

THE BLESSING WORD



Msgr. Peter E. Blessing Council #5273 Knights of Columbus



Happy New Year!

Grand Knight's Corner

WILLIAM JAKABEK, GRAND KNIGHT

Hello Brothers All!

Well, we flew through December ... "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" and the season to celebrate our faith, engage in spiritual preparation during Advent, heartily enjoy the Christmas Season, and most importantly, be part of the Miracle of Christmas Day. I hope everyone had a fantastic time during this period.



Now we are in January 2026, and personally, I'm eagerly looking forward to leading the Blessing Council for the last six months of my term as Grand Knight. I hope all of you share my enthusiasm and are making a New Year's resolution to boost participation in our amazing, active council throughout the year. There are numerous excellent opportunities coming up in 2026 that many of you, if not all, can help with, ensuring our success. Please join us at our monthly Membership Meetings to enjoy the company of your Brother Knights, learn about our upcoming events, and discover how you can get more involved in our fantastic fraternal and charitable organization. We meet on the 2nd Monday of every month in Classroom #3 at the former School of Our Lady of Czenstochowa Parish ... Collation takes place between 6:30 pm and 7:00 pm, followed by our Meeting from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Finally, I am incredibly proud to serve as Grand Knight of the Msgr. Peter E. Blessing Council #5273, and I feel honored to be associated with such wonderful and dedicated Officers and fellow Brothers. I wanted to share a New Year's wish that I received from a friend that I truly appreciated: "Wishing you a joyous New Year filled with laughter, love, goodwill, and new beginnings. May the coming year bring you success, good health, deeper faith, and happiness. Cheers to another 365 days of opportunities and growth. Embrace the possibilities that lie ahead and make each moment count."

Happy New Year!

Vivat Jesus!
William Jakabek
Grand Knight

Upcoming Events

January Officers Meeting

Place: Our Lady of Czenstochowa School Room 3
Date: Wednesday, 1/7/2026
Time: 7:00 PM

January Membership Meeting

Place: Our Lady of Czenstochowa School Room 3
Date: Monday, 1/12/2026
Time: 7:00 PM with collation at 6:30 PM

January "Knight Out"

Place: Lake Taco, 446 Tiogue Ave., Coventry
Date: Monday, 1/26/2026

February Officers Meeting

Place: Our Lady of Czenstochowa School Room 3
Date: Wednesday, 2/4/2026
Time: 7:00 PM

RI State Tootsie Roll Drive Kickoff Dinner

Place: OLC School Gymnasium
Date: Friday, 2/6/2026
Time: 6:30 PM

February Membership Meeting

Place: Our Lady of Czenstochowa School Room 3
Date: Monday, 2/9/2026
Time: 7:00 PM with collation at 6:30 PM

Men of St. Joseph - COR Meeting

Place: SSJP Rectory Chapel/Conf. Room
Date: Every Last Thursday of the Month
Time: 6:30 PM

Msgr. Peter E. Blessing Council Holy Hour

Place: SSJP Rectory Chapel
Date: Every Thursday
Time 1:00 - 2:00 PM

MSGR. PETER E. BLESSING COUNCIL #5273
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
445 WASHINGTON STREET
COVENTRY, RI 02816
COVENTRYKNIGHTS@VERIZON.NET
HTTP://WWW.COVENTRYKNIGHTS.ORG
MEETING PLACE:
OUR LADY OF CZENSTOCHOWA SCHOOL
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Chaplain's Message

FATHER PAUL LEMOI

No Chaplain's Message this month.

Prayer for Priests

O Jesus, our great High Priest, hear my humble prayer on behalf of your priests. Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of their priestly life.

In their loneliness, comfort them. In their sorrows, strengthen them. In their frustrations, point out to them that it is through suffering that the soul is purified, and show them that they are needed by the Church; they are needed by souls; they are needed for the work of redemption.

O loving Mother Mary, Mother of Priests, take to your heart your sons who are close to you because of their priestly ordination and because of the power which they have received to carry on the work of Christ in a world which needs them so much. Be their comfort, be their joy, be their strength, and especially help them to live and to defend the ideals of consecrated celibacy. Amen.

