

# THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

**Roanoke Council #562 Newsletter**

**March, 2026**

## Upcoming Events

**Present - 3/29 (Sunday)** 40 Days for Life continues.

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

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

**3/7 (Saturday)** Virginia state quarterly meeting, Dale City.

**3/16 (Monday)** March social/ planning Meeting.

**3/23 (Monday)** February 4th Degree Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; meeting at 7:15.

**3/29 (Sunday)** Palm Sunday - Holy Week begins.

**4/5 (Sunday)** Easter, Resurrection of the Lord.

**4/6 (Monday)** April Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30.

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

## Grand Knight's Report



Worthy Brothers,

Lent is upon us and our Friday Fish Fry's are in full swing. As you read this we will have completed 2 and have 4 to go. I would like to see some new faces participating in these events. We have 243 Knights in Our Council and I've only seen 25 Brothers over these past two weekends. Now I know not all Brothers can help because of age, infirmity, work schedules, or prior commitments. But I'm sure many of these Brothers wish they could help and would help if they could. I still must wonder, where are my Knights?

Fish Fry's are more than just Fund Raisers or Lenten traditions. They represent the founding principles of the Knights of Columbus: Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. Brothers, you are missing out. Come out and join us. If you need more information of any kind, you can call me, text me, or Email me. You can visit Sign up Genius to see where we need the help:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054FACA62DAB9-61439388-lenten#/>

Vivat Jesus,

Dave Chopski, Grand Knight

## February Business Meeting Highlights

- The February meeting was postponed until 2/9 due to snow and ice on our normal business meeting date.
- The Grand Knight reported that the first Lenten fish fry will be held on Friday, 2/20. The last fish fry meeting will be held on Thursday, 2/12. There will be no social meeting on 2/16 and no additional fish fry meetings are scheduled at this time. Volunteers are needed for all of the fish fry's - sign up on the Signup Genius. Donations for baskets of cheer can be made at the council home.
- KOVAR is promoting project Enduring Love, which provides homes for those with intellectual disabilities (see P8). An upcoming collection is being taken at the Basilica of St. Andrew on the weekend of 2/14-15.
- The Spring 40 Days for Life campaign begins on Ash Wednesday 2/18.
- The 4th Degree Exemplification, scheduled for Saturday, 1/21 was postponed due to snow and ice. Rescheduling of the exemplification is pending.
- A \$200 donation was approved for a single mother in Lebanon with cancer.
- There were no reports from the Chaplain, Field Agent, or Lecturer.
- BK Roger Vest was named Knight of the Month for January.



## Council Leadership

Brothers, it's not too late to be thinking about Council leadership for the next fraternal year. Think about it. Would you like to be an officer? Would you like to guide this council? Would you like to take an active role? Do you want to see some changes? As we used to say in the Old First Degree, "Be That Man". If you would like more information on a particular Office or Program Directorship, please contact Grand Knight Dave Chopski, DJChopski@GMail.com

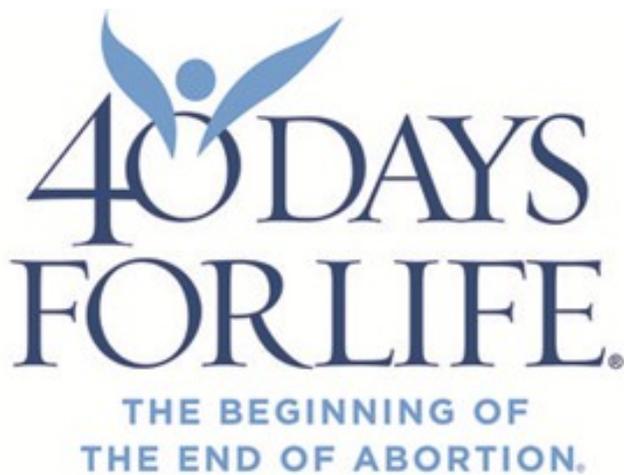


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# 40 Days for Life

Brothers, Fish Fry's are not the only thing to think about this Lent. 40 Days for life is in full swing also with prayerful vigils in front of Planned Parenthood on Peters Creek Rd. Go anytime or sign up for a particular day. Just visit [40daysforlife.com](http://40daysforlife.com) and choose Roanoke. You'll see the calendar. If you've never gone before, it's an interesting, thought-provoking, stepping out of your comfort zone moment. It means a lot to the men and women who stand this vigil year-round to have your support. It means so much more when you join them even if only for an hour.



