

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Roanoke Council #562 Newsletter

June, 2026

Upcoming Events

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

5/30 (Saturday) Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity - following 5:00 Mass at OLN (see P5).

6/1 (Monday) June Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30. Election of council officers (see P3).

6/2 (Tuesday) Eucharistic Pilgrimage - Basilica of St. Andrew (details TBA).

6/7 (Sunday) Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi).

6/15 (Monday) June council social/ planning meeting.

6/20 (Saturday) Council 562 125th Anniversary Celebration (See P4).

6/22 (Monday) May 4th Degree Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; meeting at 7:15.

7/4 (Saturday) Independence Day.

7/6 (Monday) July 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,

Our next meeting is Monday June 1st. It's the last meeting of the Fraternal year. As you read this be assured, we are not done yet. The biggest events of the year are coming. Saturday May 30th we will have an Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity to initiate our newly enlisted brothers. A flyer with the details is included in this newsletter (P5). At the June 1st Business Meeting we will be electing Officers for the next Fraternal year. On June 2nd, the National Eucharistic Procession will be at the Basilica of St Andrew. For more information, see the Church Bulletin. Registration is required. The biggest event of the year will be June 20th. That will be a dinner at the Council Home celebrating our 125th year. That will be a formal affair, and tickets will be required to be purchased in advance. I've included a flyer with the details for this also (P4). This is the biggest event we've attempted in years so please watch for volunteer requests.

As always, I thank you for your continued support and all you've done to make this a successful year.

(Continued, P2)

May Business Meeting Highlights

- The Chaplain Proclaimed the month of May is dedicated to our Blessed Mother Mary. The Holy Rosary gets its name from roses, which we use to adore Her. The Chaplain reminded us of Mothers' Day on Sunday, May 10. He also requested help from BK's for the Lebanese Festival 5/29-31.
- The Grand Knight announced the following:
 - Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity tentatively on Saturday, May 30 after the 5:00 Mass at OLN..
 - We will provide marshals for the Eucharistic Procession on Tuesday, 6/2.
 - KOVAR at Town Square and Towers ABC stores 5/15-16 (Friday-Saturday). Please sign up for one or more shifts.
 - We will hold election of officers for FY 2027 at our May business meeting (see P3).
- The Faithful Navigator announced the following 4th Degree activities:
 - A flag retirement ceremony was conducted at the April meeting on 4/27.
 - Exemplification of the Fourth Degree was conducted in Lynchburg on Saturday, April 25. Four BK's from Council 562 received the honors of the 4th Degree.
 - Flag Placement will be held at St. Andrew's cemetery on Saturday, May 23.
- The Field Agent welcomed new and transfer BK's. The Knights of Columbus has the tools to protect families against death or disability, as well as retirement planning (P7).
- The District Deputy reported that State Officers were elected for the Fraternal Year 2026-27 at the State Convention on May 1-3 (P8).

(GK Report - Continued from P1)

If you haven't made it to a meeting in while, we'd love to see you.

Vivat Jesus,

Dave Chopski, Grand Knight

Upcoming Ceremonial & Social Events

Two important events are upcoming in the next few weeks:

- Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity will be conducted after the 5:00 Mass on Saturday, May 30. Dinner will follow.
- On Saturday, June 20, we will celebrate the 125th founding of our Council and recognize Past Grand Knights and Faithful Navigators with a dinner at the Council Home.

Reservations are required for these events; friends and family members are invited. Details are included on PP 4-5.

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Election of Officers

Worthy Brothers, at our June 1st business meeting we will be having our annual election for Council Officers per the by-laws of the Order. The Slate of officers as proposed by the Nominating Committee for the 2026-27 Fraternal Year is as Follows:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Grand Knight: | David Chopski |
| Deputy Grand Knight: | Donald Brown |
| Chancellor: | Juan Garcia |
| Warden: | Stephen Ratliff |
| Recorder: | Jan Hodnett |
| Treasurer: | Charles Hatcher |
| Advocate: | Daniel Nunn |
| Inside Guard: | Roddy Hidusky |
| Outside Guard: | John Saade |
| Trustee, 3 Year | William Howard |
| Trustee 2 Year | James Valenzuela |
| Trustee 1 Year | Clyde Moak |

As always, in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, nominations can be made from the floor. The nominator will be given 5 minutes to address the Council prior to the vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
 David Chopski Grand Knight
 Chairman of the Nominating Committee



In Memoriam

- Jeanne Clarke, mother of BK Jack Clarke
*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon her.
 May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.*

Wednesday Grill Nights

Every Wednesday during the summer months (weather permitting) is grill night at Olympic Park Pool. Grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats are available from 5:00 until 7:00 PM.

