



Knights of Columbus®



**Richard Council #788
March 2026 Newsletter**

Grand Knight's Message

Dear Brother Knights,

Grace and peace to you during this sacred season of Lent. As we find ourselves in the heart of this time of reflection, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, I hope this message finds you and your families drawing closer to Christ through these spiritual disciplines.

First, I want to extend our sincere apologies for the lack of a newsletter last month. Unfortunately, we were without an editor during that time, which led to the interruption. We're grateful to have resolved this and are committed to keeping our communications consistent moving forward. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

In the spirit of Lent, let's remember the words of Pope Francis: "Lent is a time to believe, that is, to make room for God in our lives." As Knights, we have a unique opportunity to embody our principles of charity, unity, and fraternity. Consider how we can support one another—perhaps through acts of service in our parish, volunteering at local food banks, or simply checking in on a fellow Brother who may be struggling. Our Lenten journey is not solitary; it's a communal path toward Easter joy.

Let's make this Lent a time of renewal for our council and community.

Vivat Jesus!

Fraternally yours,

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

Former Supreme Director and State Director, 10 For Charities

Past State Deputy and Supreme Regional Growth Director

Past State Deputy

District Deputy, District 515

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

State Director of Evangelization, Faith and Formation

Supreme Council Field Agent

Rev. Robert Bacik

Thomas M. Wegener, PSD

William H. Chassé, PSD

Richard F. McCloy, Sr., PSD

Michael C. Schaefer, PGK

Christopher Wegener, PGK

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

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

COUNCIL DIRECTORS & CHAIRMEN

Membership Director

PGK Chris Wegener

517-528-5970

Recruitment

All Officers & Members

PGK Chris Wegener

Retention Captain

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)

Francis

PGK Mike and Vickey Wegener

517-331-3959

O'Donnell Project

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 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 | | |
| 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 |

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 |
| 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 | | |

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

So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go to die with him.” (Gospel for March 22, Jn 11:16). Look at the bravery of Thomas! Jesus had just announced his intention to travel to Judea, where he had narrowly escaped getting stoned to death. Given the potential danger ahead, Thomas seems prepared for martyrdom.

Later, of course, he and the other disciples would flee as Jesus was arrested, and Thomas would doubt reports of Jesus’ resurrection. As fallible humans, our strength and resolve sometimes collapse into weakness. May we always seek the courage to follow Jesus faithfully, even when the going gets tough.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, as we continue through Lent, I challenge you to pray the Stations of the Cross each week — in your parish community, with your family or individually — with the intention of receiving the courage to suffer for Christ. A good resource is the Catholic Information Service booklet *The Way of the Cross: Traditional and Modern*. Are you a good disciple of Christ? How can being a Knight of Columbus help prepare you to take up your cross and follow him? Are you willing to suffer for your faith if called upon?

February, 2026
Knight of the Month
Chris Wegener

February, 2026
Family of the Month

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

Program Director's Comments

Lent is upon us, and as we know, it is a time to grow closer to Christ and to focus on our Faith. One of the hallmarks of Christ's ministry was his devotion to the poor and the marginalized. Let us do all that we can to honor and emulate His call to service, and in so doing, may we all find a renewal or deepening of our love and devotion to God's Holy purpose for us all.

The Knights of Columbus – Council 788 has a litany of opportunities to become more involved and to serve our fellow Man. March, as in previous months, has several events coming up and our Council always welcomes all of our Brother Knights and the public at-large, to join us at our Lenten events. May Lent bring us all closer to Christ.

Scouts' Breakfast

- The Knights teamed up with the Scouts to serve breakfast to many hungry patrons;
- This wonderful meal was served on February 1, 2026;
- A big "Thank you" goes out to our Knight of the Month, Chris Wegener, and to the Crippen Family for organizing this event.

Pinewood Open

- Unfortunately, due to a series of unforeseen events, we decided to cancel this year's Pinewood Open;
- We are re-evaluating whether we want to continue with this event in the future, or if we make room for new and exciting events;
- Stay tuned as the final decision is pending.

Beer & Chocolate Tasting

- The Knights hosted a beer tasting, put on by the Worthy Membership Director, Chris Wegener;
- We had a great time on February 13, 2026, while we learned about the various beers, their history, and their various breweries;
- Another big "Thank you" to Brother Knight Chris Wegener for putting on this event, supplying the various and delicious beers (and chocolates), and especially for the fascinating information.

