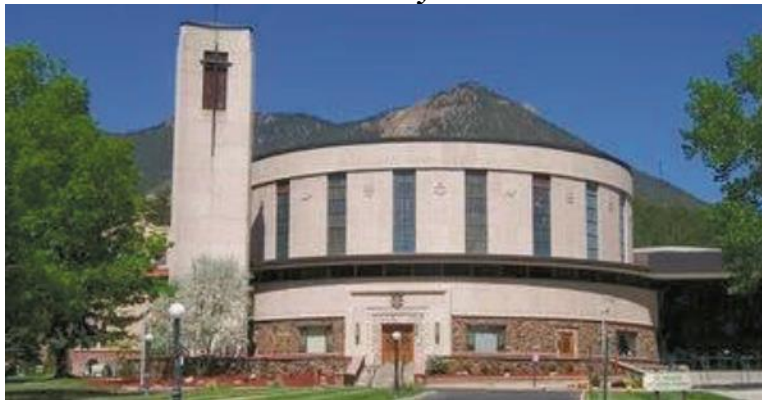


THE KNIGHTLY NEWS



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



GRAND KNIGHT'S VIEW

I have always worked to keep what I write for the Knightly News positive and hopeful. However, our Council is experiencing a decline in support. That needs to be addressed and made known to everyone. Since only about 15% of our members attend our monthly meeting, I felt it was necessary to get the word out through as many channels as possible.

Those Knights and Ladies who regularly volunteer for all tasks for all activities have had a real challenge the last several months. The Christmas Dinner was followed fairly closely by the Valentine's Dinner. Before the after-action review for the Valentine's Dinner was completed, planning started for the St. Patrick's Day Dinner. The Valentine's Dinner was only four weeks before the St. Patrick's Dinner. Since it was the same group of "Usual Suspects," as I call them, our dedicated work team has been considerably stressed with planning, executing, and reporting.

We will soon be putting together the calendar for the next Fraternal Year. The Fraternal Year starts in July. The budget for the year will also be planned over the next three months. Please keep in mind that we can only host dinners and other events if more Knights and Ladies participate in planning and executing them. The "usual suspects" have been carrying too much for too long. Please do your part to lighten their load.

In that same vein, the Cooking Teams have also experienced the loss of team members. For example, the teams that cooked Valentine's Dinner had the lead, one Knight, a dedicated Ladies'

Auxiliary member. That Cook Team Lead is moving to Durango with his fiancée, essentially leaving the team with too few members to do the job. Some teams are short of help and have recruited members from other Cooking Teams. This practice is only leading to burnout among the teams. We need more men to join the current Cooking Teams. We are currently considering canceling some Cooking Team activities until teams are full.

Since I have been a Knight, I have noted that the work involved in planning, shopping, setting up, and cleaning up for dinner parties has primarily been done by the same Knights and Ladies. I stopped asking people to bring sides and desserts because it was an additional burden on those already participating in the activities listed above. The ladies were planning, buying needed items, coming in early to set up and decorate. They went home to cook a side or dessert (sometimes cooking a large amount because they knew most people would not contribute) and then rushed back to the Hall to plate salads, set out bread and butter, and finish decorating. At the end of the meal, the same people cleaned up, put away items, and helped reset the Hall, while most just went home.

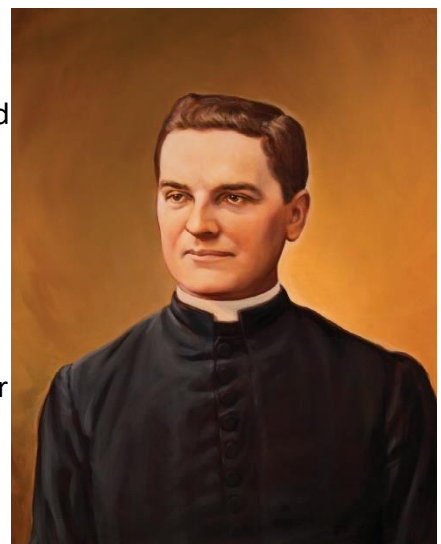
These dedicated workers have been showing signs of stress lately as one dinner follows too closely to the next. The solution is not only to move events further apart, but also to get more people involved in lending a hand. We can't continue to run events as if we have a paid staff doing all the work. Change is hard, but we need to make every effort to reduce the burden on our volunteers. If you can help, we can keep up our Council's excellence. Please contact me if you can donate a few hours to our efforts.

