



# Knights of Columbus Newsletter



Charity ~ Unity ~ Fraternity ~ Patriotism

## Official Newsletter of the Knights of Columbus of Missouri

VOLUME 12, NO 9

*“Honoring Faith, Serving Community”*

MARCH 2026

### STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR CHUCK PAQUETTE

**Missouri Knights Gear Up for Action-Packed March 2026 COLUMBIA, MO** – The Missouri State Council Knights of Columbus is entering a high-velocity March with a calendar focused on fraternity, charity, and community spirit. From high-stakes sports to the heart of the Lenten season, Missouri Knights are putting their faith into action across the “Show-Me” state.



**Mavericks Hockey Night:** On **March 7**, Knights will descend upon the Cable Dahmer Arena in Independence for a Kansas City Mavericks game. The event includes a pre-game tailgate starting at 4:00 p.m., with a portion of ticket proceeds benefiting

**Special Olympics Missouri (SOMO) State Bowling Tournament:** Also during the weekend of **March 7–8**, the O’Fallon Council #2269 will host the 2026 State Bowling Tournament at O’Fallon Lanes. This inclusive handicap tournament is open to all members and their families, emphasizing fellowship over professional scores.

### Lenten Service and Fish Fries:

That’s the **winning strategy** for March. There is no better “sales floor” than a packed parish hall smelling of fried catfish and community spirit. While the patrons are enjoying their meal, it’s the perfect time to remind them that the fellowship they’re enjoying is built on the **backbone of the Order**. Here are three quick ways to make that “ask” even more effective at your fish fry:

**The “QR Placemat” approach:** Print simple flyers or placemats with a QR code linking directly to the Knights of Columbus Join Us page so they can sign up right from their phone while waiting for their plate. **The “One-Question” invitation:** Instead of a long pitch, just ask: *“Have you ever thought about joining the guys who put this together?”* **Highlight the local impact:** Make sure a sign is visible showing where the proceeds go—whether it’s for **Special Olympics Missouri**, local food pantries, or parish renovations. People want to join a group that gets results.

As these programs conclude, the State Council will turn its focus toward the 125th Annual Missouri State Convention scheduled for late April in Columbia.

### 2026 Golf Tournament

July 18, 2026

Hosted by : St. Jerome Council #1572

Location : Ozark Ridge golf course Poplar Bluff, MO

Contact : James Deken

1-573-778-6682



### 2026 Horseshoe Tournament

August : 14-15 & 16, 2026

Hosted by : Fr. Seisl Council #1121

Location : Washington, MO

Contact : Kyle Mantle

Phone : 636-221-1313



### STATE COMMUNITY DIRECTOR JOHN “ROCKY” GAMBON

Oh what a crazy winter it has been but trust me when I say, spring is coming and along with that, the annual Knights of Columbus State Convention. The State Deputy and State Directors met recently to organize the weekend including numerous breakout sessions and state resolutions. I encourage every council to send a delegate. There will be a lot to learn with the breakout sessions, and important resolutions that need to be voted on.

But more than that, this year’s state convention will be Missouri’s 125<sup>th</sup> and we do plan to celebrate. State Archivist Tony Dohmen has been working hard to put together numerous items to be put on display from past state conventions. From prior uniforms to photos to past programs and newsletters, there is a lot to show. We will even have one “big” item for display so please make plans to come to this year’s state convention in Columbia.

The Basketball free throw contest is going strong and with 7 regions across the state, all of them were well supported and many competed. The State Competition will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup> at Fr. Tolton Catholic High School, 3351 E. Gans Rd. Columbia Missouri. Registration for the state event starts at 12:00pm so I recommend coming early as there will be a lot of competitors and their families present. For more information contact Tim Vargesco at [TimVargesco@columbiaknights.org](mailto:TimVargesco@columbiaknights.org)

What a year it has been for the Drive for Developmental Disabilities, a.k.a. The Tootsie Roll Drive. Congratulations are in order for as of this moment, we have surpassed last year’s totals!!! Because of your hard work, the Missouri State Councils have grossed \$643,184.63. That is fantastic! Job well done!

Now believe it or not, we still have about 55 councils across the state that have not sent in their Developmental Disabilities Drive Final Report and the Disbursement form. There were a lot of councils that sent in the Final Report with out a Disbursement form, if we don’t have the disbursement form, we can’t send money back. Please check your records make sure you sent in the money along with the two forms, we need to finish this long before the state convention. If you are not sure, or you need help please contact Victor Bender [vbender5307@hotmail.com](mailto:vbender5307@hotmail.com), Chairman for Eastern Missouri and Ron Mathias [ron.mathias.kofc@gmail.com](mailto:ron.mathias.kofc@gmail.com) **Chairman for Western Missouri.**

The Wheelchair campaign is under way, giving people the gift of mobility is one of the best gifts that you can do, get involved in the American Wheel Chair Mission, many councils in the state have already helped and there is always a need for more. We have about 89 wheelchairs across Missouri, if you know someone that is in need, please contact Charles Leneau, [cmalenau12@spectrum.net](mailto:cmalenau12@spectrum.net) and he will help get a chair to you.

