THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Roanoke Council #562 Newsletter **November, 2026**

Upcoming Events

11/1 (Sunday) Feast of All Saints.

11/1 (Sunday) 40 Days for Life End of Campaign Potluck - Council Home 3:30 - 5:30.

11/2 (Monday) All Souls' Day; Mass celebrated at St. Andrew's Cemetery at 11:00 (see P2).

11/2 (Monday) November Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30.

11/3 (Tuesday) Election Day.

11/7 (Saturday) Veterans' Day Parade (downtown Roanoke).

11/9 (Monday) Blue Ridge Women's Center Open House 12:00.

11/11 (Wednesday) Veterans' Day.

1/16 (Monday) November Council Social Meeting - Dinner served at 6:30.

11/23 (Monday) November 4th Degree Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; meeting at 7:15.

11/26 (Thursday) Thanksgiving.

11/29 (Sunday) Advent begins; Virtual Rosary 7:00PM.

12/7 (Monday) December Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30.

Grand Knight's Report



Worthy Brothers,

October was another busy month for our Council and I am truly grateful to the Knights that stepped up to help with the events. We delivered Coats for Kids to Roanoke County Social Services. Thank you to Rich Whitney and Bob Carignan. We delivered food to St, Francis House. Thank you, Juan Garcia and Brian Carroll. We provided a Beer Tent at the Our Lady of Nazareth Fall Festival (in the rain). Thank you to Don Brown, Chris Johnson, Cesar Cubas, Paul Miller, Karl Kleinhenz, Tim Carr, Chuck Hatcher, and Bob Carignan. We supported the Corporation by cleaning up the pool area and putting the cover on the pool. Thank you to Paul Miller, Clyde Moak, David Bowers, Tim Carr, Glen Hall, Dann Nunn, Steve Wilkinson, George Cudrado, Don Brown, Cesar Cubas, Chuck Hatcher, Chris Johnson, Stephen Ratliff, Karl Kleinhenz, Frank Otto, Juan Garcia and James Valenzuela. My apologies if I missed someone but it was a great turnout considering the weather.

November is a little quieter. On November 1st there will be a 40 Days for Life pot luck dinner at the Hall. Any help would be appreciated. Please contact Mark Johnson (540) 467-2495. November 2nd we will be setting up the chairs at St Andrew Cemetery. The Bishop is coming for the All Souls Day Mass at 11am. That evening at the business meeting we will be voting on a resolution to donate money towards the Roanoke

(Continued, P2)

(GK Report - Continued from P1)

Catholic Schools Retire the Mortgage drive.

Later in the month we will be preparing Thanksgiving baskets for needy families at St Elias Maronite Catholic Church. If you would like to help with that, please contact Rich Whitney (443)465-7742. There will probably be more, but those events are only in the planning stage.

As always, I encourage you to get involved, come to a meeting, and recruit a Knight. If you haven't done it, you need to visit KofC.org and see everything we could be doing. There might be something you feel strongly about and would like to see us take an active role in. This is YOUR council. And most importantly, **Don't Forget to Vote !**

Vivat Jesus,
Dave Chopski, Grand Knight

All Souls Day at St. Andrew's Cemetery

As in previous years, Mass will be celebrated at St. Andrew's Cemetery on All Souls Day, Monday, November 2. This year, Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 AM by His Excellency, Bishop Barry Knestout.

Knights have been asked to help set up chairs for the Mass. Meet at the maintenance shed at 8:30. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Box lunches are also provided after the Mass.



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November Birthdays

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

Lee Howell	November 1
Steven Kutsch	November 4
James Valenzuela	November 4
John O'Halloran	November 7
Hobart Pillsbury	November 10
Stanley Puckett	November 12
Timothy Beirne	November 16
Joseph Devlin II	November 17
Rev. George Zina	November 23
Daniel Rowe	November 24
Frank Haranzo Jr	November 25
Jeffrey Mc Innis	November 26
Richard Whitney	November 26

October Business Meeting Highlights

- The Chaplain recalled that October is the month of Mary and the Rosary. God gave us the gift of our Blessed Mother who always points us to her Son Jesus.
- The Grand Knight announced:
  - 40 Days for Life is continuing thru 11/1. Come Join in prayer at Planned Parenthood, especially on Fridays.
  - Vote early or on Election Day 11/3. Reflect carefully on the amendments to the Virginia Constitution.
  - The OLN Fall Festival is Sunday, 10/11. Wear Knights gear proudly and recruit new Knights!
  - Open House at Blue Ridge Women's Center is Monday, 10/12 at 12:00.
  - The food drive continues (P3).
- The Faithful Navigator announced an Exemplification in Lynchburg on 1/23/27. He also announced participation in the Veterans' Day Parade on 11/7.
- The recent KOVAR drive raised $2118; the total for the calendar year is $5000+.
- The District Deputy announced Columbus Day on 10/12. Catholics have been an important part of American history from the beginning.
- Thank you notes were received from Blue Ridge Women's Canter and the State KOVAR Chairman.
- A resolution to donate $2000 to support Roanoke Catholic School was introduced (see P8).
- The Lecturer announced the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on 10/7. The term "Rosary" comes from Latin meaning "rose garden". The Rosary is a "school of prayers" as we walk with Mary and she points us to Her Son Jesus.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3rd



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE !

