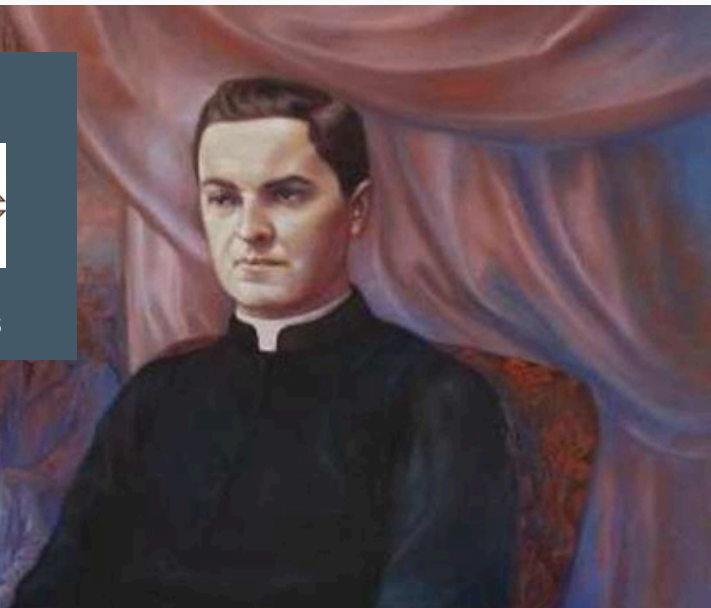


THE BLESSING WORD



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



Grand Knight's Corner

WILLIAM JAKABEK, GRAND KNIGHT

Hello Brothers All!

It's March, and all I can say is Hallelujah, and good riddance February! In last month's GK Corner, I said we were all hopeful that the weather would begin to change for the better. Boy, did I get that wrong!!! We had two major snow storms, and the second one blew the Blizzard of '78 statistics right out of the record books. I hope everyone survived this winter snow onslaught successfully. Cheer up ... March has to be better!



Speaking of March, we are now into the season of Lent, the most solemn period for all Christians, centered on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. There is no better time to reconnect with, and deepen one's faith, than during Lent. So, during this time, do all you can to personally to draw closer to God as we prepare for the joyous celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter. Please participate in as many of the Lenten activities that are being offered by the three wonderful Parishes we are associated with - Saints John and Paul, Our Lady of Czestochowa, and Saint Vincent de Paul.

As usual, March will be a busy time for our Council. We have a lot going on, so please review all of the upcoming events noted in the March Blessing Newsletter which will be published and distributed to all members very soon via email. I ask each and every one of you to please seriously consider how you can personally get involved to help make all of these events and programs a success. Having said that, there's one particular upcoming event that I would specifically like to mention. On Thursday evening, March 27th, the Msgr. Peter E. Blessing Council has the honor of hosting the March Rhode Island State Council Meeting. It starts at 7 PM in the Our Lady of Czestochowa School Gymnasium. Our Council will also provide a post-meeting collation. Besides the State Council Officers that will be attending, we expect many representatives from individual statewide councils across the state to attend also. Obviously, we will need help from our membership ranks with regard to setting up the gymnasium, and collation preparation, so please seriously consider helping out when we send out our request for volunteers via email.

As I always point out, the best way to explore ways to participate in council activities is to attend our monthly Membership Meetings. Our next meeting takes place on Monday evening, March 9, in Classroom #3 in the former OLC School. We kick off with a council collation between 6:30 pm and 7:00 pm, and our Membership Meeting follows immediately afterwards.

