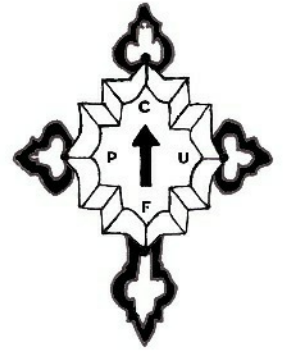




The Council Compass

Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Council #444

Knights of Columbus



Editor: Paul Desroches

1899 - *Over 126 Years* - 2026

August 2026

Officers

Chaplain: Father Omachi Michael

Associate Chaplain: Fr. Fernando Hernandez
845-561-0885

Grand Knight: Frank Gerbes (Mary)
845-527-7659

DGK: Robert Digilio (Mary)
845-764-6192

Chancellor: Joseph Dennis (Christina)
845-7281214

Warden: Lee Zawistowski (Joyce)
914-213-3790

Treasurer: I.Scott Watkins, PGK, (Bea)
845-564-0339

Financial Sec. William Kuntz (Pam)
201-697-9920

Recorder: Jared Rinaldi
845-799-0689

Inside Guard William Hightower (Eleanora)
845-234-2706

Outside Guard Bruce Lubkeman
845-568-7571

Advocate: Jude Martini, (Carolyn)

Trustees: Charles Smith, PGK (Patricia)
845- 926-2096
Ray Lopez, PGK(Gloria)
845- 561-2003
Paul Desroches PGK (Joanna)
845-568-7893

Lecturer: Deacon Thomas Neppl
845-562-1341

District Deputy: James Banville
845-502-1890

Insurance Agt: Brendon McCabe
822-697-5632

Faithful Navigator Bill Kuntz (Pam)
201-697-9920

Editor: Paul Desroches
845-568-7893
Pauldesro@aol.com

Columbus Day Ball

Honoring Council 444
Knight of the Year
Deacon Thomas Neppl
AND
Family of the Year
The Deacon Peter Haight Family
October 11, 2026

La Casa Vicina
1015 Little Britain Road
New Windsor, N.Y.
5:00 PM - 10:00 PM
\$65.00 Per Person - Pre Paid
Sit Down Dinner-Dancing-Cash Bar-Door Prizes
Please RSVP by September 30th
To Bill Kuntz, 201-697-9920

The Blue Mass

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 444.
Will Honor All Our First Responders in the Police, Fire,
and Emergency Management Services. We will also pay
special tribute to those who have perished as a result of
September 11, 2001, and those First Responders who
have lost their lives in the line of duty.

To be held on Sunday, September 13, Saint Patrick's Church,
10:30 AM Mass. For additional information, please contact
PGK Greg Gaetano at 845-629-2722.

GRAND KNIGHT'S THOUGHTS

Brothers:

Time is flying by. I cannot believe a year has passed since I became Grand Knight. Our Council continues its packed schedule for the next three months. It never ceases to amaze me how many dedicated Knights we have to enable us to continue supporting all these events.

Big News! Father Omachi Michael has agreed to be our new Chaplain. Welcome Father to our council! My thanks to Father Joe for his many years as our Council Chaplain.

I wish to take a moment to thank PGK Joe Coyle and our Chancellor Joe Dennis, for all their hard work putting together the Communion Breakfast/Brunch, again this year. They were able to hold the costs down by having the breakfast at Temple Hill Tavern. My thanks to the staff at Temple Hill Tavern for doing an outstanding job.

We had another successful Kennan L. Ryan Memorial Car Show on June 21. Chairman Charlie Smith made sure that the show ran smoothly under the watchful eye of Annie Ryan. Bill Kuntz made sure that there were plenty of vendors, and DJ Ming kept it upbeat. It was through the efforts of ALL the knights who were there that is turned out to be so successful.

On June 27, our Chancellor, Joe Dennis, organized yet another Highway Cleanup on our Council's stretch of Little Britain Road. He already is looking November for the next one. This is part of the adopt a highway program. Our Council's name is on a highway sign, so we get free publicity!

We closed out July with participating in the Italian Feast at Sacred Heart. We had a huge turnout of brother Knights and our very own Fourth Degree lead the way for the procession followed by Brother Knights carrying the American, Italian and Papal flags. A very rewarding event. The Installation of Officers will take place on August 18, at Sacred Heart Church, 301 Anne Street, Newburgh. We will start with a Mass at 6 PM, then have the actual ceremony, followed by a repast in the Chapel. All are welcome. If you haven't witnessed the ceremony it is something that should be witnessed by everyone. The oath of office is administered individually to each Knight. Wives are welcome to join their husband as they are installed. I hope to see you all there. Questions may be directed to GK Frank Gerbes at 845-527-7659.

