> and **Agent Referral Code** "MSCHWAB" for a FREE membership. We will be notified of the new member and help to welcome him to the council.

Lisa Schwab
 Administrative Assistant

<https://www.kofc.org/en/contact/update-contact-information.html> / Book Time with me

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