Knights of Columbus®

Richard Council #788
September 2026 Newsletter

Grand Knight's Message

Dear Brother Knights,

Welcome back! As the School Year gets up and running, let us all be mindful and grateful for the many blessings that have been bestowed upon us – not the least of which is the incredible education that our children receive at St. Gerard's Catholic School. In the past, Council 788 has been involved with the school, assisting with several events throughout the school year. For this coming year, it is my hope that our Council will be even more involved with school events; teaming-up with the School's educators, administrators, and students to help promote and sponsor even more of their events and to encourage them to participate in our family-focused events throughout the coming year.



Grand Knight Brendon Basiga

With the most welcome arrival of Father Dwight, I have not only renewed but also recommitted our Council to doing everything we can to help promote the best Catholic School education, possible. As the son of a school teacher and devout Catholic family, the Church and my education, formed the foundation of who I am today. So, when we are asked to help out with a St. Gerard School program/function, I am confident that all of our members will do their best to say, "Yes!".

Speaking of renewals – our legendary pancake breakfasts will be starting again. Our first pancake breakfast will be on September 13, 2026, after the 7:30 a.m.; 9:00 a.m.; and 11:00 a.m. Masses. All are welcome! The recipes will be the same, the food will be as delicious as always, but this year, we are going to be welcoming Breakfast Sponsors. These sponsors will either be individual St. Gerard parishioners, or Catholic-based companies who are willing to assist Council 788 with offsetting some of the costs of these breakfasts. Our hope is to ease the financial burden of hosting the pancake breakfasts so that the Council's finances can be more focused on charitable donations such as those made to Shared Pregnancy, the Seminarians, Rainbow Homes, Matthew 25:40, and Coats for Kids.

(Continued on Page 3)

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	Mike Guyeskey	517-230-8965
Recorder	Ken Watterson	517-881-0812
Financial Secretary	Richard Bierwagen	314-540-1726
Treasurer	PGK Daniel Beachnau	517-712-4146
Advocate	Thomas Wegener	517-886-0006
Warden	Don Cooper	517-648-1672
Inside Guard	Eric Wegener	517-583-0934
Outside Guard	Lou Garbarino	862-621-4263
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
Dir. DGK	Brian McLaughlin	810-618-3236
Dir. Council Tres.	PGK Daniel Beachnau	517-712-4146

Grand Knight's Message Con't

I am very excited about our coming year. We have so many wonderful things planned for Council 788, the Church, and St. Gerard's School and I am very much looking forward to meeting each and every member of our amazing Council. On that note – if any member ever sees me out and about, please stop me and say "Hi"; I welcome every opportunity to meet our members and their families.

Vivat Jesus!

Yours most truly,

Brendon Basiga
Grand Knight – Council 788
(517) 282-8351 (cell phone)

Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

Then Peter approaching asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." (Gospel for Sept. 13, Mt 18:21-22)

To forgive others can be very difficult at times, especially when someone repeatedly offends us. Jesus tells us there is no magic number that limits our obligation — our desire to forgive and show mercy to others must be boundless, just as God's mercy toward us is infinite. We pray in the Our Father, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Our very salvation depends on our willingness to forgive, for God will forgive us in the measure that we forgive others (cf. Mt 6:14-15).

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to make a list of the people in your life — past and present — whom you find or have found difficult to forgive, and to sincerely pray for them each day.

Questions for Reflection:

Are there people in your life whom you find difficult to forgive for past offenses? Do you sometimes find yourself saying the words "I forgive you," but holding on to the hurt like a grudge? What steps can you take to move to true forgiveness?

	August Knight of the Month	**July Family of the Month**
	Dan Beachnau	*Richard and Doreen Bierwagen*

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).

Knights at Work for St. Vincent de Paul

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
Saint Gerard Conference
4437 W. Willow Highway
Lansing MI 48917
(517) 853-8132

August 24, 2026

Knights of Columbus Council 788 Att: Richard Bierwagen
5300 N Grand River Ave
Lansing MI 48906

Dear Knights of Columbus Council 788,

Thank you for your donation of $1,200 to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Saint Gerard Conference on August 11, 2026. We seek to provide assistance to all in need here in the Saint Gerard community. Your support allows us to help families with a multitude of needs including food, personal hygiene products, beds, rental and utility assistance, prescription aid and clothing.