Missouri has once again come through on their annual Coat Drives. Currently over you delivered 289 cases of coats to kids in need this fraternal year of 2025-2026, with \$79,822.00 collected. To get involved contact Bill Lueckenhoff at [bill.lueckenhoff@gmail.com](mailto:bill.lueckenhoff@gmail.com)



### STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BRIAN ZIEGLER

Lent is upon us Brothers. What a blessed season it is. It allows us to reflect and repent as we prepare for Easter Sunday. It is also a great time for us to invite our fellow brother Catholic men to become brother Knights.

During this Lenten season we have so many chances to invite these men to join our order. We have Fish Frys, OCIA classes, Stations of the cross and of course we have Sunday mass.

Brothers our order needs new members to insure that the legacy of the Knights continues for many years after we are gone. The Missouri jurisdiction needs new members to insure our charity continues to support Special Olympics and Cardinal Glennon developmental center. More importantly to help defend and support our Bishops and our priests as our faith is under attack now more than ever!

Missouri will be holding the Bishops Blast the weekends of March 14<sup>th</sup> and or the 21<sup>st</sup>. All 4 Bishops have written letters in support of the Knights and encouraging men to join the Knights and on those weekends councils are asked to have church drives.

Brothers what a better Easter gift than free membership in the Knights [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus) Promo code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY  
Vivat Jesus



Like us on Facebook!  
[@MissouriKnightsOfColumbus](https://www.facebook.com/MissouriKnightsOfColumbus)

**STATE FAMILY DIRECTOR JOHN CLARKE**

The Family group wishes everyone a happy and spiritual Lenten season. As we head into Lent, I would like to take this opportunity to mention a couple of Family programs from the Supreme website.

**Good Friday Family Promotion:** Despite Good Friday’s central role in the heart of Christianity, attendance at services remain low at many Parishes. To change this and set an example for their community, Knights are encouraged to attend Good Friday services with their families and invite other parish members. Also consider attending Stations of the Cross or participating in the Easter Triduum.

**Faith in Action:** The Family Fully Alive monthly devotions are concrete ways that Knights of Columbus, in solidarity with Pope Leo, can support the growth of holy and loving families in the Church. The Family Fully Alive Program asks families to invite God into their homes and cultivate each family as a miniature domestic church. The program provides monthly themes, scripture verses and activities. Through prayer and reflection, families can grow in holiness together. This is a flexible program that can be started at any time of the year and continues year-round. Councils can order physical booklets to distribute or direct parish families to program resources on [kofc.org](http://kofc.org).

Looking for State Activities of fun and fellowship? Let me tell you about a recent activity and others that are coming up. The State Cornhole Tournament was held Jan 31, 2026 in Lees Summit. Thank you to our hosts Council 8334 in Lees Summit and all those participating Councils from across the state. See the article by Athletics Chairman Ennis Hinkebein for pictures and a list of winners.

Following our successful Cornhole Tournament, we have several exciting events lined up. On March 28, 2026, join us at the St. Louis Repertory Theatre at 4:00pm for “Ring of Fire-The music of Johnny Cash”. With a powerhouse creative team and world-class actor-musicians, Ring of Fire celebrates the music and legacy of The Man in Black. The high-spirited musical pays homage to his Arkansas roots and the love, faith, and grit that shaped his storied life.

After enjoying the musical at the St. Louis Repertory Theatre, don’t forget to mark your calendars for our upcoming baseball games. We have the Royals Game on May 23 against the Seattle Mariners and the Cardinals Game on Aug 29 against the Pittsburgh Pirates. Bring your families to one or all as these events are full of fun and fellowship.



**STATE LIFE DIRECTOR TONY JANSEN**

Greetings Brother Knights and Your Families! Welcome Lent! Please keep in mind to celebrate and utilize Lent to get yourself and your family prepared for the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!!!