Pool membership is not required, and there is no charge for entry if you do not plan to swim. Come out and enjoy good food and fellowship, and bring a friend.

Help is needed for this endeavor. Please come on out and help if you are able.



June Birthdays

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

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Charles Moody | June 1 |
| Roy Dwyer Jr | June 5 |
| Keaton Thorum | June 5 |
| Thomas Engl | June 9 |
| Jon Reynolds | June 10 |
| Thomas Boylan | June 11 |
| Fain White | June 11 |
| Robert Lewis | June 12 |
| Brian Van Der Linden | June 13 |
| Samuel Silek | June 14 |
| Larry Thompson | June 16 |
| Kevin Conlan | June 17 |
| Clyde Moak | June 17 |
| Richard Boush | June 18 |
| Eric Schmucker | June 20 |
| Joseph Wilson | June 20 |
| David Gilday | June 26 |
| Neil MacDonald | June 26 |
| Edward Arsura | June 28 |
| Joseph Abbatello III | June 29 |
| Paul Yengst | June 29 |



125th Anniversary Dinner

Recognition of Past Grand Knights and
Faithful Navigators

ROANOKE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HOME

Saturday, June 20th, 2026

3136 Harris St. Roanoke, Va 24015

Hors d'Oeuvres at 6 pm, Dinner at 7 pm

Choice of Fish or Beef

Men are requested to wear a Jacket and Tie

Tickets are \$25.00 (per person) in advance. Please RSVP by June 13th.

Please contact Grand Knight David [Chopski](#) for reservations and information

540-915-2819

DJChopski@GMail.com



EXEMPLIFICATION
OF
CHARITY • UNITY • FRATERNITY

You Are Invited

After the 5:00 PM Mass

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026

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

Dinner to Follow in Fellowship Hall

FRIENDS AND FAMILY WELCOME



R. S. V. P.

Grand Knight Dave Chopski

540-915-2819

DJChopski@GMail.com

TEMPUS FUGIT, MEMENTO MORI

Saint of the Month

Boniface

Saint Boniface (named Wynfrid at birth) was born into a noble family in the Kingdom of Wessex in southern England in 675. As a youth, Wynfrid was raised in the Catholic faith and received a good education. When missionary monks visited his hometown, Wynfrid was inspired to follow their example. He was first sent to a nearby Benedictine monastery for seven years and then to the Abbey of Nursling, about 100 miles away. At Nursling, Wynfrid excelled in his studies and prayer life, made vows as a Benedictine monk, and was ordained a priest at the age of thirty.

As a young priest, Father Wynfrid quickly became known as an excellent preacher and teacher, as well as an excellent administrator. During the first several years of Father Wynfrid's priestly ministry, he kept sensing a call to evangelize the people of Germany, his ancestral homeland. In 716, Father Wynfrid obtained permission from his abbot to travel to Netherlands as a missionary priest. His first mission did not bear much fruit, but in 718, he traveled to Rome to consult with Pope Gregory II regarding his desire to evangelize the Germanic pagans. The pope changed Wynfrid's name to Boniface, which means "doer of good" and dispatched him to Germany as a missionary priest. Within three years there was great success, and the pope called Father Boniface to Rome for an update. Pope Gregory II was so pleased with Father Boniface that he ordained him a bishop.

Over the next thirty years, Bishop Boniface was a powerhouse of evangelization, organization, and reform. He built monasteries and churches, worked with the Frankish kings and local authorities, served four popes, and continued the important mission of evangelization of the pagans. At the age of seventy-nine, Bishop Boniface decided to

return to Netherlands to preach and convert the remaining pagans.

While preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for the new converts, Bishop Boniface and dozens of his companions were murdered, most likely by common thieves. The bishop and his companions died with courage, not fighting back. Bishop Boniface was canonized pre-congregation; He is known as the "Apostle of Germany."



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.
- BK Dan McBride
- Ellen Carroll, wife of BK Brian Carroll.
- Sharon Vest, wife of BK Roger Vest.

Field Agent's Report

Brothers,


Father's Day is June 21. When you think of the qualities of a good father, what comes to mind? You might picture someone who leads by example, works hard, makes sacrifices, and loves unconditionally.

I think one of the most important ways a father shows his love is when he protects his family in this world that can be so uncertain. For example, we can't always control what influences the world might have on our family's lives. That's why a father knows it's crucial to guard his family spiritually, leading by example in faith.

Similarly, we can't always predict how life circumstances might impact our ability to provide for our families financially. Will our employment remain secure? Will we experience a long-term disability? And, as much as we don't like to think about it, will the Lord call us home at a time we don't expect?

There are many unknowns, but there are things you can do to protect your family and build security. For example, you can guard your loved ones through life insurance, long-term care insurance and disability income insurance.

If you have any questions, please contact **Jack Clarke at 540-204-4984** or jack.clarke@kofc.org to schedule a time to meet. Thank you!



Knights of Columbus
Virtus Agency

Member
MDRT®

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Roanoke, Virginia 24018

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

Protecting Catholic families since 1882.

St. Elias Lebanese Festival Bounce House Help Needed

Worthy Brothers, please watch for the Signup Genius for volunteering at the St. Elias Lebanese Festival. As in years past, we will monitor the bounce house. We need brothers for shifts Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. It's a big event and they need help, especially outside. The Knights will have a recruiting table set up as well. It's a great opportunity for service.

To schedule a volunteer shift, go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044AA8AF2AA6FDC34-63846646-roanoke#/>

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.



25TH ROANOKE

LEBANESE FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, MAY 29 - SUNDAY, MAY 31



Pro-Life Basics:

The Abortion Pill, Harmful to Mothers, Deadly for Babies

The abortion pill serves a singular purpose: to kill a developing baby. But we must acknowledge that it also poses risks to the expectant mothers who take it.

The abortion pill is actually a two-pill regimen. The mother first takes mifepristone (which starves the baby to death) and then 24–48 hours later takes misoprostol (to expel the dead baby's body from her own).

In addition to killing the baby, the abortion pill can greatly harm the mother, leading to complications such as hemorrhages, uterine and stomach cramps, back pain, low levels of potassium, and severe allergic reactions. There are also side effects that, while not as serious as the ones previously mentioned, can still be uncomfortable. Those include high blood pressure, joint and head pain, nausea, diarrhea, and more.

Yet physical reactions are not the only problems that mothers encounter. They may also experience long-term mental health conditions, including depression and anxiety.

Further, researchers at the Mayo Clinic have reported that certain preexisting conditions can make it dangerous for a woman to take the abortion pill. These include being more than 11 weeks pregnant, having an IUD in place, experiencing an ectopic pregnancy, taking a blood thinner, or having other medical conditions.

The National Library of Medicine has reported maternal death as perhaps the most severe side effect from this medication. Even so, it states, "Complications with medical abortion are relatively infrequent". The low probability of clinically significant adverse events and out-

comes and varying protocols make it difficult to estimate these rates without a very large patient population.



Blue Ridge Women's Center Open House

The next Blue Ridge Women's Center Open House is scheduled for Tuesday June 23 from 4:00-5:00 pm. Please contact Lynette Mull, BRWC Development Director ahead of time so they can plan for the number of guests:

lynettem@blueridgewoman.com

Or let your Life Program Chair Mark Johnson (mjhsc84@gmail.com) know of your interest and he will get you registered."

State Officers Elected

Officers for the Virginia State Council Fraternal Year 2026-27 were elected at the State Convention on May 2:

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| State Deputy: | John Knox |
| State Secretary: | Ernie Piro |
| State Treasurer: | Anthony Hall |
| State Advocate: | Dan Doyle |
| State Warden: | Steve Bucher |

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

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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.