SK Javan Ridge, email: grandknight12228@gmail.com

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.





These are the lovely ladies who decorated the hall for the Valentine Day dinner and dance. The music rocked and the mood was light. The DJ provided wonderful music for just about every taste and dancing style. The photo booth had a steady stream of characters mugging for the camera. Thank you to the cooking team which provided a delicious meal.

As March approaches, we are in the second week of Lent. On 27 February the Ladies Auxiliary led the Stations of the Cross for the parish. Thank you to the participants for presenting the Stations in such a moving and prayerful manner.

At our next meeting we will focus on the planning for the St. Patrick's Day Dinner with the entertainment by the Celtic Steps. Margaret Bogart will be leading the way for us for this event. We are also planning for the Butter Braid fundraiser that will start 1 April. No fooling. Delivery to the parish will be in May. More details at the meeting.

As usual, we will meet in the hall after the Rosary with the social after the Knight's Meeting. Please bring a savory or sweet dish to share. Thank you.

Susan Ridge Ladies Auxiliary

Make a joyful noise.



A special weekend is held each year at St. Francis to honor and bring attention to those ministries in the parish who reach out to the needy or the poor as Jesus asks of his followers. The Knights and Ladies Auxiliary joined 14 other ministries after each of the four Masses on Feb. 21-22 to demonstrate what they do in this mission. Bob and Lynnette Condrón had numerous opportunities to promote our two ministries.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner And Celtic Dancers!

Saturday, March 14, at 6:30pm in Parish Hall

Tickets for sale in Narthex after Mass Feb 28—Mar 8

Adults \$25 – Corned Beef and cabbage (traditional)

Children 12 & under: \$10 – small plate Corned Beef & cabbage; \$5– Macaroni & Cheese w/hot dog.



To register, scan the QR code, or link: <https://st-patricks-dinner-and-dance-show-2026.square.site/>



KNIGHT OF THE MONTH



The Council 12228
Knight of the Month for
January 2026

Brother Knight Mike
Ortiz has been selected
as Knight of the Month
for January 2026 for
Mount St. Francis of
Assisi Council No.
12228. Mike is a Third-
Degree member of our
Council, having joined
the Order in September
of 1991, and has been
serving ever since with
dedication, humility,
and a very well-

organized kitchen.

Mike serves as the lead for Mike's Mashers, one of our devoted cooking teams. In addition to leading his own team, he oversees all the Council's cooking teams, ensuring that the many events throughout the year are not only well attended but also well fed. Thanks to Mike, our events are known for fellowship, service, and meals that people look forward to.

As a Cooking Team Lead, Mike is responsible for ensuring there are enough meals for each event, starting with a menu that satisfies a wide range of tastes while remaining within budget. With rising food costs and diverse preferences, this is no small task—yet Mike somehow manages to stretch both the budget and the menu, without stretching anyone's patience.

Food must be purchased early enough for preparation to begin on time, often requiring work to start the day before an event. When that day falls during the workweek, Mike faces the added challenge of finding volunteers who are available during the day—or convincing them that evening kitchen duty is a great way to unwind. Balancing schedules, time constraints, and manpower requires steady leadership and careful planning, all of which Mike consistently provides.

During events, his cooking team works long hours preparing food in batches and ensuring that it is ready precisely when needed. Timing is critical: the last guest through the line should receive the same quality and portion as the first. Under Mike's guidance, the food is served hot, plentiful, and right on time.

