

# THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Roanoke Council #562 Newsletter

May, 2026

## Upcoming Events

**5/1-3 (Fri-Sun)** Virginia Annual State Convention. Hyatt Regency, Dulles.

**5/4 (Monday)** May Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:15.

**5/14 (Thursday)** Ascension of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation).

**5/18 (Monday)** May social/ planning meeting. Details TBA.

**5/23 (Saturday)** Placement of flags at St. Andrew's Cemetery. Meet at 8:30.

**5/24 (Sunday)** Pentecost Sunday.

**5/25 (Monday)** Memorial Day. Mass at St. Andrew's Cemetery, 11:00.

**5/26 (Tuesday)** May 4th Degree Meeting. (Rescheduled due to Memorial Day holiday.) Dinner served at 6:30; meeting at 7:15. Election of assembly officers.

**5/29-31 (Friday - Sunday)** Lebanese Festival at St. Elias (see P5).

**6/1 (Monday)** June Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30. Election of council officers.

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

## Grand Knight's Report



Worthy Brothers,

May looks like it will be a busy month. May 4<sup>th</sup> will be our business meeting. Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> we will be helping set up for the festival at St. Elias starting at 8:30a. Then on May 29, 30, and 31<sup>st</sup> we will be helping with the St. Elias Bouncy House. That takes a lot of Knights since it will be three full days. And don't forget, Olympic Park Pool opens on Memorial Day.

I am very happy to report that the Council Home has its new roof. Thank you to Roger Vest, president of the Corporation and Brother Sir Knight Cesar Cubas. This project would not have gotten done without the tireless efforts of these Knights. Please thank them when you see them.

I am also happy to report we have 11 new members who have joined our Council and are awaiting their Degree Ceremony. We are working on that but don't have a date yet.

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. That's the day the National Eucharistic

# March Business Meeting Highlights

- The Chaplain Proclaimed that Christ is risen! Easter lasts until Ascension and Pentecost. The Chaplain also thanked the council for support of the St. Elias Palm Sunday breakfast and asked for help with the Lebanese Festival (5/29-31).
- The Grand Knight wished Brother Knights a Happy Easter. He thanked members for help with very successful fish fry's.
- The Grand Knight also called attention to numerous additional upcoming activities.
- The Council welcomed Ben Haar, a transfer member from Iowa.
- The Financial Secretary reported very successful fish fry's: profit of over \$25,000 to be shared by KofC and AOH.
- The first KOVAR drive of 2026 will be held mid-May. Project Enduring Love was completed at the Basilica of St. Andrew and is being planned for OLN.
- Brothers are asked to help with removal of the cover at Olympic Park Pool on Saturday, 4/11. The pool will open on Memorial Day weekend 5/23-25.
- The Faithful Navigator reported that an exemplification will be held in Lynchburg on Saturday, April 25. A flag retirement ceremony is planned at the April meeting on 4/25.
- The District Deputy reported that the 2026 Virginia State Convention will be held 5/1-3 at the Hyatt Regency Dulles Airport. KofC Insurance will sponsor on-line Rosaries on 4th Sundays.
- Canfield Scholarship applications are due 5/1.
- The Lecturer proclaimed that Lent is over, but we should keep the sacrifice of Lent going forward and keep discipline and discipleship alive.

## (GK Report - Continued from P1)

Procession will come to the Basilica of St. Andrew. The Knights have been asked to help but the plans are not complete. I'll have to let you know more later but please save the date.

I hope to see you at the meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Vivat Jesus,  
Dave Chopski, Grand Knight



## In This Issue

Upcoming Events	P1
Grand Knight's Report	P1-2
April Business Meeting Highlights	P2
In This Issue	P2
Memorial Day at St. Andrew's Cemetery	P3
Council Makes Donation	P3
In Memoriam	P3
Lenten Fish Fry's	P3
May Birthdays	P3
Saint of the Month	P4
Prayer Requests	P4
Field Agent's Report	P5
Lebanese Festival 2026	P5
Upcoming Social Justice Events	P6
Virginia's Abortion-on-Demand Amendment	P7
Officers and Committees	P6
In Case of Emergency	P6

# Memorial Day at St. Andrew's Cemetery

Once again this year, Knights will be placing flags on the graves of veterans at St. Andrew's Cemetery. We will meet at the maintenance building at 8:30 on Saturday, May 23 (coffee and donuts provided). Please plan to join this patriotic gesture in honor of our deceased veterans, many of whom were Brother Knights of Columbus.

Also, plan to attend the Memorial Day Mass on Monday, May 25 at 11:00 at the cemetery Columbarium Chapel. Refreshments will follow.

## Council Makes Donation

In appreciation for using their facilities for the 6 Lenten Fish Fries, Grand Knight Dave Chopski presented Msgr. Patrick Golden with a check for \$1500.00 on behalf of Roanoke Council 562. This donation would not have been possible without the help and support of Our brother Knights, their friends, and family. Thank you to all of you who made this donation possible.



