



Knights of Columbus®



Richard Council #788 January 2026 Newsletter

Preface

Our newsletter has been undergoing some changes over the last few months. We are addressing some formatting issues while doing our best to maintain some sense of continuity. We are also trying to ensure that our newsletter is easier to read and continues to convey important information about the upcoming events and announcements that directly pertain to Richard Council #788. Our most significant change, going into 2026, is that we are going to be making our newsletter even more prominently available on our website, social media pages, and direct emails to our membership.

We have one of the most active councils in the State! That is all because of you and your incredible contributions to our council. Thank you! All of you deserve all of the accolades and praise for your continuing support and indefatigable involvement in this incredible organization. We all should be very proud of the Richard Council. In honor of your dedication, we will continue our service to the community and especially to the Knights of Columbus.

In service,
Brendon Basiga
DGK/PD, Interim Newsletter Editor

Grand Knight's Message

Brother Knights,

As the Christmas lights are packed away and a new calendar year unfolds before us, I want to wish every Brother, and your families, a blessed and Happy New Year! I hope the grace and peace of the Advent and Christmas season remain in your hearts throughout 2026.

January is traditionally a time for renewal, resolution, and recommitment. It is an opportunity for our Council to look forward with fresh purpose and enthusiasm, reflecting on the core principles that define us: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

This month, let us focus on translating our faith into action. Our commitment to the Church, our community, and to one another is what makes our Council strong.

"To whom much is given, much will be required." (Luke 12:48)

We have been given the gift of this fraternity and the opportunity to serve. Let us resolve this year to be more visible, more active, and more impactful in our parish and neighborhood.

Andrew Oliver
Grand Knight

RICHARD COUNCIL 788

HONOR ROLL

STATE OFFICIALS

State Deputy

Barry Borsenik (Fr. Norman Van Poppelen Council #7233, Birch Run, MI)

District Deputy

David A. Zerbe (St. Michael Council #7311, Grand Ledge MI)

(Councils #788 Richard, Lansing, #7311 St. Michael, Grand Ledge, #11099 Msgr. John A. Gabriels, Lansing, #11694 St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing)

Lansing Diocesan Chaplain

Rev. Robert Bacik

Former Supreme Director and State Director, 10 For Charities

Thomas M. Wegener, PSD

Past State Deputy and Supreme Regional Growth Director

William H. Chassé, PSD

Past State Deputy

Richard F. McCloy, Sr., PSD

District Deputy, District 515

(Councils #6534 St. Peter, Eaton Rapids, #9182 St. James, Mason, #11875 St. Mary, Charlotte, #13516 Ss. Cornelius and Cyprian, Leslie)

Michael C. Schaefer, PGK

State Director of Evangelization, Faith and Formation

Christopher Wegener, PGK

Supreme Council Field Agent

Brennan Hayden (517-505-7300)

RICHARD COUNCIL 788 OFFICERS

Officers meeting 6:30 pm first Tuesday of every month

Business meeting 7 pm second Tuesday of every month

Grand Knight	Andrew Oliver	989-430-2008
Co-Chaplains	Rev. Robert Bacik	517-323-2379
	Rev. Jon Bokuniewicz	517-323-2379
Deputy Grand Knight	Brendon Basiga	517-282-8351
Chancellor	PGK John Vatter	517-214-1397
Recorder	Ken Watterson	517-881-0812
Financial Secretary	Richard Bierwagen	314-540-1726
Treasurer	PGK Daniel Beachnau	517-712-4146
Advocate	Mike Guyeskey	517-230-8965
Warden	Brian McLaughlin	810-618-3236
Inside Guard	Eric Wegener	517-583-0934
Outside Guard	PGK Randy LaLonde	906-370-3759
1 Year Trustee	PGK Michael H. Wegener	517-331-3959
2 Year Trustee	PGK Ken Morrison	517-719-4047
3 Year Trustee	PGK Chris Wegener	517-528-5970