And when the guests have enjoyed their meal and headed home, the work is still not done. The Cooking Team seamlessly becomes the Cleanup Team—washing pots, pans, dishes, stoves, refrigerators, counters, floors, tables, and more—before hauling out the trash and performing a final inspection to leave the area spotless.

Beyond each individual event, Mike continues to recruit cooking team members, ensure proper training in food preparation and kitchen safety, and maintain reasonable availability for future missions. Juggling all of these responsibilities takes a special person and a special kind of leader.

Mike has excelled in leadership, mentoring, planning, and execution. His dedication ensures that our Council's events run smoothly and that no one leaves hungry—physically or fraternally. For these reasons, Knight Mike Ortiz truly deserves the honor of Knight of the Month for January 2026.

SK Javan Ridge, Grand Knight

KNIGHT OF THE YEAR (2025) BEN DAVIS



The Council 12228 Family of the Month for January 2026 is the Davis family. Sir Knight Ben Davis, a Third-Degree council member of Council 12228, joined the Order in 2018. Sir Knight SK Ben became a 4th Degree Knight in May of 2019 and is a member of Assembly 88.

There is literally nothing in Council 12228 that the Davis family does not touch. They lead

activities ranging from the physical setup of the hall in various configurations to dinners and fundraising events. If they are not planning the event, they are coordinating the event or participating in organizing, setting up, or cleaning up.

Becky also manages the Church environment, the decorations, and settings for the many liturgical times of the year. Her artistic and decorating flair always creates a mood that suits the event or season. Her years of experience make planning and execution a smooth, cooperative process. She has a great sense of what works in different settings and what has failed in the past. She is also very flexible when it comes to change. You will never hear her say “that is the way we have always done it”, unless there truly is no better way.

Ben manages Council Programs and ensures the timely and accurate submission of reports. For all the council's officers, he is the go-to man for suggestions and for the “how did we do it last time” information. He mentors new Council members and follows up to ensure their success. He is always willing to take the time needed to ensure the Knights know what to do and are confident they are prepared.

So much of what gets done by the Council is accomplished by SK Ben and Becky. From menial tasks, like setting up tables and chairs, to more intricate events like 4th Degree Exemplifications. They study the requirements and ensure everything is on hand as they develop an efficient, effective plan. Knights know that if Ben or Becky is directing tasks, their time will not be wasted, and they will not be frustrated by changes. If an issue arises where someone has accepted a task but then faces family or

other constraints that hinder completion, they step in and either complete the task independently or find a suitable replacement to finish it. No balls are dropped if Ben or Becky is at the helm.

They also seek additional programs to deepen and broaden the Council's offerings. This year alone, Ben has recruited a Program Manager for our Family programs, which have been lacking. SK Ben stepped in and introduced our Keeping Christ in Christmas program. This successful program produced a second-place winner at the State level and, hopefully, a winner at Supreme level. He was also instrumental in helping establish our new COR Program, which has grown at an impressive rate. Over the years, Becky has been instrumental in the success of the Ladies' Auxiliary, the true engine behind our social functions and events.

They both were instrumental in forming the Parish Incident Management Team, where they are active members. As a Physician (M.D.), Dr. Ben Davis and Becky have used their medical training and experience to help the Church acquire the necessary equipment and materials for a broad range of medical emergencies. They have trained other members to operate the Automatic External Defibrillator. St. Francis has many elderly parishioners as well as other parishioners with cardiac mobility issues and other issues. Time is critical in a cardiac emergency, and the Davises have provided instruction and equipment to service those needs.

The Davis family genuinely demonstrates the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity to our Council, parish, and community. They have been instrumental in the transition of the new Grand Knight and other new officers for the Fraternal year. Their calm and nurturing manner keeps tension down and cooperation up. They are genuinely standout leaders and inspire confidence in those around them. The Council is extremely fortunate to have such a knowledgeable, skilled, and driven family on our team. It has been a blessing to work with them.

They truly deserve the honor of Family of the Month for Council 12228 in January 2026.

