

Christopher Columbus

The Navigator



November 2026

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



Blessed
Fr. Michael McGivnev

GRAND KNIGHT	DISTRICT DEPUTY	FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR
Ben Young	Ralph Byars (*DD/FDD/PGK/PFN*)	Rich Mueller (*PGK*)
gk@kofc3361.org	rwbyarsjr@gmail.net	richard.mueller2@comcast.net

Officers' Business Meeting	Council Meeting	Assembly Meeting
1st Tuesday - 6pm	2nd Tuesday - 7pm	3rd Tuesday - 6pm



On Thursday, November 26, Fr. John E. O'Brien Council 3361 will celebrate the 76th anniversary of its official establishment in 1950—and honor the namesake whose legacy continues to inspire us. For 76 years, this council has been a source of brotherhood, faith, and service. As we gather with family and friends to give thanks this Thanksgiving, our council has an especially meaningful reason to celebrate.

For more than seven decades, our council has been a cornerstone of faith, charity, and community in the Oak Harbor area. Through the dedication of our charter members, past leaders, and every brother Knight who has stepped forward to serve, Fr. John E. O'Brien Council 3361 has consistently lived out the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

Whether supporting our parish at St. Augustine, lending a hand at local community events, or coming together in fellowship and prayer, our shared history is a testament to what we can accomplish when we work together in service to others.



As we celebrate this milestone during this Thanksgiving season, let us take a moment to reflect on our rich legacy, honor those who built the foundation before us, and look forward to many more years of meaningful service to our parish and community.



A Thanksgiving Reflection: Faith in Action



"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 5:18

As the autumn air settles in and our thoughts turn toward the gathering table, we are naturally reminded of the many blessings God has placed in our lives: our homes, our health, our friends, and above all, our families.

For us as Brother Knights, Thanksgiving carries an extra layer of meaning. Our gratitude is not meant to be a quiet or passive sentiment kept strictly within the walls of our homes. True gratitude overflows into action.

Across our parishes and communities, we see what this looks like every November: Knights rolling up their sleeves to pack food drives, preparing warm holiday meals for families in need, supporting our clergy, and standing shoulder-to-shoulder in fraternity. When we feed the hungry, comfort the lonely, and serve our parishes, we turn the gift of our faith into a living thank-you to God.

As you gather with your loved ones this season, take a moment to look around the table—and look around your council. Give thanks for the gift of your domestic church (your family) and give thanks for the Brotherhood that binds us together in service to Christ and His Church.

Let us renew our commitment to living out our principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity not just through the holidays, but every day of the year.

Wishing you and your family a blessed, peaceful, and joyful Thanksgiving!
— Your Brother Knights

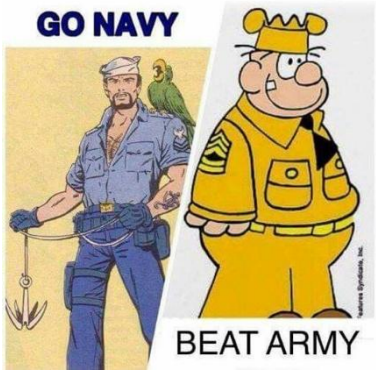
Save the dates for December!



Brothers, we have special events coming up this December that you should plan to attend.

First, December the 12th. We will be hosting an Army / Navy Game watch party. Come enjoy the best college football game of the year with your brothers!

GO NAVY! - BEAT ARMY!



Next, December 19th. On this date is our annual council Christmas Party. Quite possibly one of the best events of the year. Tickets will go on sale on Tuesday November 10th at our council meeting. Cost is $25.00 a head. The menu will be a traditional Christmas feast with ham, turkey, and all the trimmings with pie for dessert. And of course, the fan favorite "white elephant gift exchange."

