



February 2026



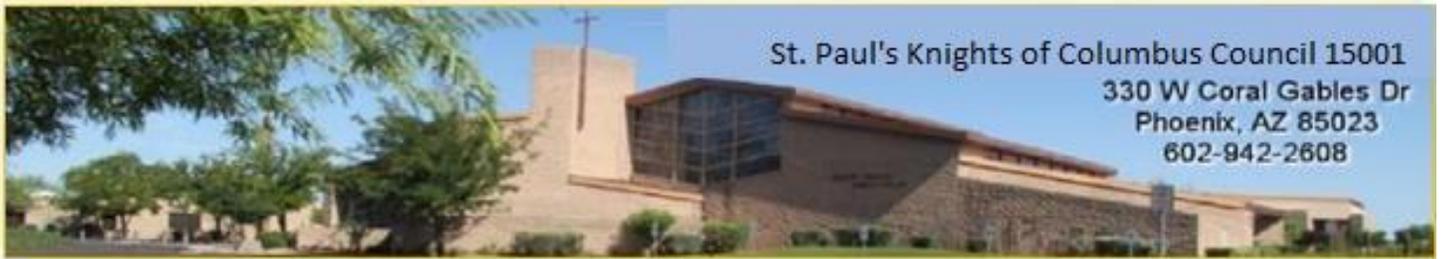
Ash Wednesday is a holy day of prayer and fasting in many Western Christian denominations. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday and marks the first day of Lent: the seven weeks of prayer, fasting and almsgiving before the arrival of Easter. Ash Wednesday may also be observed by Christians of the Catholic, Lutheran, Moravian, Anglican (Episcopalian), and United Protestant denominations, as well as by some churches in the Reformed, (including certain Congregationalist, Continental Reformed, and Presbyterian churches, Baptist, Methodist and Nazarene traditions.

Ash Wednesday is traditionally observed with fasting and abstinence from meat in several Christian denominations. As it is the first day of Lent, many Christians begin Ash Wednesday by marking a Lenten calendar, praying a Lenten daily devotional, and making a Lenten sacrifice that they will not partake of until the arrival of Eastertide.

Many Christians attend special Ash Wednesday church services at which churchgoers receive ash on their foreheads or the top of their heads, as the wearing of ashes has been a sign of repentance since biblical times. The imposition of ashes is typically done with the sign of the cross, signifying that the recipient is a follower of Jesus. Ash Wednesday derives its name from this practice, in which the words accompany the placement (imposition) of ashes, "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or the dictum "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. The ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday Celebrations.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and our need for the love and forgiveness shown to us in Jesus Christ. I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a Holy Lent, by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by practicing works of love, and by reading and reflecting on God's Holy Word.

The Eastern Orthodox Church does not, in general, observe Ash Wednesday. Instead, Orthodox Great Lent begins on Clean Monday and followed by Sad (Sorrowful) Wednesday. There are a relatively small number of Orthodox Christians who follow the Western Rite. These do observe Ash Wednesday, although often on a different day from the previously mentioned denominations, as its date is determined from the Orthodox calculation of Pascha, which may be as much as a month later than the Western observance of Easter.



February 2026

Council 15001

Your Officers for 2025-2026

Grand Knight.....Ed Fischer, GK
 Chaplain.....Fr. Dindo “Bruno” Cuario
 Asst. Chaplain.....TBD
 Deputy Grand Knight.....John Blome PGK
 Chancellor.....Rick Smith
 Financial Secretary.....Kirk LaPlante, PGK
 Treasurer.....Phil Tabbita, PGK
 Trustee 3 yr.....Charley Billingsley, PGK
 Trustee 2 yr.....Daniel McGinn PGK
 Trustee 1 yr.....Francis Abijaoude PGK
 Advocate.....Al Gillis, PGK
 Recorder.....Michael Hobaica
 Warden.....Artie Hauer
 Inside Guard.....Tom Roggenkamp
 Outside Guard (1).....Manuel Flores
 Outside Guard (2).....Richard Rael

Appointed Officers

Lecturer.....Appointed by the Grand Knight
 Info. Technical Director.....Nelson Mayo
 Newsletter Editor/Publisher..Tom Karl PGK
 Editorial Assistant.....Ted Cherekos
 Knights Website.....John Blome, PGK
 4th Degree Coordinator...Gary Schulte, PGK

**Remember—One new member,
per Council, per month.**

**This is the desire
of the Supreme Knight.**

Can you help us make it happen?