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM LORI

December 2025 Challenge



“Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” (Gospel for Dec. 7, Mt 3:10)

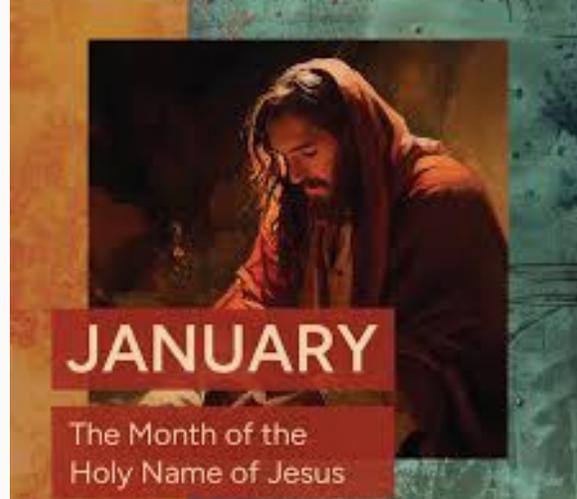
In these reflections over the past year, we have meditated on the importance of our faith bearing fruit in good works. In a way, this Gospel passage, quoting St. John the Baptist, might seem out of place during Advent. But throughout this season, we reflect not only on Christ's coming in the incarnation, but also his second coming in judgment at the end of the world. Let us pray and work to ensure we lead truly faithful and fruitful lives as disciples of Jesus.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to spend some time reflecting on the four last things — death, judgment, heaven and hell — to better prepare yourself for eternity.

Questions for Reflection:

Do I live with my sights set on heaven? Am I aware of the reality of hell? Do I live my life so as to be prepared for my death and judgment?



Prayer Intentions

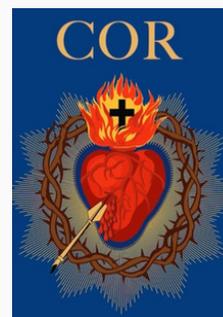
- Our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV
- Bishop Lewandowski
- All Bishops and Priests
- GK William Jakabek
- PGK/PFN Herb Knott
- PGK/PFN Frank Laiter III
- PGK David Legault
- Brother Anthony Machado
- Brother Len Denomme
- Brother Paul Lacroix
- Brother James Kmon
- Brother Matt Parent
- Brother Jim Hall
- Brother Gerard Legault
- Brother Frank Laiter, Jr.
- Brother Lucien Laporte
- Brother Peter Blais
- Brother Nicholas Delfino-Whitaker
- Brother Devin Favino
- Brother Louis Pinga
- Brother Thomas Gostomski (recently deceased)
- Lucille Ferrer
- Roberta Lemek
- Mary Deary
- Shirley Laiter
- Sue Rossetti
- Mary Lawlor
- Michel Brouillard
- Eric Thatcher
- Charles Gemmell
- John Dolan
- Joe McCarthy
- Matthew Mahar
- Doreen Jakabek-Wittig
- Robert Firth
- Ellen Deck
- Julia Sottnik
- Karen Clark
- Jessica Maynard
- Anita Laporte
- Diane Cayouette
- April Moreno
- Brad White
- Richard and daughter (Just Prayers)
- Jovantey (Just Prayers)
- All US military personnel active and former
- The Unborn



January Birthdays

Stephen Kukulka (63)	January 7
Patrick Hurley (86)	January 12
Daniel Renheidenreich (69)	January 17
Dale Cross (75)	January 18
Earl Mahar (88)	January 21
Anthony Machado (74)	January 24
Anthony Favata (81)	January 25
Louis Pinga (62)	January 26
Philip Vanasse (76)	January 27
Richard Sullivan (88)	January 31

The Men of St. Joseph - Cor



Our council partners with the local chapter of The Men of St. Joseph for our Cor program. You are cordially invited to join us on the last Thursday each month starting at 6:30 PM at the SS John and Paul Rectory Conference Room. The mission of Cor is to refocus Catholic men on Jesus Christ and to form and strengthen them in faith and virtue through a brotherhood committed to prayer, formation, and fraternity, and this aligns nicely with the mission of The Men of St. Joseph.

Adoration at SSJP



Brothers, Saints John and Paul Church has an all-day Adoration every Thursday. Adoration will be held in the church. One of the requirements for having Adoration is that someone must be in Jesus' presence at all times. This is a great opportunity to spend time with Our Lord and make Adoration part of your spiritual journey.

