Knights of Columbus®

Richard Council #788
August 2026 Newsletter

Grand Knight's Message

Dear Brother Knights,

CONGRATULATIONS to all of us! Council 788 has been officially awarded Star Council Status for the 2025-2026 year! What an honor and a privilege to be granted such a prestigious award. My most heartfelt thanks go out to each and every one of you for making Council 788 such an incredible fraternity of brothers – your efforts and your contributions have made this possible.



Grand Knight Brendon Basiga

For those who are unaware, only 18% of councils worldwide, earn this award. It is granted to those councils who meet or exceed stringent criteria in the areas of membership, benefits, faith formation, and volunteer/service activities. Council 788 not only met, but exceeded those criteria in many ways; and for that, I am very proud. Your donations, in every form, are the cornerstone of this Council and of this award. Although the Star Council Award bears Council 788's name on its designation, it is my firm belief that this award belongs to every single one of our members.

As we celebrate our previous year's accomplishments, I am mindful of our journey going forward. Some challenges are on the horizon for our Council, not the least of which is going to be an increase in the membership dues. It has been many years since the last increase in our membership dues, and our governing bodies have advised us that a dues increase is on its way for the 2026-2027 year. At the moment, details are in flux, but the Officers and I are diligently working to find out as much information as possible and will pass along that same information along with decisions that are made and rationales behind those decisions, in the very near future.

(Continued on page 5)

RICHARD COUNCIL 788
HONOR ROLL

STATE OFFICIALS

State Deputy

Charles E. McCuen III (Fr. Solanus Casey Council #3797, St. Clair Shores, 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)

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
State Director of Evangelization, Faith, and Formation (COR)	Christopher Wegener, PGK
Lansing Diocesan Director of Evangelization, Faith, and Formation (COR)	Charles E. McCuen IV
Supreme Council Field Agent	Brennan Hayden (517-505-7300)

RICHARD COUNCIL 788 OFFICERS

Officers meeting: First Tuesday of every month, 6:30 p.m.
Business meeting: Second Tuesday of every month, 7:00 p.m.

Grand Knight	Brendon Basiga	517-282-8351
Chaplain	Rev. Dwight Ezop	517-323-2379
Deputy Grand Knight	Brian McLaughlin	810-618-3236
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	Don Cooper	517-648-1672
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	
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)	
Matthew 25:40	PGK Mike & Vickey Wegener	517-331-3959
Youth Director	PGK Dane Jurković	517-203-9227
Newsletter Editor	Don Cooper	517-648-1672

LANSING COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION

Meeting: Third Wednesday of every month, 7:00 p.m.

President	Andy Goeddeke	517-202-3618
Vice President	(vacant)	
Secretary	Larry Fitzpatrick	248-794-0213
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	Brendon Basiga	517-282-8351

News From Your LCA Corporation

As many of you know, the LCA Corporation has been working diligently renovating Columbus Hall and putting on events for all of the members of the Knights of Columbus Council #788. This takes a lot of manpower to do these events and make them successful in order to keep the building open.

We've lost many volunteers, particularly Bartenders, and we need to revamp this area if we are to continue to provide the service to the members, guests, and public when necessary. Our weekly hours have been expanded from 4:00 pm to now 9:00 pm Monday – Friday. We are closed on Saturday except for events, and on Sunday.

Being closed on Saturday and Sunday does **NOT** mean that the club will **NOT** be open. If an event is happening the club is **OPEN** for members during the time of the event up until 9:00 pm. We will do our best to list rental events on Saturdays in the newsletter on the calendar, so you know when we are open during those times.

Due to the shortage of volunteers, we have been forced to pay a part-time bartender to stay open during the week. This takes away from the profitability that we need to stay operating in the black. We **REALLY NEED VOLUNTEER BARTENDERS DURING THE WEEK** to reduce our costs. Normally volunteers are scheduled one day per month so please consider this modest service commitment.

