



The Navigator



December 2025

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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Officers' Business Meeting

1st Tuesday - 6pm

Council Meeting

2nd Tuesday - 7pm

Assembly Meeting

3rd Tuesday - 7pm

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ADVENT

November 30th to December 24th

Fr. John E. O'Brien Council



Grand Knight's Message

During the year 1950...

- a. North Korean forces invaded South Korea marking the start of the Korean War.
- b. Senator Joseph McCarthy initiated a campaign against alleged communists in the United States government which resulted in widespread fear and suspicion.
- c. Charles M. Schulz's comic strip "Peanuts" debuted.
- d. The NBC television network began airing "Broadway Open House" which was a precursor to the long running "The Tonight Show".
- e. The world's largest restaurant chain, McDonald's, did not exist as we now know it. Ray Kroc joined the company in 1955 as a franchise agent and in 1961 bought the rights to the McDonald's name and operating system.

And on Nov. 26, 1950, the Father John E. O'Brien Council of the Knights of Columbus was established by a group of visionary Catholic men who desired to provide charitable, educational, and social welfare activities primarily serving their families, their Parish, and their community.

Worthy Past Grand Knight Thomas Moore and his Brothers provided the financial resources, the initiative, and the momentum to establish our Council, purchase the land, construct our Clubhouse, and form lasting relationships with people, social organizations, and institutions that we interact with today.

And their establishing a Council did not automatically mean that their Council would survive over time. Many councils have come and gone because of a lack of participation and lack of devotion to Fr. McGivney's vision. Yet, our council still stands 75 years later because we possess those qualities.

Message (cont.)

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Brothers, let us take time to recognize the foresight of the Founding Brothers of our Council, the devotion of all men who have belonged to our Council over the past seventy-five years, and the efforts that all our Brothers have devoted to make our Council as successful as it is. And if it is desired, perhaps we can raise a toast to them (and us) at a celebratory dinner during 2026.

Pro-Life Vigil

On Friday, December 5th, 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.

Our Lady of Fatima Rosary

"Our Lady of Fatima Rosary" and "Divine Mercy Chaplet" scheduled on Monday, December 8th.

Prayers start at 6:30pm followed a dessert social. Please bring a dessert to share. All Knights and their family and friends are welcomed.



Priest Appreciation Dinner: Heartfelt Thanks

The Priest Appreciation Dinner, held to honor our dedicated local priests, was a truly successful and memorable event! We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who generously gave their time and talents to ensure the evening's success. Your contributions made a meaningful difference, and the sense of community was felt by all in attendance.

A special thank you goes out to the Knights of Columbus Kitchen Staff for their culinary delights. Your hard work and delicious offerings were enjoyed by everyone and helped create a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

We also wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Columbiettes for providing such wonderful desserts. Your creativity and dedication delighted our guests and added a sweet finishing touch to the evening.

Once again, thank you to all who participated, volunteered, and supported this celebration. Your efforts truly honored our priests and strengthened our parish community.





Potato Bagging Wash-Up Report

Celebrating Community Service and Impact

Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent potato bagging event. Through your dedication and teamwork, we successfully bagged over 4,000 lbs. of potatoes, ensuring that local families and individuals in need have access to fresh produce. Your selfless efforts have made a significant difference in our community.

The potatoes bagged during this event were distributed to several food pantries, making a positive impact across multiple regions. The food pantries included North Whidbey Help House (Oak Harbor), Gifts from the Heart (Coupeville), and the TRI-Parish Food Bank (Burlington).

It's especially noteworthy that the TRI-Parish Food Bank in Burlington received a donation of potatoes for the first time since the COVID epidemic began. This contribution helps address food insecurity in an area that has been underserved in recent years.

Your collective efforts have helped support families who rely on local food pantries for nutritious food. By coming together for this event, we have strengthened community ties and demonstrated the power of volunteerism. Each volunteer played an essential role in making this event a success, from sorting and bagging potatoes to ensuring their safe delivery. Your generosity has provided comfort and nourishment to many.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of this potato bagging event, let it inspire future acts of service. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Thank you once again to everyone who contributed time and energy. Your compassion and commitment are deeply appreciated.