Does Lent brings up the idea of pain and suffering or is it more towards solemnity, peace and contemplation. Too often it seems as though we are made to think that Lent is all about suffering – about giving up some things we want.

That is the “Old Lent.” The “New Lent” is more about the acts we do to help others and the sacrifices we endure to achieve that end. Yes, giving up chocolate for Lent is a “fad” thing, but we don’t want to see fad – we want more permanence with our daily routine and lives.

In the old days, Christians may have flogged themselves or worn sack cloths to make themselves appear to suffer for others. Their suffering was more for their own self-gratification.

Many times, I have mentioned the idea of Time, Talent and Treasure. During Lent it would be of greater value to you, as a Christian and for those whom you may help, if you gave of your time by giving up a favorite activity so that you could spend more time with others, be it your family, co-worker or someone in care in the hospital or in a home.

Maybe you are a good craftsman and could make or build something that others may need. There seems to be an endless list of projects that we as Knights and our families can complete.

Lastly we have treasure, but it does not have to be money. When you use your time and talent to help others, you may be saving them a lot of expense they could not otherwise incur. This is what Knights do!

Fr. Michael J. McGivney wanted his Knights to be good Christian men who look out for the well-being of families and their communities. So, during this Lenten Season, try your best to follow the act of Charity so that together our Unity will help us all – the Fraternity. Vivet Jesus!



For Fraternal Year 2025-2026

**The State Theme is:
With Rejoicing Hearts**



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
 IN SERVICE TO ONE
 IN SERVICE TO ALL

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[Grand Knight Report — February 2026](#)

Lent: What We Do, What We Give, and Who We Become

As we begin the holy season of **Lent**, we are invited once again to turn our hearts back to the Lord through **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving**. This season is not just about giving things up—but also about stepping forward to do what Christ calls us to do.

Jesus didn't simply say, "Believe." He said, "**Come, follow me.**" He told us to *do*—to love our neighbor, to forgive, to serve, to act. So, as we consider what we might give up this Lent, let's also ask:

[What will I do for others this season?](#)

[How will I act in faith?](#)

Lent is a time to stretch our souls. Fasting and self-denial help us build the **spiritual willpower** we need to live as God created us to live—free from the chains of selfishness, bad habits, and complacency. But our sacrifices are not ends in themselves. They strengthen us to become **men of action**, men of mercy, and men of joy.

So yes, give something up. But also **give something of yourself**. Volunteer. Reconcile. Be generous. Pray with someone. Visit the lonely. Be present. In doing so, we imitate Christ—and we grow stronger in virtue, brotherhood, and faith.

[Membership Drive – February 14–15](#)

Our **Parish Membership Drive** is scheduled for the weekend of **February 14–15**, and I ask every Knight to take part.

[Here's how you can help:](#)

- **Wear your Knights polo, khaki pants, and name badge** to whichever Mass you attend.
- Be ready to say hello and share a few words with potential new Knights.
- Look for me—I'll be around after **all Masses** that weekend and would love to catch up with each of you.

Sometimes, a simple conversation after Mass is all it takes to help a man take his next step toward fraternity, service, and faith.

[Final Thoughts](#)

Thank you again for the many ways you continue to serve, lead, and grow. Whether you're helping with **BINGO**, **Donut Sundays**, the **Priest Appreciation Dinner**, or simply showing up at our monthly meetings—**you are making a difference**.

Let this Lent be a season of spiritual progress. Let's not just give something up—**let's give ourselves over** to the One who gave everything for us.

Vivat Jesus,

Ed Fischer
Grand Knight
efischer6@gmail.com
Phone: 602-577-6531



Membership Drive



Weekend of February 14-15

Dear Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you.

The weekend of February 15, after all Masses, our Council will hold a membership drive – a moment of evangelization and fraternity. This is not merely an event; it is an opportunity to extend the hand of Christ through the mission of the Knights of Columbus. Membership is not a numbers game – it is about inviting men into a life of virtue, service and faith.

I urge each of you, as a Brother Knight, to make this weekend of February 15 a priority. Wear your Knights shirt, badge and khaki pants proudly. Let your presence speak of dignity and commitment. Stay after Mass. Engage in conversation. Look for the man who is searching for purpose, for community, for a deeper life in Christ – and be ready to guide him.

Have your phone prepared with the online membership site - if you need help with this, just ask Charley, Dan or me. Do not let hesitation or delay stand in the way. Walk a potential Brother through the process right then and there. This is the new missionary frontier – meeting people where they are and inviting them into the great adventure of Catholic discipleship.

