Knights of Columbus®

Richard Council #788
May 2026 Newsletter

Grand Knight's Message:

Dear Brother Knights and Families,

As we enter the month of May, a time when we honor our Blessed Mother and continue our important work in faith, family, and fraternity, I want to share some personal news with you.

After much prayer and reflection, I have decided that I will not be seeking re-election as Grand Knight. A career change and new professional responsibilities have made it necessary for me to step back from this leadership role at the end of my term. It has truly been one of the greatest honors and pleasures of my life to serve as your Grand Knight. Thank you for your trust, your friendship, and your dedicated support over these past years. I am deeply grateful for the memories we have made and the good work we have accomplished together.

Nominations for the upcoming election of officers will be announced at our May council meeting. I encourage all eligible Brother Knights who feel called to serve in leadership positions to prayerfully consider putting your name forward. This council is strong because of the generous men who step up to lead.
Please know that I remain fully committed to our council and the Knights of Columbus for the remainder of my term, and I look forward to continuing to serve alongside each of you in the months ahead.

Vivat Jesus!
Fraternally yours,

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
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

Matthew 25:40	PGK Mike and Vickey Wegener	517-331-3959
Youth Director	PGK Dane Jurković	517-203-9227
Newsletter Editor	DGK Brendon Basiga (Interim)	517-282-8351

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

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

Albright	Chris	Fedewa	Ronald	Ozanich	Walter
Basiga	Brendon	Ferro	Francis	Pollack	Bernard
Beachnau	PGK Dan	Freund	Luke	Powers III	John
Becht	Dennis	Garcia	Joseph	Reyes	Rosendo
Beckwith	Clyde	Garcia, Sr.	Daniel	Robitaille	Robert
Bleicher	James	Goeddeke	Andrew	Roznowski	Frank
Bollman	James	Goeddeke	Drew	Rybicki	Richard
Brickner	Robert	Goerge	Hilary	Ryczek	Richard
Brogan	Steve	Gonzalez	James	Schertzing	Brian
Bruner	Ronald	Grades	Ronald	Schertzing	David
Caporale	Vincent	Green	James	Schrauben	PGK Lawrence
Carey	Mark	Headley	Don	Shaw	William
Chassé	PSD William	Hedley	Joseph	Shepard	Michael
Cherniawski	Frank	Holmes	Edward	Sickler	William
Claeys	Jeffrey	Johnson	Gary	Simon	Harold
Cole	Scott	Johnson	Terrance	Sohn	Ken
Cooper II	Don	Jusino	Richard	Stafford	Edmund
Corey	PGK Jay	Kellogg	Mark	Stotenbur	Daniel
Corey	Val	Kolp	Anthony	Suckow	John
Costigan	Christopher	Krause	Richard	Swiderski	Joseph
Costigan	Patrick	LaLonde	PGK Randy	Szedlak	Richard
Cotter	Charles	Livingston	PGK Corey	Tellier	Gary
Crippen	Matthew	Luedtke	PGK Dave	Theis	Dennis
Daiss	Timothy	Macksood	Steve	Thelen	David
Dart	Douglas	McCrackin	Michael	Watterson	Ken
Dewitt	Mark	McDonald	Robert	Wegener	PGK Chris
Diaz	Justiniano	McLaughlin	Brian	Wegener	Eric
Diaz	Mario	McQuillan	Edmund	Wegener	PGK Michael
Downey	Frank	Melton	Phillip	Wegener	PSD Thomas
Doyle	Michael	Miller	Todd	Wittkowski	Paul
DuMont	Mike	Minich	PGK Thomas	Yarsevich	Carl
Ellsworth	Michael	Nicholson	Robert	Zerfes	Ron
Endres	Richard	Noirot	George		
Fedewa	Duane	Ockert	Gerald		

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 May 1, 2026*).

Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

[Jesus] said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (Gospel for May 24, Jn 20:21)

Jesus sends us into the world, just as the Father sent him. Jesus had a sacred, divine mission — to proclaim the Good News of salvation and build the kingdom of God — and we are commissioned to do likewise. As his faithful disciples, we continue his saving mission on earth, consistent with our state of life. We are not just "receivers" of the Gospel; our mission is to bear witness to the Good News in word and action, living the Gospel through our example and outreach to others.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to take a few minutes each morning and prayerfully ask Jesus how you can use your gifts for his mission, and set one clear, specific resolution (large or small) for what you will do on that particular day.

Questions for Reflection:

How seriously do you take this mission that Christ has given you? What specifically has Jesus sent you into the world to do? How can you better live out this mission in the workplace, in your family life, and through your participation in the Knights of Columbus?