The needy in our area know they can count on our conference in difficult times. Our work is not possible without the caring support of donors such as you. Thank you for making that help possible.

Sincerely,

Judy Phillips
St. Gerard Conference

For parishioners, your charitable contribution will be included in the yearly statement received from the parish.

Our Council is proud to support Catholic charities and worthy causes that strengthen our parish community and extend Christ's compassion to neighbors in need.

Through the generosity of our members, families, parishioners, and friends, the Council is able to assist organizations such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society – St. Gerard Conference in its vital work serving individuals and families facing hardship. We are grateful for St. Vincent de Paul's thoughtful note of thanks and honored to contribute, in a small but meaningful way, to its ministry of charity, hope, and practical assistance.

Save the Dates: Council Activities & Reminders



Our next Council meeting is Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse. One item on our agenda will be a discussion, and possible action, on whether to advance a dues increase caused by the recent increase in the state assessment.

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The deadline for submissions for the October newsletter is September 20. Contact Newsletter Editor Don Cooper at 517-648-1672 or djcooper517@gmail.com.

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The Annual Memorial Service for deceased members of Richard Council 788 will be held during the month of November at a time and place to be determined. Please see the October newsletter for the date, time and location for this important information.

September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows, with her memorial celebrated on September 15.

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 at gk788@mikofc.org or at 517-282-8351 or Financial Secretary, Richard Bierwagen, at 314-540-1726 or via email at fs788@mikofc.org or rjbierwagen@hotmail.com.

Volunteers Needed: September 13 Pancake Breakfast



It's PANCAKE BREAKFAST season again! We're looking for help to prepare and serve breakfast after each Mass on Sunday, September 13. Please see the signup genius linked below or scan the QR code to sign up if you're available. Come and have fun with your Brother Knights on Sunday morning while serving families in our parish community.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B094FADA82FA2F49-65546514-pancake

Can't volunteer but still want to contribute? Become a breakfast sponsor!
Contact Grand Knight Brendan Basiaga at gk788@mikofc.org or at 517-282-8351 for details.

RICHARD COUNCIL, No. 788
5300 North Grand River Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48906

41st Annual Matthew 25:40 Christmas Project

Brother Knights and Families: September, 2026

As we approach the Christmas season, we are filled with anticipation and hope for our 41st year of the Matthew 25:40 Project, a cherished initiative dedicated to providing food and gifts to families in need. Our mission is to bring Christmas cheer to at least 24 families of the working and unemployed poor in our community. The Matthew 25:40 Project relies entirely on the generosity of our members and local businesses. We are grateful for the continued support we receive, which allows us to purchase and pack food boxes; and select and wrap Christmas gifts for the families we adopt. These families are referred to us by Capital Area Community Services, who provide essential details such as sizes, ages, and any special needs of the children.

Our only expense for this project is for the postage and supplies needed to print and send this appeal out to you. We also provide the workers with lunch and refreshments after the deliveries are made. Will you help or donate? We can always use more shoppers for gifts or drivers to help make those deliveries. This year we will be making deliveries on 12/20/26 starting at 12:00 at Columbus Hall. Call me if you want to help. My cell number is 517-331-3959.

Here's how you may contribute:

1. Financial Donations: Please use the QR code below to use a credit card on our website or write a check made out to Council #788 and note "Matthew 25:40 Project" on the memo line. Mail or drop off your donation at Columbus Hall. To ensure your donation is correctly sorted, please mark "Matthew 25:40 Project" on the envelope as well. If you are able, please donate by November 10th so the funds will be available for our shoppers to take advantage of Black Friday sales.

2. Volunteering: If you have time to volunteer, as a shopper for our families gifts, or as a driver on December 20th, we would be grateful for your assistance. Contact me directly to volunteer.

Our order's foremost principle is Charity, and we are called to support our brothers and sisters in need. As Jesus said in Matthew 25:40, "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Your contribution, whether financial or through volunteering, helps us fulfill this mission and makes a tangible difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support. May we all be blessed this Christmas season, and may our efforts bring joy and hope to those we serve.

Please return this letter with your email address: _____

With heartfelt thanks and best wishes,

Michael and Vickey Wegener, PGK, FDD
Matthew 25:40 Project Co-Chairs

"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.