Our annual Blue Mass will follow on September 13, 10:30 Mass, at Saint Patrick's Church, 55 Grand Street. My thanks to PGK Greg Gaetano for putting this together yet again. Let us all gather to thank our First Responders and to remember all those who perished on September 11, 2001, as well as all our First Responders who died in the line of duty. If you have questions, you can call PGK Greg Gaetano, at 845-629-2722.

We will have a recruiting booth at the New Windsor Day event on September 19, from 11:30 until close at 8 PM. Hopefully we can count on several of our Brother Knights to help out. We desperately need to add new members to our ranks. Call Bill Kuntz at 201-697-9920, and let him know you are coming to help.

On September 20, from 12 until 5 PM, we will have a booth at the Coming Together in Truth event. We will also help out in the kitchen. We need volunteers for this event, to help set up, act as guards for the Holy Eucharist, and many various jobs in and out of the kitchen. Please let Frank Gerbes know you can help out. His number is 845-527-7659.

Our very own Domingo Ampil has volunteered to participate in the Tunnel to Towers 5K race & walk from Brooklyn to Ground Zero on September 27. We are also sponsoring Domingo with a \$200 donation to the event. Our major fundraiser, The Columbus Day Ball, is fast approaching. Bill Kuntz, the Chairman of the event is in need of some help. If you can spare an hour or two please give Bill a call at 201-697-9920.

On October 25, we will have the re-dedication of the Monument to the Unborn at 3 PM at Calvary Cemetery. This is a very moving ceremony. Your attendance is appreciated.

Save the date, November 1, for the Mass remembering all our Brother Knights who passed away over the past year. 12 PM at Sacred Heart Church.

PGK Charlie Smith has volunteered his time to renovate the men's room at the council house, so it is temporarily out of commission. We are using the women's room until it is completed. Thank you so much Charlie for taking on this huge task.

I trust everyone is having a wonderful summer! We have a brief time to relax before getting back to business. September is promising to be a very busy time and we will need all your help to make things work. Thank you for all your help. We couldn't do it without you.

Vivat Jesus!!

Frank Gerbes
Grand Knight

.Save the Dates

1. Coming Together in Truth, September 20, from 1 until 5. We will have a booth and we will need volunteers for set up and take down. To be held at the Laborers' Local 17 Site at 451 A Little Britain Road, Newburgh, N.Y.
 2. New Windsor Day, September 19. From 12 PM until 8 PM. We need Brothers to help staff the Booth.
 3. Re-dedication of the Monument to the Unborn. October 25, 2026, 3 PM, at Calvary Cemetery.
 4. Memorial Mass for members of our Council who passed away over the past year. November 1, 12 PM Mass at Sacred Heart Church.
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Installation of Officers

There will be an Installation Ceremony on August 18, at Sacred Heart Church. Mass is at 6 PM, Installation Ceremony to follow. Light repast after the ceremony. All are welcome. Please contact Frank Gerbes at 845-527-7659 with any questions.

Congratulations to our Officers for the 2026 - 2027 Columbian Year

Chaplain	Father Omachi Michael
Associate Chaplain	Father Fernando Hernandez
Grand Knight	Frank Gerbes
Deputy Grand Knight	Robert Digilio
Chancellor	Joseph Dennis
Warden	Lee Zawistowski
Treasurer	PGK I. Scott Watkins
Financial Secretary	William Kuntz
Recorder	Jared Rinaldi
Inside Guard	William Hightower
Outside Guard	Bruce Lubkeman
Advocate	Jude Martini
Trustees	PGK Charles Smith
	PGK Raymond Lopez
	PGK Paul Desroches
Lecturer	Deacon Thomas Neppi

TREASURE CHEST RAFFLE

Be on the lookout for our Treasure Chest raffle tickets. This is a major fundraiser for our Council and helps to fund many of our charitable programs, such as Coats for Kids, Food Pantries, Saint Vincent de Paul Society, the Basket Ball Free Throw contest, as well as many more. The tickets are \$10 each, three for \$25 and six for \$40. Please be as generous as you have been in the past. Questions may be directed to Bill Kuntz at 201-697-9920.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVES

In the coming months we will be having Membership drives. Look for us at the Newburgh Churches. Stop by and say hello. We even have goodies to give away. Bring a friend. They will be very welcomed! We desperately need volunteers who are interested in serving the Church as well as the Knights. So, when you see us, drop by our table and see what's exciting!

A Blessed and very happy birthday to the following council members who will be celebrating their birthdays in the months of August, September, and October, 2026.