Brothers, this is an all-hands-on-deck moment. The Church needs men of courage and conviction. The world needs witnesses of faith. And our Council needs your active participation. Make time. Be present. Let us work together so that, through our efforts, more men may hear the call to serve Christ and His Church.

Thank you for your fidelity and zeal. Let us pray for the success of this drive and for all those whom the Lord is calling. I look forward to joining you Feb. 14 and 15 as we greet our brothers.

Vivat Jesus!

Ed Fischer, Grand Knight
Dan McGinn, Membership Chair
Rick Smith, Event Chair

Council Officers' Duties

Grand Knight (GK) - Chief Executive Officer

- Presides over all Council meetings.
- Sets Council goals and ensures all Officers work to achieve them.
- Appoints Program and Membership Directors, and all other necessary committees.
- Countersigns checks and orders for payment.
- Oversees the Council's First Degree Team.

Deputy Grand Knight (DGK) - Second in Command

- Assists the Grand Knight in the operation of the Council.
- Presides at Council meetings in the Grand Knight's absence.
- Often serves as the Retention Chairman or Program Director.

Chancellor - Membership Engagement

- Assists the Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight.
- Responsible for strengthening members' interest and participation in Council activities.
- Serves on the Admission and Retention committees.

Treasurer - Custodian of Funds

- Receives money from the Financial Secretary and deposits it in Council accounts.
- Responsible for paying all Council expenses.
- Maintains the Council's ledger and updated budget.

Advocate - Parliamentarian

- Acts as parliamentarian for the Council, ensuring proper procedure.
- Should be knowledgeable in *Robert's Rules of Order* and the Laws of the Order.
- Seeks legal assistance from the State Advocate when needed.

Recorder - Secretary

- Responsible for keeping a true and permanent record of all Council meetings (minutes).
- Maintains all Council correspondence.
- Assists with Council event notifications and social media responsibilities.

Warden - Property & Security Supervisor

- Supervises and maintains all Council property (excluding money and financial records).
- Sets up the Council chambers for meetings and ceremonials.
- Oversees the Inside and Outside Guards.

Inside/Outside Guards

- Attend the doors of the Council chamber.
- Check for current membership cards before allowing entrance to meetings.

Trustees (3) - Financial Oversight Board

- Supervise all financial business of the Council.
- Conduct semiannual audits of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer's accounts.

[Appointed Council Officers](#)

Chaplain - Spiritual Advisor

- Serves as the spiritual advisor to the Brother Knights and their families.
- Provides a spiritual message to members, usually at the start of the meeting.

Financial Secretary (FS) - Records and Dues

- Maintains all financial and membership records (appointed for a 3-year term by the Supreme Knight).
- Collects dues and sends billing notices.
- Files various reports (including the annual IRS Form 990 in the U.S.) and membership transactions with the Supreme Council.

Lecturer - Programs

- Responsible for providing suitable educational and entertaining programs during the "Good of the Order" section of council meetings.

Program Director

- Appointed by the Grand Knight to oversee the council's **Faith in Action** program areas (Faith, Family, Community, and Life).
- Keeps accurate records of programs for award applications.

Membership Director

- Appointed by the Grand Knight to collaborate on membership goals.
- Manages the Recruitment, Retention, and Insurance Promotion Committees.
- Plans and coordinates the Council's schedule of recruitment programs.

[A Different Point Of View](#)

Brothers,

What a fantastic result! We had fantastic numbers from our most recent BINGO on January 16th.

I want to extend a special thanks to our Grand Knight for covering for Andy and Dief. While the jokes may have been questionable, the enthusiasm was top-notch!

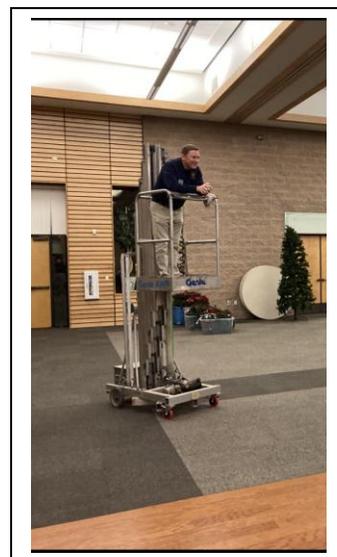
The role of the spotter has taken on renewed importance; in our quest for continuous improvement, we have upgraded the position to "High-Altitude Surveillance." Also, the "YMCA" enactment was such a hit that it might just become a new tradition.