COR Training - Defend Life

This Advent, Christ the Light of Life enters the darkness. Bishop Olmsted asks in *Into the Breach*: “Will we men stand up?” Every abortion is an attack on Christ Himself in the womb. Every abandoned elderly person is Christ forgotten. Rise as Catholic men—pray the Rosary daily, volunteer at pregnancy centers, visit the lonely. Protect life... or who will?

Men's Evening of Formation
Tuesday, December 23, 2025
6:00 – 7:30 pm
St. Augustine Fellowship Hall

No registration required. For more info, contact Heath Garcia at either 360-969-0092 or by email at sotanomad@gmail.com.

Come with open hearts to share your journey and build a lasting brotherhood with St. Augustine's men of the parish. Bring a friend, together, let's step *Into the Breach* for Christ!

Cor Highlights - November

The group recited prayers that invoked the intercession of St. Joseph, Patron Saint of Fathers.

Recited the Rosary for Jim Brady and All Fathers

Praying the Rosary together and in solidarity with our brother Jim Brady (and with every father carrying a heavy cross) was deeply moving. There is a uniquely comforting feeling about raising our voices as one for a brother in need.

***INTO THE BREACH* – Episode on “Fatherhood”**

We finished the evening with an outstanding *INTO THE BREACH* video on “Fatherhood” ([fatherhood.mp4 - Google Drive](#)), which was followed up by discussions of personal fatherly influence. The group discussed how we are called to always be fathers – to our own children (no matter their age), to spiritual children, and even to adults who need a father’s steady presence. We reflected on fatherhood with faith, fidelity, and humility, and how small acts of sacrificial love can change a person’s thought process on how to go about life.

Family Knight Announcement

Important Update for December and January Events

We would like to inform everyone that there will not be any Family Night gathering for the month of December. We encourage you to enjoy the holiday season with your loved ones, and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Mark your calendars! The next Family Night is scheduled for January 30. We invite you to join us for an evening of fraternity, featuring a movie and a simple meal for all attendees. It's a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and share good times together.

Please come and join us for a great night of fun and fellowship—we look forward to seeing you there!

New Years Fireworks Sales

New Years Fireworks Sales is coming! It is the council's largest winter fundraiser starting at 12pm on December 27th and runs through December 31st.

We encourage everyone to support this important fundraiser, as proceeds will help fund local community programs and charitable initiatives throughout the year. Your participation will make a direct impact, and we will greatly appreciate your time and enthusiasm.

Please bring your friends and family to join in the fun and help make this event a success!

The stand opens daily at Noon with closing times varying with customer flow.

Questions? Contact either Doug W. or Rich M.



Columbiettes Auxiliary

Priest Appreciation Dinner

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Columbiettes for their wonderful help in decorating the St. Augustine Fellowship Hall for the Priest Appreciation Dinner. Their creativity and teamwork made the space truly special. In addition, their dedication to creating and baking their special dessert was enjoyed by everyone and contributed greatly to the evening's success.

Thanksgiving Baskets

I also would like to acknowledge the Columbiettes for their generous donations of Thanksgiving baskets to three families.

Columbiettes' VP Monique Olvera and FS Donna Lawrence shopped for the groceries, while Sally Morgan and Anamaria Baker met and personally handed out the baskets today. Thank you Columbiettes for making the holiday colorful and bright for those in need.



Knights Club Bingo

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



The Patriotic Degree Summary

Worthy Sir Knights,

First, thank you to all the SK's that attended November's meeting. Having a large turnout allowed us to conduct some needed business. We also had some great discussions on the future of our assembly.

We are exploring ways that we can support disabled veterans in our community such as help to get them to appointments.

The assembly has offered to sponsor the "Rite to Life" bus(es) for the annual RTL march in Olympia in January for the St. Augustine Family. Thanks to SK Fel C. for spearheading this project.

