

# THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

**Roanoke Council #562 Newsletter**

**January, 2026**

## Upcoming Events

**1/1/2026 (Thursday)** New Year's Day, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation).

**1/5/2026 (Monday)** January Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30.

**1/12 (Monday)** January Fish Fry Planning Meeting.

**1/16-18 (Fri-Sun)** Virginia state mid-year meeting, Williamsburg.

**1/19 (Monday)** Martin Luther King holiday.

**1/19 (Monday)** College football championship watch party, Council Home 6:00. (Game starts at 7:30).

**1/22 (Thursday)** Virginia Pro-Life Day, Richmond.

**1/23 (Friday)** National March for Life, Washington, DC.

**1/26 (Monday)** January 4th Degree Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; meeting at 7:15.

**1/31 (Saturday)** 4th Degree Exemplification, Staunton

**2/2 (Monday)** February Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30.

## Grand Knight's Report

Worthy Brothers,



Let me start by wishing you a Merry Christmas and the Happiest and Healthiest of New Years. Being the men of Faith that we are, let me remind you that we cannot allow the world around us to reduce Christmas to just a day. We know it is more than just a day. It is an entire Season. Let's celebrate it fully all the way up to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Sunday January 11<sup>th</sup>). Many in our Catholic family have forgotten this and maybe the younger generation just doesn't know. Let us show them the way. Let's celebrate the Season and not just the day. Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas all the way!

Gentleman, as you know the money we raise for charity comes from our 6 Lenten Fish Fry's. This year the first fish fry will be Friday February 20<sup>th</sup>. We will need your help if we are going to be successful. The three greatest needs are cooks, servers, and cleanup. You can volunteer for one week or all six. The next organizational meeting will be at the Council Home on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. This is a great opportunity if you want to help with planning. There will be sign-up sheets soon and I will let you know when they are available.

**(Continued P2)**

# December Business Meeting Highlights

- The Grand Knight reported several projects are underway: food baskets, food drive, KCIC. Right to life is the primary focus for January. Three new members were welcomed into the order: Steve Wilkerson, Richard Freeman, Warren Rauron
- Programs:
  - Four Thanksgiving baskets were delivered to St. Elias
  - Right to Life Day 1/15 In Richmond. Bus from the Basilica of St. Andrew.
  - The Fall 40 Days for Life was successful.
  - Right to Life Christmas Caroling.
  - Faith programs encourage attendance at rosaries and adorations.
  - KOVAR Day of Enduring Love 2/15.
- The Field agent encouraged members to review their insurance and investments.
- The District Deputy reported that nine new members (three from our council) were welcomed into the order at the exemplification in Fincastle on 11/10.
- \$300 was approved to assist St. Francis House with their Christmas Baskets program.
- The Grand Knight reminded members that tax-deductible contributions are available to KOVAR and VKCCI.
- Caesar Kubas was named Knight of the Month for November.
- The Lecturer reflected on his recent Cursillo experience. Cursillo was a very personal experience with the Lord, and provides an opportunity for new spiritual growth and to become more Christ-like. Brothers are encouraged to participate in this unique opportunity.

## GK Report (Continued from P1)

If you want to volunteer now, just let me know and I'll get you signed up.

Brothers, this year, in addition to raising money for our charity budget, I would like to see the Fish Fry's used to promote some popular devotions that we have in the church. The two I have in mind are Divine Mercy and The Holy Face of Jesus. Both Devotions are very appropriate for the Lenten Season. I'm hoping we have some Knights in the Council who practice these devotions or know someone who does and would like to promote them. If that Knight is you, please let me know. I think those attending the fish fry might enjoy learning about these devotions, especially at Lent.

Lastly, don't forget that we have an excellent opportunity for fellowship this month. January 19<sup>th</sup> is the College Football Championship game. Come join us at the Council Home. Doors open at 6pm. The game starts at 7:30. All our welcome. More information to follow. As always Brothers, thank you for your continued support.

Vivat Jesus,

Dave Chopski, Grand Knight

## In This Issue

Upcoming Events	P1
Grand Knight's Report	P1-2
December Business Meeting Highlights	P2
In This Issue	P2
Keep Christ in Christmas	P3
Join the Fourth Degree	P3
In Memoriam	P3
January Birthdays	P3
Saint of the Month	P4
Prayer Requests	P4
Officers and Committees	P5
In Case of Emergency	P5

# Keep Christ in Christmas

Our annual Keep Christ in Christmas campaign was conducted successfully again this year. Beautiful new cards were available from our supplier. Thanks to brother knights who helped with this annual program:

Basilica of St. Andrew: Chuck Hatcher, David Bowers, Mark Johnson, Paul Yengst, Jr.

