

Christopher Columbus

# The Navigator

## July 2026



Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney

Father John E. O'Brien Council #3361  
3259 Old Goldie Rd., Oak Harbor

**GRAND KNIGHT**

Ben Young (*GK*)  
gk@kofc3361.org

**DISTRICT DEPUTY**

Ralph Byars (*DD/FDD/PGK/PFN*)  
rwbyarsjr@comcast.net

**FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR**

Rich Mueller (*PGK*)  
richard.mueller2@comcast.net

**Officers' Business Meeting**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday - 6pm

**Council Meeting**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday - 7pm

**Assembly Meeting**

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday - 6pm





Oak Harbor High School Recipients of the Fr. John E. O'Brien Council Scholarships and Grants. (left to right) GK Benjamin Young, Henry S., Alysah B., Reagan S., Zachary J., and DGK Heath Garcia.

Before the Oak Harbor High School Senior Class graduation of 2026, Fr. John E. O'Brien Council Grand Knight (GK) and Deputy Grand Knight (DGK) attended the Senior Scholarship Night to present a special grant and three scholarships to the awardees who distinguished themselves with their academic prowess, leadership, community service, and assorted extracurricular activities amongst a large number of recipients who applied for the Don Goodwill, Del Swatosh, Jack Newman, Jr. scholarship packages. Awarded were two three-thousand-dollar and a four-thousand-dollar scholarships and a special three-thousand-dollar grant.

## Grand Knight Message

Happy New Fraternal Year to all Knights!

While this may not be as special as Happy New Year on January 1<sup>st</sup> (Federal holiday, New Year's toasts, special foods, football games, family, friends, etc.), there are new events that occur.

New council officers will assume their duties. And with new leadership, perhaps new ideas or activities will be spoken about. And there will be new guidance from the Knights of Columbus Headquarters. For example, the *Faith in Action Guide* has been modified again. Some programs have been removed perhaps because very few councils were doing them. Some programs were combined with others because they may have been similar in nature. And a few new programs were added. When you get a chance, download the new *Faith in Action Guide* to see the changes.

While these changes may be of interest to the officers, it wouldn't harm all brothers to know about them. Here are a couple of changes:

### Change #1

Headquarters has made some changes to the Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity Ceremony. To see the updated instructions, please see the new Protocol, Meetings, and Ceremonials Guide.

### Change #2

Headquarters has made some changes to the requirements for the Columbian Award:

- Requirement #1 - Donate \$500.00 to either of the following programs: ASAP (Aid and Support after Pregnancy); Food for Families; Coats for Kids; or to RSVP (Refund Support Vocation Program)
- Requirement #2 - Complete any program within the following four programs: Faith Programs; Family Programs; Community Programs; or Life Programs.

## GK's Message (cont.)

Change #2 (cont.)

- Requirement #3 - Conduct *Cor* monthly or conduct three unique programs / activities that build fraternity, bring men closer to Christ. or serve the parish or community.

I personally thank our Deputy Grand Knight, Brother Heath, for being the driving force behind the implementation of our council's *Cor* Program. While there are over one hundred councils in Washington State, your council is among the few that have an active and vibrant *Cor* Program.

Another new program that the Knights of Columbus Headquarters is starting is *the Heart of the Gospel* which is designed to lead brother Knights and parish men through a "dynamic, ready-to-use retreat focused on the core of the Gospel". It is a free, video-based retreat that *Cor* leaders can facilitate at their parish following receiving permission from their priest. On the Knights of Columbus website, there are different study guides for leaders and participants; pre / post-retreat resources, and videos featuring Fr. John Ricardo (four pre-retreat videos, seven retreat videos, and one post-retreat video). I wonder if there are any men from our council or our parish who would be interested in such a retreat?

Finally, Happy Fourth of July to you. Perhaps I will see you at the parade or at our Fireworks Booth.

Vivat Jesus,

GK Benjamin Young

[Faith In Action Guidebook](#)

## ***The Great Chalice Caper: With Divine Approval***

### A Two-Year Effort is Destined to Reach Its Destination

The Whidbey–Fidalgo Assembly has completed an important chapter in its Chalice Program after nearly two years of dedicated effort. Last month, Fr. Paul Nkolombidzo of Malawi, Africa, took possession of suitcases containing 13 chalice sets destined for the Archdiocese of Blantyre in Malawi.

### Purpose of the Chalice Program

The ***Fourth-Degree Chalice Program*** is a Knights of Columbus tradition honoring deceased Sir Knights and/or family members through a symbolic and lasting gesture of patriotism and fraternal remembrance.