08/01 Bro Adrian Aquinas	
08/04 Rev Vincent DePaul Howley	
08/16 Joseph Rotunda	08/20 Rev John Antony
08/21 Paul Desroches	08/23 Vincent Cracolici
08/23 George Marvella	08/25 Rev Hakim Dario
08/26 Anthony Navarro	08/26 Michael Steup
08/29 Stephen Bedetti	08/29 Arthur Whitchurch
08/31 Jose Marengo	
09/01 Samuel Leghorn	09/01 Rev John Thenen
09/02 Anthony Cracolici	09/03 James Peloso
09/12 Carlos Martinez	09/15 Zachary Costa
09/18 Raymond Lopez	09/19 Roy Caracci
09/20 John Wenz	09/21 Mark Aulogia
09/21 Lawrence Yantz	09/24 Michael Diaz
09/27 Vito Maiorana	09/29 Rev Dennis Dinan
10/03 Joseph Dennis	10/04 Patrick Rutaquio
10/06 Donald Suttlehan	10/09 Daniel Keenan
1022 James Patterson	

Council Activities

The Blue Mass

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 444. Will Honor All Our First Responders in the Police, Fire, and Emergency Management Services. We will also pay special tribute to those who have perished as a result of September 11, 2001, and those First Responders who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

To be held on Sunday, September 13th, St. Patrick's Church, 55 Grand Street, Newburgh, N.Y., at the 10:30 AM Mass. Questions may be directed to PGK Greg Gaetano at 845-629-2722.

Columbus Day Ball

\$65 per person, on 10/11/2026 from 05:00 PM - 10:00 PM, at LaCasa Vicina, 1015 Little Britain Road, New Windsor, NY.

We are honoring Deacon Thomas Neppl as Knight of the Year! AND the Deacon Peter Haight family as our Family of the Year.

Embark on a journey through history and honor at the Knights of Columbus Council 444's prestigious annual Columbus Day Ball, slated for October 11, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM. In the splendid setting of La Casa Vicina, join us for an evening of fine dining, music and dancing. Tickets for this extraordinary event are priced at \$65 per person, and pre-registration is mandatory to secure your place among our honored guests.

To reserve your seat for an evening of grandeur and gratitude, please contact Bill Kuntz at (201) 697-9920. Journal Ads are also available, please contact Bill for that as well. Only \$65 for an evening of fine food, dancing to the sounds of DJ Ming, and a full evening of camaraderie!!

Watch for the Treasure Chest, raffle tickets coming in August. This is a major fund raiser for our Council and many of our charitable donations rely on the success of the proceeds from this. We hope you can be as generous as you have been in the past. Once again, you can contact Bill Kuntz with any questions, at 201-697-9920.

Saint Vincent de Paul Baby Outreach Center

The Baby Outreach Center provides diapers, wipes, baby clothes and toddler needs. They are open Tuesdays from 9:30 to 12:00. The Center is located in the Valastro Activity Center, . Entrance to the Baby Outreach Center is via Ann Street.

Clothing, diapers, wipes and toddler needs items are always welcome.

Contact Tim Brown at 845-235-4255

Calendar of Council Meetings

Please Note:

Until further notice all meetings will be in person and on Zoom, while Fourth Degree and Officers' meetings will be in person only.

Please call Bill Kuntz at 201-697-9920 if you have not received a Zoom invite via email.

04 Aug: Business Meeting at 8:00 PM
11 Aug: Fourth Degree Meeting at 8:00 PM
18 Aug: Social Meeting at 8:00 PM
25 Aug: Officers' Meeting at 8:00 PM
01 Sep: Business Meeting at 8 PM
08 Sep: Fourth Degree Meeting at 8:00 P.M.
15 Sep: Social Meeting at 8:00 P.M.
22 Sep: Officers' Meeting at 8:00 PM
29 Sep: Corporation Meeting at 8 PM
06 Oct: Business Meeting at 8:00 PM
13 Oct: Fourth Degree Meeting at 8:00 PM
20 Oct: Social Meeting at 8:00 PM
27 Oct: Officers' Meeting at 8:00 PM

Deacon Jack Seymour Food Pantry

Need volunteers on Friday' mornings from 9:00 AM to Noon and on Saturday mornings from 8:30 A.M. to Noon. Note that the food pantry is at the Sacred Heart gym. If you can help please note that set up starts at 7 AM. If you have questions, please call Linda or Paul at 845-234-8564.

St. Mary's Outreach

St. Mary's Outreach still operates at the Newburgh Community Center (Armory), They operate on the the third Friday of every month. Set up at 8 AM and the distribution starts at 9.