Grand Knight Message

by GK Benjamin Young

The Corporal Works of Mercy are charitable actions that we perform to meet the physical needs of our neighbors. These acts address the physical and material well-being of others:



- Feed the Hungry
- Give drink to the Thirsty
- Clothe the Naked
- Shelter the Homeless
- Visit the Sick
- Visit the Imprisoned (or ransom the captive)
- Bury the Dead

Feed the Hungry

1. Brother Knights, their family members, and other volunteers helped to sort through more than 5,000 pounds of potatoes and placed them in plastic bags last month. After that, bags were loaded into different trucks and delivered to several community food banks located in both Island and Skagit Counties. Also, bags were delivered to St. Augustine's Agape Ministry and Western Village Estates for the indigent within our communities.

2. On Sunday, November 1st, St. Augustine's Men of the Parish will host the First Sunday Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall following the 8:00am and 9:30am Masses. The pancake breakfast is heavily supported by Knights and Columbiettes who setup, cook, serve and cleanup. Volunteers are always welcomed to help offset those who continually support this monthly breakfast event.

3. Each Monday of the month, the St. Augustine Agape Ministry serves meals at 4:30pm in Fellowship Hall for the local indigent community. On the fourth Monday, the Knights support the ministry by cooking and serving the meal.

GK Message (cont.)

4. On Sunday, November 8th, Knights will be serving breakfast to St. Augustine and St. Mary Religious Education (RE) children who are to participate in a youth retreat at St. Mary Catholic Church in Coupeville.

5. In December, Knights will provide snacks to St. Augustine and St. Mary RE children who are scheduled to attend a RE field trip.

Clothe the Naked

1. During last month's council (membership) meeting, Brother Knights were requested to donate $75.00 for a baby shower for St. Augustine's and St. Mary's Pregnancy and Parenting Support (PREPARES) Ministry. The Knights passed the hat around and answered the request by raising $150.00!

2. Brother Rich Mueller and his Coats for Kids Committee raised enough money to receive 384 new warm coats to be distributed to those who need them in our local community. Volunteers, including your Brother Knights, distributed a portion of those coats with other distributions to be made soon.

Shelter the Homeless

1. On Saturday, November 14th, a Habitat for Humanity Veteran's Day Build is scheduled. The Knights have been requested to support this community effort. Brothers, please consider volunteering for this worthy cause to help less fortunate veterans.

The Knights are immensely involved in the community in many ways. If you have an idea for a fundraising event, do share it with other Knights, especially your council officers. It could come to fruition.



Prayer Knight

Event Chair - Walt Daspit

Monday, November 9th

Please join us at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor for Prayer Knight with the Divine Mercy Chaplet beginning at 6:30pm followed by the Rosary.

A dessert potluck follows. And, as always, Knights, their families and friends are welcome.

Let's prayer together.





Don't forget!

Daylight Savings Time begins this Sunday, November 2nd at 2:00am

Don't be the one who forgets and shows to 8am Mass at 9am.



Don't forget!

Mail or drop off your vote before Tuesday, November 3rd!

Faith Director News

by Steve Boneau

Priest Appreciation Dinner Tickets

Priest Appreciation Dinner tickets are SELLING FAST! Of the 100 tickets available, fewer than 25 remain. Don't hesitate to purchase your ticket in advance, as tickets may not be available at the door. The Priest Appreciation Dinner will be held on Friday, November 13, at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor. Doors open at 5:00 PM with dinner being served at 6:00 PM.

St. Augustine Ministries

St. Augustine is looking for volunteers to support various parish ministries. Please consider serving as a security guard during Religious Education, Mass lector, or Eucharistic minister. To volunteer or require more info, please contact the St. Augustine Assistant Parish Administrator.

Praying on Every Tuesday Sunrise (POETS)

All Knights and men of the parish are invited to join POETS, a men's faith and prayer group hosted by Mike Thelen at his home, 1401 SE Dock Street, #101. The group meets every Tuesday morning from 8:00 to 9:15 a.m.

Each gathering begins with a decade of the Rosary, followed by time to share personal challenges of faith, faith experiences, God moments. The group also reads and discusses the upcoming Sunday Mass liturgy, offering an opportunity to reflect on Scripture and grow together in faith.

KofC Priest Appreciation Dinner

Event Chair - Steve Boneau

On Friday, November 13th, the Oak Harbor Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Priest Appreciation Dinner at the Knights Club of Oak Harbor. Social hours begin at 5pm (1700) followed by dinner at 6pm (1800).

