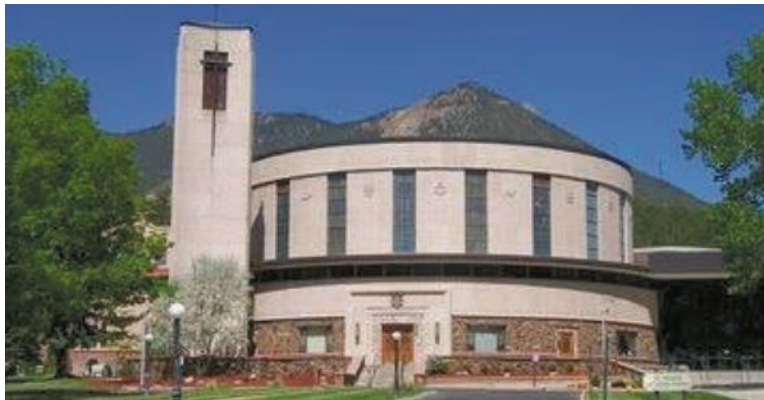


THE KNIGHTLY NEWS



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



GRAND KNIGHT'S VIEW

SK Javan Ridge, email: grandknight12228@gmail.com

This edition of the Knightly News was delayed because of me. I have been so focused on preparing for what I promised to participate in during the season that I overlooked my deadline for Knightly News. However, my error has allowed me to discuss our Lenten season and all your work as a single topic. We have just come through the Lenten season and, hopefully, it has strengthened our faith. I will not attempt to describe what the season was all about, but the quote from Pope Benedict provides a very powerful reflection.

"Each year, Lent offers us a providential opportunity to deepen the meaning and value of our Christian lives, and it stimulates us to rediscover the mercy of God so that we, in turn, become more merciful toward our brothers and sisters. In the Lenten period, the Church makes it her duty to propose some specific tasks that accompany the faithful concretely in this process of interior renewal: these are prayer, fasting and almsgiving."

—Pope Benedict XVI

As Knights, Lady's Auxiliary members, and Parish members, we have participated in many activities to make the season meaningful. Some Knights and Ladies, who are members of the choir, have spent many hours rehearsing so that the meaning of the songs we sing at Mass will be very prayerful and evoke the reverence befitting the season.

Our members also decorated the Church for the season, worked as ushers, lecturers, and parking team members, cooked multiple Fish Dinners, conducted a 5th Sunday Rosary, and performed a vast array of other activities that help make the season special.

Our Program Director, SK Ben Davis, also introduced a new program for Good Friday. His Good Friday Family Promotion was advertised with posters throughout the church facility, sending multiple emails, placing notices in the church bulletin, and word of mouth at a presentation table in the church narthex. Good Friday Mass attendance was 350+, a 15% increase over the previous 2 years.

Ben described the Good Friday Liturgy as:

The Good Friday Liturgy is one of the most solemn and profound services in the Christian year. Its meaning centers on remembering the suffering, death, and sacrificial love of Jesus Christ. It is a day of mourning, reflection, and reverence to honor Jesus' sacrifice to reconcile humanity with God -- the ultimate act of self-giving love.

By participating, in a small way, in Christ's Passion, we are reminded of the depth of His suffering for our redemption. By venerating His cross, we acknowledge and appreciate His undying Love for us and, in return, our love for Him.

Simply, Good Friday Liturgy is about standing at the foot of the cross-- quietly, reverently -- recognizing the cost of love and the depth of Grace.

I hope the season has brought everyone peace and deeper faith. I am thankful for all the many things all of you have done to make the Lenten season special for so many people.

LADIES' AUXILIARY NEWS MARCH 2026

As I write this, I am so glad the 80-degree winter weather has given way to the 60's and 70's of spring. All silliness aside, I hope you all had a blessed and loving Easter. Kudos to all who made the St. Patrick's Dinner and Presentation of the Celtic Steps group a success. Thank you all for your hard work. I heard it was a delightful evening.



The Lovely Leprechauns

Spring means Butter Braids just in time for Mother's Day. This is the fundraiser that helps us support local community charities and ministries such as Mater Filius and Bahkita Mountain Home. The bulletin has a QR code for online ordering. The ladies will take orders in person after Mass on April 18-19 and 25-26. Distribution will be after Mass May 2-3, 9, and 16-17. Hopefully, everyone will pick their goodies up in time to treat Mom on May 10th, Mother's Day this year.

The Ladies will meet on April 9, 2026, as usual in the hall after the Rosary in the Knight's Room. Please bring a sweet or savory treat for the social afterwards.

