Knights of Columbus®

Richard Council #788
April 2026 Newsletter

Grand Knight's Message:

Worthy Brothers,

As we celebrate the joy of the **Easter Season**, we are reminded that our faith is not a stagnant thing—it is a living, breathing mission. This April, as the world around us begins to bloom, I want to challenge our Council to experience a "new growth" of our own.

A New Mission: Fresh Faces, Stronger Council

My primary mission this year is to bring **new faces** into our brotherhood. While we cherish the long-standing commitment of our veteran members, the future of our Order depends on our ability to reach the next generation of Catholic men.



We often think of recruitment as a "membership drive" or a committee task, but the truth is much simpler: **it is an invitation**. The Call to Action: Look Around You. I am asking every Knight to take a moment this week to look at your personal circles—your family, your coworkers, and the men sitting in the pews around you at Mass.

Who is the man you see every Sunday but haven't spoken to yet?
Who is the friend who always lends a hand when someone is in need?
Who is the young father looking for a way to lead his family in faith?

These men are often just waiting to be asked. I challenge you to identify **one** person you believe would make a good Knight and invite them to join us at our next event. Don't ask them to "join a club"; invite them to help us change a life.

Service: The Heart of Our Order

Membership is meaningless without action. Our Council has a busy spring ahead, and we need your hands and your hearts. Whether you can give one hour or ten, your involvement in our upcoming volunteer projects is what defines us as Knights.

"Charity is the foremost principle of our Order... it is a witness to fraternal charity and a work of justice pleasing to God." — *Blessed Michael McGivney*

When new men see us actively serving—not just talking about it—they will want to be part of that mission. Let's show them the strength of our Unity through the impact of our Charity.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our Council and the Church. Let's make this April a month of renewal and growth.

Vivat Jesus!
Andrew Oliver *Grand Knight, Council 788*

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 Fr. Ken MacDonald, #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

COUNCIL DIRECTORS & CHAIRMEN

Membership Director	PGK Chris Wegener	517-528-5970
Recruitment	All Officers & Members	
Retention Captain	PGK Chris Wegener	517-528-5970
Retention Team	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)	

Inside Guard	Eric Wegener	517-583-0934	**Matthew 25:40**	PGK Mike and Vickey Wegener	517-331-3959
Outside Guard	PGK Randy LaLonde	906-370-3759	**Youth Director**	PGK Dane Jurković	517-203-9227
1 Year Trustee	PGK Michael H. Wegener	517-331-3959	**Newsletter Editor**	DGK Brendon Basiga (Interim)	517-282-8351
2 Year Trustee	PGK Ken Morrison	517-719-4047			
3 Year Trustee	PGK Chris Wegener	517-528-5970			

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

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

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		
Corey	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				

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

Albright	Chris	Holmes	Edward
Basiga	Brendon	Johnson	Terrance
Beachnau	Dan	Jusino	Richard
Brickner	Robert	Kolp	Anthony
Brogan	Steve	Krause	Richard
Chasse	William	LaLonde	Randy
Cherniawski	Frank	Livingston	Corey
Corey	Val	Macksood	Steve
Crippen	Matthew	Minich	Thomas
Diaz	Mario	Nicholson	Robert
Downey	Frank	Pollack	Bernard
Doyle	Michael	Rybicki	Richard
DuMont	Mike	Schrauben	Lawrence
Ellsworth	Michael	Sohn	Ken
Endres	Richard	Swiderski	Joseph
Ferro	Francis	Wegener	Chris
Garcia, Sr.	Daniel	Wegener	Thomas
Headley	Don	Wegener	Eric
Hedley	Joseph	Zerfes	Ron

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

Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Gospel for April 19, Lk 24:35)

The disciples on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until the breaking of the bread. Jesus promised he would be with us always, and the Eucharist is his fulfillment of that promise. We encounter his presence most profoundly in the Eucharist, where he is truly present — body, blood, soul, and divinity — under the appearance of bread and wine. The disciples' experience on the road to Emmaus was no ordinary meal, but an encounter with Christ, who invites us, too, to enter into communion with him through the Eucharist.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to remain in prayer and adoration for several minutes after Mass to grow in awareness of Christ's true presence in the Eucharist.

April, 2026
Knight of the Month
Dan Beachnau

February, 2026
Family of the Month
The Goedeke Family

Please consider attending the next council meeting, scheduled for ***April 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM*** *at* ***Columbus Hall****.*

Program Director's Comments

This month's theme is that of Service. I hope that it goes without saying that Council 788 is one of the most active councils in the Lansing Diocese. With more than Two Dozen events that take place throughout the calendar year, our council truly engenders the principle of Charity – a fundamental tenet of our Calling. To that end, I extend my deepest and most heartfelt "Thank you" to all of the Knights of Columbus – Richard Council 788, and most especially their families who support our brother Knights.