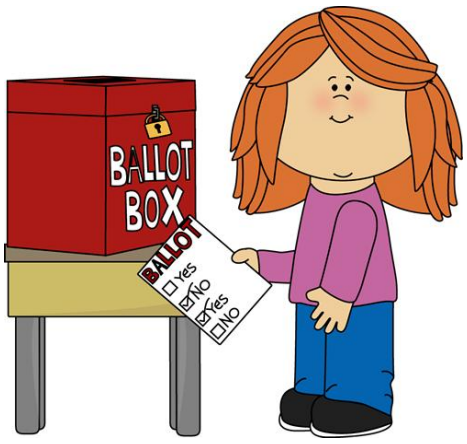
Only 100 tickets will be available.

- Advanced Ticket Price
  - Adults - $25.00
  - Young adults between 8 and 17 - $15.00
  - Kids under 7 or younger are free

- At the Door Price
  - Adults - $30.00
  - Young adults between 8 and 17 - $20.00

Menu consists of roasted Cornish game hens, mashed potatoes with cream gravy, fresh green beans, leaf salad and potato dinner roll. Desserts to be provided by the Columbiettes.

Contact Steve Boneau to purchase tickets.





Family of the Month

Pete and Pat Rivera

Congratulations to Pete and Pat Rivera on being selected as Fr. John E. O'Brien Council's Family of the Month for September 2026.

Pete Rivera is a key contributor to the annual council picnic, generously devoting his time and expertise to preparing and roasting the pig. He spends hours carefully monitoring the process to ensure it is roasted to perfection. His wife, Pat, also contributes delicious Guamanian specialties, including red rice and Finadeni sauce. Paired with the roasted pig, these flavorful accompaniments elevate its rich, savory taste to an entirely new level.

As president of the Knights Club of Oak Harbor, Pete helps ensure that the club is well managed and properly maintained. Through his efforts, the council and assembly have a welcoming venue to hold meetings and fundraisers. He also gives generously of his time and talents to help Wednesday Knight Bingo operate smoothly and efficiently. Pat supports the event through her participation and by providing delectable delights for everyone who attends.

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

KofC Cor (Heart)

Prayer, Formation, Fraternity

The next Cor meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 24th at 5pm at St. Augustine's Fellowship Hall. For more info, contact DGK Heath Garcia at either (360) 969-0092 or *sotanomad@gmail.com*.

Knight of the Month

Rusty Waters

Congratulations to Rusty Waters on being selected as Fr. John E. O'Brien Council's Knight of the Month for September 2026.

Rusty's many talents, generous spirit, and readiness to serve make him an outstanding selection as Knight of the Month.

Rusty consistently demonstrates initiative by volunteering to chair events when others are unavailable. As chair of the council's annual picnic, he coordinated the food and beverage arrangements and ensured that all necessary preparations were completed, with the goal of providing an enjoyable experience for all attendees.

When St. Augustine's Church needed a religious education room remodeled before a rapidly approaching class start date, he responded immediately and completed the work in time.

More recently, Rusty coordinated the packing and loading, with help from fellow Knights, of two moving containers with the household belongings of a mother and daughter relocating out of state. He also installed two smoke detectors and painted a room to help them prepare their home for sale. Hauled items to Goodwill and Island County Waste.

By consistently offering his skills, time, and assistance to those in need, he upholds the proud tradition of service that defines the Knights of Columbus.



Columbiettes News

- The Columbiettes really enjoyed bagging potatoes with the Knights on October 24. We helped bag nearly 5500lbs. of potatoes to help support local area food banks!







- The Columbiettes will be supporting the Knights' Priest Appreciation Dinner with desserts.

- Interest in joining the Fr. John E. O'Brien Columbiettes Auxiliary? We support the local Knights of Columbus and St. Augustine Church. Please contact Monique at (831) 236-1323. We'd love to have you join!