## Virginia March for Life

Please consider the Virginia March for Life event in Richmond on Wednesday, April 22, 2026. Watch for the bus sign up. Let us not allow the sanctity of human life, in all its stages, be trampled upon. Maybe going won't change anything but at least it shows the legislators in Richmond that there are still citizens of the Commonwealth who say NO to this evil. The more people who attend, the larger the crowd, the larger the voice. If you are physically able and have the time, think about attending. Actions speak louder than words.

## Lenten Fish Fry's



The first two Lenten fish fry's were held on Fridays 2/20 and 2/27 with great success. 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 and on the Signup Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054FACA62DAB9-61439388-lenten#/>

Donations for "Baskets of Cheer" are also being accepted in the clubroom.

## March Birthdays

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

Thomas O'Meara	March 2
Robert Van Kerckhove	March 2
J Stuart Bentley	March 3
William Asbell	March 5
Joseph Elligson	March 10
Timothy Heffron	March 10
Robert Jengo	March 14
Daniel Mc Bride	March 18
Dumitru Branisteanu	March 20
David Chopski	March 20
Phillip Montano	March 20
Keith Gatzke	March 21
Marc Patton	March 22
Steven Harnack	March 24
Roger Malouf	March 25
Easter Moses	March 25
Antonio Donato	March 28
Michael Schiavoni	March 29
Christopher Nelson	March 31

# Saint of the Month

## Frances of Rome

Francesca Bussa de' Leoni was born in 1384 in Rome to a wealthy and aristocratic couple. From an early age, she was drawn to God and responded with much generosity. When she was eleven years old, she wanted to be a nun, but, at about the age of twelve, her parents forced her to marry Lorenzo Ponziani, commander of the papal troops of Rome and a member of an extremely wealthy family. Although the marriage had been arranged, it was a happy one that lasted for forty years.

As she became acquainted with her new relatives, Frances soon discovered that the wife of her husband's brother also wished to live a life of service and prayer. So Frances and Vannozza set out together - with their husbands' blessings - to help the poor. Frances fell ill for a time, but this apparently only deepened her commitment to the suffering people she met.

Frances and her husband had three children, two boys, and one girl. When a plague afflicted the city of Rome, one of her sons and her only daughter died at an early age. Frances used all her money and sold her possessions to buy whatever the sick might possibly need. When all the resources had been exhausted, Frances and Vannozza went door to door begging. Later, she opened a section of her house as a hospital.

In order to promote service to the poor and sick, she organized a lay association of Benedictine Oblates for single and widowed women. The women who joined did not take formal religious vows nor enter a cloister, but lived together, embraced the Benedictine spirituality under the direction of a local monastery, and gave loving service to the poor and ill. Once the society was established, Frances chose not to live at the community residence, but rather at home with her

husband. She did this for seven years, until her husband passed away, and then came to live the remainder of her life with the oblates as their superior. The community later became known simply as the Oblates of St. Frances of Rome. Frances practiced a life of contemplation, and frequently had visions of heavenly personages and her guardian angel. She was well known to possess the gifts of miracles and healing. She was remarkable for her humility, obedience, and patience.

Frances died March 9, 1440. She was canonized by Pope Paul V in 1608 and is the patron of automobile drivers and widows. Within the Benedictine Order, she is celebrated as the patron of oblates. Her feast day is March 9.



## Prayer Requests

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

- Fr. Tom Collins
- BK Paul Miller and his wife Amy.
- John Pallard, uncle of BK James Valenzuela.
- BK David Bowers
- BK George Cuadrado
- Chris Sullivan, widow of BK Jim Sullivan
- BK Bob Carignan
- Ellen Carroll, wife of BK Brian Carroll

# Knights of Columbus Scholarships

**Scholarships provided by Roanoke Council 562** Roanoke Council 562 offers the Albert H. Canfield Scholarships. Applicants, to be considered, must be a member of Council 562, the wife of a member, or the legally recognized child or grandchild of a member provided that the member is in good standing, or if deceased, was in good standing at the time of death. Applications will be considered based on past academic performance, financial need, and a demonstrated dedication to service in the community and/or church. **All applications must be received by May 1st** and must be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's most recent transcript. Applications received after the cut-off date or applications received incomplete **will not be considered**. Applications can be found on the Council's website at : <http://www.kofc562.org/canfield/>

**Scholarships through the Virginia State Council** The Virginia Council of the Knights of Columbus provides the Father Bader Scholarship. The program offers need-based scholarships for Knights, children, wives, widows, and grandchildren. Information can be found at <https://vakofc.org/programs/father-bader-scholarship/> and applications are accepted from Jan 1 – March 31.



