

The Navigator



Christopher Columbus

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

Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney

GRAND KNIGHT

Ben Young (GK)
gk@kofc3361.org

DISTRICT DEPUTY

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

ACTING FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR

Rich Mueller (PGK)
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Officers' Business Meeting

1st Tuesday - 6pm

Council Meeting

2nd Tuesday - 7pm

Assembly Meeting

3rd Tuesday - 6pm



Grand Knight Message

Last month, the Deputy Grand Knight, Grand Knight, and District Deputy, had the honor of representing your Council at the Washington State Knights of Columbus Annual Convention. Brother Doug Warren also went to the Convention. Together we listened to some noteworthy accomplishments by different Councils; I must admit, listening to what they had accomplished was inspiring. For example, one Council planned, coordinated, and converted a veterinary clinic into a functioning Women's Health Clinic. Another Council planned, coordinated, and converted a mobile home into a mobile ultrasound machine capable of being driven to different medical facilities and clinics as needed. Another Council was recognized for collecting \$16K during their Tootsie Roll Fund Raising Drive.

While I don't propose that our Council embark on such activities (unless there is an overwhelming desire by the Brothers to do so), I heard some other councils being recognized for other worthy projects that may be of lesser magnitude. For example, one council discovered that many local schoolchildren did not have pajamas. The council held some pancake breakfasts and devoted what was collected to purchase pajamas for the children. Another council decided to try to increase attendance at their church Stations of the Cross events by hosting Lenten Friday Fish Frys and devoting what was collected to a different charitable activity (sorry, I don't recall what council held that the activity).

Both District 19 (St. Mary, Anacortes, St. Augustine, Oak Harbor, and St. Hubert, Langley) and our Council were recognized several times at the Washington State Convention.

Your District 19 District Deputy, Brother Ralph Byars, was presented with a *Certificate of Excellence* by the State's Family of the Month Program Coordinator for achieving *Third Place* amongst the 35 districts within Washington State based upon the number of families nominated by District 19's councils.

GK's Message (cont.)

Brother Ralph Byars was presented with another *Certificate of Excellence* by the State's Faith in Action Programs for achieving *Fourth Place* amongst the 35 districts within Washington State based upon the total number of reports documenting service and program activities completed by District 19 councils.

Our Council's Family Programs Coordinator, Brother Doug Warren, was recognized as one of the few councils within Washington State to have nominated a deserving family as *Family of the Month* every month during the 2025-2026 Fraternal Year.

Our Council's Financial Secretary, Brother Dave Morgan, was recognized for his administrative prowess. Only 16 councils, out of 145 councils, were recognized for administrative excellence in the timely submission of all required forms, reports, and audits to the Supreme Council. Our Council was one of those 16 councils only because our Financial Secretary is so exemplary... outstanding job Dave!

And finally, our Council was recognized for achieving *Third Place* amongst the 145 councils within the Washington State for the total number of reports documenting service and program activities reported to the Supreme Council during the 2025-2026 Fraternal Year.

Brothers, thank you. Thank you for all that you do to support our church, our parish, and our community. My Brothers, you inspire me. Do continue this superlative effort each and every month.

Congratulations to all you and thank you for everything you do!

Vivat Jesus,

GK Benjamin Young



Family of the Month – April

Congratulations to Tom and Debbie Karney for being selected as the Fr. John E. O'Brien Council's Family of the Month for April 2026!

And let's continue to congratulate them for being selected as the Washington State Knights of Columbus Family of the Month for April 2026!

Brother Tom serves as the council's treasurer but also is the council's *Scholarship Coordinator*.

Prior to April, he visited local high schools to announce the Oak Harbor Knights of Columbus will be offering several scholarships to deserving graduating seniors who would be matriculating at a college or university.

During April, he revisited these local high schools to collect scholarship applications, transcripts, letters of recommendation, and SAT or ACT test scores. After receiving these documents, he chaired the scholarship board, comprised of fellow Brother Knights who read through these documents and selected three deserving applicants to receive the council's scholarships. Recognizing another deserving student who had overcome numerous obstacles in her life, Tom advocated for the council to award her a special grant after she did not receive a scholarship.

His wife, Debbie, was recognized for her coordination efforts in scheduling parish Eucharistic Ministers for the five weekend Masses.

Congratulations to both for being selected as Family of the Month and for being shining examples of service to the Knights, to the Parish, and to our community.