Your generosity has helped us raise thousands (literally, thousands) of dollars during our M.I. Drives; hundreds more during our Pancake Breakfasts; we have been able to donate hundreds of coats to kids and families in need; Christmas presents, including, hundreds of pounds of food have gone to countless families; all of this in a single year!

We are not done yet!!

Our final Pancake Breakfast of the season is being served on April 12, 2026 at the Parish Hall, our annual Golf Outing tees off on May 16, 2026 at the Grand Ledge Country Club, and the Membership Appreciation Dinner is cooking for June 23, 2026 at Columbus Hall. More events are on their way, but these are only some of the highlights.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to help us put on these events. Charity does not need to come by way of monetary donations – donating your time, effort, and creativity is an equally valuable contribution. So, if you feel the call to volunteer, please contact either myself or any member of Council 788. You are always welcome!

Here is a quick "recap" of some of the major events that have already happened and those that are on the horizon:

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

- The Knights' "big hit", also known as our Pancake Breakfast, happened on March 8th, 2026 after each of the morning masses;
- This was the second-to-last Pancake Breakfast of the season, and, we had a wonderful time hosting this event. A continued and heartfelt "Thank you!" to all of the people who volunteered to help out!
- **Our last Pancake Breakfast will be on April 12, 2026 after the 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., and 11 a.m. masses. This is the final Pancake Breakfast of the season, so please come out and support the Knights and enjoy a delicious breakfast – on us!!**
- Donations are certainly not mandatory, but they are always appreciated;

M.I. Drive

- This past Palm Sunday, the Knights held a successful fundraiser for those who suffer from mental disabilities;
- All of the proceeds are donated to various agencies that assist those who are in need of help;
- A profound message of gratitude goes out to all of St. Gerard's Parishioners for your deeply touching generosity – although a final accounting is soon coming, the initial tally is well into the thousands! So, thank you so very much;
- A particular note of thanks goes out to all of the Brother Knights who helped out this weekend – you are what makes Council 788 such an incredible organization;

COR

- These meetings continue into 2026;
- They take place on the 3rd Saturday of each month;
- The next COR meeting is on Saturday, April 18, 2026 at 6:45 a.m. at the St. Gerad Parish Hall;

Golf Outing

- Tee-up, everyone! The golf outing will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026 at Grand Ledge Country Club;
- Registration will be at 8:00am and shotgun start at 9:00am;
- Cost is $75/person and that includes 18 holes of golf, range balls, coffee and doughnuts before golf, meal after golf back at the Hall, and door prizes;
- Hole sponsors are needed and are $100/hole again this year. A great time will be had by all!! Please join us!
- Please contact Chancellor John Vatter with any questions.

New Member Meet 'N Greet

- Over this past year, we have had several new members join us, and we want to get to know our new Brothers, as much as we want them to get to know Council 788!
- The Knights will be hosting a "mixer" for all of our New Members to meet with the Council Members;
- Pizza and Beer will be served;
- The Mixer will take place at Columbus Hall (5300 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI 48906);
- 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.;
- Friday, May 1, 2026
- Please contact Deputy Grand Knight Brendon Basiga at 517-282-8351 to confirm your attendance.

Vivat Jesus!

Brendon Basiga
Deputy Grand Knight/Program Director/Interim Newsletter Editor
(517) 282-8351

April, 2026 LCA President's Comments

April brings us to a close of the Lenten season and a close to our Fish Fries. We had good crowds and we would like to extend a big THANK YOU to everyone who stopped in on Fridays to enjoy our offerings.

We also had a great fish fry crew and I would like to thank them for their hard work over these seven weeks:

Eric Weber
Lou Garbarino
Jim Bleicher
Dave Barker
Tim Daiss
Connor Weber
Kash Ritter
Chase Moreno
Jalen Dunn
Jordan Dunn
Matthew Vorce
Keara Weber
Dave Novak
Dianne Novak
Chrissy Scaccia
Stephanie Van Koevering
Don Van Koevering
Larry Fitzpatrick
Jimmy Thomas
Pete Scaccia
Meghan Scaccia
Scott Cole
Vince Caporale

Our next event is our BINGO on **Thursday, April 30th**. We hope you can come out for some fun and maybe win some cash!

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

Chancellor's Comments

Your Knights of Columbus Council #788 is proud to announce that we will once again be hosting our Annual Golf Outing on Saturday, May 16th at Grand Ledge Country Club!

Registration starts at 8am with a 9am Shotgun start. The cost for our Golf Outing this year is $75 per player or $300 per team. This fee includes 18 holes with a cart, Range Balls, Goodie Bag, entry into Contest Holes, Door prize ticket, coffee and doughnuts before the round, and Dinner back at the Columbus Hall out by the airport following golf where all prizes will be distributed.

If you do not have a team of 4, but you still want to play, we will team you up with others to make foursomes. We are also looking for Hole Sponsors to support our Golf Outing. Hole Sponsorships are $100 per hole and that will get your business name, family's name, or dedication printed on a sign and placed on a tee box for the duration of the outing, along with your name printed on our Sponsor Sheet that will be distributed to all who participate in the Outing.

