



PRESIDENT Orval Blake
Phone 614-596-3218

The Columbus Diocese Chapter of
Knights of Columbus
COLUMBUS, OHIO
A CATHOLIC FAMILY FRATERNAL SERVICE
ORGANIZATION



VICE PRESIDENT

TREASURER Jim Cogan
Phone 614- 557-780

Worthy Grand Knight:

Congratulations on accepting the responsibilities of Grand Knight of your council for the 2026-27 fraternal year!

Enclosed with this letter you will find information regarding the Columbus Diocese Chapter and the Diocesan programs offered. We strongly encourage your council to participate in these programs to increase the visibility of the Knights of Columbus in your parishes and throughout our Diocesan community. We also encourage your participation in our meetings and send the report of activities for your council.

Enclosed you will find the following:

- Columbus Diocese Chapter information including payment instructions
- Keep Christ in Christmas billboard flier and form (fillable PDF)
- V.A. program flier
- Cor
- Information on the Support Our Seminarians and Matching Funds programs

Information for the following is also attached that we encourage your councils to support:

- Ohio March for Life

Any council in the diocese may participate in the optional programs by making a payment using the invoice e-mailed to your council. If your council did not receive the invoice or needs a replacement, contact treasurer@columbuskofc.org to request one.

Voting councils in the Chapter should pay dues using the e-mailed invoices. Dues payments are due upon receipt of the invoice; all other optional program payments are due as indicated on the fliers and the invoice. Councils who are non-voting members may become voting members by paying the dues assessment.

Diocesan council information (location, meeting times, Grand Knights and Financial Secretary information) is now available through the Knights' Diocesan website, www.columbuskofc.org. Log-in is required to access some areas. **The password is: 24TheShowOne4The\$**

The Columbus Diocese Chapter meets at 7 PM on the first Thursday of the month in the undercroft of St. Joseph Cathedral and via Zoom. We encourage you to attend these meetings on a regular basis to keep informed about current happenings and meet with other council leaders and your diocesan leadership team. We know as a Grand Knight, things get busy, you can ask other 3rd degree Knights to take turns attending the meetings on your behalf. Meeting reminders are emailed to councils monthly and available by contacting: kofcadmin@columbuskofc.org. Council reports are due the last Thursday of each month and should be sent to: secretary@columbuskofc.org.

Thank you in advance for your support of the Columbus Diocese Chapter's programs and activities! On behalf of the chapter officers and diocesan staff, I wish you the best for the coming fraternal year and ask that you feel free to reach out to any of us for advice and assistance!

Vivat Jesus!

Orval Blake
Columbus Diocese Chapter President
614-596-3218

Meets first Thursday of each month,
St. Joseph Cathedral (in the undercroft), 212 E Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215



The Columbus Diocese Chapter of
Knights of Columbus
COLUMBUS, OHIO
A CATHOLIC FAMILY FRATERNAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION



The purpose of the Columbus Diocese Chapter is to inform and unify all the Councils in the Columbus Diocese, providing essential information regarding operations, and area, diocesan and State Council programs and events. Additionally, Councils have the opportunity to share information and ideas regarding programming and promotional efforts, assisting in council growth and development.

Grand Knights and other Council leadership are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in Chapter meetings, which are held on the first Thursday of each month, at the St. Joseph Cathedral undercroft, 212 East Broad St or virtually on Zoom, beginning at 7 p.m. These meetings are brief-about an hour-but filled with important information to assist you in managing your council to keep abreast of current happenings in the area.

If you or another Council representative is attending, you/they will be called upon to indicate your council's presence (any member interested in attending is invited.) Councils can also submit a summary of three UPCOMING events for your Council.

Your annual dues payment to the Columbus Diocese Chapter is on the invoice e-mailed to your council. If you didn't receive it, you can request another from treasurer@columbuskofc.org. Your dues provide your council with the following benefits:

- **Council Knight of the Year and Family of the Year** plaques, as well as Chapter Knight & Family of the Year awards presented at our Annual Christopher Columbus awards banquet.
- **Annual Cookout for Chapter Councils**
- **Charitable contributions**, which include initiatives like our donation to the sponsorship of a Jerusalem (Catholic) School student in Bethlehem; and coordination of donations of ultrasound machines for pro-life woman care centers.
- **Sponsorship of many Chapter and Diocesan-wide activities, including:**
 - Clergy Appreciation Banquet
 - "Keep Christ in Christmas" billboards
 - Veterans Programs

Make an effort to join with Columbus Diocese councils and your Brother Knights to participate and attend Chapter meetings and events – see how our participation can make a difference in improving your Council and promoting the Knights throughout our area!

2026-27 EVENTS

(all dates subject to change)

Monthly: 1st Thursday: Chapter Meetings, St. Joseph Cathedral undercroft, 212 East Broad Street, 7 p.m.