# Field Agent's Report



Brothers,

Tax season is here! Whether you're ahead of the game and done filing, or you're putting it off for another couple weeks, this time of year is a good opportunity to consider whether your tax rate or bracket has changed. If so, do you know the implications for your long-term financial strategy?

People can end up in a higher tax bracket than they anticipate when their income fluctuates — for example, if your salary changed, or if you retired and are drawing on different income sources. Paying a higher tax rate may mean less disposable income or less money to leave to your family as you planned.

You can protect yourself against these potential losses and build dependable cash value through permanent life insurance with the Knights of Columbus. Permanent life insurance allows you to build cash value that you can access tax-free while you're alive. You can also create an income tax-free inheritance for your loved ones after you pass allowing permanent life insurance to be useful in a range of situations. Of course, we always recommend that you work with a qualified tax advisor or CPA in addition.

By helping to secure your financial future and legacy with the Knights of Columbus, you are living out the vision of Blessed Michael McGivney, who founded our Order 144 years ago this month. Reach out to your field agent Jack Clarke at [www.kofc.org/faa](http://www.kofc.org/faa) to set up an appointment today.

Virtus Agency - Knights of Columbus  
The Clarke Practice  
( O ) 540 204-4984 ( C ) 757-575-0069

Brothers, the Extreme Abortion Amendment will be on the Ballot for Virginia Voters to decide this November. Voting in this election is very important. It is no time for apathy. This amendment is poorly written and open the door to end any kind of parental consent, objections based on conscious, or place limits on late stage abortions. As a constitutional amendment it prevents the legislature from enacting any laws that might encroach on this right. We already have abortion in Virginia. In fact, Virginia has become a regional destination for abortions, and this is particularly seen in Roanoke where we now have 3 abortion clinics since the Dobbs decision. Ask the people who stand watch at Planned Parenthood about the number of out of state cars they see on Fridays (The day abortions are performed).

If people vote, this constitutional amendment can be defeated. Encourage your friends and family to vote. Ask them to sign up for a Permanent Absentee Ballot. That way they cannot miss voting. In last Novembers Governor's race, only 55% of registered voters cast a ballot. They may have had good intentions, but they forgot to show up. Out of State college students voted with absentee ballots and they didn't miss the election. Sign up is easy. All you will need is your Driver's license number. You will receive a ballot in the mail 45 days before the election. If you want to vote in person, just carry it with you to your polling place. Here are the directions to sign up for a permanent Absentee Ballot.

### **Registering to Vote by Permanent Absentee Ballot**

- Go to: [elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/early-absentee/](https://elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/early-absentee/)
- Under Permanent absentee list click on either on-line or citizen portal (Both go to same page)
- Click on Apply to vote absentee by mail and fill out info, check box, and submit
- Choose I want to vote absentee by mail and continue
- Fill in information, check the two boxes and click next.
- Answer the questions and follow the prompts.
- Watch for letter from the voter registrar saying that you have been approved.

If you encounter problems signing up contact Grand Knight Dave Chopski, [DJChopski@GMail.com](mailto:DJChopski@GMail.com). Never miss an election.

# Knights of Columbus Support for Ukraine

Dear Brother Knights,

Today marks the fourth anniversary of the war in Ukraine. Since this tragic war began, nearly 2 million people have reportedly been killed or injured and over 10 million Ukrainians have been displaced from their homes.

Throughout our history, the Knights of Columbus have responded in our communities by serving those most in need in times of war, natural disaster, and crisis. Our response in Ukraine has been no different. From the very beginning of this conflict, we have proudly supported the people of Ukraine in word, prayer, and deed.

Within 36 hours of the start of this war, the Knights of Columbus launched the [Ukraine Solidarity Fund](#) – which has now raised more than \$24 million for those in need. This generosity has enabled us to deliver more than 10 million pounds of food and supplies through our Charity Convoys and to provide more than 320,000 care packages.