These chalice sets will help newly ordained priests begin their ministries with more modern sacred vessels than those left behind by missionaries nearly 100 years ago. Their arrival in Malawi marks the fulfillment of a long-held dream and reflects the Assembly's commitment to supporting the Church beyond its local community.

### Challenges and Resolution

The Assembly's primary challenge was getting all 13 chalices safely to the Archdiocese of Blantyre. The effort required careful attention to both cost and security:

- Shipping estimates exceeded \$2,000, creating a significant potential financial burden for the Assembly.
- The chalices needed to be protected throughout transit and delivered securely to their intended ordained recipients.

With these obstacles now resolved, the long-awaited program can be celebrated as a meaningful accomplishment—one made possible through persistence, generosity, and, fittingly, divine approval.



***Thank you to all who donated time and resources to make this caper happen!***

### **Family of the Month – May**

Congratulations to Doug and Erlinda Warren for being selected as the Fr. John E. O'Brien Council's Family of the Month for May 2026!

### **Knight of the Month – May**

Congratulations to Dave Morgan for being awarded the Fr. John E. O'Brien Council's Knight of the Month for May 2026!

### **Prayer Knight**

Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, is the council's next Prayer Knight. Prayers begin at 6:30pm followed by a Potluck dessert social.



As always, Knights, their families and friends are welcome.

### **UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS**

4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Sales - Sales continue and end on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 9am till customers peter out.

Oak Harbor July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade - Three entries are anticipated: St. Augustine's Right to Life bus, Divine Mercy icon, and the Council's float (celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary). Parade will be live-streamed.

### **WA State Council Links**

WA State Council

<https://kofc-wa.org/>  
<https://kofc-wa.org/Bulletin>

Form 10784 Online Submission

<https://www.kofc.org/en/forms/spa/invite.html?lang=en&form=10784C>

Submit Knights in Action Form

<https://www.kofc.org/en/contact/knights-in-action-news.html>

Fraternal Operations

<https://www.kofc.org/en/formembers/resources/fraternal-operations.html?icontabs=2>

Update Member Contact Info

<https://www.kofc.org/en/contact/update-contact-information.html>

4th Degree Form 4

<https://knights-of-columbus-form-4.pdfFiller.com/>

Degree Apparel

<https://knightsgear.com/>

4<sup>th</sup> Degree Uniform Packages

<https://www.kofcuniform.com/uniform-packages/package/knights-of-columbus-executive-fit-uniform-package-uniform-package/>

### **Fr. John E. O'Brien Links**

"Join Us" Form

<https://kofc3361.org/Join-Form.php>

"Join Us" Email

[joinus@kofc3361.org](mailto:joinus@kofc3361.org)

Incoming Picture Album

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Sx7yv16dLnVXvX1X6>

### ***From the Financial Secretary***

#### Announcing Our 2026-2027 Council Leadership!

As we look forward to the upcoming 2026-2027 fraternal year in Oak Harbor, we are proud to introduce the dedicated brothers who have stepped up to lead our council in service, faith, and fraternity.

**Executive Leadership** Our council will be led by Grand Knight Benjamin Young. Supporting him in the executive roles are Deputy Grand Knight Heath Garcia and Chancellor Kurt Bauch. We are also honored to have Fr. Chris Hoiland continue his service as our Council Chaplain.

#### Administrative and Financial Officers

Responsible for ensuring the smooth operation and financial health of our council are:

- Financial Secretary: David Morgan
- Recorder: Douglas Warren
- Treasurer: Thomas Karney
- Advocate: Daniel Olvera

#### Council Operations and Guards

Responsible for providing essential support during our meetings and events are:

- Warden: Joseph Pfeffer
- Inside Guard: Emmanuel Montenegro
- Outside Guard: Jose Sanabria

#### Board of Trustees

Responsible for overseeing council operations and finances are:

- One Year Trustee: Stephen Boneau
- Two Year Trustee: Richard Mueller
- Three Year Trustee: James Waters II

Looking to serve the council in an awarding capacity? The Lecturer position is currently open. This position is an appointed position. This Lecturer's role has a wonderful opportunity for a brother to provide educational and engaging programs for the "good of the order" during our meetings.

### ***Financial Secretary (cont.)***

If you are interested in enriching our council's fraternal life through this role, please contact Grand Knight Benjamin Young at 240-572-4084. We look forward to a productive and blessed year under this new leadership!

