



KNIGHT NEWS



A monthly newsletter brought to you by Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council #822

FEBRUARY 2026

10 PAGES

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Grand Knight's Message

Brother,

There is no denying that we are living in a time of deep division. The current political climate has a way of finding its way into nearly every conversation, and at times, even among brother Knights, we may find ourselves holding differing views and strong opinions. While healthy discussion is not a bad thing, we must always remember who we are first and foremost: Catholic men committed to our faith, our families, and our communities.



As Knights of Columbus, our unity is rooted not in politics, but in the teachings of the Catholic Church. Our shared belief in the dignity of every human life, the importance of charity, and the call to serve others should always rise above partisan differences. When we place Christ at the center of our lives, we are reminded that our mission is bigger than any political debate - we are called to live the Gospel and reflect Christ's love in all that we do.

Brother Knights have always banded together, especially in challenging times. No matter our personal views, we stand shoulder to shoulder for the good of our parish, our community, and our families. Let us continue to treat one another with respect, listen with charity, and act with unity, so that our council remains a strong witness of what faithful Catholic brotherhood truly looks like.

Vivat Jesus,

Jeff Christian, Grand Knight



Join us each month at 6:45 before the Council meeting to recite the Holy Rosary with your Brother Knights! Contact Ethan Apsley for details. If you don't have a rosary, we'll give you one!!!

1 Corinthians 13:4-7: "Love is patient, love is kind... It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."



Jesus tells us, 'Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.' (Matt. 16:24).

"Giving Up" something for Lent isn't about shedding things you shouldn't be doing anyway. It's about letting go of distractions that keep you from time with Jesus, and about taking on habits that make more room for Him in your heart and in your life. Here are some options for thought.

Give Up:

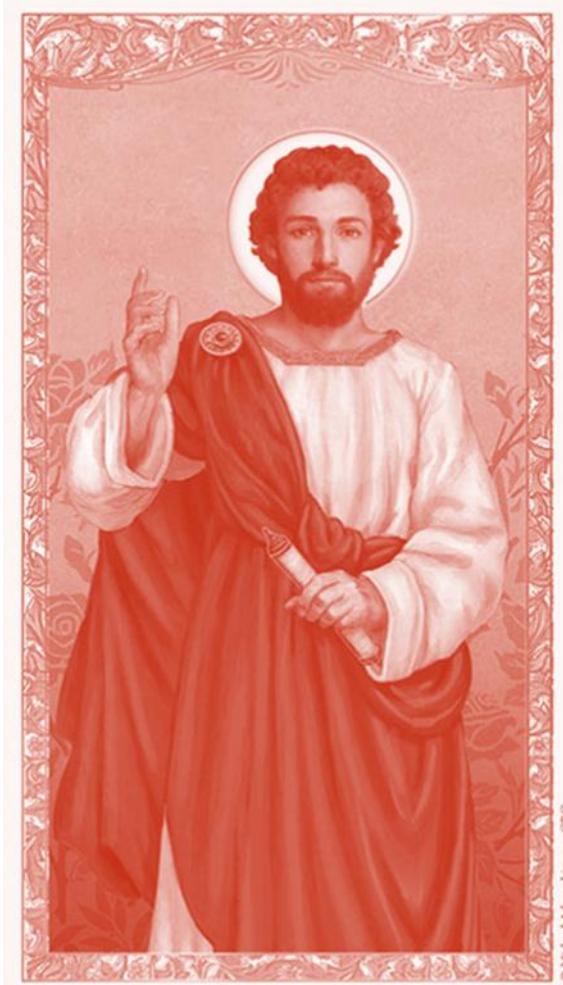
- Your pride.
- Feeling sorry for yourself.
- Gossip.
- Turning a blind eye to your neighbor.
- Doing things for approval or recognition.
- Shopping for things you don't need.
- Sleeping in.
- Sugared and caffeinated beverages.
- Snacks and desserts after dinner.
- Movies, television, or your favorite streaming service (Spotify, Netflix, etc.).
- Unrestricted time spent on social media.
- Having your phone out whenever you're with others.
- Swearing out loud, under your breath, and in your thoughts.
- Relying on your own strength and knowledge, thinking everything depends on you, instead of inviting the Holy Spirit to guide you.