In Memoriam

- Lucy Burke, widow of PGK Leo Burke.
- Patricia Reidy, widow of BK Patrick Reidy.

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.

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.
- Gregory Brown, brother of DGK Donald Brown.
- BK Ed Malinowski and his wife Carolyn.
- BK Bob Lewis and his wife Fran.



Saint of the Month
Cecilia

Little is actually documented about the life of Cecilia. She lived in the late 2nd or early 3rd Century. All we know for certain about Saint Cecilia is that she lived, was a follower of Christ, and died a martyr. The year of her death is disputed; historians suggest it is sometime between 176 and 235. Though we do not have historical facts, we have an inspiring legend that was written down around the fifth century in a book called *The Passion of Saint Cecilia.* Pope Urban I, who served as the Holy Father from about 222–230, built a church in Rome over the house of a virgin martyr named Cecilia.

Cecilia was born into a noble Roman family and became a devout Christian. As a young woman, Cecilia's father gave her in marriage to a nobleman named Valerian (a Roman pagan) against her wishes. During their wedding, Cecilia sang a hymn in her heart to her true Spouse in Heaven. After their wedding, Cecilia revealed to her new husband that she was a Christian and that she had made a vow of virginity to her true Heavenly Spouse, and she was guarded by an angel to protect her virginity – in order to see the angel, he needed to be converted to Christianity. Valerian was instructed in the faith by Pope Urban I, and baptized. When he returned to Cecilia, Valerian saw the angel who guarded her, and also saw her angel place on her head a dual crown of white lilies, symbolizing her purity, and red roses, symbolizing her martyrdom.

As a new Christian, Valerian shared his faith with his brother, Tiburtius, who also converted and was baptized. Valerian and Tiburtius then became very active with the underground Christian community, devoting themselves to good works. The Roman prefect ordered them to be executed as Christians, but when Maximus attempted to carry out the command, he had a heavenly vision that led to his instant conversion. Once he professed his faith, he, too, was martyred with Valerian and Tiburtius.

Subsequently, Cecilia was arrested and condemned to death by beheading. The executioner struck her three times but she remained alive, though badly injured. Cecilia remained alive for the next three days, during which time she distributed all of her money and property to the poor, and donated her house to the pope so he could transform it into a place of Christian worship. Toward the end, she was in such great suffering that she could no longer speak. So, to honor God, she held up her thumb and two fingers to represent the Most Holy Trinity, and her index finger on the other hand to represent the one divine nature they shared.

When she died, Pope Urban transformed her house into a church. In 1599, in preparation for the jubilee year, her body was exhumed, and she was found miraculously preserved.

Despite the legendary nature of her story, God has used Saint Cecilia to inspire many through the centuries. The Basilica of Santa Cecilia in Trastevere remains a revered church in Rome to this day. She is the Patron Saint of musicians. Her feast day is November 22.



Keep Christ in Christmas

Our annual Keep Christ in Christmas campaign will resume again this year. We will conduct sales after all masses at Basilica of St. Andrew on 11/14-15 and 12/05-06 The schedule at OLN is pending. Cards will be available in the St. Elias Gift Shop. Help is required, so please plan to help out for a few minutes after the Mass that you normally attend. Contact:

Basilica of St. Andrew: Chuck Hatcher hatcherchuck7@gmail.com or 540-314-3360.

Our Lady of Nazareth: Paul Begeman begemanpaul@gmail.com or 540-761-7900.

St. Elias: Deebie Wadell secretary@steliaschurch.org or 540-562-0012.



40 Days for Life

Wrap-up Potluck at the Hall

The 40 Days for Life fall campaign concludes on the Feast of All Saints, Sunday, November 1. A Potluck dinner will be held at the Council Home on Sunday from 3:30-5:30. All Knights and Sir Knights are welcome to attend but we'd like advance notice (to Mark Johnson at 540-467-2495 or Joan Murano of 40 Days for Life at 540-278-4634) for planning purposes.

Field Agent's Report

Brothers,
This time of year, we give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. Like many of you, I became a Knight out of love for my family. I wanted to join other Catholic men in becoming a better man, husband and father. I wanted to be a better protector of my family.

One way to protect your family is to start thinking about your family's future and how an extended care event could have a large impact. Do you know somebody that has experienced an extended care event – if so, how did that impact their family's situation? Connect with your agent, **Jack Clarke at 540 -204-4984 ofc & jack.clarke@kofc.org** to discuss how to create an extended care plan.

Lastly, I'd like to remind you of your 2026 Financial Protection Survey and the opportunity to update the Knights of Columbus on your personal financial goals and share any updates you have had over the last year. If you haven't already filled it out, I strongly encourage you to do so.

