

# THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Roanoke Council #562 Newsletter

February, 2026

## Upcoming Events

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

**2/2 (Monday)** February Council Business Meeting POSTPONED due to weather.

**2/7 (Saturday)** Feast of St. Maron dinner at St. Elias 6:00.

**2/16 (Monday)** Presidents' Day.

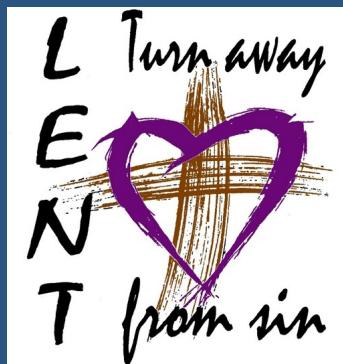
**2/16 (Monday)** February social/planning Meeting.

**2/18 (Wednesday)** Ash Wednesday - Lent begins. 40 Days for Life begins.

**2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27 (Fridays)** Lenten fish fry's.

**2/23 (Monday)** February 4th Degree Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; meeting at 7:15.

**3/2 (Monday)** March Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30.



## Grand Knight's Report

Worthy Brothers,



Let me remind you that Lent is a time of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. Almsgiving isn't just about giving money, it's also about volunteering your time. When you think about almsgiving this Lenten season I want you to think about these two little words: **FISH FRY.**

The first Lenten Fish Fry is only 3 weeks away and we need volunteers. The Fish Fry Committee has been meeting and the plans have been made but we need your support. Please visit the sign up genius at:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/  
go/904054FACA62DAB9-61439388-lenten#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054FACA62DAB9-61439388-lenten#/)

There are spots on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday morning. Some slots are early, some are late. The greatest need is clean up. Many hands make light work.

(Continued P2)

# January Business Meeting Highlights

- The Chaplain wished members a Happy New Year, and recalled that tomorrow (1/6) is the Feast of Epiphany. He also reminded brothers of the Feast of St. Maron dinner at St Elias on Saturday, 2/7 at 6:00.
- The Grand Knight reminded members of upcoming Lenten fish fry's—Fridays in Lent starting 2/20. The next planning meeting is Monday, 1/12 at 6:30.
- The Council will host a watch party for the NCAA football championship on Monday, 1/19. A \$5.00 fee will cover cost of food.
- The Council welcomed Daniel Nunn, a transfer member from Virginia Beach.
- Upcoming pro-life projects include 40 Days for Life (starting 2/18), billboard campaign and baby bottle campaign for Blue Ridge Womens' Center.
- The Faithful Navigator announced the upcoming Exemplification of the 4th Degree on Saturday, 1/31 in Staunton.
- The Field Agent mentioned several new insurance opportunities. Schedule a meeting to find out what's new.
- A resolution was approved to nominate PSD Brian Ripple as delegate to the Supreme Convention.
- The Grand Knight announced Knights of the month:
  - November - Ceser Cubas
  - December - Donald Brown
- The Lecturer reflected on managing our time with God. Plan times for prayer and try to avoid interruptions. Anticipate and prepare spiritually for important events in the

Knights of Columbus



## GK Report (Continued from P1)

If you need more information or can't get the sign up genius to work for you, then contact me directly-Call, Text, or E-Mail. 540-915-2819 [DJChopski@GMail.com](mailto:DJChopski@GMail.com). Please sign up early so we have time to get all the spots filled. I will be at all six fish fries. Surely every Knight can volunteer for at least one.)

Vivat Jesus,  
Dave Chopski, Grand Knight

## Super Bowl Party Cancelled

Worthy Brothers,

Do to lack of interest our 2026 Super Bowl is being cancelled. I don't know if it's because of the teams playing, the half time entertainment or that we're all just tired out from the weather. The Chili cookoff will be held at a later event to be determined.

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## In Memoriam

- Jean Stump, widow of PSD Wayne Stump
- Mother of BK Pierre Ellis
- Grandmother of BK Rick Vitolo
- Lucille Johnson, sister of BK Rob Jengo

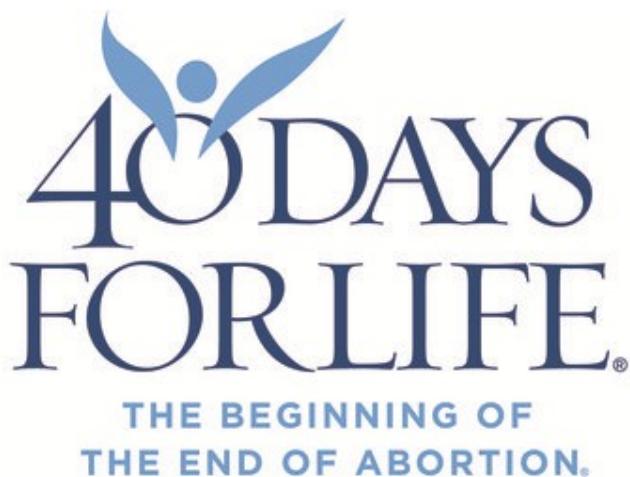
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon them.*

*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.*

## 40 Days for Life

The spring 40 Days for Life campaign is right around the corner, kicking off Ash Wednesday (Feb. 18) and running through Palm Sunday weekend. Join us in prayer at Roanoke's Planned Parenthood, 2207 Peters Creek Rd between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM. There will be a kickoff event Tuesday Feb. 17 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM at Our Lady of Nazareth featuring food and a guest speaker.

Please rsvp Joan Murano (jmmchooselife@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. As always, contact Mark Johnson, Council Life Program chair, with any questions: 540-467-2495.