Replace With:

- Spending time with new people.
- Giving random compliments.
- Reading books by or about the saints.
- Add a new form of prayer to your routine.
- Volunteering.
- Taking care of a plant or animal. For example, walk a dog every day, whether yours or a neighbor's.
- Anticipating and fulfilling the needs of others.
- Pausing before disagreeing or judging.
- Practicing more active listening and respectful eye contact when someone is speaking to you.
- Writing - *and sending* - thank-you notes or notes of encouragement. Bonus for *handwritten* notes that you hand-deliver or send by mail.
- Praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Stations of the Cross, or the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary every Tuesday and Friday night.
- Looking up the Sunday Mass readings ahead of time, reflecting on them before attending services, considering what God is saying to you through the Scriptures, and then focusing on listening attentively to them during Mass.

Will the Real St Valentine Please Stand Up ...



Perhaps the most remarkable fact about St. Valentine is that no one knows any facts about him at all. Whether he was one man, or two, or fifty; whether he was a priest or a bishop or a doctor, or from the south of Italy or the north; or whether he healed the blind daughter of a judge or a jailer, Valentine is one of those strange saints for whom the only thing we can be sure of is that he is in heaven - which, to be fair, is the most important thing about him, whoever he was.

By one particularly popular account, Valentine was a third-century Italian bishop of Terni, a city north of Rome, who was put under house arrest in the residence of a Roman judge named Asterius. Undaunted by persecution and punishment, Valentine spoke to the judge often about Jesus Christ, until the unbelieving judge challenged the bishop to cure his blind daughter to prove the authenticity of his God. Valentine placed his hands on the girl's eyes, and they were opened. Valentine was beaten with clubs and beheaded outside the Flaminian Gate on February 14, 269 - but not before he wrote a note of comfort to the girl whose sight he had restored, signing it, "From your Valentine."

Let us have another story. This one has Valentine as a Roman priest giving aid to Christians suffering persecution under the reign of Claudius. In a flash of maniacal brilliance, Claudius determined that single men made better soldiers

than married ones, and so he outlawed marriage for young men as he prepared to draft soldiers into his army. But Valentine began marrying couples in secret, allowing the husbands to claim exemption from conscription. Valentine was discovered and dragged before the emperor, and he was sentenced to death for refusing to budge an inch from his faith.

And so the stories run, too numerous to catch them all, though we may try. And where is the real St. Valentine? He is in all of these, as an icon of love, a champion of lovers, and a beloved son of the Lord who is love.

St. Valentine, pray for us that we may love well and love eternally. Be our Valentine.

Excerpted from <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/will-the-real-st-valentine-please-stand-up>

Black History Month and Catholicism

Exploring the Intersection of Faith and Black Heritage

Black History Month, celebrated annually in February in the United States, is a time dedicated to honoring the achievements, contributions, and rich heritage of African Americans. Its origins trace back to 1926, when historian Carter G. Woodson established "Negro History Week" to encourage the study of African American history, which was largely neglected by mainstream society. Over time, this observance expanded into Black History Month, serving as a vital opportunity to reflect on the challenges and triumphs of Black Americans throughout history. While many are familiar with the civil rights movement and key figures such as Martin Luther King Jr., the profound relationship between Black history and the Catholic Church is often less explored yet equally significant.

The story of Black Catholics in America is deeply woven into the fabric of both religious and social history. Catholicism arrived in the Americas alongside European colonization, but Africans, many of whom were forcibly brought as slaves, also carried with them their own spiritual traditions and, in some cases, prior exposure to Christianity, including Catholicism. Despite facing oppression, segregation, and discrimination - both in society and within the Church - Black Catholics have played an essential role in shaping American Catholicism.

One of the earliest and most remarkable Black Catholic figures is Venerable Pierre Toussaint, a former enslaved person who became a prominent philanthropist in New York City. Toussaint's deep faith and charitable works exemplified the Catholic values of service and compassion. Similarly, Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman, an African American Catholic religious sister, educator, and speaker, inspired countless people by advocating for the recognition of Black spirituality within the Catholic Church and promoting cultural inclusivity. These individuals, among many others, demonstrate the enduring faith and resilience of Black Catholics in the face of adversity.

