



THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Roanoke Council #562 Newsletter

September, 2026

Upcoming Events

9/7 (Monday) Labor Day - Olympic Park Pool closes for the season. All-day grill event at the pool.

9/8 (Tuesday) September Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30. (rescheduled due to Labor Day).

9/11-12 (Friday-Saturday) 24 Hour Adoration at Our Lady of Nazareth.

9/13 (Sunday) Picnic at the Basilica of St Andrew 12:30-3:00

9/14 (Monday) Open House at Blue Ridge Women's Center 12:00.

9/17-19 (Thursday-Saturday) 40 Hours Devotion at Basilica of St. Andrew.

9/21 (Monday) September Council Social Meeting - Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30.

9/23 (Wednesday) 40 Days for Life fall campaign begins.

9/27 (Sunday) Virtual Rosary 7:00PM

9/28 (Monday) September 4th Degree Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; meeting at 7:15.

10/5 (Monday) October Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30.

Grand Knight's Report

Worthy Brothers,



The new year started July 1 and already we are starting the third month. It will be Fish Fry Season before we know it. We are still conducting the Food Drive to help St. Francis House. If you can, look in your pantry or pick up an item or two while out shopping. You can bring it to the Hall on meeting night. Also on tap for September is 24 hrs. of Adoration at Our Lady of Nazareth (Friday 9/11 starting at 9am), the St. Andrew Parish Picnic (Sunday 9/13), St Andrews 40 Hour Devotion (Starting 9/17), and the 40 Days for Life Kick Off Rally (Tuesday 9/22 at the Council Home). Volunteers, supporters, and participants are needed for all of these. We have the information below.

I didn't report it last month, but our Council did achieve Star Council. I'd like us to repeat this, but we need to recruit new members. Brothers, we meet twice a month at a reasonable time (6 to 8:30) to enjoy the fraternity, which comes from being with your Brother Knights. Every Catholic man should enjoy this fraternity. Bring a friend and ask him to join us. It's the fraternity of Brotherhood that unites us and fosters our good works of charity. This is something we need to share.

The name badges and shirts are in. The shirts were \$28.00 and they'll be at the September Business meeting (TUESDAY September 8th).

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(GK Report - Continued from P1)

Make the check out to the Knights of Columbus Council 562. I hope everyone who has a shirt wears it proudly to all the events we support. We are, after all, the largest Catholic men's fraternal organization in the world (2.2 million members in 17 Countries and 17,000 Councils and over 30,000 Knights in Virginia alone)

This month's Business meeting will be on **TUESDAY** September 8 because of Labor Day.

The Home Corporation will be selling hot dogs and hamburgers at the pool all day on Labor Day, September 7. They need volunteers to cover all those hours, and they also need to sell hot dogs and hamburgers. So, if you can't help, at least come by and enjoy some good holiday food. Nothing but compliments and I didn't hear a single complaint all season. It will be hot off the grill.

Tuesday's meeting will be a little different. We will have a guest speaker, Gerralynn Trellue, who will talk about Roanoke Catholic and the Support of the Knights. We also have an awards ceremony honoring the efforts of one of our brothers. Look for a true American meat and potatoes meal expertly prepared by our chef, Dan McBride. Hope to see you all there.

Vivat Jesus,

Dave Chopski, Grand Knight

Basilica Picnic

The Basilica of St Andrew Picnic will be Sunday September 13th from 12:30 to 3pm. Volunteers are needed for set up and clean up. We will have a sign up sheet at the September 8th meeting. Many hands make light work.

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Grill Event at Olympic Park Pool

Every Wednesday during the summer months (when weather permitted), we have been hosting grill night at Olympic Park Pool. Grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats have been a great hit, and funds have been raised to support the corporation. Thanks to all Brother Knights who helped out.

Olympic Park Pool closes on Labor Day. An all-day grill event is being planned for Labor Day, Monday, September 7 from 12:00 - ???. So take this opportunity as summer winds down - come on out and bring a friend! Help is also needed for this endeavor. Please plan to help for a couple hours if you are able.