Saturday, July 18: Columbus Diocese Tour Meeting, St. Carlo Acutis Discipleship Center at St. Paul, 313 N State St, Westerville, OH 43082. Lunch at 12:15 pm, Meeting at 1:00 pm., Mass at 4:00 pm

Thursday, August 6: 1st meeting of new chapter fraternal year, Blessed Sacrament, 411 East Main St, Newark, OH 43055. Dinner at 6 pm, Chapter Meeting at 7 pm, Fellowship & Fraternity at 8 pm

Sunday, January 2027: Date TBD
Diocesan Clergy Appreciation Banquet

February TBA: State Roadshow

March TBD: Diocesan Free Throw Championship

March TBD: State Free Throw Championship (Columbus Diocese Chapter is host)

Christopher Columbus Awards Banquet, honoring Knights and Families of the Year and Star Councils. Date and Venue August 2027.

May, 2027: State Convention, Cincinnati, OH: TBA

Columbus Diocese Councils

Grand Knights and Council Officers

Columbus Chapter Kick Off Meeting

Thursday, August 6

Our Blessed Sacrament

2008 Hudson Rd., Columbus, OH 43212

411 East Main St.

Wash. Ave. to East St.

Newark, Ohio 43055

Chapter Meeting: 6:00 p.m.

Fellowship and Fraternity: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Chapter Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship and Fraternity: 8:00 p.m.

**Details: please contact Chapter President Orval Blake at
614-596-3218 or oblake95@gmail.com or
Communication Director Tom Prem at tomprem27@gmail.com**

Columbus Diocese Chapter of the Knight of Columbus Personnel

2026-2027

Officers:

Chapter Spiritual Advisor -- Deacon Tony Bonacci

President – Orval Blake

Vice President – Open

Treasurer – Jim Cogan

Secretary--Open

Advocate – Rod Anderson

Two-year Trustee – Fred Kierner

Two-year Trustee –Marshall Myers

One-Year Trustee – Steve McClellan

One-year Trustee –Steve Shultz

State Officers & Directors:

State Treasurer – Chris Sarka

Orval Blake –Diocesan Growth Coordinator – Columbus

Diocesan District Deputy Coordinator – Dale Galion

Evangelization & Faith Formation Director – Columbus – Marshall Myers

State Fundraising Director – Gary Eckstein

State Legal Counsel – Dick Meyer

Columbus Diocesan Personnel:

Diocesan V.A. Chairman – Rick Diso

Diocesan Support Our Seminarians – George Dobrovic

Life Committee – Brett Gissel

Keep Christ in Christmas Billboards – Marshall Myers

Webmaster – Tom Kneeland

Father Hennepin Province, 4th Degree:

SK Dean Moshier – Master, District #3

District Deputies:

Lawrence Cihon #34, Michael Davala #35, John Harp #36, Jim Merckling

#37, Howard Robinson #38, Michael Williams #39, Chris Bush #41,

Jarrold Golden #42, Tyler Kohl #43, Trey Porter #44, Anthony Johnson #45,

Steven Shultz #46, Steve Doyle #47,

Dale Gallion #48

Congratulations to the 2026 Knight & Family of the Year Honorees of The Columbus Diocese Chapter of the Knights of Columbus

Assumption #3727

Knight: Andrew Wisniewski
Family: Dan & Laura Garland

St. Edward the Confessor #10876

Knight: James R. Gremling
Family: Todd Harms Family

St. Peter #11216

Knight: Carl Gabel
Family: Richard Monnier II Family

Our Lady of Perpetual Help #4603

Knight: John Matera
Family: Natu & Mardy Patel

New Albany #10941

Knight: Tom Kneeland
Family: John & Kathy Hodges

Fr. Sheldon Kelly #11224

Knight: Charles "Skeeter" Nelson

Fr Andrew H. Hohman #5253

Knight: Eusebio C. Maningding
Family: Paul & Karen Yarger

St. Patrick #11207

Knight: Michael Melliore, Sr.
Family: Scot & Kelly Briely

Fr. Bill Johnson #11665

Knight: David Breitmayer
Family: Tony & Rita Adams

Immaculate Heart of Mary #5899

Knight: John Reinhard
Family: Jeff Adams Family

New Albany #10941

Knight: Matt Mazur
Family: Savage/Smith Family

Father Edward Fitzgerald #12772

Knight: Carl Haaser
Family: Joel & Debbie Foster

St. Joan of Arc #10765

Knight: Corbett Taylor
Family: Mike Natarian Family

St. Brendan the Navigator #11208

Knight: Bob Vanecko
Family: Micheal & Julie Gunnarson

St. Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli #16561

Knight: David Evers
Family: Stephen & Cathy Mustard

Special Congratulations to the Knight & Family of the Year recognized by The Columbus Diocese Chapter

Columbus Diocese Chapter Knight of the Year

James R. Gremling of St. Edward the Confessor Council #10876

Columbus Diocese Chapter Family of the Year

Paul and Karen Yarger of Fr. Andrew H. Hohman Council #5253



The Knights of Columbus will again sponsor the “Keep Christ in Christmas” billboard program in the Columbus Diocese!

