



THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Roanoke Council #562 Newsletter

November, 2025

Upcoming Events

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

11/11 (Tuesday) Veterans' Day

11/17 (Monday) November Social/ Planning Meeting.

11/23 (Sunday) Feast of Christ the King

11/24 (Monday) November 4th Degree Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; meeting at 7:15.

11/27 (Thursday) Thanksgiving Day

11/30 (Sunday) Advent begins

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

Grand Knight's Report

Worthy Brothers,



I want to thank everyone who helped out with the KOVAR Drive, the State Quarterly meeting, and the Hospitality room at the hotel. This was truly a group effort. I want to thank the Brothers who turned out for the funerals of Frank Leonardo and Valentine Bernys. I didn't know Frank, but after seeing the love of his family and hearing about his life, I truly wish I had. Val was truly a dedicated Knight serving in many ways and offices over 45 years. His are large shoes to fill. His passing has left an opening on the RAM house lunch team. It's a "One Saturday a Month" commitment. Please contact Frank Otto (954-495-6007) for more information.

Looking ahead to November, we will be taking several of our newly recruited Brothers to the John C, Webb Council, in Fincastle for the exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. If you want to recruit a friend or family member, now would be an excellent time. Just let me know so I can tell the Fincastle Knights how many to expect. The exemplification will be Monday November 10th. Dinner is at 6 and the exemplification is at 7.

(Continued P2)



October Business Meeting Highlights

- The Grand Knight thanked Brothers for participation in 40 Days for Life and the OLN Fall Festival. September was busy, and October will also be busy (KOVAR and State Meeting in Roanoke). Help is needed.
- The Financial Secretary reported that the tax report has been filed.
- The Council approved readmission of BK Byron Witt and welcomed new member Steve Wilkinson.
- Upcoming programs:
 - Mental Health Novena 10/10-18
 - Coats for Kids - coats received.
 - Essay Contest - pending.
 - KOVAR 10/17-18 - additional events upcoming.
 - October is "Respect Life Month" -several events are planned.
 - RAM needs volunteers on 3rd Saturdays to serve noon meal.
- The Field Agent reported that 3 new members were recruited at the OLN Fall Festival.
- The District Deputy announced that help is needed for the State Meeting 10/17-18.
- A \$100 donation for Right to Life billboard campaign was approved; a \$500 donation to Blue Ridge Women's Center was also approved.
- All 3rd Degree members are eligible for the 4th (Patriotic) degree - held 4 times/year. Contact any 4th Degree member.
- The Grand Knight announced Knights of the Month awards:
 - August - Bob Carignan
 - September - Chuck Hatcher
- The Lecturer reminded Brothers to pray the Rosary - prayer is necessary in our spiritual lives.

GK Report (Continued from P1)

Also coming up this month, Brother Rich Whitney is working on Thanksgiving food baskets for the needy. If you'd like to help with this worthy project let him know. I'm sure he would appreciate the help.

I can say the same thing for Brother Chuck Hatcher. Chuck is our KCIC chairman and he would appreciate extra help as well. Do not forget, it's not about selling Christmas cards it's about Keeping Christ in Christmas.

I hope to see more of you at our next meeting, Monday November 3rd. Attendance seems to be picking up. It's great fellowship. We're having chili for dinner.

Vivat Jesus,

Dave Chopski, Grand Knight



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Coats for Kids

Did you know that many children throughout the United States go without a coat each winter? The Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids® Program allows councils across North America the opportunity to put their faith into action and purchase new winter coats at a discount for children in need in their communities.

This year, the Roanoke Council has purchased four dozen coats of assorted sizes for distribution to needy children in the Roanoke Valley. We are being assisted in the distribution by Roanoke County Social Services. Thanks to Brother Knights and Roanoke County Social Services for your support of this worthwhile project for those in need.



Grand Knight Dave Chopski and Brother Knight Rich Whitney deliver “Coats for Kids” to the staff at Roanoke County Social Services for distribution to needy children in the Roanoke Valley.

Thanksgiving Baskets

As in previous years, the Roanoke Council will help to provide Thanksgiving meals to low-income families in the Roanoke Valley. This is an excellent opportunity to exemplify the first principle of our order - Charity! We will provide additional details at our meeting on November 3. Please plan to help if you can.

In Memoriam

- BK Val Bernys, PGK
- BK Frank Leonardo
- BK Tom Brennan

*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.*

November Birthdays

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

Lee Howell	November 1
Steven Kutsch	November 4
James Valenzuela	November 4
John O'Halloran	November 7
Hobart Pillsbury	November 10
Stanley Puckett	November 12
Timothy Beirne	November 16
Joseph Devlin II	November 17
Rev. George Zina	November 23
Daniel Rowe	November 24
Frank Haranzo Jr	November 25
Jeffrey Mc Innis	November 26
Richard Whitney	November 26

KOVAR 2025

The 2025 annual KOVAR drive concluded the weekend of October 17-18 at the Towers and Town Square ABC stores. It was an especially busy weekend, and special thanks to all Brother Knights who helped to make this year's campaign a success. This year we collected over \$5500 for this worthy cause.