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

- The Knights held our monthly breakfast at the Parish Hall on February 8, 2026;
- Attendees asked if we had changed some of the recipes, and YES, we did 😊. We added blueberries to the pancakes and we are using whole eggs for the scrambled eggs;
- The March pancake breakfast will take place after the 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. masses on March 8, 2026;
- We are working on a special surprise for this month's pancakes...it may involve chocolate chips 😊;
- Join us!

Golf Outing

- Spring is nearly upon us!!
- 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 Brother Knight and Chancellor John Vatter with any questions or registrations.

COR:

- These meetings continue into 2026;
- They take place on the 3rd Saturday of each month;
- The next COR meeting is on Saturday, March 21, 2026 at 6:45 a.m. at the St. Gerard Parish Hall;

Stations of the Cross:

- The Knights of Columbus will be leading the Stations of the Cross;
- This will take place at St. Gerard Parish during Good Friday of Easter Weekend;
- Details to come on our website and Facebook pages. So please stay tuned.

My deepest and sincerest “Thanks” to all of the Knights. Your commitment to service is incomparable and greatly appreciated. May our Lenten season bring us all closer to Christ, to each other, and above all else, to the Cross.

Vivat Jesus!

Cheers,

Brendon Basiga

Former Deputy Grand Knight and Former Program Director - #788

March, 2026 LCA President’s Comments

Our Club Manager, Tina Ackels, resigned in January to pursue other opportunities. We thank Tina for her dedication and service and wish her well in her future endeavors. Tina was a fixture at Columbus Hall for over 12 years, and she will be greatly missed.

We have hired a new Club Manager, Lindsay Riley, and she started on February 2nd. Julie Lehman (Hermes) acted as the Club Manager during the transition, and everything went smoothly. We thank Julie for her efforts in keeping the lights on and the building open every day.

Lindsay has experience teaching and also in the hospitality and food & beverage service arenas. She has recently worked at the Eagle Inn and promises to bring a fresh set of eyes to our operation. Please extend a warm welcome to Lindsay and do your best to help make her transition into Club Manager a success.

We’re in the heart of Fish Fry season and our Fish Fries take place every Friday during Lent including Good Friday. And don’t forget we also have our weekly Burger Nights taking place every Monday as well through April.

The new windows and siding have been installed on the building, and it sure does look sharp. If you haven’t been by to see it, then you should make a point of doing so. There is a lot of great stuff going on at Columbus Hall!

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

COLUMBUS HALL
5300 N. Grand River Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48906
517-321-2209



To Our Members

Over the past several years and months your LCA Board has made significant improvements to your building. New HVAC heating and air conditioning units, lighting, roof, carpeting, refurbishment to all bathrooms, electrical improvements, refurbished bar and seating area, new refrigeration units and more. All of this was done with careful planning, monitoring our expenses, having events which built up our funds, and donations from members. The final touch to the building is the exterior with new siding, windows, and painting which has just been completed. Our thanks to Dave Schertzing for coordinating all of the improvements you see.

With this good news we also welcome our new Club Manager Lindsay Riley who took over the position February 2, 2026. Lindsay is very experienced in bar management, and she and her family are residents of DeWitt and St. Gerard. **The LCA Board has also announced New Club Hours !! Effective immediately our open hours will be from 4pm to 9pm at night. We will be open Monday thru Friday only, and closed Saturday and Sunday except for special events, rentals, and sports events as run currently by members only.**

We now invite you to come down to your facility and enjoy the new Columbus Hall, meet your new manager, and enjoy our fish fries during lent and all our events, and our great rental facility for any of your needs.

Chili Cook-Off Report – January 25, 2026

Eric Wegener – Co-Chair
Tom Wegener – Co-Chair

A great day of fraternity, football, and food was had at Columbus Hall on Sunday, January 25. The weather was cold, snowy, windy, and PERFECT FOR EATING CHILI. The NFL Division Championship Games were the backdrop for the Annual Chili Cook Off. Approximately 25-35 people filled the hall with the back-to-back football games playing on 3 screens. The AFC Championship game, played at Mile High Stadium in Denver, between the Denver Broncos and the New England Patriots, was the first game. It started with good weather which proceeded to turn into blizzard like conditions that would have reminded you of Chicago or Green Bay. It was wild and wooly in the 4th quarter.

