



THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Roanoke Council #562 Newsletter

October, 2025

Upcoming Events

10/4 (Saturday) Work day at the Council Home and pool.

10/6 (Monday) October Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30.

10/13 (Monday) Columbus Day

10/17-18 (Friday-Saturday) KOVAR at Town Square and Towers ABC stores.

10/18 (Saturday) State KofC Quarterly Meeting at Roanoke Council Home.

10/20 (Monday) October Social Meeting.

10/27 (Monday) October 4th Degree Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30;. meeting at 7:15.

11/1 (Saturday) Feast of All Saints (obligation abrogated).

11/2 (Sunday) All Souls Day

11/3 (Monday) November Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30.

11/4 (Tuesday) Election Day

Please also refer to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RoanokeKnights/> for additional information.

Grand Knight's Report

Worthy Brothers,



First, I want to thank all the Brothers who came out to help with the 40 Days for Life event at Our Lady of Nazareth. The lunch we served was well received and it felt good once again to show our Council's support for life.

Next, I want to remind our Brothers that while September was a busy month, so is October. We will be putting the pool cover on and attempting another Council Home cleanout on Saturday, October 4. Then on Friday evening, October 17, we'll be hosting the hospitality room for the State quarterly meeting and serving lunch at the meeting on Saturday the 18th. If those dates sound familiar its because those same days we will be collecting for KOVAR outside the ABC stores. If you haven't been active for a while and want to reconnect with your Brother Knights, these are great opportunities.

Finally, don't forget that we have some programs running that need your support. Brother Rich Whitney is going to need some help with Coats for Kids. Joe Kosty is going to need some help with the Rosary Program. Mark Johnson is going to need help collecting supplies for the ASAP (Aid and Support After Pregnancy) program.

GK Report (Continued from P1)

Don't wait to be asked. Offer your assistance.

Please remember to promote our Council to the men you see at Church who have not yet joined our Order. If they ask what we do, show them this newsletter. This is what Knights do.

As always, thank you Brothers for your continued support and see you at the October Business meeting, October 6th.

Vivat Jesus,

Dave Chopski Grand Knight

September Business Meeting Highlights

- Installation of council officers for FY 2025-26 was conducted by the District Deputy prior to the business portion of the meeting.
- The Chaplain reminded Brother Knights that we celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8. As Catholics, we believe that Mary was born without original sin.
- The Chaplain also thanked members for their prayers and support.
- The Grand Knight thanked Brother Knights and guests for coming out for the installation of officers. He mentioned that we have a busy month in September, and asked Brother Knights to recruit new members.. The Grand Knight announced the following awards:
 - Roger Vest as Knight of the Month for July.
 - Bob Carrigan as Knight of the Month for August.
 - James and Aimee Valenzuela as Family of the Month for August.
- Upcoming events:
 - 40hr Eucharistic Adoration at the Basilica of St. Andrew on 9/7.
 - KOVAR 10/17-18.
 - State quarterly meeting in Roanoke 10/18.

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October Birthdays

Birthday wishes to the following Brother Knights with birthdays in October:

John Meise Sr.	October 2
Michael Pyle	October 4
Daniel Keeley	October 5
Patrick Patterson	October 8
Mark Johnson	October 11
George Pufko Jr.	October 12
Stephen Ratliff	October 13
Daniel Austin Sr.	October 15
Alfred Bertolacci	October 16
Wayne Parker	October 16
Anthony Hopper	October 17
Robert Way	October 17
George Clay II	October 21
Rev Les Schmidt	October 21
John Mercer	October 23
Glenn Hall	October 26
David Peters	October 26
Michael Grant	October 28
Louis Soldano	October 31

Installation of Council Officers

Installation of council officers for FY 2025-26 was conducted by District Deputy Karl Kleinhenz at the September Council business meeting on September 2. About 30 Brother Knights and guests were in attendance. A delicious meal of roast turkey and sides was served by chef Donald Brown and BK Bob Carrignan.



Olympic Park Holdings Update

In July, a letter was sent to all members of Council 562 requesting a one-time donation to fund needed upgrades to our council home. To date, \$10625 in donations have been received. Special thanks to those members who have made donations. If you have not had the opportunity already, please consider a significant donation to support this critical endeavor.

Grill Nights 2025

Once again, grill nights were conducted at the Olympic Park Pool on Wednesday nights to support Olympic Park Holdings, our home corporation. Due to the dedication of many Brother Knights, the grill nights were very successful once again. A profit of \$2972 was raised over the summer months - an increase of about 25% over recent years. Many thanks to the many Brother Knights who made the 2025 grill nights a great success.