KOVAR is one of the major charitable works of the Knights of Columbus in Virginia and supports Virginians with intellectual disabilities.

Saint of the Month

Clement of Rome

Little is known of Clement's early life; it is generally believed that he lived in Rome from about 35-99AD. Saint Clement is one of three early Church Fathers who hold the title "Apostolic Father" - those who personally knew the Apostles and received the Gospel from them, becoming the first heirs and successors to the Apostles. Peter met Clement in Rome around 55-60AD and ordained him, so Clement was very familiar with the teachings of the Apostles from a first-hand perspective. Clement went on to become the fourth Bishop of Rome, following Peter, Linus, and Cletus. This early papal succession is clearly presented in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I).

Clement's best-known writing is his letter from Rome to the church in Corinth, addressing divisions within the Corinthian church. In his letter, Clement stressed the authority of the See of Rome. Clement articulates the hierarchical structure of the Church, noting that the Father sent the Son, the Son sent the Apostles, and the Apostles sent their successors, and so forth. He stressed the unique role of the pope and his ongoing authority to hold the "keys to the Kingdom of Heaven" to bind and loose in accord with God's wisdom and will. This sacramental structure proceeds from the Father in Heaven in an ordered manner through ordination.

In 98AD, Trajan became emperor and insisted that residents honored Roman gods. Clement was arrested and exiled to forced labor in a stone quarry. There, his co-prisoners were starving and dehydrated. Clement struck the ground with his ax, causing a spring of water to gush forth. This incident led to the conversion of many other prisoners. When this news reached the emperor, he was

outraged and ordered Clement's execution. An anchor was tied around his neck, and he was thrown into the sea. According to legend, the brothers Saints Cyril and Methodius miraculously found his body and brought it to Rome, where it is now buried in the Church of Saint Clement.

Clement was canonized pre-congregation. His feast day is November 23.



Prayer Requests

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

- BK Paul Miller and his wife Amy.
- John Pallard, uncle of BK James Valenzuela.
- Mother-in-law of BK Roger Vest.
- BK Joe Moses.

Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest 2025

Catholic students in grades 8-12 are invited to participate in the 2025-26 Knights of Columbus Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest. The contest is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council and locally by Roanoke Council 562. The theme of this year's contest is:

“Out of the 267 popes that have led the Catholic Church, who are your three favorite popes and why?”

Essays must be 500-750 words and must be the student's original work. They must be typed (MSWord with spell-check is recommended). There are no font style or margin requirements, but a font size of 12 is recommended.

Use the fillable entry forms which can be downloaded from the KofC website (go to KofC.org and search for Form 4208). Student names should appear only on the entry forms; parental consent is also required on the entry forms. Print the completed entry form in color and staple to the essay.

Submit at Roanoke Catholic School or thru the Youth Ministers at each of the parishes.

Entries must be received by November 26, 2025 (Wednesday before Thanksgiving).

Coat Drive for CCC

Commonwealth Catholic Charities will be conducting a coat drive November 1-9 at OLN. New and gently used coats of all sizes are greatly appreciated. See flier on P6 for additional details.

Keep Christ in Christmas

Our annual Keep Christ in Christmas campaign will resume again this year. We will conduct sales after all masses at Basilica of St. Andrew on 11/22-23 and 12/06-07 and at OLN on 11/22-23, 11/29-30, and 12/6-7. Cards will be available in the St. Elias Gift Shop. Help is required, so please plan to help out for a few minutes after the Mass that you normally attend. Contact:

Basilica of St. Andrew: Chuck Hatcher
hatcherchuck7@gmail.com or 540-314-3360.

Our Lady of Nazareth: Rich Whitney
Richw1492@yahoo.com or 443-465-7742.

St. Elias: Deebie Wadell secretary@steliasschurch.org or 540-562-0012.



Month of Remembrance

The month of November is traditionally a time in which the Catholic community remembers those who have died. It is related to the fact that the end of November is the end of the Liturgical Year with a new year starting the First Sunday of Advent – the four-week period of preparation before Christmas. The Church then uses this end of the year period as a time to think of the end of life and the end of all things and the great hope that our earthly end is transition into a new life in God's heavenly reality. We give thanks for those who have gone before us and we look forward with prayer and hope to their new life in heaven and our desire to join them there one day.

OLN Coat Collection for Refugees



Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC)
is requesting winter coats for children
and adults of all sizes

Saturday, Nov 1 - Sunday, Nov 9

**New coats and gently used coats
(no stains and freshly laundered please)
Please leave coats in boxes in the hallway**



REFUGEE

CCC continues to support refugees who arrived last year and is also serving walk-in clients - including Haitian, Cuban and other individuals who arrived independently. With colder weather approaching, the need for warm coats for children and adults of all sizes is urgent.

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:	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

Jack.Clarke@KOFC.ORG

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Disclaimer

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.