Annual Dues

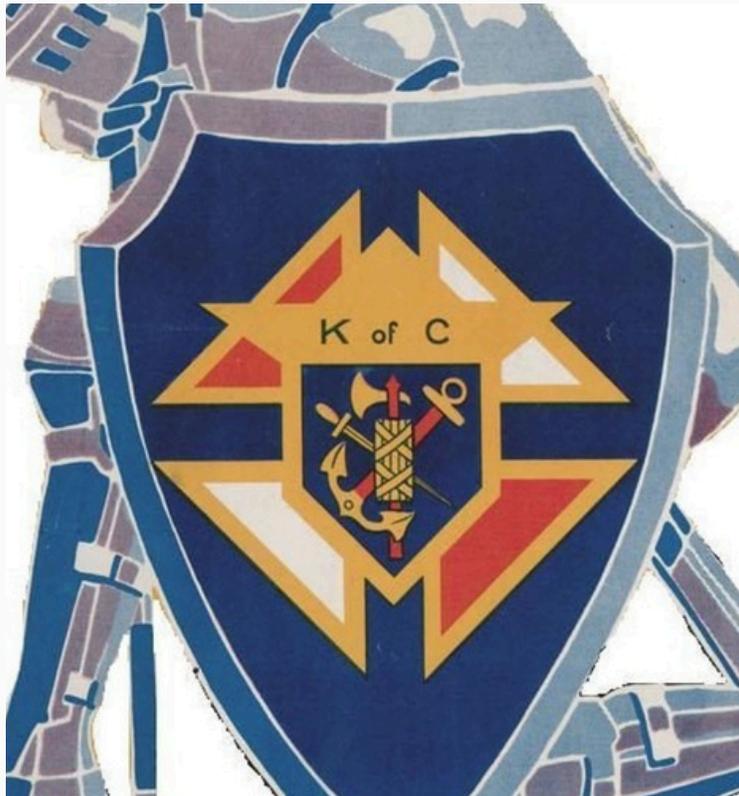


Thanks to all Brother Knights who have paid their annual dues for 2026! If you have received notification and haven't paid your annual dues by now, please do so by January 31. Also, please be advised that if you intend to pay your annual dues via PayPal to add \$1 to the amount to cover the administrative charges PayPal charges the council for each transaction. Lastly, if you are using PayPal, please use the email address coventryknights@verizon.net. Thank you!

Brother Thomas Gostomski 1943-2025



Brother Knight Thomas Gostomski who went to his final reward on Monday, December 29, 2025, just six days before his 83rd birthday. Brother Tom joined the Knights on June 1, 1979, and our council on March 26, 2019. He obtained full Knighthood on March 30, 2019. He and his wife Sheila were parishioners of Saints John and Paul. Brother Tom was also a US Navy veteran of the Vietnam War and a member of the Rhode Island National Guard retiring after 25 years of service in 2003 as a Sergeant First Class. He and his wife Sheila enjoyed helping out and attending our council events. He will be missed. Eternal rest grant until him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace, Amen.



PATRIOTIC DEGREE



Upcoming Exemplification

Brother Knights eligible for the Patriotic Degree are encouraged to begin planning now for the next Exemplification:

- Sunday, February 22, 2026 – 1:00 PM
- Providence College – St. Dominic Chapel
- Buffet to follow at Dillon Council, North Providence

Registration deadline for candidates and guests is January 31, 2026. Additional details are available here on the State Council website in the State Events section.

Fr. Wallace Assembly - Civic Award

From Faithful Navigator SK Richard Silva - I am pleased to announce Fr. Wallace Assembly has gotten a head start on our civic award for the Columbian year 2025-26. Our Assembly has participated in four civic activities as follows:

- Columbus Day Parade March on Federal Hill, Providence, Sunday, October 12, 2025.
- Veterans Day Parade March, Tuesday, November 11, 2025, in honor of our veterans with wreath laying ceremony.
- Maintained Flag Retirement Boxes at eight of our affiliated parishes. 54 flags gathered and retired throughout the year.
- Four cases (48) winter jackets donated to the VA Hospital in Providence in conjunction with Pope Leo Council, December 2025.

Our assembly also joined the RI State Council, our District Master and other District Assemblies marching in the Bristol, RI 4th of July parade and plan to march in a few more to celebrate our country's 250th anniversary.

FAITH IN ACTION



FAITH

Request from Father Woolley

Our council has a prayer request from Father Woolley, Pastor of Saints John and Paul Church. He is asking us to pray his parish receives another good and holy senior priest to take residence there and do ministry in the parish. Father Woolley mentions to us that our dearly departed council Brother Knight Past State Deputy Jim Kiley credited his and Father Chris Mahar's vocations (both Brother Knights of our council) to our weekly prayer for vocations that Brother Jim started back in the 1980's. In that vein, here is the official Knights of Columbus prayer for vocations:

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, call many holy young people to consecrated life for the sake of your kingdom. Call an abundance of virtuous men to serve in ordained ministry, as laborers for your harvest. Call numerous others to faithful, chaste and fruitful love in the sacrament of marriage, as signs and witnesses of Christ's love for his Church. Through baptism you have called all your children, in whatever state of life, to love and serve you. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and grant us each the grace to follow you in perfect obedience and charity. With Mary and Joseph as our models and intercessors, we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



COMMUNITY

Coats for Kids



From GK Bill Jakabek - I just wanted to take a moment to let you all know that on Thursday, December 18, our Council delivered 12 cases of winter coats to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society of Coventry (SVDPS) which is based out of Our Lady of Czenstochowa Church. The Society will now distribute these coats to needy men, women, young adults, and children throughout our community. This partnership has been in place for the last several years and will hopefully continue for many years to come. **I want to sincerely thank Community Director John Pizzo, and his committee, for making this annual charitable event a success year in, and year out. Great job!!!**

Also, Brothers, we have funded our Coats for Kids program with our annual Funny4Funds Comedy Knight for nearly ten years now. We do so now with the help of our friends from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. This year will be no exception as we have scheduled our Funny4Funds Comedy Knight on Friday, April 10, (Time TBD) at the Saints John and Paul Parish Center. Please mark it on your calendars as it is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. Stay tuned for more details!