COUNCIL DIRECTORS & CHAIRMEN

Membership Director	PGK Chris Wegener	517-528-5970
Recruitment	All Officers & Members	
	PGK Chris Wegener	517-528-5970
Retention Captain		
	PGK Ken Morrison	517-719-4047
Retention Team		
	PGK Michael H. Wegener	517-331-3959
Retention Team		
	PGK Chris Wegener	517-528-5970
Faith Director	Mike Guyeskey	517-230-8965
Vocations Director	Mike Guyeskey	517-230-8965
Community Director	Eric Wegener	517-583-0934
Pro-Life Couple	PGK Mike & Patti Schaefer	517-242-4961
Family Director	(vacant)	
Francis O'Donnell Project	PGK Mike and Vickey Wegener	517-331-3959
Youth Director	PGK Dane Jurković	517-203-9227
Newsletter Editor	Michael McCue	517-391-6594

LANSING COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION

Meets Third Wednesday of Every Month @ 7:00 pm

President	Andy Goeddeke	517-202-3618
Vice President	(vacant)	
Secretary	Steve LaMacchia	517-323-2463
Treasurer	Jay Corey	517-974-6501
Director	Dave Schertzing	517-204-4959
Director	Tony Kolp	517-706-9242
Director	Mike Arens	517-230-6531
Dir. GK	Andrew Oliver	989-430-2008
Dir. DGK	Brendon Basiga	517-282-8351
Dir. Council	Paul Connors	517-899-7442

Our Columbian 2026 Patrons (listed by Last, then First names)

Becht	Dennis	Fedewa	Duane	McQuillan	Edmund	Stotenbur	Daniel
Beckwith	Clyde	Fedewa	Ronald	Melton	Phillip	Suckow	John
Bleicher	James	Freund	Luke	Miller	Todd	Szedlak	Richard
Bollman	James	Garcia	Joseph	Noirot	George	Tellier	Gary
Bruner	Ronald	Goeddeke	Andrew	Ockert	Gerald	Theis	Dennis
Caporale	Vincent	Goeddeke	Drew	Ozanich	Walter	Thelen	David
Carey	Mark	Goerge	Hilary	Powers III	John	Watterson	Ken
Claeys	Jeffrey	Gonzalez	James	Reyes	Rosendo	Wegener	Michael
Cole	Scott	Grades	Ronald	Robitaille	Robert	Wittkowski	Paul
Cooper II	Don	Green	James	Roznowski	Frank	Yarsevich	Carl
Corety	Jay	Johnson	Gary	Ryczek	Richard		
Costigan	Christopher	Kellow	Mark	Schertzing	David		
Costigan	Patrick	Luedtke	Dave	Shaw	William		
Cotter	Charles	McCrackin	Michael	Shepard	Michael		
Daiss	Timothy	McDonald	Robert	Shertzing	Brian		
Dart	Douglas	McLaughlin	Brian	Sickler	William		
Dewitt	Mark			Simon	Harold		
Diaz	Justiniano			Stafford	Edmund		

Your generous sponsorship allows the Council to print and mail newsletters to those members who do not have access to email or the internet, as well as to distribute a supply of printed newsletters which are displayed in information racks at St. Gerard Church and Columbus Hall. Thank you for your support! (*List updated January 13, 2026*).

Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

“Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” (Gospel for Dec. 7, Mt 3:10)

In these reflections over the past year, we have meditated on the importance of our faith bearing fruit in good works. In a way, this Gospel passage, quoting St. John the Baptist, might seem out of place during Advent. But throughout this season, we reflect not only on Christ’s coming in the incarnation, but also his second coming in judgment at the end of the world. Let us pray and work to ensure we lead truly faithful and fruitful lives as disciples of Jesus.

This month, I challenge you to spend some time reflecting on the four last things — death, judgment, heaven and hell — to better prepare yourself for eternity.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

*December, 2025
Knight of the Month
Eric Wegener*

*December, 2025
Family of the Month
The Family of Mike Schaefer*

Please consider attending the next council meeting, scheduled for February 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM at Columbus Hall.