Don't have a new uniform yet? Interested in getting one for free? How about reimbursement if you do? Come to a meeting for more information and details.

Speaking of our next meeting. We will be holding a brief meeting and dining out on December 16th. We will meet and eat at O'Donnell's Farmhouse in Mount Vernon. The meeting will begin at 6:00pm with dinner and fellowship to follow. A free bus will be available from Oak Harbor to the venue and back. Please let the Faithful Comptroller (Ralph B.) or me know if you will be attending so we can update the restaurant. I do expect at least one member of the clergy to be in attendance.

Rich Mueller
Faithful Captain



Patriotic Degree (cont.)

Outcomes and Decisions from Recent Gathering

Decisions Made:

1. Refund for 4th Degree Uniform Tickets. The group voted and approved the return of money to those who purchased tickets for the 4th degree uniform.
2. Yearly Picnic Raffle for 4th Degree Uniform. The group voted and approved to pull a ticket at the yearly picnic, with the winner receiving \$500.00 towards purchasing a 4th Degree uniform. If the drawn winner had already bought the uniform, they would receive \$350.00 (the \$500.00 prize minus \$150.00).
3. Donation to Laborer's Organization. The group voted to donate \$500.00 to a Laborer's organization that assists seminarians with their debts and related needs.
4. Volunteer Opportunity for DAV. Members discussed volunteering once a month with the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) to drive veterans to Seattle. Further details on volunteering logistics for the DAV are to be determined.

Right to Life March

A Right to Life March is scheduled for January 22nd in Olympia, WA. The Knights of Columbus (KofC) will provide a 48-passenger bus, coffee, doughnuts, and a box lunch for \$20.00.

For more information or to reserve your spot, please check with the Event Coordinator, Fel C. at either felandpaz@comcast.net or (360) 675-1163.

Council Christmas Party Announcement

Reserve Your Seats for the Most Anticipated Event of the Year!



The council is excited to announce our annual Christmas Party... the most anticipated event of the year! Join us for an evening of festive cheer, delicious food, and community celebration. The party is less than a month away, so make sure to secure your spot today!

Dinner Menu

- Shrimp Cocktail
- Green Salad
- Beef Roulade
- Risotto
- Mixed Vegetables
- Assorted Pies for Dessert

Event Details

- Date: December 20, 2025
- Location: Knights Club of Oak Harbor
- Seats Available: 100 (Knights and immediate family only)
- Ticket Price: \$25.00 per person
- Last Day to Buy Tickets: December 14th (NO exception)
- Advanced Ticket Purchase Required

Announcement (cont.)

Do not wait! Tickets are limited and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Buy your tickets now to guarantee your place at this unforgettable event.

Evening Schedule

- Cocktail Social: 5:30 PM
- Dinner Served: 6:30 PM

Enjoy a festive evening featuring a White Elephant Gift Exchange (with a \$25.00 suggested gift limit), a 50/50 drawing, and exciting raffle prizes!

We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with you. Don't miss out—buy your tickets today!

How to Purchase Tickets

Contact any of the following Knights to purchase your ticket:

- Rich Mueller – 360-929-1066
- Dan Olvera – 360-216-5905
- Francis Bagarella – 360-320-7893
- Ralph Byars – 360-969-0149
- [Redacted]

Important Reminders

- Only 100 seats available – Knights and immediate family only.
- Ticket sales end on December 14th. No exceptions!
- Advanced ticket purchases are mandatory.

Festivities

- White Elephant Gift Exchange (\$25.00 suggested limit)
- 50/50 Drawing
- Raffle Drawings

We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with you. Don't miss out—buy your tickets today!



Family of the Month - October

Ralph Byars and Donna Lawrence

Ralph Byars and Donna Lawrence are a multifaceted couple who are consistently involved in the community.