Knight of the Month – April

Congratulations to Fr. Paul Pluth for being awarded the Knight of the Month for April 2026!

Fr. Paul was recognized for his ministry at Wings of Hope Chapel on NAS Whidbey Island for his baptismal work with military families.

Prayer Knight

Monday, June 5th, 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

Anniversary Mass - Father Dwight's 15th Anniversary Mass will be held on Thursday, June 11th at 6pm at St. Hubert's.

Patriotic Degree - The 4th Degree Meeting on Tuesday, June 14th will hold the 2nd annual Flag Day Ceremony and flag retirement event at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor.

Cor - A flexible framework of prayer, formation and fraternity that helps focus men on Jesus through building Christ-centered brotherhood scheduled on Tuesday, June 22nd at St. Augustine's Fellowship Hall beginning at 6pm.

4th of July Fireworks Sales - Sales start on Sunday, June 28th through July 4th. Doors open at 9am till customers peter out.

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

Communication Meeting – The GK has scheduled a meeting with the Pastor of Whidbey Island of Churches with the objectives of strengthening relationships between the council and church, event priorities, and coordination.

Silver Rose Program Wash

Unfortunately, the Silver Rose event did not take place last month. The event was waylaid by a state-level event coordinator saying the ceremony must be held in a church. How about what is stated in Matthew 18:20, "*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*" "This verse emphasizes Jesus' presence among believers when they come together in His name. It is not about the number of people but about the unity and purpose of gathering in Christ."

Knights voiced their disappointment and frustration. The Grand Knight sent an email to the State Deputy, District Deputy, and event coordinator expressing the council's displeasure. The State Deputy responded promptly, apologized, pledged to investigate, and expressed hope that the council would participate again next year. It was also brought up at last month's KofC Washington State Convention. Council representatives met with the State Deputy to discuss the matter. For future Silver Rose events, if the Silver Rose Icon cannot be delivered, this council will substitute roses to celebrate this special program rather than cancel.

KofC WA State Convention Wash

Pennies for Heaven Fund - The council submitted a check for \$3361.00 for the "*Pennies for Heaven Fund*" at this year's Washington State Convention.

Thanks to you all who have provided donations to the "*Pennies for Heaven Fund*" from individual donations, overpayment of membership dues, and especially those who dropped donations during the "*Shaking the Cans*" after the Masses. Your efforts helped the council meet its goal of providing the amount of dollars that match the council's number.

Thank you!

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/for-members/resources/fraternal-operations.html?icon-tabs=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/>

4th 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

Incoming Picture Album

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



Congratulations to Paul Holzbaur and Elodia "Lodi" Holzbaur, honored as the Knights of Columbus Family of the Month for March 2026. The award was presented by Brother Rich Mueller, with Fr. Paul Pluth in the background at the NAS Whidbey Island Base Chapel "Wings of Heart".

Thanks to Brother Doug Warren for this photo of the awardees.

Cor Formation Gathering

(Cor - Latin for "heart")

The Cornerstone - Building Your Life on Christ!

Date: Tuesday, June 22nd

Time: 6:00 - 7:30pm

Location: St. Augustine's Church

Cor Formation Gathering continues with the final episode of the powerful **Into the Breach** video series: **"The Cornerstone."**

Christ is the only sure foundation for our lives. As St. Paul teaches: *"No one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ"* (1 Corinthians 3:11). In a world of shifting sands and false promises, Jesus calls us to build our lives on Him — to know, love, and serve God with all our heart, so that we may be with Him forever.

This session will explore what it means to make Christ the cornerstone of our daily decisions, our families, our vocations, and our future. Through inspiring teaching and personal witness, we will be challenged to pursue heroic virtue and stand firm on the rock of our salvation.

Join us for an evening of formation, prayer, and fellowship as we conclude this impactful series and renew our commitment to living as true disciples.

All parishioners are warmly invited — bring a friend! *"Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power"* (Ephesians 6:10).

Pro-Life Vigil

Friday, June 5th, 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

June

11th - Election of officers

14th - Assisting Fred Harrington Columbiettes Auxiliary initiation of new member at St. Mary Church in Marysville

26th/27th - Rummage Sale (8am to 4:30pm); donation drop off (8am to 4:30pm) on Thursday, June 25th at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor

26th - Assist Fr. John E. O'Brien KofC Council at the Holland Happening booth

28th to July 4th - Assist Fr. John E. O'Brien KofC Council Fireworks Sales

August

29th - 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

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

10th - 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](#)

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