#### Service Opportunities

Building our council's future as we prepare for the 2026-2027 fraternal year, we are looking for dedicated brothers to fill our vital *Service Programs*. These positions are the heart of our council's activities, and currently, all program leadership positions remain unassigned.

This is a unique opportunity for you to share your talents and lead our efforts in the following areas:

- Faith & Vocations: Lead our spiritual growth as the *Faith Director* or *Vocations Chairman*.
- Community & Life: Coordinate outreach and advocacy as the *Community Director*, *Life Director*, or *Health Service Director*.
- Family & Membership: Support our families as Family Director or help grow our brotherhood by serving as Membership Director or on the Recruitment and Retention committees.
- Special Projects: We are also seeking leads for the *Public Relations Office*, *Insurance Promotion*, and the *Golf Tournament*.

Additionally, positions for the *Admission Chair* and *WSC Convention Delegates and Alternates* are currently open.

Step-up to lead our council which thrives when every brother contributes his unique skills. If you are interested in any of these roles or want to learn more about how you can serve, please contact Grand Knight Benjamin Young, Jr at 240-572-4084.

Let's work together to make the year 2026-2027 our most impactful one yet!

**Western Washington Patriotic Order  
Exemplification**

Western Washington will have an Exemplification on July 25th, 2026 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Kirkland, WA. The point of Contact for the Host Assembly is William Webb. His email is [wwebb090173@gmail.com](mailto:wwebb090173@gmail.com) and his telephone number is 425-753-0431.

1pm Registration, Exemplification begins at 2:30pm with Mass at 5pm and the Banquet begins directly after Mass.

Sponsors and Faithful Comptrollers, please ensure the Form 4 is filled out to include membership number. If you plan on attending the banquet and if you are planning on bringing a guest, please let me know either through email, text, or phone before July 15th so I can give an accurate number to Edwin.

As the first Western Washington Exemplification for 2026 - 2027 Fraternal year, let us make it a great event.

VIVAT JESUS,

Darren Parsons  
District Master  
Western Washington  
206-406-6307

**Pro-Life Vigil**

Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, St. Augustine's Pro-Life Ministry will hold its next Pro-Life Vigil at SE Pioneer Way and SR 20 between 3:45 and 4:45pm. Signs will be provided.

Contact Mike or Barb Thelen at either (360) 661-0311 or (360) 320-3959.

**Fr. John E. O'Brien Columbiettes Auxiliary**

**Event Schedule**

August

29<sup>th</sup> - Assist Fr. John E. O'Brien KofC Council's Rest Stop for Bike Multiple Sclerosis (MS) during the Deception Pass Classic at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor

September

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> - Will host a free coffee fundraiser at Smokey Point South Bound Rest Stop

10<sup>th</sup> - Cooking lessons and Tai Chi exercise (9am to 4pm) at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor (takes place of the regular schedule meeting)

## Knights of Columbus Insurance

### YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE



#### **Fraternal Benefit Night**

Each Wednesday of the month, an online event is available for your viewing in both English and Spanish. The Spanish event is available any day of the week.

Fraternal Benefit Night - English - <https://kofcpacific.com/fbn>  
Fraternal Benefit Night - Spanish - <https://kofcpacific.com/fbne>

For your council to receive credit, each member will need to fill out a survey at the end of the event: <https://kofcpacific.com/survey>






We currently do not have a survey in Spanish (only English), but we will be adding that during the next fraternal year. Please have your Spanish speaking members fill out as much of the survey as possible. All surveys automatically get sent to GA Cicero Seisedos and the appropriate FA. Once the surveys are completed, an online report form will need to be submitted for credit. Supreme is no longer accepting report documents-here is the link to the online report: <https://www.fbn-form.com/>

Once this report is received by Supreme, it is sent to Cicero for his approval. He will then cross reference the surveys to verify the attendance on the report and submit it. At that point, we can't verify the credit so please reach out to your regular channels for verification.

To sign up a new member, please use the following link <https://www.kofc.org/join> and **Agent Referral Code "MSCHWAB"** for a FREE membership. We will be notified of the new member and help to welcome him to the council.

Lisa Schwab  
Administrative Assistant

<https://www.kofc.org/en/contact/update-contact-information.html> / [Book Time with me](#)

  <p><b>Knights of Columbus</b> <b>Lisa Schwab</b> <i>Administrative Assistant</i> Phone: 360-391-9170 SchwabOfficeMail@KofC.org</p>	   <p><b>Knights of Columbus</b> <b>Michael Schwab, FICF, CLTC</b> <i>Field Agent</i> Phone: 360-391-9170 michael.schwab@kofc.org</p>
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