As Christians, we recognize that our Ukrainian brothers and sisters need not only material support, but also prayer, spiritual care, and the peace that dwells in the human heart through God's grace. This is why we have [collaborated with local Knights](#) to provide Ukrainian children with faith-based therapy, organized support events and psychological care for widows, distributed 60,000 rosaries throughout Ukraine, and developed a [novena for an end to the war](#).

We unite with Pope Leo XIV in “carrying within our hearts” the suffering of the Ukrainian people. Join me in continuing to stand firm in support of our brothers and sisters in need, and please consider donating to the [Ukraine Solidarity Fund](#).

I encourage you to view our latest [Ukraine Impact Report](#), as well as our [Ukraine Year in Review video](#), to learn more about our Order's crucial work on behalf of those this war has left in need of shelter, food, medical supplies, and spiritual care.

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus, thank you to all those who support this essential work. Blessed Michael McGivney founded our Order to care for widows, orphans, and families in need. By serving our brothers in Ukraine, and their communities, we continue to do just that.

Fraternally,  
Patrick E. Kelly  
Supreme Knight

**“FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM”**

**“EVERY INDIVIDUAL”**

Not every woman.  
Not every adult.  
Every Individual. Every Child.  
When presented with the opportunity to change this, VA democrats would not.

“PROVIDES THAT EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM AND THAT SUCH RIGHT SHALL NOT BE DENIED, BURDENED, OR INFRINGED UPON UNLESS JUSTIFIED BY A COMPELLING STATE INTEREST, DEFINED WITHIN THE TEXT OF THE AMENDMENT, AND ACHIEVED BY THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE MEANS.

**“FUNDAMENTAL” “FREEDOM” “RIGHTS”**

Words chosen very carefully to manipulate the public into voting to change the Virginia Constitution in the most dangerous way.

**ABORTION = ALL NINE MONTHS**

“Life or Health” is ambiguous.  
Lawmakers are prohibited from passing rational protections for Virginia women and babies.

THE AMENDMENT ALLOWS THE COMMONWEALTH TO REGULATE THE PROVISION OF ABORTION CARE IN THE THIRD TRIMESTER WHEN IT IS MEDICALLY INDICATED TO PROTECT THE LIFE OR HEALTH OF THE PREGNANT INDIVIDUAL OR WHEN THE FETUS IS NOT VIABLE.

**VIRGINIA AS AN ABORTION DESTINATION**

Six new abortion facilities since 2022 and a 30% increase in abortions on women brought into the state from other places. Virginia is set to become the abortion destination of the south.

**PARENTAL RIGHTS GONE**

This amendment opens a path to challenge and ultimately remove Virginia’s current parental notification laws. This is the strategy being used in other states.

THE AMENDMENT PROHIBITS THE COMMONWEALTH FROM PENALIZING, PROSECUTING, OR TAKING ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL FOR EXERCISING THE INDIVIDUAL’S RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM OR FOR AIDING ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL IN THE EXERCISE OF SUCH RIGHT.”

**TRAFFICKERS, ABUSERS, & PEDOPHILES PROTECTED = FULLSTOP**

Virginia girls & women can be harrassed, bullied, intimidated, raped, molested & taken for an abortion to hide the evidence.

LEARN MORE AT: WWW.VSHL.ORG

## Project Enduring Love

The Enduring Love Campaign led by Kovar and the Virginia Knights of Columbus invites you to stand with parents who seek to find a home for their intellectually disabled child that outlives their ability to provide direct care on their own. Our goal is to add \$2 million to our revolving, no-interest loan fund.

This enables loving care for this special group of God’s children to endure forever, made possible by you and others whose loving generosity will also endure forever.



## Widow Needs Assistance

Worthy Brothers,

The widow of our Brother Knight, Past Grand Knight Jim Sullivan, was injured in a fall and in need of Our assistance. To help with expenses, a GoFundMe page has been started, and you can access it at

<https://gofund.me/582bab5b9>

Chris is presently at Friendship South Rehab on Starkey Rd and can have visitors. Worthy Brothers, please come to Chris' aid and help if you're able by visiting the GoFundme page. Let us pray for her full recovery.

Vivat Jesus

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	540-512-4583
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**

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**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.