

THE BLESSING WORD



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

Happy Easter!



Grand Knight's Corner

WILLIAM JAKABEK, GRAND KNIGHT

Blessing Council Brothers All!

As usual, April will be a busy and exciting month for our Council. We have several events scheduled ...

Funny4Funds "Coats for Kids" Comedy Night Fundraiser, our biggest Fundraiser of the year being held on April 10th, 2026, at Saints John and Paul Church Parish Center. I'm asking every member of the Blessing Council

to ask themselves how they can participate and help by remembering the most important action that our K of C Council does year in, year out - Support our parishes, our community, and those in need through charitable giving. Please seriously consider attending this fun night by yourselves, and/or with family and friends. If you can't attend, I ask you to please make a donation towards this worthy cause. Why? Because this is what Brother Knights do!!!

Keep your eye out for important future emails concerning the following events also being held in April:

An Exemplification Ceremony of Charity, Unity and Fraternity just before our April Monthly Membership Meeting at 6 PM on Monday, April 13. Three candidates are expected to achieve Full Knighthood. I'm asking that all council officers be in attendance, along with as many council Brother Knights as possible. It's extremely important that we have a large showing as it would so wonderfully express our council's greetings and support.

A Membership Drive at Saints John and Paul Church on April 18-19, 2026. A follow-up "Information Night" will be held for all men and their families interested in joining on April 20, 2026, in the Parish Center.

With the end of March, and the beginning of April, we enter the most Holy and blessed time of our Catholic Church year - Holy Week and Easter. On the occasion of Holy Week, I extend my warm wishes to all of you as I thank GOD for blessing us each and every day. May you have a memorable and peaceful Holy Week with your family and friends as you thank Jesus for his sacrifice and all his love. May the blessings of the Lord shine upon you this Holy Week.

Vivat Jesus!
William Jakabek
Grand Knight



Upcoming Events

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

Exemplification Ceremony of Charity, Unity and Fraternity

Place: Our Lady of Czenstochowa Church
Date: Monday, 4/13/2026
Time: 6:00 PM

April Membership Meeting

Place: OLC School Room 3
Date: Monday, 4/13/2026
Time: 7:00 PM with collation at 6:30 PM

SSJP Membership Drive

Place: Saints John and Paul Church
Date: Weekend of 4/18-19/2026
Time: All Masses

K of C Information Night

Place: SSJP Parish Center
Date: Monday, 4/20/2026
Time: 7:00 PM

May Officers Meeting

Place: OLC School Room 3
Date: Wednesday, 5/6/2026
Time: 7:00 PM

May Membership Meeting

Place: OLC School Room 3
Date: Monday, 5/11/2026
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
445 WASHINGTON STREET
COVENTRY, RI 02816

COVENTRYKNIGHTS@VERIZON.NET
HTTP://WWW.COVENTRYKNIGHTS.ORG
MEETING PLACE:
OUR LADY OF CZENSTOCHOWA SCHOOL
222 MACARTHUR BLVD., COVENTRY



Chaplain's Message

FATHER PAUL LEMOI

No Chaplain's Message this month.



Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM LORI



April 2026 Challenge

Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Gospel for April 19, Lk 24:35)

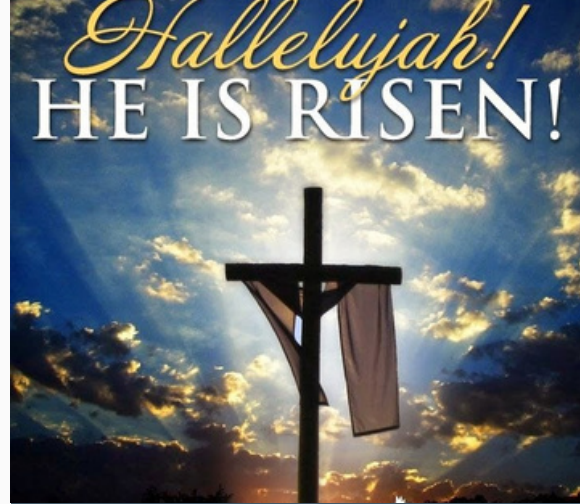
The disciples on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until the breaking of the bread. Jesus promised he would be with us always, and the Eucharist is his fulfillment of that promise. We encounter his presence most profoundly in the Eucharist, where he is truly present — body, blood, soul, and divinity — under the appearance of bread and wine. The disciples' experience on the road to Emmaus was no ordinary meal, but an encounter with Christ, who invites us, too, to enter into communion with him through the Eucharist.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to remain in prayer and adoration for several minutes after Mass to grow in awareness of Christ's true presence in the Eucharist.

Questions for Reflection:

Do you fully realize it is the true body and blood of Christ that you receive in the Eucharist? Do you habitually pray in thanksgiving after Communion for this immeasurable gift? Do you consistently participate in Mass on Sundays and holy days? Do you make an effort to attend more frequently, so that you might avail yourself of the graces of this great sacrament?