The LCA Board is also looking for another part-time bartender at $14.00 per hour (plus tips) if someone wants to bartend more often and for weekend events - whether it's a member or immediate family member such as a wife, son, or daughter who is of age.

Aside from bartending, we continue to ask for volunteers to help on events such as Wild Game Dinner, Monday Burger Nights, Bingo, Fish Frys, Car Shows, and any dinners we put on for the members and public. All of you are needed in one way or another to do this work. It doesn't take long, and you don't have to work every event, and we can usually fit into your schedule. And families are more than welcome to work together at an event which is always encouraged.

So, we need you and want to hear from you and get you involved more. You can contact our Club Manager Lindsay Riley at 517-321-2209, President Andy Goeddeke at 517-202-3618, or Treasurer Jay Corey at 517-974-6501. Columbus Hall is a great place to have fun and meet up with friends and volunteer for your club.

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.

Please contact Grand Knight Brendon Basiga at (517) 282-8351 or gk@mikofc.org for volunteer opportunities.

Our Next Council Meeting is Tuesday, August 11

Our 2026 Columbian Patrons

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

(Names listed by Last, then First. List updated June 1, 2026).

Grand Knight's Message Con't

Thank you again to each and every Knight of Columbus – Council 788! Let us all take a moment to express our profound gratitude to all those who serve our Council, serve the Knights, and above all else, serve the Church.

Vivat Jesus!

Yours most truly,
Brendon Basiga
Grand Knight – Council 788
517-282-8351 (c)

Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." (Gospel for Aug. 30, Mt 16:23)

Who knows the mind of God? God is beyond human understanding, yet he has revealed himself to us most perfectly in the person of Jesus Christ. Through prayer we can come to know God more fully, and we grow in understanding of his plan when we make a habit of conforming our will to his holy will. We follow Christ in discipleship when we pray daily to the Father as he did: "Not my will but yours be done" (Lk 22:42).

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to study the life and example of our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, whose feast day is Aug. 13. Use the *Blessed Michael McGivney Cor Session Guide* (freely available at www.kofc.org/shopcis), noting in particular how Father McGivney always sought to align his will with that of God.

Questions for Reflection:

How can you strive to better understand things from God's perspective? How can you discern when your thoughts are merely human thoughts and not of God? What virtues of Blessed Michael McGivney can you imitate in order to submit yourself more fully to God's holy will?

	July Knight of the Month	**July Family of the Month**
	Chris Wegener	*Rick Smith and Family*

Prayers for the Sick and in Distress

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
- Wanda Hicks (wife of Richard Hicks)
- Patricia Humpsch
- Joann Klein (wife of Thomas Klein)
- Joe Kobus
- Tony Kolp
- Kristen McCue (wife of Michael McCue)
- Robert Nelson
- "Pete" Pline (wife of John Suckow)
- Tim Powell
- Mike Schueller
- Matt St. Germaine
- Kathy Stoffer
- Dave Thelen
- Ron and Joan Zerfas



If you know of someone who is ill and recovering, or has passed away, please contact Grand Knight Brendan Basiga by email at gk788@mikofc.org or at 517-282-8351. You can reach our Financial Secretary, Richard Bierwagen, at 314-540-1726 or via email at fs788@mikofc.org or rjbierwagen@hotmail.com.

From the Newsletter Editor

The submission deadline for the September, 2026, newsletter is August 20. Contact Don Cooper at 517-648-1672 or djcooper517@gmail.com with submissions or questions.

"CANS FOR COATS"

Richard Council 788

Coats for Kids

Fundraiser

Cans for Coats program at 788 is a convenient way for ***you*** to dispose of your returnable cans and bottles while supporting ***Coats for Kids.*** Please place the plastic bags, filled with cans and bottles, in the bins behind the Club building. Volunteers will collect the refundable deposits, and the Council will use those funds to buy the coats, which will be distributed to needy kids in the area.