Program Director's Comments

December is our busiest month! I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to all of the Knights, their families, and everyone who lent a helping hand during this past December, 2025. We had a fantastic month and all of you deserve the credit! December was not only our busiest, but also our most successful month, yet! It has been said that a successful ending, leads to a fantastic year – and I have absolutely no doubt that 2026 will be a banner year for Richard Council 788. It would be impossible for me to even summarize everything that happened in December, 2025 – so here are some of the highlights:

Coats of Kids:

- 15 boxes of coats, constituting hundreds of jackets/coats were successfully distributed and warmly received;
- Communities in Schools, Homeless Angels, and the City Rescue Mission were our recipients for 2025;
- A big “Thank you” to Knights Eric and Chris Wegener for all of their help in distributing these coats;

Christmas Auction:

- This was one the biggest annual events that was, once again, a resounding success!
- Over \$4,000 was raised thanks to the generosity of our members and their families;
- Thank you to Knights Michael Shaffer and Ken Morrison for being our Auctioneers and Host for the evening;

Pancake Breakfast:

- We served our monthly pancake breakfast, to a record number of parishioners and families;
- This event takes place on the second Sunday of each month, and our next pancake breakfast will be on Sunday, January 11, 2026, after the 7:30 a.m.; 9:00 a.m.; and 11:00 a.m. masses;
- Thank you to all of the Knights and their families who help attend and organize this event;

Keep Christ in Christmas:

- Everything was sold out! Congratulations!
- Christmas cards and other crafts were sold to support the wonderful cause of reminding everyone why we celebrate the holidays in the first place!
- Thank you to everyone who helped support this program either by volunteering time or purchasing a Christmas card;

Matthew 25:40:

- This program is at the very heart of the Christmas season – many families were provided 2 flats of food, winter clothing, presents, and gift cards to help them through these cold months;
- This endeavor required hundreds of man-hours, organizing, scheduling, contacting, re-organizing, distributing, and coordinating amongst hundreds of moving parts;
- An immeasurable round of gratitude goes out to Past Grand Knight Michael Wegener and the entire Wegener family for spearheading this program and making this a reality.

Our next major events are....drum roll please...

The Annual Pinewood Open:

- Annual Pinewood Open is coming up: ***February 7, 2026;***
- Registration is from 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. at Columbus Hall;
- Race starts at 1:00 p.m.;
- Solo Racers = \$10 for 1 car
- Family Pass = \$24 for 3 cars
- Party Pack = \$40 for 5 cars
- See the flyer below for more details.

COR:

- These meetings continue into 2026;
- They take place on the 3rd Saturday of each month;
- The next COR meeting is on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 6:45 a.m. at the St. Gerad Parish Hall;

Once again, my deepest thanks to all of the Knights of Columbus, and to all who helped make December, 2025 a resounding success

Vivat Jesus!

Cheers,

Brendon Basiga

Deputy Grand Knight and Program Director - #788

September LCA President's Comments

Happy New Year!

We are starting 2026 off strong with two big LCA events in January.

The 21st annual Wild Game Banquet will take place on Saturday, January 17, 2026, at Fr. Weber Hall. There will be great food, prizes and fun for all. See the flyer for more details – we hope to see you there!

Our next Bingo night will be held on Thursday, January 29, 2026. \$35 will buy you in for every game on the program.

There will be great food, prizes and fun so be sure to stop by and try your luck. It's a great night out and there are plenty of chances to win!

Please follow our Facebook page “Knights of Columbus #788 – Columbus Hall” or click the link <https://www.facebook.com/61551675216747/>. This is a great way to stay informed of both council and corporation events.

Andy Goeddeke

LCA President

(517) 202-3618

Prayers for Sickness and Distressed:

We firmly believe in the power of prayer, and ask that your prayers go out to those who are going through difficult times – whether that is as a result of illness or other serious life struggles. Please pray for:

Mike Arens Ron Cook	Terri Becht (wife of Dennis Becht) Bob, Pam, Robert, and Jessica Davies	Jim Beckwith Chris Fox
Wanda Hicks (wife of Richard Hicks) Joe Kobus	Patricia Humpsch Tony Kolp	Joann Klein (wife of Thomas Klein) Robert Nelson
Kristen McCue (wife of Michael McCue) Kathy Stoffer	“Pete” Pline (wife of John Suckow) Ron and Joan Zerfas	Mike Schueller.

If you know of someone who is ill and recovering, or has passed away, please contact Grand Knight Andrew Oliver by email at gk788@mikofc.org or at 989-430-2008. You can reach our Financial Secretary, Richard Bierwagen, at 314-540-1726 or via email at fs788@mikofc.org or rjbierwagen@hotmail.com.

