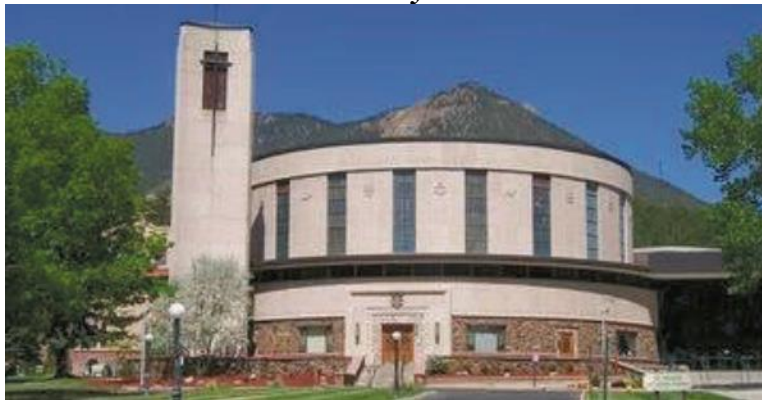


THE KNIGHTLY NEWS



MOUNT ST. FRANCIS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #12228
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO
2026 January Edition



GRAND KNIGHT'S VIEW

We have enjoyed the holidays from Thanksgiving through New Year's. The Council provided substantial support in decorating the Church, putting away Christmas decorations, setting up, and cleaning for the Christmas Dinner. We now have the Valentine's Dinner and Dance, followed by the St. Patrick's Day Dinner. That should keep us out of trouble for a few months.

Preparations have been made for spring recruitment. Our CUF on January 18th brought us three new Knights. Ahead of the next CUF on April 12th, we will ask the Knights to increase their recruiting efforts. A slide show was developed entitled "What do the Knights Do?" It showcases the activities from the past calendar year. Those who think Knights only do dinners and breakfast will likely be amazed at all the events we have accomplished in the past year. This slide show will be shown on the screen in the Hall during the Fish Dinners. The expectation is that the Knights will make themselves available to answer questions and prompt our guests to consider joining us. Please do your part.

Fish dinners, yes, it is that time, are starting on the 20th of February. I have noted that many Knights attend those dinners, often attending multiple times. Please take this opportunity to help the Council grow. Handouts will be provided so interested Parishioners can register using the QR code on the handout.

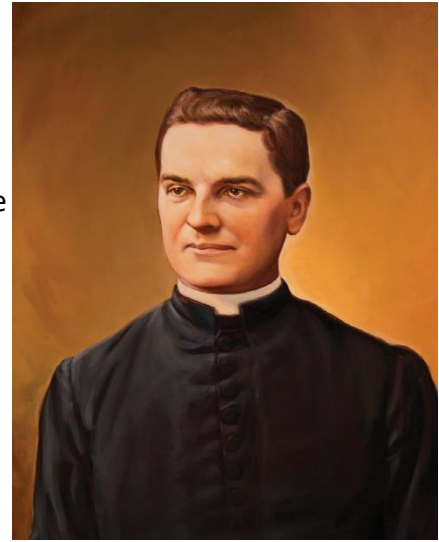
The Knights are scheduled to conduct the Stations of the Cross on March 20th. Details will be discussed at the February Knight's meeting and will be available in the meeting minutes. Please consider volunteering to read.

We have several people who are ill or suffering from medical issues. Please keep them in your prayers.

The Supreme Council has asked Knights to pray for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney. Below is the prayer Supreme has asked us to use.

Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

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.



LADIES' AUXILIARY NEWS January 2026

Good New Year to us all!

Seems like winter finally came on the night of the Knight's meeting in January. Hope everyone stayed inside and warm.

However, on 15 Jan 2026 while the men had their meetings, the Ladies dined at La Baguette. The Ladies Night Out was a small but lively affair. We enjoyed good food and good company.

Our next meeting is 5 Feb 2026. We will put the finishing touches on the preparation for the Valentine Dinner and Dance. As usual the rosary will be in the Knight's room at 6:45pm, and the Ladies will meet in the hall afterwards. A savory or sweet treat for the social following the meeting is much appreciated.