Now in its 26th year, Councils have the opportunity to place a billboard showing their name as a sponsor, reminding all who travel past of the true meaning of the Christmas season. Every effort is made to place billboards in proximity to your parish/within your parish boundaries. *The earlier your form and payment is received, the better your placement will be.*

Individual Councils/Assemblies can participate in this program for \$360; Councils/Assemblies will also be able to partner together to participate and share expenses.

Council payments AND a commitment to participate should be received no later than Monday, September 15, 2026; please complete the attached form and include payment on the invoice emailed to your Council or Assembly. If you did not receive the invoice, you can request another invoice from treasurer@columbuskofc.org

Contact Marshall Myers at kofcmmyers1963@gmail.com with questions or for additional information

Knights of Columbus

Keep Christ In Christmas

Billboard Order 2026

Sponsored and subsidized by the Columbus Diocese Chapter

Your Order AND \$360 Payment Due to Chapter Not Later Than September 15!

Address inquiries to Marshall Myers at: kofcmmyers1963@gmail.com

Council Number:	City/Town:
Parish Church Name:	
Print Name of Person Submitting Order:	
Email address:	Phone:

If your Council is partnering and sharing the cost of the Billboard with 1 or 2 other councils, please provide the same information as above for the additional councils, including their Contact Information:

Councils:	Cities/Towns:
Parish Church Names:	
Print Contact Names:	
Email Addresses:	
Phone Numbers:	

Note: Your Billboard Order is not complete and will not be placed with the billboard company unless this form and payment are received by the Chapter by the September 15 due date!

Payments may be made online using the invoice your council received from the Chapter. The online system accepts credit cards, debit cards, or checks. For assistance or other options contact Jim Cogan at treasurer@columbuskofc.org



Columbus Diocese Veterans' Program

***"They answered the call to serve our country.
Let's answer the call to serve them."***

The Knights of Columbus councils of the Columbus Diocese, in conjunction with the Fourth Degree Assemblies of the Father Hennepin Province, Ohio District 3, will again sponsor a series of programs and events to provide both comfort and assistance to our veterans, in recognition of their service and sacrifice in defense of the liberties we all enjoy.

Activities sponsored by our veterans' program are held at both Chillicothe Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Columbus's Chalmers P. Wylie Ambulatory Care Center. Your help is essential to continue this program!

All Columbus Diocesan Councils and Assemblies are requested to make a minimum donation of \$100, additional monies will be accepted.

Payment should be received no later than Monday, September 15, 2026 on the invoice e-mailed to your council or assembly. If you did not receive the invoice, you can request another invoice from treasurer@columbuskofc.org

Details regarding upcoming veterans activities will be communicated to you shortly; if Councils/Assemblies are interested in hearing more about our program and how you can make a difference in the lives of these defenders of our country, or if you have additional questions about our program, **please contact V.A. Coordinator, Rick Diso at 614-886-2050, or rickbdiso@gmail.com**

Volunteers Also Needed: The Wylie Center has also requested part-time volunteer assistance (drivers, appointment reminder calling, greeters, hospitality) to provide additional support to our veterans. **To help or have additional questions, please contact Rick Diso at the phone/email above.**

CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN THE COLUMBUS DIOCESE IS IMPORTANT!

Councils in the Columbus Diocese CAN make a difference for Catholic Education in OUR DIOCESE!

A generous donation from your Council sent to the State Council ASAP after September 1, 2026, will help us maximize our portion of the state match up to \$25,000!

That's because only the first \$25,000 received by the State Council is matched dollar for dollar and donated to the respective Diocesan Education Department for instructional materials and programs about our Catholic faith.

A total of \$60,549 was donated in 2025 by the councils in the State of Ohio.

If you have not set a plan or budgeted for this program in your council, please do so now! Every amount raised, even if not matched, has a major impact!