Not only is Ralph the District Deputy for District 19 handling three councils (Fr. Gustave Treunet Council 3611, Anacortes, Fr. John E. O'Brien Council 3361, Oak Harbor, & St. Hubert Council 11357, Langley) and all that encompasses, but he also maintains the Knights Club grounds, is the rental and maintenance manager for the club. In addition to these roles, Ralph regularly coordinates facility repairs and ensures that the club is well-prepared for various community gatherings. His attention to detail and reliability have greatly enhanced the experience for all who utilize the club's amenities. Ralph recently updated the club kitchen by switching out the stove to move a large convention oven which included modifying a support gas line. If that isn't enough, he cooks for the St. Augustine Agape Ministry on the 4th Monday of each month, volunteers as cook support for the Men's First Sunday Breakfast, but most recently, helped cook for the Priest Appreciation Dinner last month. A very successful KofC event in honoring our local priests.

Donna is very active in supporting KofC and Columbiettes charitable events; for instance, supporting the Knights' Potato Bagging event where she helped bag over 4000 lbs. of potatoes for local food banks, supported and provided dessert for last month's Priest Appreciation Dinner, and most recently helped organize putting together Thanksgiving Baskets for families in need. Her dedication extends beyond these events, as she frequently volunteers her time to coordinate additional parish activities and lends a helping hand wherever there is a need. Donna's warm presence and generosity are deeply appreciated by all who work alongside her, and her efforts have made a significant positive impact on both the parish and the wider community.

Both are seen regularly together at St. Augustine morning Mass and attend coffee and doughnuts fellowship afterwards.

Ralph and Donna's commitment to service is truly inspiring. In addition to their many responsibilities, they consistently seek out new opportunities to support parish initiatives and community outreach. Their positive attitude and willingness to go above and beyond make them invaluable members of our council. Their actions reflect a deep sense of compassion and stewardship, serving as a shining example for others to follow.

Congratulations to Ralph and Donna for being selected as the council's Family of the Month!

Knight of the Month - October

Jose Sanabria

On behalf of the Fr. John E. O'Brien Council #3361, it is with great pride and gratitude that I, as Grand Knight, present Jose Sanabria as our October Knight of the Month for his unwavering dedication, selfless service, and exemplary commitment to our parish and council.

Jose's contributions embody the principles of charity, unity, and fraternity that define the Knights of Columbus, and his efforts have made a profound impact on our community.

Jose's steadfast service as a Parish Usher during Sunday Masses each week is a testament to his devotion to our faith community. With a warm smile and a welcoming presence, he ensures that every parishioner feels at home, fostering a sense of unity and reverence during our sacred gatherings. His consistency, despite the demands of his schedule, sets a powerful example of service rooted in faith.

In October, Jose played a pivotal role in our Potato Bagging event, a cornerstone of our council's charitable outreach. This year, through the collective efforts of our Knights, we more than doubled our local contribution, providing over 4,200 pounds of food for those in need. Jose's tireless work during this event—sorting, bagging, and organizing with precision and enthusiasm—helped make this remarkable achievement possible. His commitment to alleviating hunger in our community reflects the Knights' mission to serve the least among us, and his efforts have left a lasting impact on those we serve.

Additionally, Jose's service during our October Pancake Breakfast, which welcomed over 400 parishioners, was nothing short of outstanding. From setting up tables to serving meals with a cheerful spirit, Jose ensured the event ran smoothly and fostered a sense of fellowship among attendees. His ability to connect with parishioners of all ages strengthened the bonds within our parish, making the event a joyful celebration of community.

What makes Jose's contributions even more remarkable is the personal sacrifice he makes to serve. Commuting to and from work off our island, Jose faces long hours and logistical challenges, yet he never wavers in his commitment to his parish and fellow Knights. His dedication, despite these obstacles, is an inspiration to us all and a powerful reminder of the call to put service above self.

Jose Sanabria's actions reflect the heart of what it means to be a Knight of Columbus. His continuous service, boundless energy, and humble spirit have enriched our council and parish, making him a true role model for his brothers. It is with deep appreciation and admiration that we honor Jose as our Knight of the Month. Thank you, Jose, for your extraordinary service and for living out the values of our order with such grace and commitment.