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 (recently deceased)

Brother Gerard Legault

Brother Frank Laiter, Jr.

Brother Lucien Laporte

Brother Peter Blais

Brother Nicholas Delfino-Whitaker

Brother Devin Favino

Brother Louis Pinga

Brother Bernie George

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

Joseph Nguyen Van Thu (recently deceased)

Dr. A. A. Arcand (recently deceased)

Hallie Sorenson and Family

All US military personnel active and former
SSJP Church receives a good and Holy Senior Priest

The Unborn



April Birthdays

E. J. Robinson (60)	April 1
Joseph Fleury (88)	April 3
Maxwell Laiter (26)	April 3
George Jonic, Jr. (84)	April 13
Richard Denningham, Jr. (71)	April 14
John Pizzo (59)	April 19
Robert Chartier (83)	April 20
Thomas Rossi (60)	April 21
Stephen Macchioni (70)	April 23
William Jakabek (73)	April 24
Rudolph Cirelli (80)	April 28

Brother James Hall (1961-2026)



Our friend and Brother Knight Jimmy Hall went to his final reward on Thursday, March 12, at the far too young age of 64. He was a Blessing Council fixture since 1993 when he first joined. He was our "permanent" Inside Guard for so many years. Jimmy dealt with many, many life challenges, and he did so with a dignity, a great sense of humor and a grace that I doubt most of us would have in his shoes. Jimmy was a Special Olympian, and he won numerous medals during his life. They found the perfect photo of Jimmy for his obituary which is below. That photo is him. Always happy, always willing to help out. We're all going to miss the "brother hugs," the good humor, the food jokes, and just him being there. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

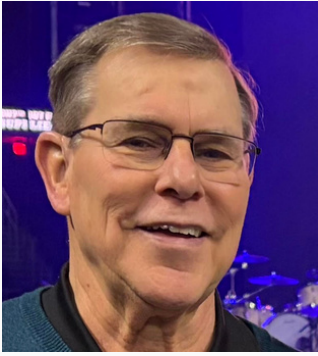
March RI State Council Meeting



Blessing Council had the honor of hosting the March Rhode Island State Council meeting at Our Lady of Czenstochowa School Gym on the evening of Thursday, March 26. According to our Worthy State Deputy Joe Carrigan, it was the most attended State Council meeting of the fraternal year. A delicious collation was put on by our council Brother Knights. Kudos to everyone who took part and made this event successful!



Brother Knight Spotlight!



Treasurer Jerry McEvoy

April's spotlight is on our Worthy Treasurer Jerry McEvoy.

Name: Jerry McEvoy

Council Role: Presently serving as Treasurer for Blessing Council and Life Director. I have also held the position of Recorder.

Years as a Knight: 5

Parish: Saints John and Paul

A Scripture verse that has shaped your life: Joshua 24:15 "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." For me there has never been a doubt.

A charity, program, or initiative you're most passionate about: When I first retired in Omaha, I worked with a group from our church that did projects for "Rebuilding Together", which included building handicap ramps and a number of other projects for the handicapped. It was very rewarding. Since moving to Rhode Island and joining the Knights, I find many of the projects we work on are every bit as rewarding. The number of people our Council has been able to help is amazing.

Your profession or primary vocation: After graduating college, I became an electrical engineer for Pullman-Standard in Chicago. We built subway cars for New York and Chicago and Passenger Cars for Amtrak. I was then hired by Amtrak and became manager of Quality for the Midwest Division for 18 years. I then joined Union Pacific as Manager of Locomotive Quality for Northern California and Oregon, later taking over as Manager of FRA compliance for all Union Pacific locomotives.

Hobbies or Interests: I've always enjoyed tinkering with electronics projects, including robotics. I always wanted to find a way to help overcome a handicap using electronics.

Something most people don't know about you: My favorite music is jazz and 60's rock. I have been a long-distance runner since high school. Over the years I have completed four marathons and many other shorter races. I have made a number of long-distance bike rides across Iowa and Nebraska. These days I am happy to be playing golf and pickleball.

One hope you have for our Council this year: As our younger members continue to take on leadership roles, I believe Blessing council will continue to be one of the best in the state.

Tootsie Roll Drive



Kudos to Tootsie Roll Drive Chairman John Murray and all Brother Knights who took part in our 2026 Tootsie Roll Drive at the three churches we serve! Brother Knights donned the aprons and manned the entrances to the churches we serve and gave out a Tootsie Roll to everyone who provided a donation. A total of \$2,833 was raised for the two weekends!

All moneys raised will be donated to special needs charities. In the past, our council has donated the Tootsie Roll Drive receipts to charities such as the Transitions to Success program at Coventry High School, West Bay RI and Meeting Street School. The Finance Committee will meet this month to determine our recipients for this fraternal year. All glory to God!