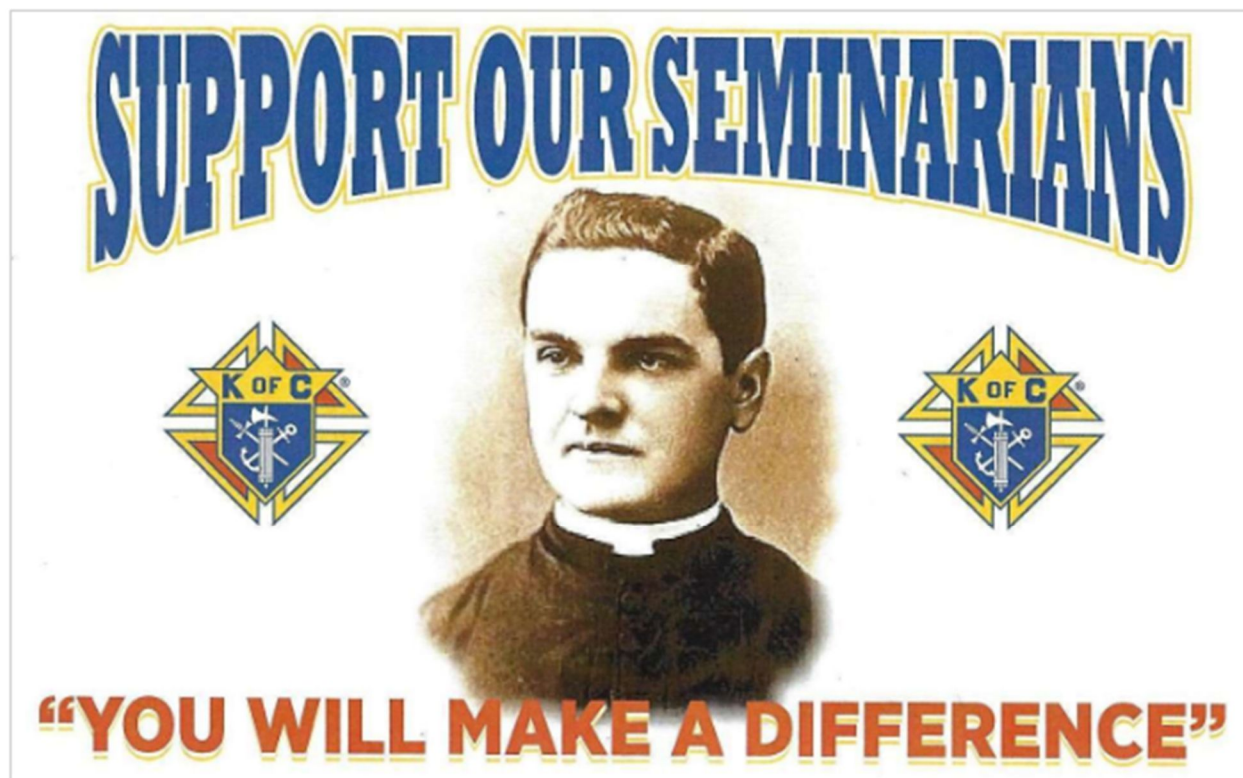
Any questions, or assistance in this program, please contact Tony Offenberger at 740-525-4823.

The Matching Funds Campaign will run from September 1, 2026, through November 15, 2026.

So please, check out the Matching Funds Campaign information on the State website at <https://kofcoho.org/programs/matching-funds/> for the details and online and printable forms for your Council's donations.

Help us to increase the Matching Funds coming back to the Columbus Diocese to benefit Catholic education in YOUR parish and school!





The Ohio Knights of Columbus program to “Support Our Seminarians” is known as “SOS” for short. Recognizing that Seminarians are necessary to the future of the Catholic Church in Ohio, the Knights of Columbus in Ohio raise funds to assist the Diocesan Vocations Directors in promoting priestly vocations and assisting seminarians. Funds raised in the Columbus Diocese stay in the Columbus Diocese and directly benefit vocations and the seminarians.

While this program was formerly known as “*Pennies for Heaven*” and the funds were primarily raised by “*passing the jug*” at Council meetings, it has now grown through additional collections which include special fundraising events and most importantly, parish collections via envelopes included or passed out to parishioners periodically. Councils throughout Ohio continue to find innovative and successful ways to collect funds to support the efforts of our Vocation Directors and the seminarians.

There will be two Turn-In due dates this year: December and April

Please participate in this effort through your Council and parish. Resources are available through the State Council and local KofC Chapters. Additional information and Turn-In forms for collections will be available on the State website at <https://kofcoho.org/programs/sos/> and on the Columbus Diocese website at columbuskofc.org or contact George Dobrovic at: <mailto:doby4482@gmail.com?subject=SOS>

A banner with a purple background and a faint image of the Ohio Statehouse. The word "OHIO" is in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below it, "MARCH FOR LIFE" is in large, white, outlined, sans-serif capital letters.

OHIO MARCH FOR LIFE

Ohio March for Life

October 2, 2026

<https://marchforlife.org/ohio/>

1 Capitol Sq, Columbus, OH 43215

10:00 am Pre-Rally Concert

11:00 am Rally

12:00 pm Ohio March for Life

Click [here](#) to visit Ohio March for Life for details about registration as well as more information on Bus Registration and Volunteer Registration.