September Birthdays

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

Donald Alouf	September 1
Rick Vitolo II	September 2
Michael Maurer	September 7
Robert Hermanns	September 8
Michael Kolnok Jr	September 9
Joe Thompson	September 13
Daniel Derringer	September 16
Robert Ellis	September 16
Larry Meadows	September 16
Beverly Hodgins	September 20
Shawn O'Neill	September 20
Stuart Stovall	September 21
John Rowland	September 22
Shawn Dunleavy	September 24
H Patrick Russell	September 24
David Alderman	September 25
Brian Ripple	September 27
Joseph Kosty	September 28
Albert Marraccini	September 28
Shawn Marshall	September 29
Nathan Stoebr	September 30

Installation of Officers

Installation of council officers for FY 2026-27 was conducted on Monday, August 17 by District Deputy Karl Kleinhenz. Thanks to the outgoing officers for a successful year, and best wishes to the incoming officers for another successful year in 2026-27.



August Business Meeting Highlights

- The Chaplain reminded BK's that the Feast of the Assumption of Mary will be celebrated on 8/14 (Friday) at St. Elias. An honor guard was requested.
- The Grand Knight announced the following:
 - The Salem Ridge Yaks baseball outing was a great success. We will plan another outing in September.
 - We will be ordering council shirts and name tags after the August meeting.
 - The KofC Supreme Convention is this week in Denver. TV coverage is on EWTN.
 - Sales of donuts at the OLN garage sale generated a profit of \$200, which will be donated to right-to-life causes.
 - Food drive continues.
 - BK Brian Carroll was named Knight of the Month. He has also achieved Honorary Life membership status.
- 4th Degree
 - Installation of Assembly officers was conducted on Monday, 7/27.
 - The next 4th Degree Exemplification will be held 8/29 in Petersburg.
- The District Deputy announced:
 - Supreme convention 8/4-6.
 - Feast of Blessed Fr. McGivney 8/13.
 - Feast of the Assumption 8/15.
 - Taco Tuesday 8/4 at noon at the council home.
- The budget for FY 2026-27 was approved without amendment.
- The Lecturer spoke about "Ordinary Time" in the Catholic calendar. "Ordinary" refers to "counted", not "plain". There are two portions of Ordinary Time: Epiphany until Lent and Pentecost to Advent. This time is focused on the life and ministry of Jesus, and has the liturgical color of green (symbolizing growth).

Saints of the Month

Michael, Gabriel, Rafael - Archangels

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, there are numerous mentions of the heavenly spirits. In the Old Testament, they stood at the entrance to the Garden of Eden, visited Abraham, stayed his hand at the sacrifice of Isaac, destroyed Sodom and protected Lot. They spoke to and wrestled with Jacob, went before Moses and the Israelites, and interacted with Israel's kings and prophets. The Archangel Gabriel announced the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Jesus often spoke of the workings of angels in His preaching. They ministered to Him in the desert and during His agony in the garden, were present at His Resurrection, and helped set Peter free from prison.

Some of the earliest written words we know about that reference archangels emerged from ancient Jewish texts. The Roman Catholic Church officially recognizes three archangels (Michael, Gabriel, and Rafael). The archangels are recognized as Saints by the Catholic Church despite the fact that they did not have physically human lives. The title "saint" is also used for other beings in heaven, including angels, because they are holy by their very nature.

Known as the leader of the heavenly hosts, Michael is often depicted as a warrior angel wielding a sword. His name translates to "Who is like God". Michael is considered the protector of the faithful and defender against evil. Michael is associated with courage, strength, and divine protection. He is mentioned as an archangel several times in the Bible: Daniel 12:1; Revelation 12:7; Jude 1:9.

Gabriel is known as the divine messenger; his name translates to "God is My

Strength." Gabriel is considered the chief messenger angel, particularly known for delivering news of divine births and important announcements. Gabriel is associated with communication, revelation, prophecy, and truth. Gabriel is mentioned in the Bible primarily in the Gospel of Luke: 1:19-27 in the Annunciation to Mary.