April, 2026
Knight of the Month

April, 2026
Family of the Month

Please consider attending the next council meeting, scheduled for ***May 12, 2026 at 7:00 PM*** *at* ***Columbus Hall****.*

Program Director's Comments

While last month's these was that of Service, this month, we are focused on what our Supreme Chaplain has challenged us to do: focus on our Mission. There is no doubt, that one of the primary missions of our Council has been, and (I am very proud to say that it) continues to be to bring Charity to others. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ, and it is incumbent upon all of us to lend a helping hand to those who have not been given as many blessings as others. It is no accident, nor is it a trivial understanding that one of our core principles is that of Charity.

St. Gerard's Parishioners and Council 788 have certainly shown their Charitable merit! The "Tootsie Roll" drive, brought in thousands of dollars for those with mental illness; our last pancake breakfast was another success; we have an up-coming New Members Meet and Greet; our Golf Outing; and many more events coming up. There is never a shortage of functions/events where our Charity is needed. Here is a brief summary of a few of the major events that have passed and those that are coming up.

M.I. Drive:

- We had an incredible turnout!
- We collected over $3,000 for those who suffer from mental illness;
- Our deepest and most heartfelt "Thank you" to every, single, person who made a donation. No matter the amount, your donations are at the very heart of Charity.

Pancake Breakfast:

- Our last pancake breakfast of the season was held on April 12, 2026 after all of the morning masses;
- A big "Thank you" to Past Grand Knight Andrew Wegener for designing and serving the animated and colorful pancakes to the attendees.

Golf Outing:

- This is one our biggest events of the year! So, don't miss out!
- May 16, 2026; Registration at 8:00 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m.;
- See the flyer below for more details!

New Members' Meet and Greet:

- CALLING ALL NEW MEMBERS – come out to the first Meet and Greet on May 15, 2026;
- Pizza and Beer will be served;
- 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Columbus Hall (5300 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI 48906);
- Come and find out more about Council 788 and how you can help out and how we can help you!

Lansing Lugnuts:

- Celebrate vocations with us on August 7, 2026;
- Tickets are now on sale – contact DGK/PD Brendon Basiga to purchase tickets!
- $14.00 / ticket;
- These sell out really, really fast, and we only have a limited supply. So, if you and your family and friends want to go, get your tickets ASAP!

Parish Festival:

- St. Gerard's Annual Parish Festival is from May 1 – 3, 2026;
- This is a great way to end the school year and begin the summer fun!
- Please see the flyer below for more details.

The St. Gerard Parish bulletin, our website (https://kofc788.org), and the LCA Facebook Page (Knights of Columbus #788 - Columbus Hall | Lansing MI | Facebook) are always being updated with new information. I strongly invite everyone to look through these pages for coming events.

Vivat Jesus!
Brendon Basiga
DGK/PD

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	Dave Luedtke
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

May15, 2026 is the deadline for content for the June, 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.

David Lee Luedtke

October 28, 1950 – April 26, 2026



IN THE CARE OF

Gorsline Runciman Tiffany Chapel

David was born on October 28, 1950, in Gary, Indiana to Leslie and Janet Luedtke. He married Nancy Kunst in South Haven, Indiana on September 10, 1976 and the rest was a beautiful love story. David was a Staff Sergeant in the United States Air Force as a Psychiatric Ward Specialist where he earned four outstanding accommodations. He dedicated 40+ years to the carpet industry and even following "retirement" he held a multitude of customer service positions as he genuinely enjoyed helping people. He was a member of Knights of Columbus for over 20 years where he was awarded Knight of the Year and Sir Knight on multiple occasions. He was also a member of the American Legion.

A resident of Holt, Michigan since 1991, David enjoyed reading, watching his favorite Hallmark movies, and napping, but nothing compared to his love for his family. He was the ultimate "girl dad" before anyone knew the term. His greatest achievements were being married to the love of his life for almost 50 years, his three daughters, his grandchildren, and his great-grandchild. He was the epitome of a Proud Dad and a Proud Papa. He cherished every moment he could spend with each and every one of them. He had the ability to make anyone feel like they belonged and could bring you joy and put a smile on your face in your darkest days.

David is survived by his wife of 49 years, Nancy Luedtke; his children, Kathryn Bielaga (Russ), Tracy Luedtke, and Lisa Luedtke (Tricia); his grandchildren, Erin, Stephanie, Alyssa, RJ, Peyton and Blake; his great-grandchild, Jameson; his brothers, Bill (Donna) and Randy (Doreen); his sister, Sandy; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents Leslie and Janet Luedtke; his brother, Paul Luedtke; and his father-in-law William Kunst.

Services will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at St. Gerard Catholic Church, 4437 W. Willow Hwy. Lansing, MI 48917. Beginning with a Rosary service at 8:45am, followed by visitation from 9am until the Funeral Mass at 11am. At the conclusion of the Funeral Mass, the Knights of Columbus will have a prayer and Chalice presentation. Military honors will follow under the auspices of the US Air Force.
Urn placement will be a private family event held at Fort Custer National Cemetery, in Augusta, MI at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the McLaren Greater Lansing Foundation Guardian Angel Award: mclarenloveslansing.org/angel (in memory of David Luedtke or in honor of the ICU team).