Black History Month presents an invaluable opportunity for Catholic communities to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of Black Catholics, both past and present. Parishes and schools often hold special Masses, educational events, and cultural programs, highlighting the unique expressions of faith found in Black Catholic traditions. Gospel music, vibrant liturgies, and the integration of African and African American spirituality enrich the broader Catholic experience and foster a sense of unity and diversity.



Just What *IS* Mardi Gras?



Mardi Gras, also known as "Fat Tuesday," holds deep religious significance rooted primarily in the Christian tradition, particularly within Catholicism. The term "Mardi Gras" refers to the last day before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent - a solemn 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance leading up to Easter. The religious foundation of Mardi Gras lies in its role as a final day of feasting and celebration before the austerity of Lent begins.

The origins of Mardi Gras can be traced back to ancient European pagan festivals celebrating the arrival of spring and fertility. However, as Christianity spread throughout Europe, these festivals were incorporated into the church calendar, blending with religious observances. For Christians, especially Catholics, the day is an opportunity to indulge in rich foods and festivities, symbolizing the enjoyment and abundance of life before entering a season of self-denial and spiritual reflection.

In many cultures, Mardi Gras celebrations begin on Epiphany (January 6), also known as the Twelfth Night or Three Kings' Day, and culminate on Fat Tuesday. The period is called "Carnival," derived from the Latin *carne vale*, meaning "farewell to meat." This reflects the traditional practice of abstaining from meat during Lent, making Mardi Gras a final chance to enjoy such foods. The baking of a small figure of a baby into the traditional "king cake" represents the baby Jesus, and the vibrant parades, colorful masks, and elaborate costumes seen during Mardi Gras are not merely for entertainment; they are expressions of joy and community before the introspective Lenten period.

Religious services are often held on Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday, reminding participants of the spiritual journey ahead. For many, the celebration is both a cultural and spiritual experience, blending joy, tradition, and faith. Thus, Mardi Gras serves as a meaningful transition from earthly pleasures to spiritual discipline, highlighting the cyclical nature of feast and fast in the Christian liturgical calendar.



Speech by Heisman winner Fernando Mendoza of Indiana University touches hearts, including a priest's

By John Shaughnessy, excerpted from The Criterion

As he waited for the announcement of who would win the Heisman Trophy - awarded to the best college football player of the year - Dominican Father Patrick Hyde turned to one of his fellow friars and said, "I have never been so invested in the outcome of an award."

After all, Fr Patrick has become a big fan of Fernando Mendoza, the star quarterback of the football team at Indiana University in Bloomington, where the priest serves as pastor of St. Paul Catholic Center adjacent to the school's campus and where Mendoza has attended Mass.

His speech was also an all-inclusive thank-you to all the people who have made a difference in his life, starting with the way he has begun nearly every post-game interview this season.

"First, I want to thank God for giving me an opportunity that once felt a world away," Mendoza said.

"My family's unconditional love and belief kept me going and pushed me forward," he said. "These are people who [believed in] me long before football did."

"Mami, this is your trophy as much as it is mine," he said. "You've always been my biggest fan." "Papi, thank you for grounding me. Thank you for holding me accountable when it was tough."

"Por el amor y sacrificio de mis padres y abuelos, los quiero mucho. De toda mi corazon, de toda gracias." ("For the love and sacrifice of my parents and grandparents, I love you. With all my heart, thank you.")

"My favorite part was the overall message of hope, joy and humility," Fr Patrick said. "In particular, the way he spoke to and about his mother - and his message of encouragement and hope to those who are overlooked." †

Read the entire article at <https://www.archindy.org/criterion/local/2025/12-19/heisman.html>.

Sacred Heart Council 822 Knight of the Month

This month I would like to recognize a Brother Knight that has recently experienced several personal issues but continues to serve our council and the Church with the same enthusiasm as when he became a Knight.

Philippians II verse 3-4 says

"Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vain glory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but [also] everyone for those of others."

Our Knight of the Month for January is ...Michael Daniels

- Jeff Christian, Grand Knight



2026

DUES are DUE (2nd reminder)



Dues for 2026 are now due. In an attempt to save on the cost of mailing out notices, we're reaching out by email and this ad to as many members as possible before we invest in a lot of time, stamps, and envelopes.