Matthew 25:40 – Recap

Worthy Brother Knights, Families and Friends,

Richard Council 788 expresses its sincere appreciation for the charitable commitment of its members and friends. The 40th Annual Matthew 25:40 Christmas Project achieved significant success due to collective efforts. This year, 24 working poor families received gifts tailored to each family member, as well as enough food to sustain them for two weeks. In conjunction with the council’s successful Coats for Kids program, all family members in need were provided with warm winter coats.

The appeal for donations began in September, utilizing updated methods such as QR codes for streamlined online contributions. This initiative resulted in approximately \$7,500 raised through checks, cash, and online donations. The gift shopping team not only ensured that recipient families benefited from a diverse selection of gifts but also contributed nearly \$2,200 of their own funds. Similarly, the food shopping team efficiently procured and delivered sufficient supplies for each family.

This year, 14 delivery teams facilitated distributions on December 21. Fundraising and logistical operations were enhanced by employing QR codes for solicitation and text messaging for delivery coordination. We extend our gratitude to all donors, shoppers, and delivery volunteers whose support was essential to this project’s continued success. Below are the key figures:

- 109 family members received gifts at a budget of \$60 per individual, totaling \$6,540.
- Gift buyers personally contributed an additional \$2,192.34, bringing the total spent on gifts to \$8,732.34.
- Food buyers donated \$1,060.66, with a further \$582.83 reimbursed, resulting in a total food expenditure of \$1,643.49.
- The overall cost for the 40th Annual Matthew 25:40 Christmas Project was \$10,375.83.

Thank you to everyone who contributed both time and resources to make this project possible.

Michael and Vickey Wegener

Call for Volunteers

We are always in need of volunteers. Simply put – none of our events, nor any of our programs would succeed without the incredible man-hours donated by our volunteers. All are welcome and all are encouraged to get involved. Even an hour of your time, can make a World of difference to someone in need. So, if your 2026 New Years' resolutions involve volunteering, you are most welcome to contact the Program Director – Brendon Basiga, at 517-82-8351.

From the Newsletter Editor

January 15, 2026 is the deadline for content for the February, 2026 newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact the Interim Editor, Brendon Basiga, at 517-282-8351.



LANSING COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION

Burger Nights

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT

Starting September 8th

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

ONLY \$9.00 !!!!!



"Open to the Public"



PRICE INCLUDES:

**Choice of a 1/3 lb. Hamburger – Cheeseburger – Olive Burger
French Fries**

Made To Order Dine In or Take Out

Your Choice Condiments Include:

Ketchup, Mustard, Pickle, Lettuce, Tomato, Mayo, Onion

Columbus Hall

5300 N. Grand River Ave. - Lansing, MI. 48906

Sunday, January 25th 3pm at
Columbus Hall

5300 N. Grand River Ave - Lansing, MI
48906



Calling all chili enthusiasts,
master chili chefs, slow
cookin' aficionados, and
the like.

All proceeds will go to Coats for
Kids

Doors open at 2:30pm

- No Entry Fee
- No Cost to eat chili

Winner will be

announced at halftime of the AFC Championship Game. **Hope to see you there!!**

Vote by placing a free-will donation in the box in front of your favorite chili. The winning chili-maker will take home the coveted **GOLDEN LADLE TROPHY** and the award for the hottest is the **Burnt Bowl Award!** Both winners will also receive a pair of Lugnuts tickets.

Join us at Columbus Hall for

BINGO

Thursday January 29th

Early Birds 6:00pm

Regular Games 6:30pm

Entry Pack \$20

(includes regular games and a dauber)

Buy-in for ALL Games \$35

**Extras, Early Birds, Jackpot Games,
Charity Game Tickets, Food & Drink
Available for Purchase!**

Doors open at 4:00pm

Public Welcome

Credit Cards Accepted

Columbus Hall is the home of Knights of Columbus Council #788
5300 N Grand River Ave, Lansing MI 48906



PINEWOOD OPEN

SATURDAY | February 7, 2026
COLUMBUS HALL | 5300 N GRAND RIVER AVE | LANSING



REGISTER HERE OR VISIT
[Kofc788.org/pinewood-open](https://kofc788.org/pinewood-open)