Our Lady of Nazareth: Rich Whitney, Dave Chopski, Stephen Ratliff, Bob Carignan, Bob Hermans

St. Elias: Deebie Wadell

## Join the Fourth Degree

Worthy Brothers, if you are not a Fourth Degree Knight and would like to be, there is an excellent opportunity available in January. A Fourth Degree Exemplification will be held on January 31st in Staunton, Virginia. This will be the closest exemplification to us for a while. We will need your application and \$70 fee by January 15th. We can carpool from the Council Home. For those Brothers not familiar with the Fourth Degree, it is the visible arm of our order. It is the Patriotic Degree. Fourth Degree Knights wear their uniforms proudly as they march in parades and act as Honor Guards at Church Functions or the funerals of fellow Fourth Degree Knights. Fourth Degree Knights also receive the honor of being addressed as Sir Knight. If you would like more info, please attend the 3rd degree meeting January 5 or contact Dave Chopski Grand Knight at [DJChopski@GMail.com](mailto:DJChopski@GMail.com)



# In Memoriam

Jeanne Clarke, mother of BK Jack Clarke

*Eternal rest grant unto her, 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.*



## January Birthdays

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

Frank Orozco	January 3
John Thibeault	January 3
Chester Kalinoski	January 4
Jeffrey Stump	January 4
Sam Alexander	January 8
Robert Carignan Sr	January 9
Karl Kleinhenz	January 9
Patrick Mc Nulty	January 10
Thomas Cadden	January 12
Gary Griswold	January 13
Thomas Huck	January 13
Richard McGarry	January 14
Michael Ochalek	January 14
John Zacharias	January 15
Derek Laliberte	January 16
Thomas Clark Sr	January 19
Noah DeWeese	January 19
Roger Vest	January 19
Bruce DeWeese	January 20
Tim Shelton	January 20
Steven Boisvert	January 22
Johan Lazaga	January 25
Mark Huff	January 29
Edward Malinowski Jr	January 29
Ralph Migliarese Jr	January 29
Chuma Osuorah	January 30

# Saint of the Month

## Hilary of Poitiers

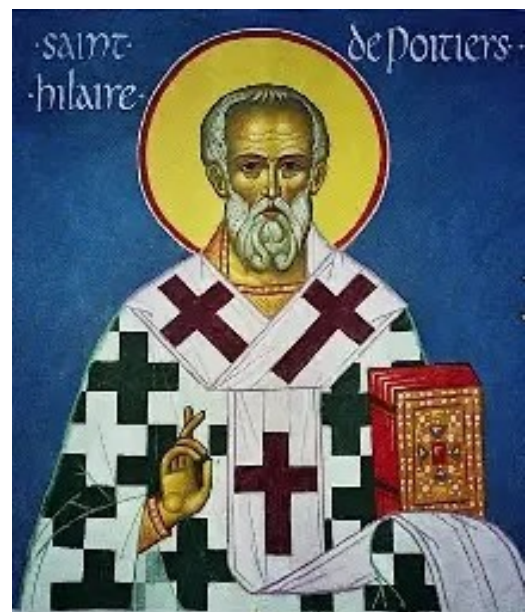
Hilary was born into a wealthy pagan family in Poitiers, France in 315. He was given an excellent classical education. After education in the classics and philosophy, Hilary married. He and his wife had one daughter, Abra (who became a nun and later a saint). All who knew Hilary said he was a friendly, charitable, gentle man. Hilary experienced several years of spiritual reflection; his pagan religion and philosophy did not provide answers. Ultimately, his studies led him to Scripture, which led him to abandon his Neo-Platonism and adopt Christianity. In 345, he was baptized along with his wife and daughter. Soon afterwards, he was ordained a priest.

In 353, Hilary was elected and ordained Bishop of Poitiers by the laity and clergy. Almost at once, he became deeply involved against the Arian controversy; Arianism maintained that Jesus was created by the Father and was not divine. The Arians had a lot of power, particularly in the East, and including the support of the emperor Constantius. This resulted in many persecutions. When Hilary refused to support their condemnation of Saint Athanasius he was exiled from Poitiers to Phrygia, in modern-day Turkey.

While in Phrygia, Bishop Hilary spent much time studying and writing; he set his mind to his greatest work, *De Trinitate* (On the Trinity). Drawing on his education, love of the Scriptures, and from the “insanity” of Arianism, Bishop Hilary composed a comprehensive defense of the doctrine of the Trinity as it was taught in the Nicene Creed. Bishop Hilary caused so much trouble for the Arians in Phrygia that the Arian bishops pleaded with the emperor to send him back home, a request the emperor honored.

On his return to Poitiers, Bishop Hilary took the long way home through Greece and Italy, preaching all the way, weeding out Arianism in the Western Church. Back in Poitiers, he continued to preach, write, attend councils, and even to compose hymns.

Hilary died in Poitiers in 367; his feast day is January 13. Hilary is considered the pre-eminent Latin writer of the 4th century. Pope Pius IX formally recognized him as a Doctor of the Church in 1851.



## 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.
- Donald Reda, friend of BK Brian Carroll

## 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

### Roanoke Council 562 Home:

3136 Harris Street, Roanoke, VA 24015

### Mail:

PO Box 20974, Roanoke, VA 24018

## 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.