Please fill out the survey as soon as you can, either through the survey you received in the mail or online at **https://survey.kofc.org**.
Thank you!





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 making progress. Please be generous and bring a non-perishable item to the October meeting. (Peanut Butter, Cereal, Rice, Canned goods, and pasta are all needed).



Coats for Kids

Did you know that many children throughout the United States go without a coat each winter? The Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids® Program allows councils across North America the opportunity to put their faith into action and purchase new winter coats at a discount for children in need in their communities.

Again this year, the Roanoke Council has purchased four dozen coats of assorted sizes for distribution to needy children in the Roanoke Valley. We are being assisted in the distribution by Roanoke County Social Services. Thanks to Brother Knights and Roanoke County Social Services for your support of this worthwhile project for those in need.

Pool Winterization

Despite the adverse weather forecast, on Saturday, October 17, a hearty group of Brother Knights installed the cover on Olympic Park Pool, did some general cleanup and winterization tasks. Thanks to those who came out to help!





Thanksgiving Baskets

As in previous years, the Roanoke Council will help to provide Thanksgiving meals to low -income families in the Roanoke Valley. This is an excellent opportunity to exemplify the first principle of our order - Charity! We will provide additional details at our meeting on November 2. Please plan to help if you can.



Opportunity to Volunteer

Aimee Valenzuela, from the Basilica of St Andrew has invited the Knights to participate in assisting Masterpiece Alliance in serving meals. The first event was 10/22/26, at the HopeTree Family Services facility in Salem and dinner servers volunteered from 5:15 to 6:45.

Masterpiece Alliance is a nonprofit organization based in Virginia's Roanoke Valley that focuses on creating community and meaningful relationships for people with disabilities and their families. Its mission is to ensure that people of all abilities are included, valued, and connected rather than living on the margins of society. This sounds like taking KOVAR to a personal level. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity please contact the Grand Knight, Dave Chopski, at (540) 915-2819 for more information.

Beer Tent at OLN Fall Festival

Members of Council 562 staffed the beer tent at the OLN Fall Festival held on Sunday, October 11. Additional Brother Knights helped in the kitchen and other capacities at the festival. Proceeds from the beer tent will be donated to charitable causes.



Beer tent volunteers at the Our Lady of Nazareth Fall Festival

Month of Remembrance

The month of November is traditionally a time in which the Catholic community remembers those who have died. It is related to the fact that the end of November is the end of the Liturgical Year with a new year starting the First Sunday of Advent – the four-week period of preparation before Christmas. The Church then uses this end of the year period as a time to think of the end of life and the end of all things and the great hope that our earthly end is transition into a new life in God's heavenly reality. We give thanks for those who have gone before us and we look forward with prayer and hope to their new life in heaven and our desire to join them there one day.

Roanoke Catholic School Matching Grant Opportunity

Roanoke Catholic School is blessed with an extraordinary opportunity to strengthen its long-term financial foundation. A generous RCS family has offered a **dollar-for-dollar match up to $500,000** for the **Mortgage Reduction Campaign**, now through the end of the year. With this match, our community can create a **$1 million impact** to eliminate the remaining mortgage on the school's multipurpose building.

Retiring this debt will provide benefits far beyond financial relief. Currently, about **$600 of each student's annual tuition** goes toward mortgage payments. Eliminating this obligation will free up nearly **$200,000 every year** to reinvest directly into students, academic programs, faculty support, and the mission of Roanoke Catholic School.

This matching grant is a powerful opportunity to help secure the future of Catholic education on *The Hill*. Every gift is doubled, and every contribution moves the school closer to redirecting vital resources toward growth, excellence, and faith-filled formation.

The campaign runs through **December 31, 2026**. Your support and prayers will make a lasting difference for current and future generations of Celtics.

Resolution to Approve Donation to Roanoke Catholic School

Whereas:

Roanoke Catholic School has provided excellent education for Catholic (and non-Catholic) students in the Roanoke area for numerous generations since 1889.

And whereas:

Several generations of Roanoke Knights of Columbus families have significantly benefitted from high-quality education at Roanoke Catholic School.

And whereas:

About $600 of each student's annual tuition goes toward mortgage payments.

And Whereas:

A generous RCS family has offered a dollar-for-dollar match up to $500,000 for the Mortgage Reduction Campaign, now through the end of calendar year 2026.

And Whereas:

Eliminating the debt reduction obligation will free up nearly $200,000 every year to reinvest directly into the mission of Roanoke Catholic School.

And Whereas:

Support of Roanoke Catholic School clearly fits within our principle of Charity as Knights of Columbus.

And Whereas:

The matching grant doubles the effectiveness of our contribution.

Then, be it resolved that:

Roanoke Council 562 of the Knights of Columbus donates $2000 toward the Mortgage Reduction Program at Roanoke Catholic School before December 31, 2026.

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

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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.