Javan Ridge, Grand Knight

FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARD



The Council 12228 Family of the Year for 2025 is the Phil and Lorri Kwong family. Sir Knight Phil is a Third-Degree member of our council, joining the Order in May 2008. Sons, Sir Knight Christopher “Boo”, joined the order in February 2017, and Sir Knight Nicholas joined the order in January 2024. Even more impressive is that all three are Fourth-Degree members of Assembly 88. As 4th-Degree Knights, Phil & son

Christopher regularly support & serve on the Knights Color Corps. Son Nick is also a 4th-Degree. When our Knights need help with any task, the Kwong family reaches out with untold generosity. SK Phil sings in the choir most Sundays, while Peter usually serves as an Altar Server, and Christopher serves on the church’s Incident Management Team. To top it off, you’ll also see Nick serving as an Usher at the same Mass.

Christopher also serves as an EMOC and recently organized a Western Swing Dance class at the Neuman Center. Twenty young adult Catholic Students attended and had a wonderful time of fellowship. They also help with putting up and taking down decorations for the Christmas season and other events.

The traditional family is often perceived as a source of stability and security, providing a nurturing environment for children to grow and thrive. The presence of two parental figures offers emotional support, guidance, and structure, fostering a sense of belonging and identity. A Catholic family is even more than that. The Catholic family uses their faith to bind the family together with love, support, and strong Catholic values. All these things are clearly apparent in the Kwong family. Sibling relationships play a significant role in the Catholic family, fostering bonds of companionship, rivalry, and solidarity. Siblings share experiences, resources, and socialization opportunities, influencing each other’s development and identity formation. So many families today lack this support, structure, or a sense of belonging. The Kwong family is an exceptional example of a Catholic Family. The siblings continue to serve the Church, while some of their peers are moving away from the Church.

For these reasons, the Kwong family is most deserving of the honor of Family of the Year for Council 12228 – 2025.

SK Javan Ridge, Grand Knight



On Tuesday evening (February 17) prayer warriors from all over Colorado Springs gathered to Kick Off the Spring 2026 40 Days for Life Campaign. We paid special tribute that night to the man who really established the Pro-Life movement in Colorado Springs way back in the 90s: Fr. Bill Carmody. It was a moving tribute to the man who inspired so many in their Pro-Life work and who left us 10 years ago after a heroic battle with cancer.

NOVENA

St. Patrick Novena

Novena Begins: March

Feast Day: March 17

Name Meaning: "The Noble One"

Patron Saint of: Ireland, Snakebites

Let us begin, In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear St. Patrick, in your humility you called yourself a sinner, but you became a most successful missionary and prompted countless pagans to follow the Savior. Many of their descendants in turn spread the Good News in numerous foreign lands.

Through your powerful intercession with God, obtain the missionaries we need to continue the work you began.

Amen

(Mention your request here...)

pray: Our Father... pray 1: Hail Mary... pray 1: Glory Be...

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Friday Morning	Rachel Rosary at 9:30 am, 3420 Centennial Boulevard
March 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.
March 6, Friday	Fish Dinner @5:30 pm
March 13, Friday	Fish Dinner @5:30 pm
March 14, Saturday	St Patrick's Dinner @6:00 pm
March 19, Thursday	Council Officers' Meeting, Rooms B and C, Time: 6:00 p.m.
March 20, Friday	Fish Dinner @5:30 pm
March 27, Friday	Fish Dinner @5:30 pm
March 29, Sunday	Rosary - after 8:30 and 10:30 Mass, Palm Sunday
April 2, 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.
April 3, Good Friday	The Passion of our Lord; Fast and Abstinence
April 5, Sunday	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, Parking Teams
April 12, Sunday	Parish Breakfast after 8:30 & 10:30 Masses (St. Francis Boyz cooking and serving)
April 19, Sunday	CUF Exemplification -Church
May 10, Sunday	Mother's Day Breakfast (Harvey's Hashers serving)

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>