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LCA CORPORATION

Columbus Hall
Annual Car Show

5300 N. Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906

Saturday, September 12, 2026

Car Show from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Registration from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM











$15.00 Registration Fee

Registrants receive a Burger Basket

Trophies for People's Choice Award & Top 10 "Best of Show" Trophies

FOOD & BEVERAGES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Air Conditioning & Restrooms Inside Hall

50/50 Raffle and Other Door/Raffle Prizes

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS !!!!

Car Show, Food and Beverages, and All Prizes Provided by the Lansing Columbian Association

Follow us on facebook @ Knights of Columbus #788-Columbus Hall

LANSING COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION

Burger Nights

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT

Starting September 14th

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

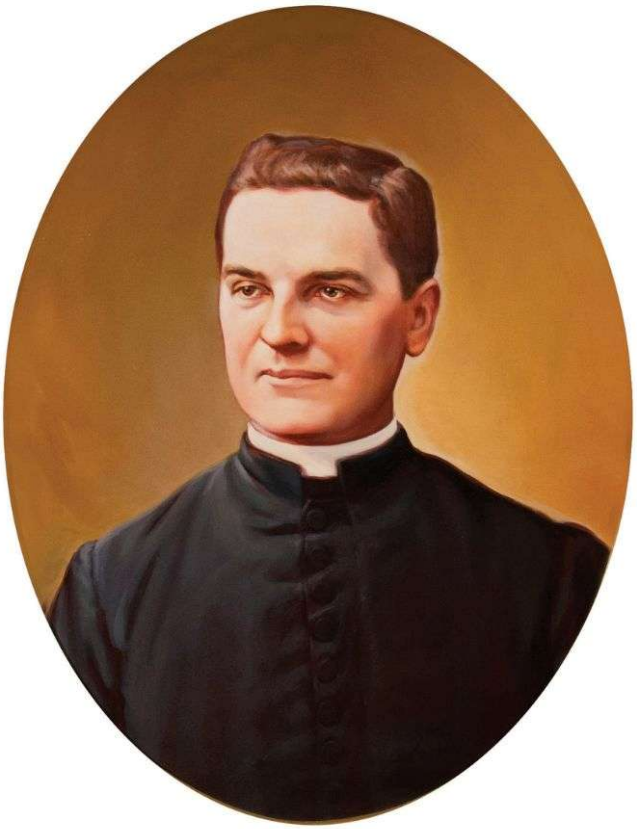
Richard Council #788
August 2026
Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 Club Closed	**27** Club Open 4-9 pm	**28** Club Open 4-9 pm	**29** Club Open 4-9 pm	**30** Club Open 4-9 pm	**31** Club Open 4-9 pm	**1** Club Closed
2 Club Closed	**3** Club Open 4-9 pm	**4** Club Open 4-9 pm	**5** Club Open 4-9 pm	**6** Club Open 4-9 pm	**7** Club Open 4-9 pm **Vocations Night at the Ballpark**	**8** Club Closed
9 Club Closed	**10** Club Open 4-9 pm	**11** Club Open 4-9 pm **General Council Mtg. 7:00-8:00 p.m.**	**12** Club Open 4-9 pm	**13** Club Open 4-9 pm **Feast of Bl. Michael McGivney**	**14** Club Open 4-9 pm	**15** Club Closed
16 Club Closed	**17** Club Open 4-9 pm	**18** Club Open 4-9 pm	**19** Club Open 4-9 pm **LCA Meeting 7:00–8:00 p.m.**	**20** Club Open 4-9 pm	**21** Club Open 4-9 pm	**22** Club Closed
23 Club Closed	**24** Club Open 4-9 pm	**25** Club Open 4-9 pm	**26** Club Open 4-9 pm	**27** Club Open 4-9 pm	**28** Club Open 4-9 pm	**29** Club Closed
30 Club Closed	**31** Club Open 4-9 pm	**1** Club Open 4-9 pm	**2** Club Open 4-9 pm	**3** Club Open 4-9 pm	**4** Club Open 4-9 pm	**5** Club Closed

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT COLUMBUS HALL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

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 to:
The Father McGivney Guild
One Columbus Plaza
New Haven, CT 06510-3326 USA