REGISTRATION IS FROM 12PM - 12:45PM
RACING STARTS AT 1PM



ENTRY FEES

SOLO RACER: \$10 FOR 1 CAR
FAMILY PASS: \$24 FOR 3 CARS
PARTY PACK: \$40 FOR 5 CARS

PRIZES

1ST, 2ND, 3RD PLACE
REHMANN AWARD (CROWD FAVE)
BEST SAINT-THEMED CAR

QUESTIONS? CONTACT

BRENDON BASIGA
PD788@MIKofc.org



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Richard Council 788 Lansing, MI



Beer
&
CHOCOLATE
TASTING

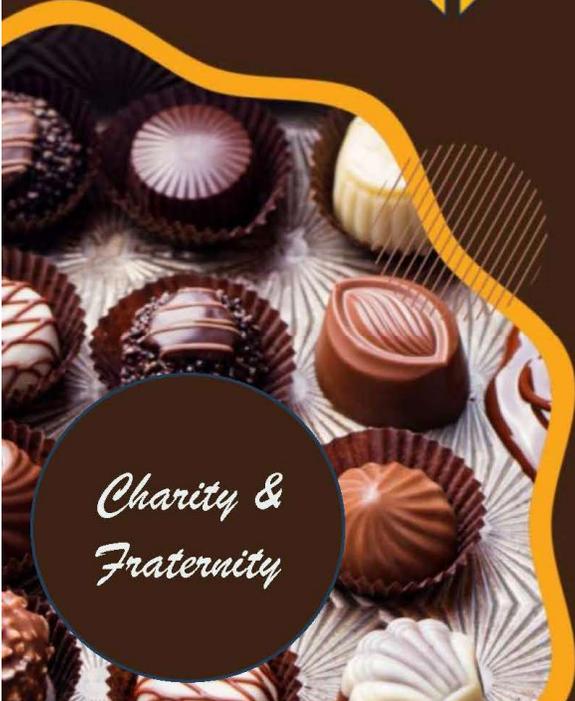


Friday the 13th of February
6:30 PM at Columbus Hall
5300 N. Grand River Ave

**Sample 7 different craft beers, paired
with specially-selected chocolates**
Proceeds to benefit various
Knights-supported local charities

\$30 per ticket

Purchase them behind the bar or
reserve your spot by emailing Chris
at MD788@mikofc.org



*Charity &
Fraternity*



Richard Council #788

January 2026

Calendar of Events



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
December 28 Club Closed	29 Club Open 4-8 pm Burger Night 5:00-7:00 pm	30 Club Open 4-8 pm	31 Club Open 4-8 pm	1 Club Open 4-8 pm	2 Club Open 4-8 pm	3 Club Open 4-8 pm
4 Club Closed	5 Club Open 4-8 pm Burger Night 5:00-7:00 pm	6 Club Open 4-8 pm	7 Club Open 4-8 pm	8 Club Open 4-8 pm	9 Club Open 4-8 pm	10 Club Open 4-8 pm
11 Club Closed Pancake Breakfast	12 Club Open 4-8 pm Burger Night 5:00-7:00 pm	13 Club Open 4-8 pm	14 Club Open 4-8 pm	15 Club Open 4-8 pm Newsletter Deadline	16 Club Open 4-8 pm	17 Club Open 4-8 pm COR 6:45-8 am
18 Club Closed	19 Club Open 4-8 pm Burger Night 5:00-7:00 pm	20 Club Open 4-8 pm Diocesan Meeting 5:00 - TBD	21 Club Open 4-8 pm	22 Club Open 4-8 pm	23 Club Open 4-8 pm	24 Club Open 4-8 pm
25 Chili Cookoff 2:30 pm - TBD	26 Club Open 4-8 pm Burger Night 5:00-7:00 pm	27 Club Open 4-8 pm	28 Club Open 4-8 pm	29 Club Open 4-8 pm Bingo Night 4:00 pm. - TBD	30 Club Open 4-8 pm	31 Club Open 4-8 pm

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT COLUMBUS HALL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.



Knights of Columbus®

Richard Council 788
5300 N. Grand River Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48906

Chartered May 30, 1903



Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

Founder of the Knights of Columbus

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (*here make your request*). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please report all favors received:

The Father McGivney Guild
1 Columbus Plaza
New Haven, CT 06510-3326 • USA
www.fathermcgivney.org

10/10/11/00

Painting by Chas Fagan © Knights of Columbus