$ = $



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



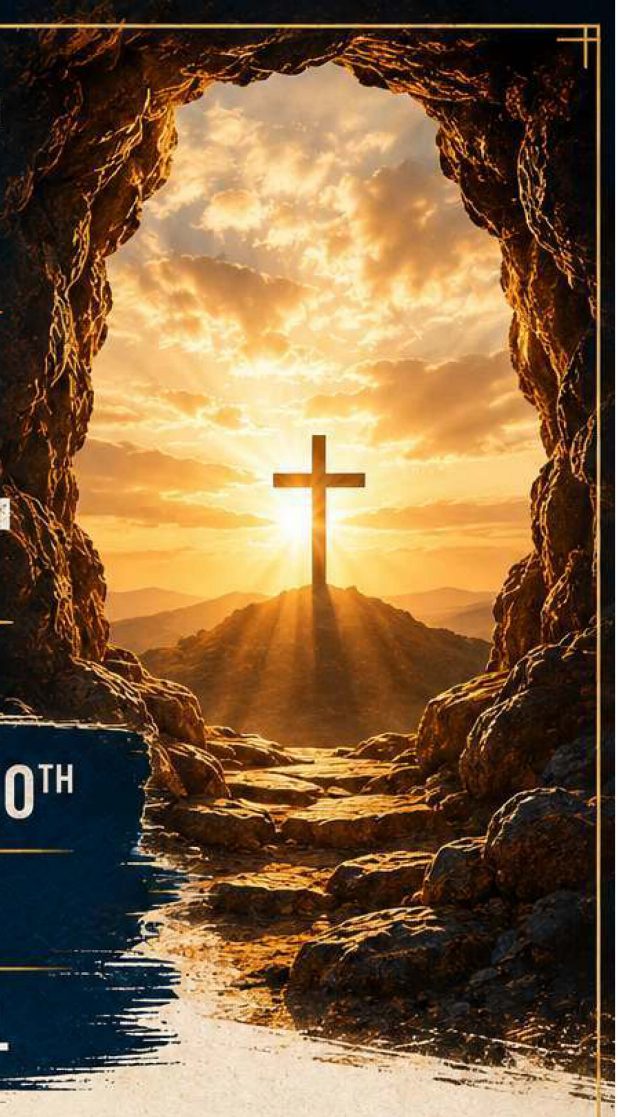
PRICE INCLUDES:

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

HEART OF THE GOSPEL

Retreat



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

8AM – 4:30PM

ST. GERARD PARISH HALL

Join the men of the Parish for this video-based retreat as we experience Fr. John Riccardo lead us through the story of salvation in a dynamic way, by emphasizing the explosive power of the Gospel and transforming our understanding of what it means to say, **“Jesus is Lord!”**

WATCH THE TRAILER HERE:

SIGN UP TO ATTEND HERE:

Coffee and a light breakfast to start.

Lunch is included.

All men 18+ are welcome to attend.

No charge to attend!

Richard Council #788
September 2026
Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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
6 Club Closed	**7** Club Closed **Labor Day**	**8** Club Open 4-9 pm **General Council Mtg. 7:00-8:00 p.m.**	**9** Club Open 4-9 pm	**10** Club Open 4-9 pm	**11** Club Open 4-9 pm	**12** Club Closed **Car Show 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
13 Club Closed **Pancake Breakfast After All Masses Fr. Weber Hall**	**14** Club Open 4-9 pm **Burger Night 5:00-7:00 p.m.**	**15** Club Open 4-9 pm	**16** Club Open 4-9 pm **LCA Meeting 7:00–8:00 p.m.**	**17** Club Open 4-9 pm	**18** Club Open 4-9 pm	**19** Club Closed
20 Club Closed	**21** Club Open 4-9 pm **Burger Night 5:00-7:00 p.m.**	**22** Club Open 4-9 pm	**23** Club Open 4-9 pm	**24** Club Open 4-9 pm	**25** Club Open 4-9 pm	**26** Club Closed
27 Club Closed	**28** Club Open 4-9 pm **Burger Night 5:00-7:00 p.m.**	**29** Club Open 4-9 pm	**30** Club Open 4-9 pm	**1** Club Open 4-9 pm	**2** Club Open 4-9 pm	**3** 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