Knight of Columbus Links

WA State Council Bulletin
Online 10784 Form Submission
Knights in Action Form (Columbia)
Family of the Month Form
Leadership Resources and Guides
Update Member Contact Info
Fourth Degree Membership Document
Fourth Degree Uniform Packages
Knights Gear

Fr. John E. O'Brien Council Links

Join Us Form
Join Us Email
Incoming Picture Album

Pro-Life Vigil



"It's so great we can have such a presence here in the middle of Oak Harbor - awakening people to the reality of life.

We never know how this will trigger a thoughtful 2nd thought. Our focus is on the good GOD has created in the lives, ours, theirs. All are important, or HE would not have created them in the first place. – Mike Thelen"

St. Augustine's Pro-Life Ministry will hold its next Pro-Life Vigil on Friday, November 6th at 4 corners of SE Pioneer Way and US20 between 3:45 and 4:45pm. Signs are provided. For more info, please contact Mike Thelen at (360) 661-0311.



FS Council News – by Dave Morgan

Council Budget for 2027

The time has come to prepare our council budget for 2027. We will discuss all line items at the next couple of meetings, so please don't wait until the last minute. If you have items to suggest for the council budget—along with an idea on how to raise funds to cover them—please reach out to the Trustees, Deputy Grand Knight (DGK) or the Grand Knight (GK).

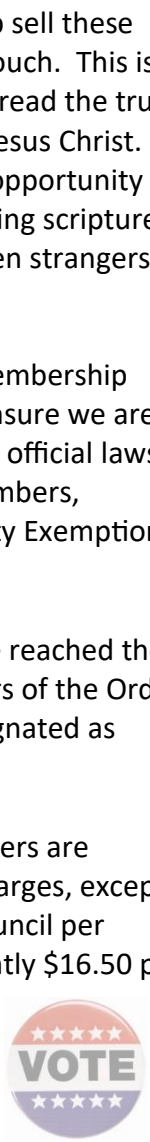
Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales

As soon as our shipment arrives, Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) cards will be on sale after each Mass at St. Augustine and St. Mary churches. If you can spare a couple of minutes to help sell these cards at either parish, please get in touch. This is a wonderful evangelization effort to spread the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of Jesus Christ. Our hope is to give parishioners the opportunity to send religious Christmas cards featuring scripture verses to loved ones, friends, and even strangers.

Clearing Up Membership Confusion

We often receive questions about membership statuses and dues exemptions. To ensure we are all on the same page, let's review the official laws of the Order regarding Honorary Members, Honorary Life Members, and Disability Exemptions.

1. Honorary Members
   - Official Rule. Members who have reached the age of 65 and have been members of the Order for 25 consecutive years are designated as honorary members.
   - Membership Dues Status. Members are exempt from the general fund charges, except for paying State and Supreme Council per capita charges and levies… currently $16.50 per year.







Help Wanted! – by Event Chair Rich Mueller

Drivers and delivery people are needed to finish off this year's Coats for Kids drive. Due to a change in my working hours, I am unable to make deliveries of coats to the Oak Harbor schools. If you are available during school hours and would like to help, please let me know.

Contact Rich at *1082home@gmail.com.*

FS Council News *(cont.)*

2. Honorary Life Members
   - Official Rule. Members qualify for Honorary Life status if they meet any of the following criteria:
     - Reached the age of 70 and have been members of the Order for 25 consecutive years.
     - Been members of the Order for 50 years, regardless of age.
     - All priests and members of religious communities upon taking the First Degree
   - Membership Dues Status. Members are exempt from further payment of dues, per capita charges, and assessments.

3. Disability Exemption
   - Official Rule. Any member disabled by bodily injuries or disease — preventing them from engaging in any occupation or employment for pay or profit for at least six consecutive months—may be relieved from payments.
   - Benefit. Upon request, they can be relieved from paying all council dues as well as Supreme and State per capita taxes. If you believe you meet these exact constitutional requirements and want to ensure your status is properly registered, please reach out to our Financial Secretary!