Dues are \$50 for Knights and \$10 for Honorary Members. Checks should be made payable to "Knights of Columbus" and mailed to 413 E South St, Shelbyville, IN 46176, or they can be dropped off in the wooden box at Columbian Homes.

Be sure to include your name and any updates to your address, phone, or email address.

Contact Financial Secretary Patrick Bohman by phone/text on 317.401.4754 or email him at Patrick_Bohman09@comcast.net if you have any questions or concerns.

Your dues support the charitable work of the Council as well as provide critical operational support.

We count on you! THANK YOU!

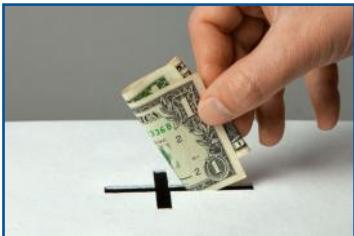
The COR men's group meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7p at Columbian Homes.

All men are welcome. You need not be a Knight to participate.

**Contact Ethan Apsley or Jim Kozinski
for more information or to help with this program!**



Your Council and Your Impact



In order to continue our good works, we rely on you! Thank you for your dues, donations, and support!.

Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council #822
Meeting at Columbian Homes, 413 E South St, Shelbyville, IN 46176 - tel: 317.398.9914
Monday-Friday, 3p - close; Saturday, 9a - close



Your 2025-2026 Council Officers

Grand Knight: Jeff Christian (also serves as Retention Director)	Chaplain: Father Mike Keucher
Deputy Grand Knight: Mark Welch	Chancellor: Jim Boksa (also serves as Membership Director)
Financial Secretary: Patrick Bohman	Recorder: Michael Daniels (also serves as Program Director)
Treasurer: Mark Beck	Advocate: Steve Goebel
Warden: Edgar Flores Inside Guard: Angelo Dellapenna	Outside Guard: Ethan Apsley (also serves as Evangelization and Faith Formation Director)
Lecturer: Randy Foreman (also serves as Family Director) Community Director: Jim Kozinski	One Year Trustee: John Schoentrup Two Year Trustee: Dan Weaver Three Year Trustee: Greg Hall

Recurring Events

- » 1st Tuesday of the month: Council business meeting, 7p. All Knights welcome.
- » 3rd Tuesday of the month: Columbian Homes meeting, 7p. All Knights welcome.
- » 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month - COR group - men's faith and formation, 7p. All men welcome - you need not be a Knight.
- FOR MEALS AND BAR TABS. THE CLUB ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS AT THE BAR!!**
 - » Wednesday nights: choice of wings or shrimp dinner (6-8p), drawing & 50/50 raffle.
 - 1/2 order (5 pc w/fries) - \$9; Full order (10 pc w/fries) - \$13; Fries only - \$2. Open to the public.
 - » Thursday nights: BINGO! (6:30p). Open to the public. - **NO BINGO ON THANKSGIVING DAY**
 - » Friday nights: dinner (6-8p) - Open to the public. - NOTE: PRICES HAVE MODERATELY INCREASED DUE TO FOOD AND OVERHEAD COSTS
 - Steak nights will be at market price, all other meals will be \$15
 - December meals will be served on December 5, 12, and 19. No meals on Dec 26 or Jan 2.
 - » Saturday lunch: Hamburger, cheeseburger, breaded or grilled tenderloin - \$6; with fries, - \$9. Open to the public.

Please email story suggestions to our Recorder, Michael Daniels, at mdanielscmh@gmail.com.

 The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization, dedicated to promoting charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism, and supporting Catholic causes and families. Founded by Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney in 1882, the Knights of Columbus welcomes practicing Catholic men aged 18 or older who are in union with the Holy See. **We are Men on a Mission, committed to a Catholic brotherhood that is changing the world.** For more information, visit www.kofc.org or www.sacredheartcouncil822.org

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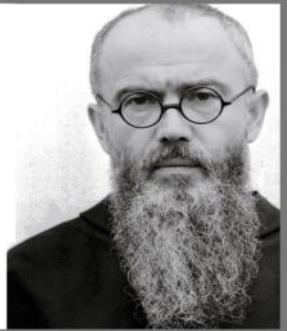


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that knows no enemies to fight but
only men and women to love,
is the Church that the world needs today.

-- Pope Leo XIV "Dilexi Te" ("I Have Loved You")