Susan Ridge

Ladies Auxiliary

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

The Council 12228 Knight of the Month for December 2025 is Brother Knight Alan Vant Land. Alan is a Third Degree council member who joined the Order on April 19, 2015.

Brother Alan is not a flamboyant Knight. He is the kind of man who prefers to work quietly in the background, letting the job speak for itself. In fact, if there were a patron saint of “just getting it done,” Alan would already be on the short list. His calm professionalism reflects his dedication to helping others—something he lives out daily as a Police Officer with the Colorado Springs Police Department. Alan consistently shows up to support the Council’s needs and demonstrates that no task is too small—or too large—for his efforts.

It is always good to see tall, strong people appear right on time when decorations need to go up and come down, especially around Christmas. Like magic... only with ladders and a lot more boxes. Here you will find Brother Alan, ready to help wherever he is needed, usually before anyone has a chance to ask. He willingly gives his time to support activities that make St. Francis special and is a dependable member of a Cooking Team, where he plays an important role in preparing and serving meals for special events. He is there for prep before the event and arrives early on the day of the event to make sure everything is ready to go—because great food, as we all know, is serious business and not something to be trusted to chance.

You have probably never seen Brother Alan setting up or taking down tables and chairs before or after an event in the Hall. That is not because he doesn’t help; it is because those activities tend to happen when the Hall is empty. If there were an award for “Most Work Done When No One Is Watching,” Alan would win it every year. He quietly takes care of many of the less glamorous tasks that often go unnoticed. This is the mark of a faithful servant who does not seek praise or recognition, but simply sees what needs to be done—and does it.

Brother Alan is more visible at events where his training and experience shine. During our Council’s Patriotic Rosary, he joins others who serve our community and country. As we honor him, we also honor the Colorado Springs Police Department, where he serves with distinction. We are grateful for his dedication to our parish and his faithful service to our community and nation as a member of the First Responder Force. And yes, it is comforting to know that if anything ever went sideways at an event, Alan would already be handling it.

We are proud to honor our brother Knight Alan Vant Land as Knight of the Month for December 2025, and we thank him for all he does for our parish, our community, and our Council. He may not seek the spotlight—but today, we are putting it on him anyway.

Javan Ridge, Grand Knight



FAMILY OF THE MONTH:

It is my pleasure to announce that the Council 12228 Family of the Month for December 2025 is the Ryan and Myrleine Smith family.

Brother Ryan is a Third-Degree council member who joined the Order on August 9th, 2021, and he is also a proud Fourth Degree Knight in Assembly 88, receiving that degree on October 8th, 2022. In other words, he didn't just dip his toe into the Knights—he dove right in, and we're very glad he did.

As Knights of Columbus, our primary mission is to strengthen our men and their families in the faith. From the moment we enter the Order, we are reminded that formation in the Catholic faith is not a one-time event—it's a lifelong process. It's more than knowing prayers and showing up on Sundays. It's about building an authentic, living relationship with a loving God and His Son, Jesus Christ. And yes, sometimes that formation happens in church... and sometimes it happens in the car on the way to church, when the kids are asking questions and you're praying for patience. The Smith family seems to be doing both quite well.

We all know how easy it is for our time—and our family's time—to get swallowed up by the world: sports, schedules, screens, and everything else that seems to demand our attention. Unless we are intentional, the “domestic church” can quickly turn into the “domestic taxi service.” But it is clear that the Smith family intentionally lives their faith at home and, through their example, encourages others to do the same.

The Knights of Columbus offers many programs to keep Christmas and Advent in their proper focus, including the Keep Christ in Christmas Program, which encourages our communities to shift from a preoccupation with material things to the light of Christ and the true spirit of giving. The Smith family is a wonderful example of a strong Catholic family living out that mission. Their faith is not only practiced — it is passed on. Zinnia Smith's winning poster in the Keep Christ in Christmas contest is a beautiful reflection of her parents' witness. Clearly, when faith is lived at home, it shows... sometimes even in award-winning artwork.