FS NOTE: The Financial Secretary has received cards for the following members
- *Honorary Members: Rene Abadesco*
- *Honorary Life Members: Charles Bates, Cardito Castro, Richard Dugger Sr., Cristobal Garcia, William Swetlick*

Name Badge Order Verification

I'm preparing to place an order for name badges. So, if you require one, please contact me. Also, I sent an email to eight brother Knights. I'm waiting for responses.





Knights Club News

Volunteers Needed

The Knights Club of Oak Harbor is seeking volunteers to support Wednesday Knight Bingo. A variety of roles are available, including cashiers, callers, verifiers, and kitchen assistants. No prior experience is required — members and supporters are encouraged to stop by, lend a hand, and help make the evening a success.

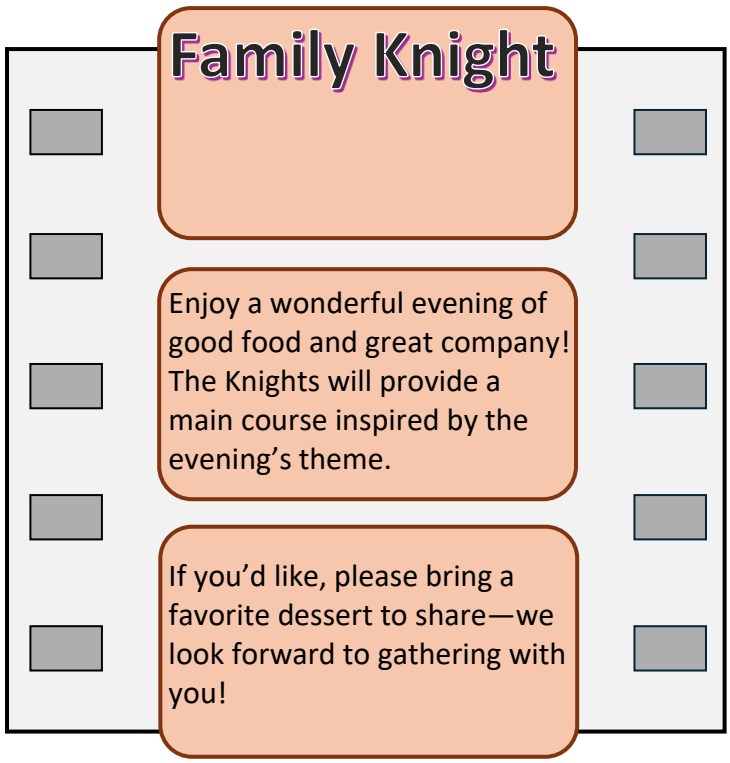
Pennies for Heaven Donations

Warm congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Paul Brewer, the council's "Beggar for Christ," and everyone who joined us for Wednesday Knight Bingo! Together, you helped raise over $450.00 during August and September for Pennies for Heaven. Fantastic effort, Paul — and sincere thanks to all who participated and contributed!



Planning a Private Event?

Looking for a place to host a private event? Contact the club rental manager, Ralph Byars, for availability and additional details.



Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC)

With the arrival of Autumn, the council is preparing for their annual *Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC)* Christmas Card Sales event! This program offers beautiful religious cards and seasonal items to our parish communities with the proceeds benefiting the council's charitable initiatives and community outreach throughout the year.

The council will be selling KCIC Cards after all weekend Masses at both St. Augustine and St. Mary churches throughout the months of October and November beginning on October 10th. To ensure this event is a success, we need Brother Knights (and family members!) to step up and lend a helping hand.

How Can You Help? We need volunteers for the following:

- Table Setup & Preparation. Arrive 15 to 20 minutes before Mass to set up the card displays in the vestibule or in the breezeway
- Mass Coverages & Sales. After Mass, assist parishioners with card selections, cash/check handling, or processing payments
- Takedown & Inventory. Spend time to conduct pack up and tally inventory

Volunteer Schedule & Sign-Up

- Whether you can cover a single Mass after your regular weekend service or volunteer for a couple of weekends, your assistance makes a huge difference.
- Locations at either St. Augustine or St. Mary (Coupeville)
- Sales start October 10th through November

If you can assist with sales at any Mass, please contact the Faith Director (Steve Boneau) at your earliest convenience or speak up at our next council meeting. Let's work together to help our parish community keep Christ at the heart of the Christmas season!