## In Memoriam

James Pallard, uncle of BK James Valenzuela.

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

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

# Lenten Fish Fry's

The six Lenten fish fry's were held on Fridays 2/20 thru 3/28 with great success. A lot of help was needed, and response of the Council membership was outstanding. A profit of \$25,000 was generated, to be shared between the KofC and AOH. Many thanks to Brother Knights and their families for making these events a success.



## May Birthdays

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

John Clarke	May 7
Brian Duffy	May 8
Christopher Larsen Sr	May 9
Daniel Ballard	May 10
David Bowers	May 11
Eric Reichardt	May 11
Travis Schmitt	May 11
Alfonso Sardo	May 13
Robert Ward	May 14
John Poissant	May 15
Fred Najjum	May 16
James Manning	May 17
Joseph Nardone	May 22
Thomas Curling	May 23
John Biggio	May 24
Brian Carroll	May 25
Herman Turk Jr	May 26
Jean Saade	May 27
Keith Griswold	May 28
Vernon Jolley Jr	May 31

# Saint of the Month

## John of Ávila

John of Ávila was born in the town of Almodóvar del Campo, Spain in 1499 as the only child of noble, wealthy, and devout parents. John received an excellent education and began studying law at the age of fourteen.

After four years of study, John had a profound conversion experience and he began to hear God calling him to the priesthood. In 1520 he began his theological studies. While in seminary, John was blessed with excellent teachers who were well versed in the theology of Saint Thomas Aquinas. John was smart, a good student, and very devout. In 1526, John was ordained a priest. Toward the end of his studies, both of John's parents died. Being an only child of wealthy parents, he received a large inheritance. He went out into the streets, found twelve poor people, and invited them to share a feast with him to celebrate his ordination. He then sold the property he inherited and gave his money to the poor.

Fr. John aspired to be a missionary in the New World, but was convinced to stay in Spain, where the Christian faith was challenged by 800 years of Muslim rule and the Protestant Reformation. He was recognized for his devout celebration of the Mass, his preaching, and his catechetical approach. He continued his studies at the local university and eventually earned the impressive title of "Master. He would often hear confessions for hours at a time.

Fr. John regularly preached about the dangers of excessive wealth. Some of the local clergy were offended by this preaching because of their lavish lifestyles, so Father John was reported to the Inquisition, subsequently arrested, and imprisoned. During his yearlong imprisonment he devoted himself to prayer, study, and writing. After a year, the Inquisition found him not guilty of any crime, and he was released in 1533.

For the next eighteen years, Father John engaged in active ministry in Andalusia and the surrounding towns where he gained quite a following. Throughout his ministry, Father John

became a saint among other saints, offering spiritual direction and counsel to many. He became a mentor to Saint Ignatius of Loyola and inspired many young men to join Ignatius' newly founded Society of Jesus. He advised the great Saint Teresa of Ávila, who sought his counsel on her writings. Saint John of God was converted by John of Ávila's preaching. John counseled numerous other bishops, religious and civic leaders. In 1551 he began to experience ill health and lived a semi-retired life until his death in 1569. John of Ávila left his spiritual classic *Audi, filia*, eighty-two sermons, Scripture commentaries, 257 letters, and various other minor works on reform in the Church in the spirit of the great Council of Trent in which he participated.

John of Ávila was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1970 and Proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012. He is patron of Spanish Priests.



## 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.
- BK George Cuadrado
- Ellen Carroll, wife of BK Brian Carroll

## Field Agent's Report

A consistent income brings financial stability and well-being to your family. If it were to vanish unexpectedly — whether because of death or disability — consider what might happen next:

- Would your loved ones need to sell or downsize their home?
- Would your children need to change schools?
- Would it impact retirement savings?

Insurance from the Knights of Columbus can help replace that crucial income, protect savings and prevent major lifestyle disruptions.

Depending on your stage of life, there are products designed to fit your needs.

If you're a young man, you may be working hard to pay rent or cover basic living expenses. As you age into your prime working years, there may be mouths to feed, a mortgage and a car payment. Then finally as you approach or enter retirement, you might be looking for supplemental income or to protect what you've built.

If you're supporting a family, term or permanent life insurance can help give you peace of mind that they will be financially protected if you or your wife should pass away. Even amid tragedy, it helps give the people you love stability and time to adjust without the added weight of financial hardship.

Term life insurance, which gives you coverage for a specified time period, can be a great option if you have a young family with temporary needs. It's an affordable choice that typically provides coverage for 10, 15 or 20 years.

Later, you could choose to convert your policy to whole life, which can provide coverage for your entire lifespan and accrue cash value. This can be helpful if you want a potential way to supplement retirement income or if you're

interested in using insurance as part of your estate plan.