Make a joyful noise, Susan Ridge

SAINT PATRICK DINNER & DANCE



LENTEN FRIDAY FISH DINNERS





KNIGHT OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY

The Council 12228 Knight of the Month for February 2026 is Brother Knight Tom Barr. Tom is a Third-Degree council member, joining the Order on April 19th, 2015.

Tom has also taken a leadership role in creating Council 12228's COR Program, which seeks to provide opportunities for Catholic men to encounter Christ, strengthen their ties of faith and brotherhood, and prepare them for their mission of evangelization.

Families need strong husbands and fathers, and Cor will form and sharpen men as disciples of Jesus, who are committed to serving him and willing to boldly live and share their faith. To live Christ's faith and engage in this mission, every Catholic man needs a strong relationship with God, rooted in prayer and the sacraments.

The mission of Cor is to refocus Catholic men on Jesus Christ and to form and strengthen them in faith and virtue through a brotherhood committed to prayer, formation, and fraternity. The goal of each Cor gathering is to provide men with the opportunity to encounter Christ, to pray together, to be formed in their faith, and to strengthen their bonds of brotherhood, preparing them for courageous leadership and the mission of evangelization within their families and communities.

The sessions Brother Tom has prepared and presents are open to Knights and all men of the parish. When Supreme Council advised that all local councils should have a unique COR program specifically promoted and managed by the local council. Tom immediately stepped forward to serve as the point of contact for setting up Council 12228's COR program.

Using his experience from attending COR sessions already being run locally by the Inferno and That Man is You programs, Tom began coordinating with the leaders of those programs to create a council program that would supplement their opportunities without conflicting with or competing with them.

He has enlisted Brother Ron Toman's help and created a plan to hold COR sessions at 9:30 AM on the third Wednesday of each month in the Bonzel Center on the St. Francis campus. Hopefully, these sessions can be expanded to more days as the program grows. The sessions last approximately an hour and are devoted to studying and discussing the psalm and gospel from that day's mass, as well as to reciting prepared prayers in unity.

As facilitator, Tom, with the help of the Holy Spirit, guides the group's discussions and questions as they share their spiritual journeys. Tom is truly serving our council, parish, and community with his hard work.

We are proud to honor our brother Knight, Tom Barr, as Knight of the Month for February 2026 2025 what he does for our parish, community, and council.

SK Javan Ridge, Grand Knight

FAMILY OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY

The Council 12228 Family of the Month for February 2026 is the Richard and Cristi Mourn family. SK Richard Mourn is a Third-Degree council member, joining the Order on January 11, 1995. He rejoined the Order on June 19, 2000, after the family made Colorado home.

Richard and Cristi are regular volunteers at the Habitat for Humanity project builds. It is hard to tell whether they had carpentry skills when they started working as a team to renovate their Colorado home, or whether they learned by doing many tasks for Habitat for Humanity. It is rumored among the staff at Habitat for Humanity that the Mourn team would pick up hammers and were quickly swinging with the lead man.

During their time at St Francis, they have been FOCCUS Marriage Ministry facilitators. As facilitators, they are dedicated to nurturing holy, happy, and healthy marriages through preparation, enrichment, and support. The Mourns help couples strengthen their relationship with each other and with God by fostering open communication, understanding, and prayerful reflection.

Brother Knight Richard is an usher whose broad smile and welcoming nature are perfect for greeting and seating parishioners. He is also a regular member of the cooking team. He has also volunteered for the Christmas setup and decorating. Having a tall man who is skilled with tools.

Cristi is a dedicated employee at St. Francis. She works in the Parrish Administration. Her many skills and abilities have earned her numerous titles. She is the Assistant to the Business Manager, the Assistant to the Pastor for Communications, and the Parish Webmaster. She recently took the time to provide the Council with the total amount of donations to the Church from our Knights. This is a much-needed piece of data for our annual survey of hours and giving. Christi took her own time to draw the data, pull out the knights' data, and combine them so that each knight's data remained confidential. All the Council received was the grand total for all knights.

We are proud to honor the Mourn family as Family of the Month for February 2026 for their contributions to our parish, Council, and community.

Javan Ridge, Grand Knight



KNIGHT OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH

The Council 12228 Knight of the Month for March 2026 is Brother Knight Ron Toman. Ron is a Third-Degree council member, joining the Order on April 19th, 2015, and joined Assembly 88 after joining the 4th Degree on May 15, 2016.

The Council 12228 Knight of the Month for March 2026 is Brother Knight Ron Toman. Ron is a Third-Degree council member, having joined the Order on April 19th, 2015.

Serving as our Council Treasurer, Ron has carried out his responsibilities with meticulous focus and professionalism. His years of service have been marked by consistently successful audits, reflecting his attention to detail and unwavering commitment to accuracy and integrity. Ron has always collaborated closely with our Financial Secretary, dedicating the necessary time and effort to ensure our financial records are maintained to the highest standard.