For their dedication to their faith, their parish, our council, and the community, we are proud to honor the Ryan and Myrleine Smith family as Family of the Month for December 2025.

Please join me in congratulating them and thanking them for being such a shining example of what it means to be a Catholic family.

Vivat Jesus

SK Javan Ridge, Grand Knight

(N.B. Photo not available – Editor)

NOVENA

Novena to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless us and grant us the grace of loving Holy Church, as we are bound to do, above every earthly thing, and of ever showing forth our love by the witness of our deeds.

- [Our Father](#), [Hail Mary](#), Glory be

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless us and grant us the grace of openly professing, as we are bound to do, with courage and without human respect, the faith that we received of Thy gift in Holy Baptism.

- Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless us and grant us the grace of sharing, as we are bound to do, in the defense and propagation of the Faith, when duty calls, whether by word or by the sacrifice of our fortunes and our lives.

- Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless us and grant us the grace of loving one another in mutual charity, as we are bound to do, and establish us in perfect harmony of thought, will and action, under the rule and guidance of our holy Pastors.

- Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless us and grant us the grace of conforming our lives fully, as we are bound to do, to the commandments of God's law and that of His holy church, so as to live always in that charity which they set forth.

- Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we ask in particular this special favor: [state your request here].

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Friday Morning	Rachel Rosary at 9:15 am, 3420 Centennial Boulevard
February 5, Thursday	Knights Council Meeting, 6:45 p.m.; Rosary, 7:10 p.m., Rooms B & C
	Ladies Auxiliary meeting (Hall), followed by Social in Hall.
February 14, Saturday	Saint Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance after 5:00 pm Mass
February 18, Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Fast and Abstinence
February 19, Thursday	Council Officers' Meeting, Rooms B and C, Time: 6:00 p.m.
February 20, Friday	Fish Dinner @5:00 pm
February 27, Friday	Fish Dinner @5:00 pm
March 5, Thursday	Council Meeting, 6:45 p.m. Rosary, 7:10 p.m., Rooms B and C, Knights
	Ladies Auxiliary meeting (Hall), followed by Social in Hall.
March 13, Friday	Fish Dinner @5:00 pm
March 14, Saturday	St Patrick's Dinner @6:00 pm
March 20, Friday	Fish Dinner @5:00 pm
March 27, Friday	Fish Dinner @5:00 pm
March 29, Sunday	Rosary - after 8:30 and 10:30 Mass, Palm Sunday

COUNCIL #12228 OFFICERS

Grand Knight	Javan Ridge
Chaplain	Fr. Erin Kochivar
Chaplain Emeritus	Fr. Ken Przybyla
Deputy Grand Knight	Robert Bogart
Chancellor	Ben Davis
Advocate	John Heyne
Recording Secretary	Patrick Baldwin
Treasurer	Ron Toman
Warden	Michael Kindt
Inside Guard	William Wolfe
Outside Guard	Nick Pepenella
Lecturer	Joe Priester
1st Year Trustee	Michael Wolfe
2nd Year Trustee	Robert Condrón
3rd Year Trustee	Frank Castellano
Financial Secretary	Ron Born
District Deputy	Al Batey

SERVICE PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Program Director	Ben Davis
Faith	Larry Gray
Community	Joe Shonka
Family	Paul Lagatta
Life Director	Harvey Siegle
Membership	Ron Toman
Cooking Team Director	Mike Ortiz
Retention	Michael Kindt
Public Relations	Robert Condrón
Technical Support	Paul Lagatta Michael Kindt
Newsletter Editor	Harvey Siegle

INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE

Brandon L. Nelson	719-565-8896 brandon.nelson@kofc.org
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Editor's Note: Send questions, letters, comments, or article ideas to the editor. Submissions must be received by the 26th of the month for inclusion in that month's newsletter.

- harvey.siegle@saintfranciskofc.org

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Mount St. Francis Council #12228 website: <http://saintfranciskofc.org/>

Knights of Columbus Colorado State website: <http://www.coloradokofc.org/>

Knights of Columbus Supreme website: <http://www.kofc.org>