The Chili Cook Off had a couple of changes this year that helped to increase the donations to Coats for Kids Program where all the proceeds will be going. The biggest was that the contestants vying for Best Chili and Best Hot Chili, and all the attendees, were treated to free chili for the afternoon. All that was asked was that after you tasted one or all the chilies was to donate to the chili you thought was the best tasting and/or the hottest. There were 'ballot' boxes for each chili, named for either the best chili or the hottest chili, and suitable for accepting the financial votes of the attendees. There were 10 total entries. This year a total of \$376.00 was collected from the boxes for Coats for Kids Program.

The Chilis/The Chefs.

The 10 Chilis ran the breadth from an Italian flavored chili to a hotter-than-hot concoction. The chef's chili flavors and heat-meters were various. Our chefs this year were Arnie Rios, Jim Thomas, Al Diaz, Julie Corey, Dan Thomas, GK Andrew Oliver, Kaye Gonzalez, Rich Rybicki, Randy LaLonde, and Fr. Bob. Thank you to all the chefs for your donation of your culinary delight and good humor!

The Winners. The judges finished their tally of votes (donations), and the winners of the day were: **The Best Tasting Golden Ladle** goes to **Danny Thomas**, a flavorful treat. **The Fire & Flavor Burnt Bowl** goes to **Grand Knight Andrew Oliver**. One taste of his chili lasted much of the afternoon.

This year a new category was introduced as votes (donations) were received for the Best and Hottest chili, combining votes (donations) for both Best and Hottest for each chili. The inaugural winner of the **Chilioneaire Award**, (noun) chil·ion aire ['CHilēya ner], goes to **Randy LaLonde our first Chilioneaire**, for his entry, which was smooth and hot. All winners will receive tickets to the August Lugnuts Baseball game held for Lansing Diocesan Seminarians.

Thanks.

Thanks to Jimmy Thomas and Arnie Rios for their help with setup, and to Grand Knight Andrew Oliver for his help during clean up. A Thank You to all who took part, those who ate, those who voted (donated), and who enjoyed this great day of fraternity, football, and food. Consider joining us next year, with a chili or not, but join us for the great time and to help the Council fund the Coats for Kids Program.

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 | Joann Klein (wife of Thomas Klein) |
| Kristen McCue (wife of Michael McCue) Kathy Stoffer | Tony Kolp “Pete” Pline (wife of John Suckow) Ron and Joan Zerfas | Robert Nelson 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.

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 the Knights of Columbus at Columbus Hall (517) 321-2209.

From the Newsletter Editor

March 15, 2026 is the deadline for content for the April, 2026 newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact the Knights of Columbus at Columbus Hall (517) 321-2209.



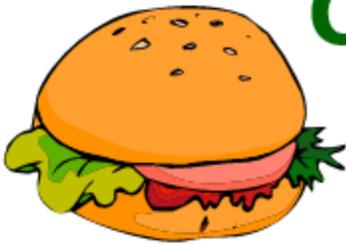
LANSING COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION

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



Richard Council #788
March 2026
Calendar of Events



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 Club Closed | 2 Club Open 4-9 pm Burger Night 5:00-7:00 pm | 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 Closed |
| 8 Club Closed | 9 Club Open 4-9 pm Burger Night 5:00-7:00 pm | 10 Club Open 4-9 pm | 11 Club Open 4-9 pm | 12 Club Open 4-9 pm | 13 Club Open 4-9 pm | 14 Club Closed |
| 15 Club Closed Pancake Breakfast | 16 Club Open 4-9 pm Burger Night 5:00-7:00 pm | 17 Club Open 4-9 pm | 18 Club Open 4-9 pm | 19 Club Open 4-9 pm | 20 Club Open 4-9 pm | 21 Club Closed COR 6:45-8 am |
| 22 Club Closed | 23 Club Open 4-9 pm Burger Night 5:00-7:00 pm | 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 Closed |
| 29 Club Closed | 30 Club Open 4-9 pm Burger Night 5:00-7:00 pm | 31 Club Open 4-9 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

10/12/11/00

Painting by Chas Fagan © Knights of Columbus