KOVAR 2025

The 2025 annual KOVAR drive is off to a great start: nearly \$3000 has been collected thus far. The August collection was postponed due to numerous conflicts. This year's campaign will conclude the weekend of October 17-18 at the Towers and Town Square ABC stores. We will need extra help to cover the state quarterly meeting also scheduled for that weekend.

KOVAR is one of the major charitable works of the Knights of Columbus in Virginia and supports Virginians with intellectual disabilities. Please plan to help if you are able.



Saint of the Month

Faustina Kowalska

Helena Kowalska was born on August 25, 1905 in Poland into a large Catholic peasant family. She first felt a calling to the religious life while she attended the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the age of seven. When she was 16, she went to work as a housekeeper to support herself and to help her parents. In 1925, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw and took the name Sr. Maria Faustina of the Most Blessed Sacrament. She lived in the Congregation for thirteen years in several religious houses where she worked as a cook, gardener, and porter.

Sr. Faustina began receiving messages and visions of Jesus soon after joining the convent. In 1931, Jesus appeared to Faustina wearing a white garment with rays emanating from his heart; He instructed her to paint and venerate the image. Faustina documented all of the encounters with Jesus in her diary called "Divine Mercy in My Soul." Jesus tells Faustina repeatedly that we can depend on his love and his mercy if only we turn to him, repent of our sins, and trust in him. In 1935, Sr. Faustina wrote about the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in her diary. According to her, the chaplet prayers and structure were dictated to her directly by Jesus. Thru His apparitions, Jesus tells Faustina that he wanted her to establish a feast of mercy and hold that celebration on the first Sunday after Easter. In 1936-37, holy cards and leaflets were printed, promoting the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Sr. Faustina died on October 5, 1938 in Krakow after a lengthy illness. In 1958, the Vatican issued a ban on circulation of her

diary and devotional materials, but the ban was lifted in 1978.

Sr. Faustina Kowalska was beatified in 1993 and canonized in 2000 by Pope John Paul II. During her canonization, Pope John Paul II proclaimed the Second Sunday of Easter as the Divine Mercy Sunday. Her feast day is October 5.



For Those Who Have Died:

- Linda Tuccierone, mother of BK Joe Tuccierone
- BK Frank Leonardo

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Amen.



Are You Proud to be a Knight?

Worthy Brothers. We are the men of the Catholic Church. The Bishops know it. The Pope knows it. Why don't our fellow parishioners know it? I think it's because they don't see us. They don't know who we are.

Brothers, are you proud to be a Knight? Are you proud to belong to an international organization that has over 2 million members worldwide? Are you proud to be part of a Catholic organization that is respected enough that Cardinals, Bishops, and Papal representatives attend our annual Supreme Conventions? Do you see any other Catholic organization receive this attention? I fail to mention the tens of millions of dollars donated to charitable causes including international aid to Ukraine, aid to persecuted Christians in the middle east, aid to the Church in Nigeria, and disaster relief here at home and abroad. Will the big company where you purchased your life insurance policy comfort your wife and family should you meet an untimely death? Your Knight of Columbus Field Agent will. He is there to protect and serve the widow and orphan just as his predecessors did in 1882 when our order was founded by Father Michael J. McGivney.

These are all reasons why you should be proud to be a Knight of Columbus. When you took your degree, you were given a pin with the emblem of our order and told to "Wear it proudly". And do not just wear a pin, but wear hats and shirts and jackets emblazoned with the emblem. Whatever church related activity you are participating in, show the emblem. Be proud to speak of the Order, the Order you are part of. The Order every Catholic man should be part of. The order that defends the Church and what the Church stands for; Life at all its stages, marriage as set forth by God from the beginning, protection for women and children from abuse and neglect. Are you proud to be part of our order? Then let it show.

Voting

Brother Knights, November 4, 2025 is Election Day in Virginia. Are you ready? The Catechism of the Catholic Church states "It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good: "As far as possible, citizens should take an **active part** in public life" (nos. 1913-1915). To fulfill this obligation and take an "active part", we must know the issues and the candidates and where they stand. We cannot blindly vote for a party or a philosophy. We should vote for the candidate that reflects our Catholic moral principles. To aid in this review of the issues and candidates, the Virginia Catholic Coalition (a joint venture between the Diocese of Arlington and the Diocese of Richmond, of Bishop Burbidge and Bishop Knestout) have prepared a collection of voter education resources to aid in your decision making. These resources can be found at va-catholic.org/Election2025. Brothers, this may be the only time you see these resources. Inform those around you. Encourage them to vote. This election will determine if the proposed change to the Virginia Constitution that would enshrine the right to abortion regardless of the age of the baby, right up to delivery, can be stopped. If the newly elected House of Delegates approves it this second time, it will then go out to the voters as a referendum. If it passes, then it's law. As Catholic men who claim to stand with the Church, we should know where the Church stands. Be an informed voter. Look over these educational resources and then take an "active part" in public life. Let your conscience be your guide. Early voting has already begun.