Rafael is known as the divine healer. His name translates to "God Heals." He is associated with physical and spiritual healing, protection during journeys, and matchmaking. Rafael is mentioned in the Book of Tobit: 6:18 and 12:12-15.

The Feast of St. Michael was celebrated on September 29 since 4th century Roman times. In 1969, the reform of the General Roman Calendar added the previously separate feasts of Saint Gabriel (24 March) and Saint Rafael (24 October), giving the unified Feast on September 29 that we celebrate today.



St. Michael

St. Gabriel

St. Rafael

Prayer Requests

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

- Betsy Ratliff, mother of BK Stephen Ratliff.
- Sharon Vest, wife of BK Roger Vest.
- Pat Wyble, wife of BK David Wyble.
- Gregory Brown, brother of BK Donald Brown.
- Patricia Reidy, widow of BK Patrick Reidy.
- BK Ed Malinowski

40 Days for Life

The fall 2026 40 Days for Life campaign will be conducted from Wednesday, September 23 - Sunday, November 1, 2026. Details and registration can be found at 40daysforlife.com. Any questions, contact Joan Murano @ 540-278-4634 (jmmchooselife@gmail.com).

Christ told us some demons can only be driven out by prayer and fasting. The two go hand in hand. Prayer keeps us rooted in the fact that it is our desire to carry out God's will. Fasting is a sacrifice that helps us reach beyond our own limitations with God's help.

Each day during 40 Days for Life, individuals, churches, families, and groups will be asked to join together in prayer for a specific request so the entire Body of Christ can unite around a common focus.



Food Drive Continues

Worthy Brothers, the situation at St. Francis House has not changed. The USDA food shipments that sustained the Food Pantry are now down 65%. They need 5,000 pounds of food a month and the USDA is supplying less than 3,000 pounds. Our Council, along with the Ancient Order of Hibernians has pledged 1,500 pounds and at this writing we are about half-way there. Please be generous and bring a non-perishable item to the September meeting or drop off at the Pool on Labor Day. (Peanut Butter, Cereal, Rice, Canned goods, or pasta are all needed).



Help Requested for Adoration

40 Hours Devotion-Nighttime Door Monitor 2026

The Basilica of St Andrew is in need of nighttime door monitors for the overnight hours while the 40 Hour Devotion is taking place. This is something the Knights have participated in before and it is NOT a security detail. It is simply a security concern, The door of the Church will be locked from 8pm to 7am on Thursday September 17th and Friday September 18th. The monitor's job is to identify the identity or intent of the person at the glass door on the Jefferson St Entrance and let them in through the Wooden Church Door. The sign up Genius link is added below. Please consider serving. Everyone's safety is a top concern.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050944A4A629A7FA7-64859269-40hours#/>

OLN Adoration Assistance

Our Lady of Nazareth is having a 24hr Adoration Friday September 11th starting at 9am and ending Saturday September 12th at 9am. There is something special about spending time with Lord in the quiet of the evening hours. The whisper of the Lord seems so much easier to hear. They are truly in need of overnight volunteers. The sign-up link is below, Please check it out and volunteer if you can. It really is something special.

[24 Hour Adoration Signup | Flocknote](#)



Letter from Virginia Bishops

The following letter was distributed by the Virginia Catholic Conference. This is an organization that every Knight should subscribe to. The letter was read at each Mass in its entirety at The Basilica of St Andrews the weekend of August 30th-31st. In case you missed it or attended another parish, the Grand Knight thought it was appropriate to share it with the Council in our support of the Bishop. Today, Bishop Burbidge and Bishop Knestout issued the following pre-election letter to the faithful of their dioceses.

This Election Season is Different August 2026

In Virginia, every year is an election year. However, the contents on the ballot this fall are anything but ordinary. In the upcoming election (Sept. 18 – Nov. 3), the decisions we make will shape the future of our Commonwealth in unprecedented ways. In addition to a U.S. Senate race and local Congressional races, Virginia voters will decide three proposed constitutional amendments with far-reaching consequences.

Two of the proposed changes to Virginia's constitution – Ballot Question 1 (abortion) and Ballot Question 2 (marriage) – concern fundamental matters of right and wrong.