## Lenten Fish Fry's

Once again this year, our council will be holding a series of fish fry's at OLN with the AOH. The fish fry's are scheduled for all the Fridays in Lent.



These fundraisers provide most of the funds that we donate to charitable organizations and causes throughout the year.

A lot of help is needed, and signup sheets are in the clubroom. Planning meetings are held Thursdays at 6:30 in the club room.



## February Birthdays

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

Kevin Legge	February 2
Christopher Moak	February 3
Jamie Elliott	February 4
Daniel Lofaro	February 4
Gustavo Esperanza	February 5
Randal Gatzke	February 5
Valentino Sartini	February 5
Stephen Wills	February 7
Paul Miller	February 8
George Cuadrado	February 12
Jack Liddy	February 12
Roy Zangari	February 13
Christopher Lazzuri	February 15
Gregory Benda	February 23
Donald Brown	February 24
Bradley Mcdivitt	February 26

# Saint of the Month

## Gregory of Narek

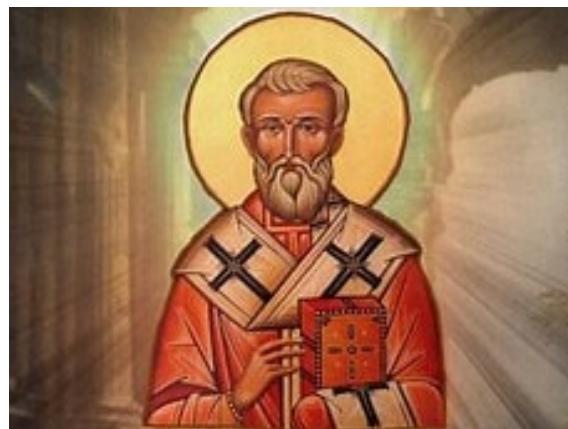
Gregory was born about 950 to a Christian family dedicated to the Church. His father served as a bishop and theologian of the Armenian Church. After his wife's death, the bishop entrusted the boy to the care of an uncle, Anania. A respected scholar and monk, Anania founded the Narek Monastery (known as Narekavank) on the shores of Lake Van in what is today eastern Turkey and reared Gregory as one of the monastic community. Being raised in an intellectual and religious fervor, Grigor was ordained priest in 977 and taught others theology at the monastery school until his death. Few details of Gregory's life are known, but he is best known for his extensive writings. Scholars consider Gregory the most beloved and significant theological and literary figure of the Armenian religious tradition. As an Armenian monk, Gregory lived humbly and taught at the monastic school. He was a leader of the well-developed school of Armenian mysticism at the Monastery.

Gregory was a prolific writer and was venerated as a saint by the Armenian Church. His most famous work is *The Book of Lamentations*, or, as it is commonly known today, *The Book of Narek*. The loss of his mother early in life led Gregory to a deep devotion to our Blessed Mother. He would later write, "This spiritual, heavenly mother of light cared for me as a son more than an earthly, breathing, physical mother could".

It is important to understand the history of the Armenian Church. It is believed that early church apostles evangelized in Armenia in the first century. In 301, Christianity was established as the kingdom's official religion. In 451, the Armenian Church separated from the Church of Rome over disagreements on doctrine. In the 11<sup>th</sup> Century, the Kingdom of

Armenia was invaded by the Byzantines, then by the Turks and suffered greatly under foreign domination, culminating in the twentieth century with the Armenian genocide when the Turks murdered an estimated 1–1.8 million Armenians.

Throughout the centuries of great suffering and oppression, Saint Gregory's book of prayers became the daily prayers of the Armenian people. Everyone had a printed copy; many people even slept with a copy under their pillow. In 2015, when Pope Francis declared Saint Gregory a Doctor of the Church, and in 2021 when Saint Gregory was placed on the liturgical calendar for the Roman Church, his book of prayers suddenly became prayers for the entire world.



## 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.
- BK David Bowers
- Bert Hodnett, brother of BK Jan Hodnett
- Tommy Turner, son of BK Sam Turner
- BK George Cuadrado
- Dave Bueller, friend of BK Juan Garcia

# Job Opportunity

Worthy Brothers,

The Knights of Columbus are looking to add Field Agents on the Insurance side. See the details below.

## Become a Financial Sales Professional with the Knights of Columbus.

Our financial professionals work with members to offer insurance solutions and annuity products that protect their income, prepare for retirement, and ensure their family is protected in the case of the unexpected.

20346 5/25

### YOUR MISSION

Offer clients access to annuities and insurance products

- ▶ Join a team of nearly 1,000 financial professionals
- ▶ Work with an organization that is committed to charity – using a portion of its earnings to donate over \$1.7 billion over the last decade.
- ▶ Represent and support the world's largest Catholic lay organization.

### YOUR DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Access to proven training and sales techniques
- ▶ Marketing and technology support
- ▶ Mentorship opportunities
- ▶ Ongoing professional development and training
- ▶ Bonus incentives to become a licensed investment advisor representative
- ▶ Career advancement opportunities

### YOUR SUCCESS

- ▶ Commission-based compensation system
- ▶ Assigned territory of members upon contract
- ▶ Flexible home-based work schedule
- ▶ Eligible for sales performance incentives, contests and trips
- ▶ Cash balance retirement plan

Eligibility requirements include membership to the Knights of Columbus and an active state life and health insurance license prior to onboarding. One Columbus Plaza New Haven, CT 06510

If you would like more information, please contact Grand Knight Dave Chopski

[DJChopski@GMail.com](mailto:DJChopski@GMail.com)

# 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.