Vivat Jesus!
William Jakabek
Grand Knight

Upcoming Events

March Officers Meeting

Place: OLC School Room 3
Date: Wednesday, 3/4/2026
Time: 7:00 PM

March Membership Meeting

Place: OLC School Room 3
Date: Monday, 3/9/2026
Time: 7:00 PM with collation at 6:30 PM

March "Knight Out"

Place: Lake Taco, 446 Tiogue Ave., Coventry
Date: Monday, 3/23/2026
Time: 6:30 PM

Rhode Island State Council Meeting

Place: OLC Gym
Date: Thursday, 3/26/2026
Time: 7:00 PM

April Officers Meeting

Place: OLC School Room 3
Date: Wednesday, 4/8/2026
Time: 7:00 PM

Funny4Funds Comedy Night

Place: SSJP Parish Center
Date: Friday, 4/10/2026
Time: 6:30 PM

April Membership Meeting

Place: OLC School Room 3
Date: Monday, 4/13/2026
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 #5273
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
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HTTP://WWW.COVENTRYKNIGHTS.ORG
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OUR LADY OF CZENSTOCHOWA SCHOOL
222 MACARTHUR BLVD., COVENTRY





Chaplain's Message

FATHER PAUL LEMOI

No Chaplain's Message this month.



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
- 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
- Jeff Holme
- Brad White
- Hallie Sorenson and Family
- Richard and daughter (Just Prayers)
- Jovantey (Just Prayers)
- All US military personnel active and former
- SSJP Church receives a good and Holy Senior Priest
- The Unborn

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM LORI

March 2026 Challenge



“So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, ‘Let us also go to die with him.’” (Gospel for March 22, Jn 11:16)

Look at the bravery of Thomas! Jesus had just announced his intention to travel to Judea, where he had narrowly escaped getting stoned to death. Given the potential danger ahead, Thomas seems prepared for martyrdom. Later, of course, he and the other disciples would flee as Jesus was arrested, and Thomas would doubt reports of Jesus' resurrection. As fallible humans, our strength and resolve sometimes collapse into weakness. May we always seek the courage to follow Jesus faithfully, even when the going gets tough.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, as we continue through Lent, I challenge you to pray the Stations of the Cross each week — in your parish community, with your family or individually — with the intention of receiving the courage to suffer for Christ. A good resource is the Catholic Information Service booklet *The Way of the Cross: Traditional and Modern Meditations* (kofc.org/shopcis).

Questions for Reflection:

Are you a good disciple of Christ? How can being a Knight of Columbus help prepare you to take up your cross and follow him? Are you willing to suffer for your faith if called upon?



March Birthdays

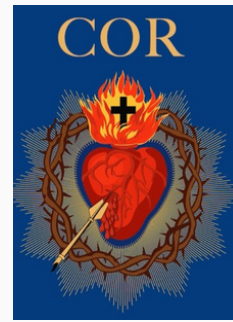
James Dacey (86)	March 3
Michael Greene (70)	March 3
Paul Lacroix (87)	March 6
Thomas Kelly (64)	March 8
Stephen Bert (68)	March 11
Richard Legault (68)	March 11
Christopher Dyl (79)	March 15
Leonard Denomme (82)	March 21
Joseph Da Silva (92)	March 22
John Tally (81)	March 30
Michael Byrne (65)	March 30
Jaroslaw Lewkowski (61)	March 31

Annual Dues



Thanks to all Brother Knights who have paid their annual dues for 2026! Knight Alerts have been mailed out for those Brother Knights who haven't paid their dues yet. 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!

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.

Brother Knight Spotlight!



Grand Knight William Jakabek

Beginning this month, we're proud to introduce a new feature in our newsletter: the **Brother Knight Spotlight**. Each edition will highlight one of our own—sharing his faith journey, his service within the Order, and the personal experiences that shape his life as a Catholic gentleman. Our hope is that these short profiles help us grow closer as a council, strengthen our fraternity, and remind us of the many gifts and stories present within our brotherhood. Our first Brother Knight in the spotlight is our Worthy Grand Knight Bill Jakabek.

Name: William Jakabek

Council Role: I am the Grand Knight for Blessing Council and Faithful Comptroller for Father Wallace Assembly. I'm also the "Family Director" for our Council. Former positions held: Council Recorder and Treasurer, Assembly Purser.