Ballot Question 1 would cement a so-called “fundamental right” to abortion into our state constitution – all the way up to birth and for “every individual,” even children. It would endanger women's health and safety and even push parents out of life-changing and irreversible decisions for their minor daughters. It would shield “any individual” who assists in an abortion from legal consequences. When debating the language of the proposed constitutional amendment, legislators even rejected a proposal to require that any baby born alive after an attempted abortion would receive the same level of care and treatment as any other infant. Ballot Question 1 is extreme, dangerous, radical and horrific.

Ballot Question 2 would remove the definition of marriage as the “union between one man and one woman” from our constitution, and would replace it with “any lawful marriage between two adult persons.” We affirm the dignity of every person. We also proclaim the truth that marriage – created by God – is and will always be the union of a man and a woman. God's design for marriage – woven into the fabric of our being – was established before any nation, religion or law. We are called to honor and preserve it. The marital union – between a man and a woman who give themselves completely to each other – is a unique and irreplaceable bond that is the basis of the family and society.

God is the author of life and marriage. We must protect and preserve these extraordinary gifts from our Creator. As Catholics, we have a sacred duty to form our consciences prayerfully and correctly, and to vote NO on Ballot Question 1 and Ballot Question 2.

Ballot Question 3 would restore voting rights to individuals who have completed their time of incarceration. This issue is a matter of prudential judgment upon which people of goodwill can disagree. Through the work of the Virginia Catholic Conference, we have consistently supported this measure

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Letter from Virginia Bishops

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and continue to do so. In your own assessment of this proposal, we invite you to consider the Church's teaching on participation in the common good, rehabilitation, restoration, mercy and second chances – as well as times when you have witnessed God's redemptive work in your own life and the lives around you.

More information on the three ballot measures can be found on the websites of the Virginia Catholic Conference and our two dioceses. Early voting begins September 18. Election Day is November 3.

As the Catechism reminds us, "It is necessary that all participate ... in promoting the common good. ... As far as possible, citizens should take an active part in public life" (nos. 1913-1915). Through conscience formation, prayer and fasting, may we as Virginia voters all prepare to cast votes that will honor the gift of life and Jesus who is "the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout, Bishop of Richmond

Field Agent's Report

Brothers,

We know our Founder cared deeply about the lives of his parishioners and strengthening their sense of community. Father McGivney recognized and valued the things that really matter: God, fellowship: a sense of belonging and the space to reinforce those ties of friendship, mutual support and common faith.

Brothers, **September is Life Insurance Awareness Month**, but what I'd like to propose is that we think of it as **"The Things That Matter"** Month. What does your family value? What do you want to preserve for them when you're no longer here? Life insurance can be a big part of that.

Maybe you want to protect the home that shelters your family, that has set the stage for so many memories and is a safe haven for your children to return to. Maybe you want to ensure that your children — or grandchildren — will have access to high-quality education. Or maybe you want to safeguard a family business or a similar legacy that can continue to provide for your loved ones. Ideally, I want to help you match your insurance coverage not just with your basic needs, but with the things that your family deems most important to preserve. This month, I challenge you to think about what those things are. And if you don't have a plan to protect them, consider meeting with your agent.

Contact **Jack Clarke:**

540-204-4984 or jack.clarke@kofc.org.



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

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Roanoke Council 562 Officers 2026-27

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	Daniel Nunn	757 672 9799
Outside Guard	Jean Saade	540-355-0585
Inside Guard	Rod Hidusky	540-985-3195
Trustee, 3 Year	Bill Howard	540-798-3734
Trustee, 2 Year	James Valenzuela	301-806-3920
Trustee, 1 Year	Clyde Moak	540-418-5148

Program Chairmen 2026-27

Program Director	Donald Brown	540-520-3060
Faith Director	Joe Kosty	540-685-2630
Family Director	Juan Garcia	757-719-8753
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 2026-27

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:	Paul Miller	540-339-8657
Board Member	George Cuadrado	540-989-1758
: Board Member	Donald Brown	540-520-3060

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

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