

THE ANCHOR



Volume 24, Issue 4

Meetings held first Thursday of each month. Next Meeting, Jan 8, 2026,

December 2025

Council Officers

Grand Knight
Bill Crawford

Deputy Grand Knight
Terry Anderson

Treasurer
Rick Tomlinson

Recorder
Kevin Byrne

Financial Secretary
Frank Goss

Chaplain
Fr. Brian Norris

Chancellor
Michael McAndrew III

Advocate
Craig Andros

Lecturer
Tom Fox

Warden
Mike Miller

Guards
Mike O'Connor
Pat Burn

Trustees
Craig Andros
Shawn Kelly
Paul Kowalski

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Dear Brother Knights,

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord this Christmas, I'm struck by the profound "yes" that Mary and Joseph gave to God's call. In a stable in Bethlehem, we see the fruit of their willingness to answer God's plan for their lives, even when it seemed uncertain or challenging. This same call to discipleship echoes today in our Altoona-Johnstown Diocese, where Bishop Mark is asking us to help foster vocations to the priesthood among our young men.

Just as the shepherds were called to witness Christ's birth and share the good news, we too have a mission to encourage and support those whom God may be calling to serve as priests. Brothers, I ask you this Advent season to pray for vocations, to reach out to the young men in your families and parishes, and to let them know that considering the priesthood is one of the greatest adventures of faith they could undertake. Our support of seminarians has always been a cornerstone of the Knights of Columbus, and now more than ever, our diocese needs men willing to say "yes" to God's call.

Let us make this Christmas season a time of prayerful discernment for vocations in our community. May the Holy Family inspire us to encourage and nurture those called to bring Christ to future generations.

Fraternally yours,

Bill, GK



COUNCIL UPDATES

Council 551 Rosary Rally – Council 551 hosted a Rosary Rally in honor of Columbus Day and in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of our Council Building at the Heritage Plaza in Downtown Altoona at 12pm on Saturday, Oct. 11th. About 100 people attended the rally with about 75% of those attending joining us for a luncheon held at the council home directly after.

Council 551 Nite at the Races – Our Fall Nite at the Races was held on Saturday, Oct. 25th. While attendance was slightly less than usual, we still managed to have a great time and make some money for the council and our charitable donations fund. We used a new vendor for the races, so if you attended, we'd love to hear your thoughts on the races. We'll announce the date of our Spring race night after the new year.

Council Communications – We continue to communicate to members in several ways:

- Council Website** – Our council website maintains our current programs, news, events, Anchor newsletter, and other relevant information. Continue to check out the website for the latest happenings of Council 551. Our website is <https://www.kofc551.org/>. Additionally, we place all Editions of the Anchor for the current year on the website. We also list details of upcoming events.
- Council Email** – We send emails periodically on timely events, news, meeting reminders, and assistance needs. Additionally, we'll send out the Anchor as a PDF through email. If you haven't provided an email to us, please do so.
- GroupMe Mobile App** – As mentioned in the last Anchor, we are now using GroupMe for council Txt notifications. This is the quickest way to communicate with council officers as well as the quickest way for us to provide you with important, timely information such as meeting reminders, upcoming events, volunteering needs, etc. . Please download the GroupMe app (available for both iPhone & Android phones) and sign up here: https://groupme.com/join_group/109151922/dI3iDpcQ

Or you can use the QR Code below: simply open your camera app on your phone, point at the QR code, and when the web link appears, tap on it to open your phone's internet browser, and complete the registration steps for creating an account. If you have trouble signing up, contact DGK Terry Anderson at (814) 932-0465



Council 1st Fridays Live Music – Our First Friday's Live Music continues this month with John McKelvey & Andrea Schneider on Friday, Dec. 5th. Bands will play from 7pm-10pm. We're asking for a \$5 donation per person to cover the cost of the band. We'll have a cash bar. We'll provide some light snacks, and feel free to bring your own snacks or order from Heritage Pizza. The upcoming schedule is below:

Friday, Feb. 6th – Bill Hocherl & Mark Rossi

Friday, Mar. 6th – Don Osborn & Bill Hunter

Friday, Apr. 3rd – John McKelvey & Andrea Schneider

Friday, May 1st – American Mood

KofC Football Sweepstakes Tickets – Weekly winners of the KofC Football Sweepstakes Tickets can be checked on our council website at <https://www.kofc551.org/special-announcements>. Winners will be posted every Wednesday (when received by State Council). We will also send out a PDF with each week's winners through our GroupMe notification.

Council Lottery

New Fundraiser

My Brother Knights:

Enclosed you will find your Dues Notice (if applicable), and 5 Raffle Tickets.

We are trying a new fundraiser with these 'Spring into Cash' Raffle Tickets to help add to our Small Games of Chance fund. As you probably know, our Small Games fund allows us to make donations to various causes throughout the year as well as donating to our 1492 Home Association to help with the upkeep of our Council Home. The tickets are \$5 each and we are asking that each member buy or sell at least 5 tickets. If you can sell a few more, there will be extras available at the club or by calling Frank Goss at 814-329-6094.

There will be a daily drawing the week of March 15 through March 21. We will give away \$100 every day except March 20, the First Day of Spring. On the 20th, the prize will be \$250 for the lucky winner.

Please return your sold tickets and money at your earliest convenience, but no later than March 13 to be included in the drawings. Tickets can be dropped off at the club at our February 5 or March 5 meetings or mailed to KofC, PO Box 711, Altoona, PA 16603.

We are asking for your support to enable us to continue to contribute to the community around us.

Vivat Jesu,

Bill Crawford, GK

Prayers for the sick & distressed

Continued prayers of healing for our Worthy Field Agent Mike McAndrew

Important Dates

Dec. 8th – Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception (Holy day of obligation)

Dec. 25th – Merry Christmas – Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)

Jan. 1st – Solemnity of Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

Jan. 8th – Monthly Council Meeting 8pm – Rosary at 7:45pm

Join Our Organization...

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practical (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. This means that an applicant or member accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church.