Fourth Degree – The Patriotic Degree

by Faithful Navigator

Worthy Sir Knights, I am proud to say our assembly is growing!

Last weekend I had the pleasure of participating in the Degree of Patriotism that welcomed three new Sir Knights into our assembly. Welcome to Sir Knights Joe, Heath and Jose. They join Monte and Udo as part of this year's class of new members

Gentlemen, please ask a Third Degree brother to join us. Here are seven reasons you could share to help them say YES.

Seven Reasons Why Knights Should Join the Fourth Degree

1. The Fourth Degree is a group of outstanding Knights of Columbus dedicated to promoting patriotism enlightened by the Catholic Faith.
2. We work for the application of Christian principles in all levels of democratic government.
3. We call upon our members to distinguish themselves with heroic deeds for God, Country, and Order.
4. We support religious, civic, and charitable causes that are consistent with our Order's high ideals.
5. We oppose the institution and development of forces averse to good Christian government.
6. We educate our members and the world-at-large to be defenders of our democratic institutions.
7. The Fourth Degree, the highest degree in the Knights of Columbus, provides members with a greater knowledge and appreciation of our Catholic heritage.

We are more than just uniforms and funerals. We bring value to our parishes, schools and communities. Will you be an active member? Will you help us lead the way for others? STRONG men

Faith, Patriotism, and Gratitude
Honoring Our Veterans

On **Wednesday, November 11,** our nation observes Veterans Day. For the Knights of Columbus, this day holds a profound significance. It calls us directly to our Fourth Principle—**Patriotism**—and reminds us of our duty to stand as a visible witness to both faith and love of country.

Since our founding by Blessed Michael McGivney in 1882, the Knights of Columbus has counted hundreds of thousands of veterans among our ranks. From World War I "KC Huts" served troops under the motto *"Everybody welcome. Everything free,"* to modern initiatives like the *Warriors to Lourdes* pilgrimage and volunteering at local VA Medical Centers, our Order has a rich, unbroken history of serving those who served.

This year's national Veterans Day theme is **"Veterans Helping Veterans and Their Families,"** a message that perfectly mirrors the fraternal solidarity of the Knights. We don't just thank our veterans with words; we support them with our actions and prayers.

As we celebrate, let us remember to pray for the safety of our active-duty personnel, for the physical and spiritual healing of our wounded heroes, and for the eternal repose of our fallen brothers.

My God bless all who serve,

Rich Mueller, FN / PGK
U.S. Navy Retired







Welcome Sir Knights!

This year's class of new members to the Fourth Degree.

Oak Harbor Exemplification

Sir Knight Udo (left)
Sir Knight Monte (right)





Federal Way Exemplification

Sir Knight Joe (left)

Sir Knight Jose (right)

Sir Knight Heath (bottom)





KofC Sister Council #3711 - Dagupan City, Philippines

Pangasinan Council #3711, based in Dagupan City, Philippines, is a faith-centered organization closely associated with St. John the Evangelist Cathedral, commonly known as Dagupan Cathedral. Rooted in service, fellowship, and civic responsibility, the council supports initiatives that strengthen both the parish and the community.

The Knights take an active role in charitable and civic efforts, including blood donation drives, contributions to local emergency-response initiatives, environmental cleanup activities, and programs that serve the needs of the church community. Through these efforts, the council demonstrates a sustained commitment to practical assistance and compassionate service.

Last year, Pangasinan Council #3711 organized a September Christmas Party and provided medical assistance for indigent families in the local area with food, prizes and gifts along with checkups and medicines.

This year, our Sister Council Knights plan to continue their efforts to care for the outcasts and needly in the community with the same efforts as that of the previous year.

The Fr. John E. O'Brien Council donates $500.00 a year to our Sister Council in their efforts to help their communities.









Special thanks to Fel Cataby (Chair Spokesman for our Sister Council) for providing the information and photographs that made this article possible; without this thoughtful contribution, the story might have gone unnoticed.