The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the McLaren ER, Respiratory, and ICU teams especially Quenton, Abigail, and Dr. Krage for the compassion, care, and empathy they showed David and his family during this extremely difficult time.

Three words that sum up David's cherished life would be generous, caring, and laughter.

JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP

FRIDAY - SUNDAY
MAY 1 - 3, 2026



ST. GERARD FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, MAY 1

- 7PM: 7TH & 8TH TEEN DANCE (PARISH HALL)
- DOORS OPEN AT 4:30PM: BINGO (18+ IN FR. WEBER HALL)
- DOORS OPEN AT 6PM: EUCHRE (18+ IN TENT)

SATURDAY, MAY 2

- 9AM: 5K RUN, WALK, ROCK
- NOON - 6PM
  - RAFFLES
  - FESTIVAL FOOD
  - CAKE WALK
  - GAMES FOR ALL AGES
- 6:30PM: JIGSAW PUZZLE CHALLENGE
  - 7- 11PM: TENT (21+)
  - LIVE MUSIC - GLOBAL VILLAGE
  - KARAOKE (7-10PM)
  - SMOKE'N PIG

SUNDAY, MAY 3

- 10AM - 2PM:CHICKEN DINNER
- 1PM: ALL RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS DRAWN
- TAKEOUT AVAILABLE!

SCAN ME

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION, RSVP, & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WWW.STGERARD.ORG/SPRING-FESTIVAL PARISH OFFICE: 517-323-2379

JOIN US AT COLUMBUS HALL FOR

CINCO DE MAYO

LIVE MUSIC . FOOD . DRINKS

Tuesday May 5th
5-7 PM
Fajita Dinner $14

Dinner includes Chicken/Steak Fajitas
Enchiladas, Rice, Frijoles and a Taco Bar

Live Music 6-9pm
Ray Rodriguez &
Cookie Hernandez

Public Welcome • Credit Cards Accepted

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

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

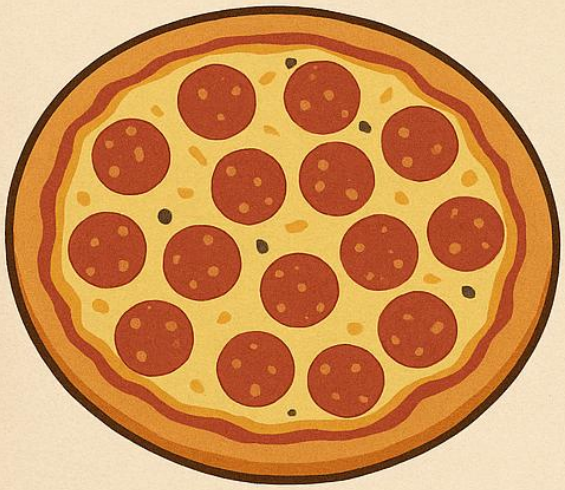
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – COUNCIL 788

NEW MEMBER MEET ‘N GREET

MAY 15, 2026 • 6:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

COLUMBUS HALL

5300 N. GRAND RIVER AVE., LANSING, MI 48906





PIZZA AND BEER WILL BE SERVED

Contact DGK / PD Brendon Basiga at 517-282-8351 with any questions.

Richard Council #788
May 2026
Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 Club Closed	**27** Club Open 4-9 pm **Last Burger Night** **5:00-7:00 pm**	**28** Club Open 4-9 pm	**29** Club Open 4-9 pm	**30** Club Open 4-9 pm	**1** Club Open 4-9 pm **PARISH FESTIVAL** **St. Gerard's**	2 Club Closed **PARISH FESTIVAL** **St. Gerard's**
3 Club Closed **PARISH FESTIVAL** **St. Gerard's**	**4** Club Open 4-9 pm	**5** Club Open 4-9 pm **CINCO de MAYO** **5 – 6 p.m.**	**6** Club Open 4-9 pm	**7** Club Open 4-9 pm	**8** Club Open 4-9 pm	**9** Club Closed
10 Club Closed **MOTHER'S DAY**	**11** Club Open 4-9 pm	**12** Club Open 4-9 pm **General Council Mtg.** **7:00-8:00 pm**	**13** Club Open 4-9 pm	**14** Club Open 4-9 pm	**15** Club Open 4-9 pm **New Members MEET and GREET** **6-7 p.m.**	**16** Club Closed **GOLF OUTING!!!** **Grand Ledge Country Club**
17 Club Closed	**18** Club Open 4-9 pm	**19** Club Open 4-9 pm	**20** Club Open 4-9 pm **LCA Meeting** **7:00-8:00 pm**	**21** Club Open 4-9 pm	**22** Club Open 4-9 pm	**23** Club Closed
24 Club Closed	**25** Club Open 4-9 pm	**26** Club Open 4-9 pm	**27**	**28**	**29** Club Open 4-9 pm	**30**

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