The proceeds from the Golf Outing this year are going to support the Youth Group at St. Gerard, and our Diocese of Lansing Seminarians. Last year with your help we were able to raise over $6,000 during this event, and we hope for even more this year!!

John Vatter
Chancellor
(517) 214-1397

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

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.

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 you find yourself called to Serve during this Lent, please contact me, Deputy Grand Knight, Brendon Basiga at (517) 282-8351.

From the Newsletter Editor

April 15, 2026 is the deadline for content for the April, 2026 newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Deputy Grand Knight Brendon Basiga at (517) 282-8351.

JOIN US AT COLUMBUS HALL FOR



THURSDAY APRIL 30TH

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

SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026

Richard Council 788 Member Appreciation Dinner
Hosted by Grand Knight Andrew Oliver

Come and join GK Andy as he recalls this past year's efforts by the members of Richard Council 788, including our Knights and Families of the Month, and presents the Knight and Family of the Year awards. We will recall our charitable donations, our programs and events, and other highlights from Fraternal Year 2025 – 2026, all made possible by the works of our members.

All members and their families are invited. More details to come in the coming newsletters.

LANSING COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION

Burger Nights

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT

Through April

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

92nd Exemplification

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States

The time is now to join the Patriotic 4th Degree to celebrate the Semi quincentennial of our country. Our new 4th Degree Exemplification will take place at St. Mary Cathedral in Lansing this spring, allowing you the opportunity to complete your journey into full Knighthood.

This one day event will be hosted by FN Phillip Schertzing of Bishop Albers Assembly #0496 and FN Paul LaCroix of Assembly #3334; both in Lansing. The Master's banquet will follow the 4:00 pm Mass.

A day you will remember forever.

Saturday, April 18, 2026



St. Mary Cathedral



92nd Exemplification Class Honoree

SK David Lennemann
District 2 Degree Team Captain



Exemplification held at:
St. Mary Cathedral
219 Seymour Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933

- See backside for Registration Info -

For more Information Contact :
Your local Assembly Navigator -or-

-SK Benedict Dandrow Master MI District II
517-812-2620 b.dandrow@mikofc.org
-SK David Buick FM/Comptroller MI D2
517-927-8044 dabuick45@gmail.com
-SK Paul Funk Executive Asst. MI D2
248-765-4655 paul@paulsfunk.com
-SK Dave Zerbe Membership Director
517-282-4516 azmaint13#gmail.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 788

GOLF OUTING

MAY 16, 2026

GRAND LEDGE COUNTRY CLUB



Registration: 8 a.m.
Shotgun Start: 9 a.m.

$75/PLAYER
$300/TEAM
$100/HOLE SPONSOR

PROCEEDS GO TO YOUTH GROUP AND DIOCESE OF LANSING SEMINARIANS

Chancellor John Vatter (517) 214-1397

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS–

– COUNCIL 788 –

NEW MEMBER MEET 'N GREET

May 1, 2026

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Columbus Hall

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

Pizza and beer will be served



Richard Council #788
April 2026
Calendar of Events



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Club Closed	Club Open 4-9 pm **Burger Night** **5:00-7:00 pm**	Club Open 4-9 pm	**1** Club Open 4-9 pm	**2** Club Open 4-9 pm	**3** Club Open 4-9 pm **GOOD FRIDAY**	**4** Club Closed **HOLY SATURDAY**
5 Club Closed **EASTER SUNDAY!**	**6** Club Open 4-9 pm **Burger Night** **5:00-7:00 pm**	**7** Club Open 4-9 pm	**8** Club Open 4-9 pm	**9** Club Open 4-9 pm	**10** Club Open 4-9 pm	**11** Club Closed
12 Club Closed **Pancake Breakfast**	**13** Club Open 4-9 pm **Burger Night** **5:00-7:00 pm**	**14** Club Open 4-9 pm **General Council Mtg.** **7:00-8:00 pm**	**15** Club Open 4-9 pm **LCA Meeting** **7:00-8:00 pm**	**16** Club Open 4-9 pm	**17** Club Open 4-9 pm	**18** Club Closed **COR 6:45-8 am** **92nd Exemplification** **St. Mary's Cathedral**
19 Club Closed	**20** Club Open 4-9 pm **Burger Night** **5:00-7:00 pm**	**21** Club Open 4-9 pm	**22** Club Open 4-9 pm	**23** Club Open 4-9 pm	**24** Club Open 4-9 pm	**25** Club Closed
26 Club Closed	**27** Club Open 4-9 pm **Burger Night** **5:00-7:00 pm**	**28** Club Open 4-9 pm	**29**	**30**	**1** Club Open 4-9 pm **Meet 'N Greet** **6:30-7:30 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

Painting by Chas Fagan © Knights of Columbus