Thank you to everyone for making this another successful event.

Get ready—our next BINGO is only three weeks away on February 6th!

Vivat Iesus,

Kirk LaPlante, F.S./PGK



Now for some photos from the last bingo.





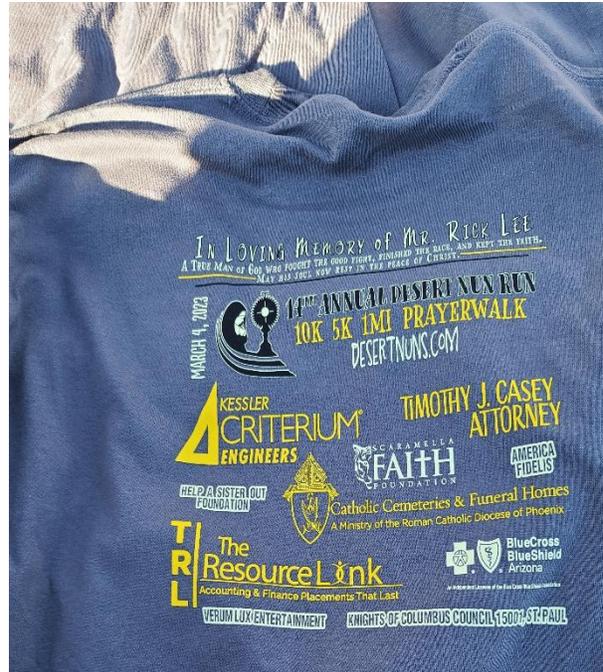
Desert Nun Run – March 7

Although this is not a February event, this is almost our last opportunity to promote this largest fundraiser for the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration of Our Lady of Solitude Monastery.



Dedicated to perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, these nuns host one of the most popular running events in the Valley each year. There are 10K, 5K and one-mile options. If you'd like to volunteer, with Council 15001 as the largest support organization, for this event, reach out to Trustee Al Gillis at adgillis2728gmail.com

Picture from a previous year's event.



Sweatshirt provided if you come out and help us. Note that our Council is named on the shirt.

[Late News From December](#)

By: Charley Billingsley, PGK

Rev. Fr. Aaron Agorsor returned to his homeland in Ghana, Africa in the Fall where he is serving as an Assoc. Priest at Blessed Clementina Catholic Church and is awaiting an appointment to teach English Literature at the University of Education in the town of Winneba which is the capital of Effutu Municipal District in the Central region of South Ghana.

He recently flew to England where he presented at paper on English Literature at Oxford University in the City of Oxford.



[Lenten Prayers 2026](#)

For Lent 2026, consider incorporating traditional prayers and the monthly intentions from Pope Leo XIV to deepen your spiritual journey.

Lenten Prayers

[Daily Prayer for Lent:](#)

"God of goodness and mercy, hear my prayer as I begin this Lenten journey with you. Help me to grow closer to you and to reflect on my life and actions during this sacred time."

[Stations of the Cross:](#)

- This traditional prayer involves meditating on the events of Jesus' Passion. Each station invites you to reflect on a significant moment, fostering a deeper connection with Christ's sacrifice. It is especially impactful during Holy Week.

[Prayer for Reflection:](#)

- "Lord, as I journey through Lent, help me to recognize the areas in my life that need your healing and grace. May I be open to your guidance and grow in faith."

NOTE: Wives' birthday list was taken from the Council Membership Survey which was turned in by members of the Council.

We would really like every member to complete this survey so that we can have the most complete and accurate birthday listing available

February 01	Michael Hobaica		February 04	Sharon Gibson
February 02	Fr. Adeodatus Rwehumbiza		February 04	Angie McGinn
February 03	Tom Russell		February 08	Verlene Ross
February 10	James Soderlund		February 11	Lauri Marlby
February 12	Tom Van Buren		February 28	Rachel Davis
February 22	Michael Carney			
February 23	Zeus Dexter Cabelin			
February 25	Luis Samudio			
		February 01		



Our Knights In Action

During the past Fraternal Year, PGK Richard Diefendorf sent a full year listing of the types of volunteer service hours, in a form format, to each member. We will try to continue that by providing a two-month list for you to fill out and give to the Financial Secretary. **You may also include any ministries that your wife and family participate in.** This means that you may include time for any and all parish ministries: EM, Adorer, Usher, Lector, Altar Server, Dusting Angels, RCIA, teaching or assisting at Catechesis, prayer shawls, decorating the Church at Christmas and Easter, attending Degree ceremonies, and of course the picnic and Campus cleanup. These are only a few of the things we and our families do.