Not sure what coverage is right for you?

If you have any questions, please contact your agent, **Jack Clarke at 540-204-4984** or [jack.clarke@kofc.org](mailto:jack.clarke@kofc.org), to schedule a time to meet.

**Jack Clarke, FICF**  
Assistant General Agent  
Office: 540-204-4984  
Mobile: 757-575-0069  
Jack.Clarke@KofC.org  
2800 Electric Road, Suite 102C  
Roanoke, Virginia 24018

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE**  
Life Insurance • Long-Term Care Insurance  
Retirement Annuities • Disability Income Insurance

Protecting Catholic families since 1882.

## Lebanese Festival 2026

St. Elias Maronite Church will host the annual Lebanese Festival on May 29-31. This year's festival will feature games and activities as well as Lebanese food, music, and folk dancing. The schedule is 11:00-9:00 on Friday and Saturday and 11:00-8:00 on Sunday (food service ends at 8:00 each day):


Menu offerings include meat pies, vegetarian and meat grape leaves, spinach pies, spinach feta rolls, falafel, grilled lamb and beef kabobs, beef kafta wraps, chicken shawarma wraps, lube (Lebanese green beans), tabouli, kibbee, hummus, Lebanese cheese-cake, baklava, other Lebanese pastries, and much more. Takeout and online ordering will be available.

**25<sup>TH</sup> ROANOKE**

**LEBANESE FESTIVAL**

FRIDAY, MAY 29 - SUNDAY, MAY 31

# Upcoming Social Justice Events



**ROANOKE  
JUSTICE  
MINISTRIES**


**RETHINKING  
JUSTICE  
WORKSHOP**

**THURSDAY, MAY 7TH  
6 PM - 8:30 PM**

**Our Lady of Nazareth  
Catholic Church**  
2505 Electric Rd  
Roanoke, VA 24018

Topics include:

- *The Prophetic Call to do Justice*
- *How RJM answers the Call*
- *Values, Justice, and Power*
- *The Justice Ministry Network*



## **Cruz-in Ride for Life**

**Blue Ridge Women's Center**  
**Saturday, May 17, 2025**

Mineral Springs Baptist Church, Vinton VA



**Cruz-in 9:00 am**  
**\$10 per vehicle includes BBQ meal.**



**Ride registration begins 9:00 am.**  
**10:00 am Wheels Roll!**  
**\$15 per driver & \$10 per passenger.**  
**Registration includes BBQ meal.**

Ride ends back at Mineral Springs Baptist Church for BBQ lunch and drawing,  
50/50, Silent Auction, and Ticket Drawing inside Fellowship Hall.  
Meal served at Noon.

For more information, contact **Linda Moore** with **REBORN RIDERS** AT (540) 793-3988.

# Virginia's Abortion-on- Demand Amendment



This measure would:

- Establish abortion and contraception as “reproductive rights” in Virginia’s constitution. **This would enshrine preborn child killing as law of the land.**
- Allow abortion on demand through the third trimester, **which would lead to the additional evils of partial-birth abortion and infanticide.**
- Allow lawmakers to regulate abortion in the third trimester without prohibiting abortion based on fetal abnormalities and the life or physical and mental health of the mother. **Every human life matters, and every person must be protected.**
- Prevent the penalization of those helping a woman obtain or coercing a woman into having an abortion. **This normalizes human traffickers’ evil intentions to cover up their actions that victimize the woman and the preborn child.**

## VIRGINIA’S CURRENT ABORTION LAW:

Virginia allows abortions up through 26 weeks, 6 days with exceptions for life of the mother or for her physical or mental health in the third trimester. If the mother is under 18, she can obtain a judicial bypass if the parent or guardian does not sign permission for the abortion.

## Catholics must vote NO on the Virginia ‘Right to Reproductive Freedom’ Amendment

Catholics have a moral obligation to defend the innocent.

**Do NOT allow the evil of abortion to define this great state.**

A human being’s life begins the moment the sperm fertilizes the egg. This is now a unique and unrepeatable person.

Abortion is the intentional killing of a human being before he or she is born. The Catholic Church teaches that abortion is never morally licit.

The Church teaches that neither rape nor incest justifies the taking of an innocent human being’s life.

Doctors never need to intentionally kill the baby to save the mother’s life; therefore the “life of the mother” argument is invalid. In his address to midwives, Pope Pius XII taught that a physician should do all he can to preserve both lives. If the baby dies while the doctor tries to save the mother, this is not considered an abortion.

Any formal cooperation in abortion constitutes a grave sin. The Church attaches the canonical penalty of excommunication to this crime against human beings (CCC2272).

American Life League

[www.ALL.org](http://www.ALL.org)

PO Box 6170, Falmouth, VA 22403

540-659-4171

[jbrown@all.org](mailto:jbrown@all.org)

## 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**

**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.