Years as a Knight: 8

Parish: Our Lady of Czestochowa

A Scripture verse that has shaped your life: Philippians 4:6-7 "Don't worry about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God, and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

A charity, program, or initiative you're most passionate about: I participate in the Saint Vincent de Paul Society of Coventry's "Elder Delivery and Grab and Go" program which provides a hot meal to those in need in the Coventry/West Warwick area every Saturday. My cooking team, one of six teams, takes turns to cook an average of 135 hot meals of which about 80 of which are delivered directly to a person in need, and about 45 meals are distributed to persons in need that can drive up to our kitchen. It's an amazing way to provide help and love to those in our community that need a helping hand. It also allows me to actively participate and submit my annual volunteer hours to our Council's Family Faith in Action program "Food for Families."

Your profession or primary vocation: I graduated from Long Island University in 1975 with a BA Degree in Finance. My first job right out of college was in General Electric's Treasury Operations, which was headquartered in Schenectady, NY. There, I met Patricia Kenny, my future wife to be, and we were married in August 1978. Honestly, I hated my job at GE (boring!), so in late 1982, I made a complete career change. I had numerous interviews and was hired as a Medical Sales Representative with Johnson & Johnson Company. They sent my wife, my newborn daughter Eileen, and me to Rhode Island in early 1983 after three months training. We all love it here! After 35 years in Medical Sales and Sales Management, I retired in March of 2018 (same year I joined the KofC) and am enjoying retirement immensely!!!

Hobbies or interests: Model Railroading. I have the original Lionel, 027-gauge train set that "Santa" gifted to me when I was six years old back in 1959. I love going to the HUGE Model Railroading Expo that's held every January at the "Big E" fairgrounds located in West Springfield, MA. It's UNBELIEVABLE!!! I also enjoy reading, working on projects in, and around my house, but my real love is playing golf as much as I can.

Something most people don't know about you: I'm REALLY INTO MUSIC! My favorite genres are Classical, Jazz, Big Band, and "Lounge Lizard" artists (think Sade, Diane Krall, etc.). I played the violin from 1st to 5th Grade, and Saxophone in 6th and 7th Grade (lousy at both). I joined Choir in 7th grade and continued with it right through college. I'm currently a member of the OLC Church Choir.

One hope you have for our Council this year: My main hope for our council this year, my final year as Grand Knight, is that all of our current members will take the time to reflect on why they decided to become a Knight, and if possible, seriously make an effort to attend our Monthly Membership Meetings, and increase their participation in as many council activities as possible. **VIVAT JESUS!**

Tootsie Roll Drive

Brother Knights, Our Tootsie Roll Drive to raise money for individuals with Intellectual Disabilities is coming in March (see schedule below). Please respond to John Murray at jmurray3477@gmail.com or text (401) 447-9581 to indicate your availability.

SS John and Paul — 6 Knights for each Mass

Saturday March 14	5:00 PM
Sunday March 15	7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

St. Vincent de Paul — 2 Knights for each Mass

Saturday March 21	5:00 PM
Sunday March 22	9:15 AM

Our Lady of Czenstochowa— 4 Knights for each Mass

Saturday March 21	4:00 PM
Sunday March 22	8:00 AM, 11:00 AM

FAITH IN ACTION



FAITH



COMMUNITY



FAMILY



LIFE

FAITH

Raffle Ticket Sales



Thanks to all the Brother Knights who helped out with raffle tickets sales at our three churches on the weekends of February 14-15 and February 21-22. We raised a total of \$1,920 on those two weekends. Combine that with \$305 raised from Brother Knights selling tickets on their own, we have a total of \$2,225. There are still tickets to be sold, but so far, you've all done a great job! Thank you for your efforts!

COMMUNITY

Funny4Funds Comedy Night

SSJP PARISH CENTER
FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026



Our Funny4Funds Comedy Night, with our friends from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, will take place on Friday, April 10, at 7 PM at the Saints John and Paul Parish Center. This is one of our biggest fundraising events of the year and funds our Coats for Kids program so please mark your calendars and come out and support a great cause while having a really great laugh!

Tickets at \$20 per person can be purchased online here:

<https://www.funny4funds.com/events/svdp-society-blessing-council-coats-for-kids-fundraiser/1740>

Donations and sponsorships can also be purchased at the same link.