FAITH IN ACTION



FAMILY

A Busy Two Months!

Our council has completed the following three Family programs in November and December:

- The Giolitti Brothers Memorial Italian "Knight" Dinner, November 22.
- Council Mass and Collation to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8.
- Consecration to the Holy Family, all Masses during the last weekend of December.

Thanks to all Brother Knights and their families who participated in these events!

January "Knight Out" at Lake Taco



When: Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:30 PM
Where: Lake Taco Restaurant located at 446 Tiogue Ave. (Rt. 3), Coventry, RI - (401) 205-8226

Spouses, family members, and friends are all welcome to attend. We will all be seated together, have separate checks, and have full access to all menu choices.

Reservation: The restaurant requires a head count, so please RSVP back to WGK Bill Jakabek (401-269-9811 or biljak53@gmail.com) no later than 5 PM on Thursday afternoon, January 22, 2026.

Come on!!! Join your Council Brother Knights and families and have a fun time, while enjoying good food, drink, and comradery

LIFE

Pro-Life Novena



Blessing Council will be participating in the Pro-Life Novena - 9 Days for Life - which will take place from January 16 to January 24, 2026. An email will be going out to the council for those who want to participate.

Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life

Dearest St. Joseph,
at the word of an angel,
you lovingly took Mary into your home.
As God's humble servant, you guided
the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem,
welcomed Jesus as your own son
in the shelter of a manger,
and fled far from your homeland
for the safety of both Mother and Child.

We praise God that as their faithful protector,
you never hesitated to sacrifice
for those entrusted to you.
May your example inspire us also
to welcome, cherish, and safeguard
God's most precious gift of life.

Help us to faithfully commit ourselves
to the service and defense of human life
—especially where it is
vulnerable or threatened.
Obtain for us the grace
to do the will of God in all things.
Amen.

GIOLITTI BROTHERS MEMORIAL ITALIAN KNIGHT

Saturday, November 22, 2025



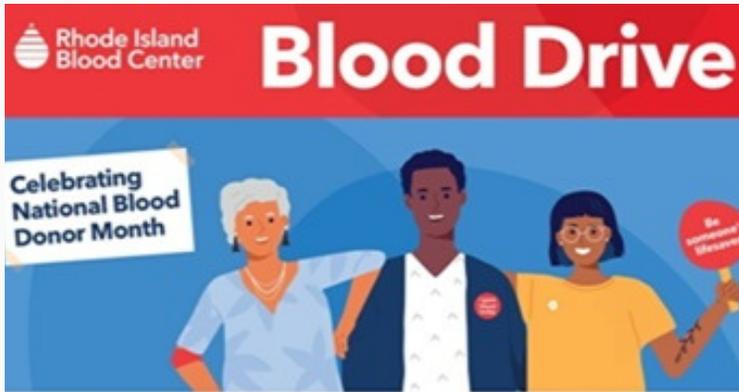
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Collation

Monday, December 8, 2025



WHAT'S GOING ON AT OUR CHURCHES

Saints John and Paul



Saints John & Paul Church

Sunday, January 11
8:30am - 1:30pm

Parish Hall
341 South Main Street,
Coventry

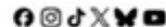
Sign up at ribc.org/drives
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Prepare to donate

- Eat well and hydrate
- Bring a photo ID
- Feel good and symptom free
- Must be 17+ or 16 with parental consent form
- Meet minimum weight requirements

Visit ribc.org/eligibility for complete donation guidelines.



St. Vincent de Paul Our Lady of Czenstochowa



Parents seeking assistance for Catholic School tuition must **call their parish** and submit an application to the Diocese. Applications are available on-line at www.factstuitionaid.com. Remember, you must **call your parish** and apply in order to receive financial aid from OLC or SVP. The deadline for submitting applications is **February 6th 2026**.

Would you like to be an Altar Server (Youth and Adult), Lector or an Eucharistic Minister?

Please talk to Fr. Jacek or call the parish office.

Frozen golombki, pierogi and apple pies are available for sale during office hours at the Parish House. Golombki are \$18 for half dozen, pierogi are \$24 a dozen, apple pies \$15 each.



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Father John V. Doyle School
January 25th + 11:00AM - 12:30PM

Register to attend using QR code or at fjvd.org

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Brothers, going forward, the final page of the newsletter will be one for free advertising for your business or any business that you may work for or know that might benefit from Brother Knights patronizing it. Please contact FS Neil Fidler if interested.