Please make plans to join Knights from around the state on Thursday, April 30 for the Midwest March for Life in Jefferson City. Activities will begin at 8:30 AM with a Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy by Father Anthony Viviano on the capital north lawn. The Rally will begin at 10:00 AM. You are encouraged to bring your own signs, but preprinted signs will be available. The March begins after the Rally with a fund-raising lunch from 11:00 AM till 1:00 PM. The March will close with Mass at 1:30 PM at the Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter with the main celebrant Bishop James V. Johnson of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

We have a new program from Supreme that helps to support ASAP(Aid and Support After Pregnancy). First exemplify 3 new members. Second, participate in ASAP with a minimum of \$500 donation any time between 7/1/25 and 6/30/26. You must apply for the ASAP funds through the online form at [kofc.org/asap](http://kofc.org/asap). Councils that have already received a grant through ASAP in the 2025/ 26 fraternal year do not need to reapply. They will be awarded an additional \$250 in addition to the standard amount your council already earned. Did you know that since the launch of ASAP (Aid and Support After Pregnancy) has raised over \$19 million for more than 2000 pregnancy resource centers across the globe. Last year, the Knights donated a record \$6 million to pregnancy resource centers alone. ASAP is more than just financial support: they provide all types of baby needs from diapers to formula as well as emotional support for mothers. They also help connect new parents with jobs. The Join ASAP messaging is simple – the more we grow the Order, the more life-saving support we can provide to vulnerable mothers and their children, both born and unborn.

Missouri Knights of Columbus works together to purchase ultrasound machines for qualifying pregnancy centers. After the state and/or local council raises 50% of the cost, the Supreme Council will provide the other 50% to complete funding for purchase of an ultrasound. Or, if the council raises 100% of the cost of a vehicle outfitted to serve as a mobile medical unit for a pregnancy center, the Supreme Council will provide 100% of the funds for an ultrasound machine to be used in that vehicle. This initiative is funded by Knights of Columbus state and local councils with matching grants from the Supreme Council’s Culture of Life Fund. For Ultrasound Initiative resources, visit [www.kofc.org/ultrasound](http://www.kofc.org/ultrasound). For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Contribute 50% of the cost of an ultrasound machine for a pregnancy center approved by the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. If you have any questions, contact Life Services Chairman Greg Elsey or myself, Tony Jansen at 573-768-0294.

Finally, I ask you to continue to support the Sacred Heart icons that continue to make their way around the state soon. Please talk to your priest how you can best promote the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sacred Heart appearing to French nun St. Margaret Mary Aloquette. Pope Francis blessed these icons and 350 of them have been shipped around the world. Missouri received 5 icons that will continue to move around through 2026.. David Mitchel is the chairman of this program. If you want to be involved, call or text Dvid at 417-830-8000.

On behalf of my family and me, I want to wish all of you a Blessed and Holy Lenten Season and a Glorious Easter! Please pray for life as part of your Lenten sacrifices!  
Vivat Jesus!

**STATE KNIGHTS’ PILGRIMAGE**

**SUNDAY MAY 3, 2026  
BLACK MADONNA SHRINE 100 ST. JOSEPH HILL RD  
PACIFIC, MO 63069**

**STATE FAITH DIRECTOR JOSH NEUWEG**

The 125th Missouri State Convention will be coming up April 24th - 26th. We will once again be offering Perpetual Adoration starting Friday the 24th at 5:00 pm after the Opening Mass and going through 5:30 am on Sunday morning the 26th before the Memorial Mass at 6:00 am. The sign up sheet is on the State Website and you can sign up for as many slots as you’d like. If you have any trouble signing up you can either contact myself at [jjneuweg@gmail.com](mailto:jjneuweg@gmail.com) or you can sign up at the State Convention at the Faith table or at Registration.



RIB and MRVF appeal letters will be coming out soon. The RIB letter will be mailed out and the MRVF letter will be sent out via email to all council GK and FS’s. Please help financially support both the Religious Information Bureau and Missouri Religious Vocations Fund. The RIB goes to help support evangelization programs in the 4 Diocese of the State and the MRVF goes to help foster vocations in the four Diocese by helping to promote vocations and help identify those seeking more information on following their calling to enter vocations in the Faith.

As we enter the Lenten season, Cor programs are a great way to get men together to deepen their Faith and help them to become better role models for their families. Helping men grow stronger in Faith to be better husbands, fathers, and men of their communities is essential in our lives today. If you need any help please reach out to Jason Kehl Chairman of the Cor initiative.

**Please Do Not Forget To Remember Our Fallen Knights and Ladies With a Sympathy Card**

Contact: Michael Deamos  
1904 Pine Street, Higginsville, MO 64037  
D/N 816-405-7418 [mdeamos@hotmail.com](mailto:mdeamos@hotmail.com)



**Please Pray for a Second Miracle toward Sainthood** For more information contact Chairman Tom Broadbentt [guild@mokofc.org](mailto:guild@mokofc.org)



**Please use QR codes to receive information or watch the recently released in regards to KNIGHT’S LEGACY Program.**