FAITH IN ACTION



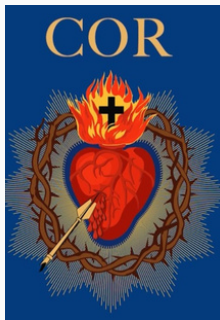
FAITH

Raffle Ticket Sales



All but 20 raffle tickets have been sold from the 500 we bought from State Council. A total of \$2,450 was raised to be donated to Seminarians as part of our Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP). The final 20 were written out for Our Lady of Providence Seminary. Thanks to all Brother Knights who helped with the sale of the tickets!

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.

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.

March Rhode Island State Council Meeting

HOSTED BY BLESSING COUNCIL
OUR LADY OF CZENSTOCHOWA SCHOOL GYM



Catholic Men's Conference

Saturday, May 2, 2026 Saint Augustine's Church, Providence, RI



JOIN US FOR A DAY OF

- * *Inspired Talks*
- * *Breakfast & Lunch*
- * *Praise & Worship*
- * *Table Discussions*
- * *Holy Mass*

"Whoever believes in Me will do the works that I do" John 14:12

Doors open at 7:45 AM Conference ends at 3:00 PM

REGISTER ONLINE WWW.MOSJI.ORG/EVENTS.PHP

Worship music by John Polce



Keynote Speaker

Most Rev. Bishop Bruce
Lewandowski, C.Ss.R.
Bishop of Providence



Rev. Christopher Mahar
Pastor St. Augustine's Church,
Providence



Additional Speak-

Dennis Sousa
Director, Office of Family, Youth,
& Young Adult Evangelization



Sponsored by The Men of Saint Joseph International



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

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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

St. Vincent de Paul Our Lady of Czestochowa

JOIN THE KNIGHTS!



Msgr. Peter E. Blessing Council #5273 Knights of Columbus will be holding a membership drive at Saints John and Paul Church on the weekend of April 18-19. If you are interested in becoming a Knight of Columbus to work for your church and your community, this is your opportunity to join other Catholic gentlemen in this noble endeavor.

We are a very active council with many faith, life, family and community activities, and we know there's something we're doing that you would be interested in and enjoy doing! We actively support Father Woolley and Father Doan, who are both Brother Knights, and we support Saints John and Paul Church and Father John V. Doyle School. We currently count many SSJP parishioners in our membership.

During the Masses on the weekend of April 18-19, there will be Knights on hand to greet you as you come into Mass and will be available after Mass to answer any questions as you exit. You will see firsthand the kind of activity we do as our council.

We will also follow up our membership drive by hosting an Information Night on Monday, April 20, at 7 PM in the SSJP Parish Center. We will be giving a presentation on the Knights of Columbus, both local and worldwide, and we'll have refreshments. Families and friends are most welcome! We pray you will be interested in joining us!

Save the Date!

Our Lady of Czestochowa will hold our *annual Polish-American Day* on **Saturday, June 13, 2026** from 3 PM to 9 PM.

We will serve hot Polish and American food in our school gymnasium from 4 PM to 7 PM that day. There will be Cow Chip Bingo, Raffles and games for adults and children. More details will follow!

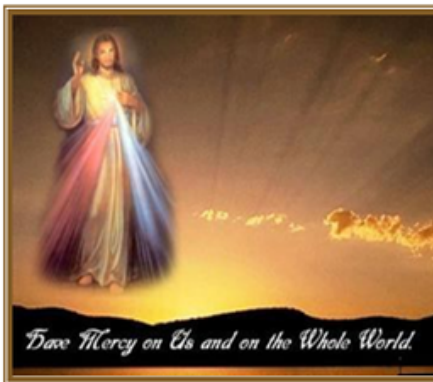
The *planning meeting* will be held on **Tuesday, April 7 at 6:00pm at the Parish House**. All are welcome to attend.

This year we will be *making Polish food* during the last week of April (Wednesday through Saturday, April 29 and 30 and May 1 and 2).

Please mark your calendars and join fellow parishioners and friends for these events!

Knights Ceremony - Monday April 13, 6PM

All are welcome to join the Msgr. Peter E. Blessing Council at OLC church on Monday April 13, 6PM as we hold an Exemplification Ceremony of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. It is a brief, 30-minute event welcoming new brothers into our Council. If you're wondering if the K of C is right for you, *please attend* the ceremony to learn about what we do and why! Refreshments will follow.



From the diary of Sister Faustina Kowalska.



"Great love can change small things into great ones, and it is only love which lends value to our actions. And the purer our love becomes, the less there will be within us for the flames of suffering to feed upon, and the suffering will cease to be a suffering for us; it will become a delight! By the grace of God, I have received such a disposition of heart that I am never so happy as when I suffer for Jesus, whom I love with every beat of my heart." (303, page 140)

"He who knows how to forgive prepares for himself many graces from God. As often as I look upon the cross, so often will I forgive with all my heart." (390, page 175)

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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.