Prayer Requests

Please keep Brother Knights, their family members, and friends of the Order in your prayers:

- Fr. George Zina
- BK Paul Miller and his wife Amy.
- Mary Ann Valenzuela, mother of GK James Valenzuela. Uncle of GK James Valenzuela.
- Mother-in-law of BK Roger Vest.
- BK Joe Moses.
- BK Val Bernys
- Betsy Ratliff, mother of BK Stephen Ratliff
- Elisha Bellemente
- BK Juan Garcia's boss Kayla

Knights Help with OLN Fall Festival

Brother Knights from Roanoke Council 562 sponsored the beer tent at the Fall Festival at Our Lady of Nazareth on Sunday, September 28. Fun, food, music, fellowship, and beautiful weather were enjoyed by several hundred parishioners



40 Days for Life



Pray to End Abortion

The fall 2025 40 Days for Life is underway. It began with a luncheon and address at Our Lady of Nazareth on Sunday, September 21. This year's fall campaign will continue thru All Souls' Day, Sunday, November 2.

Christ told us that some demons can only be driven out by prayer and fasting. The two go hand in hand. Prayer keeps us rooted in the fact that it is our desire to carry out God's will. Fasting is a sacrifice that helps us reach beyond our own limitations with God's help.

Each day during 40 Days for Life, individuals, churches, families, and groups will be asked to join together in prayer for a specific request so the entire Body of Christ can unite around a common focus.

People of faith are also invited to fast throughout 40 Days for Life. We believe that when God's people fast with a broken, repentant, and contrite spirit, our Heavenly Father will hear from Heaven and heal our lives, our churches, our communities, our nation, and our world.

A Note About Computer Fraud

Be careful with KofC E-mails. Apparently the hacking is continuing. You know it won't be me asking for money in an e-mail and I will not be sending out ATTACHED FILES. Those I send with my personal e-mail. If you get an e-mail that says its from me that came through the KofC Supreme server and it has an attachment -DO NOT OPEN IT. JUST DELETE IT.

Dave Chopski,
Grand knight

Roanoke Council 562 Officers 2025-26

Grand Knight	Dave Chopski	540-915-2819
Deputy Grand Knight	Donald Brown	540-520-3060
Chancellor	Juan Garcia	757-719-8753
Warden	Stephen Ratliff	540-774-4796
Financial Secretary	Brian Ripple	540-797-5823
Chaplain	Fr. George Zina	407-758-8855
Treasurer	Chuck Hatcher	540-314-3360
Recorder	Jan Hodnett	540-819-5456
Advocate	Nate Griffith	804-837-8874
Outside Guard	Jean Saade	540-355-0585
Inside Guard	Rod Hidusky	540-985-3195
Trustee, 3 Year	James Valenzuela	301-806-3920
Trustee, 2 Year	Clyde Moak	540-418-5148
Trustee, 1 Year	Bill Howard	540-798-3734

Program Chairmen 2025-26

Program Director	Donald Brown	540-520-3060
Faith Director	Joe Kosty	540-685-2630
Family Director	Tim Heffron	540-904-2746
Community Director	Rich Whitney	443-465-7742
Life Director	Mark Johnson	540-467-2495
Membership Director	Jack Clarke	540-204-4984

Olympic Park Holdings Corporation Board 2025-26

President	Roger Vest	540-520-8520
Vice President:	Brian Carroll	540-266-8598
Treasurer:	Jan Hodnett	540-819-5456
Board Member:	Val Bernys	540-989-9282
Board Member:	Clyde Moak	540-418-5148
Board Member	Bill Howard	540-989-9399
Board Member:	Dan McBride	540-389-5903
Board Member:	Paul Miller	540-339-8657
Board Member	George Cuadrado	540-989-1758

In case of illness, need, or death, please notify one of the following:

Grand Knight

Dave Chopski 540-915-2819

Financial Secretary

Brian Ripple 540-797-5823

Fraternal Benefits

Jack Clarke 540-204-4984

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Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Roanoke Council 562 or the Knights of Columbus.