Monthly Record of Volunteer Service Hours for Council 15001

January

2nd Wednesday P.P. Rosary _____

Donut Sunday _____

Servers _____

EM _____

Lector _____

Adoration _____

Bingo _____

St. Paul's
Gala/Mass _____

Other: _____

February

Prospect Open House _____

Parish Picnic _____

Preist's Appreciation Dinner _____

Bingo _____

2nd Wednesday P.P. Rosary _____

Donut Sunday _____

Servers _____

EM _____

Lector _____

Adoration _____

Other _____

February 2026

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 General Meeting 7:00 p.m. In Conference Room	5	6 BINGO 6 pm. O'Carroll Hall 	7
8 Family of the Month/Donut Sunday	9	10	11 Rosary at Planned Parenthood 	12	13 Priest Appreciation Dinner	14
15	16 Officers' Meeting In Conference Room 7 p.m.	17	18 	19 Assembly 1805 Meets at St. Joseph At 7:00,p.m.	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Upcoming Events For February/March 2026

February 2026

- Feb. 04 General Meeting 7 p.m. In Conference Room
- Feb. 06 BINGO 6 p.m. O'Carroll Hall
- Feb. 08 Donut Sunday/Family of the Month
- Feb. 11 Rosary at Planned Parenthood
- Feb. 13 Priest Appreciation Dinner
- Feb. 16 Officers' Meeting In Conference Room 7 p.m.
- Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday



March 2026

- Mar. 04 General Meeting 7 p.m. In Conference Room
- Mar. 07 Nun Run
- Mar. 08 Donut Sunday/Family of the Month
- Mar. 11 Rosary at Planned Parenthood
- Mar. 15 Blood Drive in Conference Room 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Mar. 16 Officers' Meeting In Conference Room 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 17 St. Patrick's Day BINGO 6:00 p.m. O'Carroll Hall





[Prayer to End Abortion](#)

We often discuss in the newsletters and during our General Meetings the need to have Rosary Wednesday which is the second Wednesday of each month. While many of you are able to take some time out of your valuable day, it would be a great example to yourselves, your family and your parish to make an appearance as often as possible. Every prayer is valuable to you and to our Blessed Mother Mary. It is through Her that we ask for God's intercession to stop the needless killing of convenience that is occurring. So once again, we ask you to try to come to as many of the Rosary Wednesdays as possible during each year.

*Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life,
And for the lives of all my Brothers and sisters.
I know there is nothing that destroys more life than
abortion,
Yet I rejoice that you have conquered death
by the Resurrection of Your Son.
I am ready to do my part in ending abortion.
Today I commit myself
Never to be silent,
Never to be passive,*

*Never to be forgetful of the unborn.
I commit myself to be active in the pro-life
movement,
And never to stop defending life
Until all my Brothers and sisters are protected,
And our nation once again becomes
A nation with liberty and justice
Not just for some, but for all.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen!*

[For Those Who Are Sick & Distressed](#)

*Father, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness.
Hear the prayers we offer for our sick or distressed Brothers or their relatives:*

Brothers Manuel "Manny" Flores, James Wayne, Bob Waugh, Jim Soderlund, John Van Cuyk,
Tom Karl, Alberto Vela, Larry Obrien, Fr. Mike, Andrew Brule and Mark Davis and his family.

Others requesting prayers: Rebecca Cairo (Jim), Nadine Swartz (Jack and Shawn), Mary Picard (Andy),
Mary Weege (Earl RIP, Dan), Carmin Smith (mother of Rick Smith) and Lt. Col. Blaise Schmidt.



[Repose of the souls of all our Widows and our Deceased Brother Knights:](#)

Bernard "Butch" Cook, David Earl and Robert Benincasa, Josh and Janice (Ray Rosetti's
grandson and daughter), Mike Kvic, Joe Ross and Danny Julia.

[Catholic Prayer For those who have passed](#)

*"Loving God our Father, Your power brings us to life.
Your care guides our lives,
and by Your command we return to the dust from which we came.
Father, those who pass on still live in Your presence,
their lives are changed but do not end.
I plead in hope for my family, relatives and friends,
and for all the dead known only to You.*



Newsletter Approved by: GK Ed Fischer
Newsletter Publisher/Editor: Tom Karl

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[Submission of newsletter articles should be sent to your Newsletter Editor
not later than the 25th of the month.](#)