Merry Christmas

Financial Secretary Update

Membership Records & Billing

Your timely response to requests for updated contact info is essential for conducting official council business. As your FS, I am responsible for maintaining accurate membership records (email, mailing address, phone) for both the Supreme Council and our local Fr. John E. O'Brien Council.

2026 Membership Billing

2026 Mailings are currently being prepared. Please note: **Do not send money or make electronic payments until AFTER December 31, 2025.** This is crucial for my recordkeeping and auditing purposes.

Included in these mailings will be three important forms:

1. **Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity.** Provides the data Supreme needs to report our activities.
2. **Member Information Update.** Updates our contact lists so we can reach you.
3. **Member Experience/Interest Survey.** Helps the council incorporate your specific interests into our future planning.

Email Distribution Lists

Distribution list will be migrating to Goggle Mail. I am migrating our distribution lists (e.g., LOCAL KNIGHTS, NEWSLETTER, OFFICERS) to a new server. In the past, we frequently experienced issues with "excessive bounces" (often from Comcast addresses), which required time-consuming manual reactivation. I have moved "All Knights 3361" and "Local Knights 3361" to the new server. You may see a flurry of system emails as I tweak the settings; your patience is greatly appreciated.

HM/HLM Member Cards Now Available

Supreme has resolved the production issues regarding Honorary/Honorary Life Member (HM/HLM) plastic cards. I have received approximately ten cards and notified the recipients. Four members attended the October meeting to receive their card, certificate, and pin. The Grand Knight currently has the remaining awards (including Knight of the Month and Family of the Month) and is hunting for you to present them!

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



Adult Advent Retreat – December 6th, St Augustine Fellowship Hall, 10:30am to 4pm. Bring a lunch. Snacks, Coffee and Tea will be provided.

Advent is a time of joyful anticipation. It is a time to look at what God's presence in our lives means and a time to pay special attention to the need to be prepared for the time when Jesus Christ will come again at the end of time.

Join us as we step away from our daily routines and reflect on our lives and what we need to do to allow God to enter our hearts more fully through prayer, reflection and journal on the four Gospel readings of Advent.

To Register: email: adultff@staugustineoh.org or call 360.215.3049

The Women of St. Mary Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale – Saturday, Dec 6th, 9am -2pm. Come and Shop Local for hand-made crafts, gifts & goodies which supports local charities (i.e., Gifts from the Heart Food Bank, Garage of Blessings, Small Miracles, Prepares, Spin Café, Hearts and Hammers, Boys & Girls Club-Coupeville).

Pancake Breakfast - Sunday, December 7th 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.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – a Holy Day of Obligation – falls on Monday, December 8th. Honor our Blessed Mother, conceived without original sin, at Mass: 12pm at St. Mary (Coupeville) and 6pm at St. Augustine (Oak Harbor). Come celebrate Mary's "YES" and God's marvelous grace!

Catholic Daughter's Cheesecake Sale – scheduled on December 13th and 14th after all morning St. Augustine Masses. Proceeds to support and benefit the Angel Tree and other local charitable works of mercy.

St Augustine Angel Tree - In the vestibule. Select a tag and return the gifts in a gift bag with the tag attached to the vestibule or parish office on or before December 14. For more information, contact: Philomena at philo54@comcast.net or 360.672.4630.

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

Christmas Card Sales – KofC are selling Christmas cards in St. Augustine's vestibule after all weekend Masses. A portion of the proceeds benefit Knights of Columbus Charities. See a Knight for more information.

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

 <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">  Knights of Columbus® </div> <div> <p>Lisa Schwab Administrative Assistant</p> <p>Phone: 360-391-9170 SchwabOfficeMail@KofC.org</p> </div> </div>	 <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">  Knights of Columbus® </div> <div> <p>Michael Schwab, FICF, CLTC Field Agent</p> <p>Phone: 360-391-9170 michael.schwab@kofc.org</p> </div> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  Member MDRT® </div>
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