2026 Lenten Mission

FOUR NIGHT EVENT
MARCH 23rd - 26th
6:30 - 8:30 PM



With
FR. LARRY RICHARDS



Mission Schedule

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY*
God's Love & Prayer	Mass & Love of Others talk	Passion of Christ & Confessions	Eucharistic Adoration & Healing Service

St. Philip Church
622 Putnam Pike, Greenville, RI

FAITH IN ACTION



FAITH



COMMUNITY



FAMILY



LIFE

FAMILY

March “Knight Out” at Lake Taco



When: Monday, March 23, 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 Friday afternoon, March 20, 2026.

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

LIFE

Fasting for Life Event



Fasting for Life Event!

Hosted by the SSJP Respect Life Committee

When: Saturday, March 7, 2026, beginning with 8 am Mass followed by Confession and all-day Eucharistic adoration!

Where: Saints John & Paul Parish Center & Church, 341 S. Main St., Coventry, RI

Join us for prayer, fasting, and fellowship as we join to pray for the dignity of life at all stages! We will be committed to fasting with bread and water for the entire day, which will be available for all throughout this event (coffee will be served in the morning). The schedule is as follows: 9 am Joyful Rosary, 10 am Luminous Rosary, 11 am Sorrowful Rosary, 12 Noon Movie: “Without a Doubt,” the true story of Erica, the daughter of SSJP parishioners, Bob and Diane Tremblay, 2 pm Glorious Rosary, 3 pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 3:45 pm Benediction, 4 pm Confession, 5 pm Vigil Mass. You may come for the entire day or just pop in any time and stay as long you can.

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.



COMEDY FUNDRAISER

SVDP SOCIETY & BLESSING COUNCIL COATS FOR KIDS

Friday, April 10, 2026

SS John & Paul Parish Center

341 South Main Street | Coventry, RI 02816

Doors open at 7:00pm | Show starts at 8:00pm

BYOS - Bring Your Own Snacks • Cash Bar

Raffles, Auctions • 18+ PG-13 Event

Tickets: \$20.00 online or \$25.00 at the door

For tickets, to donate or sponsor, please visit

www.funny4funds.com/events

For more information, please contact

Brian Mattias: bamattias@gmail.com

POWERED BY



WHAT'S GOING ON AT OUR CHURCHES

Saints John and Paul



Last chance to purchase tickets this weekend after all the Masses!

The Saints John and Paul Irish Band Live at the Parish Hall!

Starring Kieran Keating from County Tipperary, Guitar and Vocals
Fr. Michael O'Woolley from County Kent, Guitar and Vocals
Stephanie Mahon from County Woonsocket, Irish Fiddle
Judy Burns from County Doyle, Irish Soprano
Brian Mattias from County Czenstochowa, Irish Bass

Monday, March 9, 2026, 7pm in the Parish Hall

Tickets: \$10, Children under 12 Free

And at the Rectory Office starting Feb 23

(No tickets will be sold at the door)

Star-Spangled Bash

A Semiquincentennial Soirée
March 21, 2026 at 5 PM
at the Quonset O Club
200 Lt. James Brown Rd North Kingstown RI

Featuring Live Music by the
Saints John and Paul American Bands Band

Tickets \$50/Each Table of 10 \$450
For tickets visit fjvd.org or use QR Code here

St. Vincent de Paul Our Lady of Czenstochowa

Snack For Students



The CCD Children at OLC and Saint Vincents, as a part of a project during Lent, will be collecting the following snack items for Coventry school students in need.

Granola Bars-Cereal Bars-Saltines-Sandwich Lunch Crackers (cheese)- Individual Goldfish Bags-Individual Pretzel Bags-Snack Size Cookies & Cereal

Donations may be brought to CCD class or placed in the boxes at the back of the church labeled, "Snacks for Students". Thank you in Advance for your help and continued generosity.



Polish Food Sale:
frozen golombki \$12 for half dozen, *frozen pierogi* \$16 for a dozen and *frozen apple pies*, \$10 each, will be available for sale after Masses the weekend of March 21 - 22 and March 28 - 29 at the Parish House.

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With Our Priests**

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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.