Ron is a constant figure at the front table of our breakfast and Lenten fish dinners. As someone well known in the Council and the Parish, he has a warm, personable nature that makes him a natural for greeting hungry parishioners at the door. His presence alone puts people at ease and makes them feel accepted and valued.

Over the years, Ron has been one of our most successful recruiters. It is his follow-up actions that set him apart in recruiting new Knights. He takes the time to get to know them and discovers their interests. He follows up to ensure their enrollment is not delayed by bureaucracy. Most importantly, he makes every new member feel like one of us.

We are proud to honor Brother Knight Ron Toman as Knight of the Month for March 2026. His contributions to our parish, community, and council exemplify the values we uphold, and his dedication is deeply appreciated by all.

SK Javan Ridge, Grand Knight



FAMILY OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH



The Council 12228 Family of the Month for March 2026 is Smitty's Wranglers Cooking Team. Team Members Grant Smith, Frank Castellano, Brian Bucher, Jon Gorski, Matt Hepp, Robert Chanski, Ron Toman, Steve Netherton.

Under the leadership of Grant Smith, the Cooking Team consistently ensures that every Council event is well-planned, well-executed, and well-fed. Grant begins each effort by creating menus that appeal to a wide range of tastes while staying within budget—a challenge made even greater by rising food costs and diverse preferences. Yet the team reliably stretches both the budget and the menu without ever stretching anyone's patience.

Food purchasing and preparation often begin the day before an event, requiring volunteers who can adjust their schedules or dedicate evening hours to kitchen duty. Coordinating availability, balancing workloads, and matching tasks to each member's strengths demands careful planning and teamwork—qualities the Wranglers demonstrate at every event. Prior to and during services, the team works preparing food in batches and ensuring that every guest receives the same quality and portion, whether first in line or last. When the final plate is served, their work continues as the Cooking Team seamlessly transitions into the Cleanup Team—washing equipment, scrubbing surfaces, clearing tables, hauling trash, and leaving the kitchen spotless.

Through their dedication, efficiency, and fraternity, Smitty's Wranglers ensure that our Council's events run smoothly and that no one leaves hungry—physically or fraternally. For these reasons, they are truly deserving of the honor of Family of the Month for March 2026.

NOVENA

Divine Mercy Novena

Day 1: For All Humanity, Especially Sinners

Intention:

Today, bring to Me all mankind, especially those who have fallen farthest from My love. I desire to pour out My mercy upon them.

Prayer:

Merciful Jesus, You never turn away from those who seek You. We offer You all sinners—those we know, and those unknown—trusting that Your mercy is stronger than any sin. Embrace them in the ocean of Your mercy and lead them home to Your Sacred Heart.

(Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet)

How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

The chaplet is prayed using standard rosary beads and includes:

- **Opening Prayers:** The Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Apostles' Creed.
- **On the Our Father Beads:** "Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world."
- **On the Hail Mary Beads:** "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."
- **Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)**
- Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Day 2: For Priests and Religious

Intention:

Today, bring to Me the souls of priests and religious, those who have given their lives in service to My Kingdom.

Prayer:

Jesus, Good Shepherd, thank You for calling men and women to serve You. Protect them in Your mercy, refresh their hearts, and renew their zeal. Through their hands, Your mercy flows—bless them richly for their sacrifice and love.

(Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet)

How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

The chaplet is prayed using standard rosary beads and includes:

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- **On the Our Father Beads:** "Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world."
- **On the Hail Mary Beads:** "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."
- **Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)**
- Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Day 3: For All Devout and Faithful Souls

Intention:

Today, bring to Me all believers who are faithful and devout. These souls comfort Me in My suffering.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we lift up to You those who quietly serve You with love and perseverance. Strengthen their faith, deepen their trust, and reward them with the grace to endure. May their witness be a light for others on the path to You.

(Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet)

How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

The chaplet is prayed using standard rosary beads and includes:

- **Opening Prayers:** The Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Apostles' Creed.
- **On the Our Father Beads:** "Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world."

- **On the Hail Mary Beads:** “For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”
- **Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)**
- Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Day 4: For Those Who Do Not Know God

Intention:

Today, bring to Me those who do not believe in God or who do not yet know Me.

Prayer:

Jesus, Light of the world, we ask for Your mercy on those who live without knowing You. Illuminate their hearts with truth and love. Stir within them a longing for the eternal, and lead them gently to the Father’s embrace.

(Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet)

How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

The chaplet is prayed using standard rosary beads and includes:

- **Opening Prayers:** The Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Apostles’ Creed.
- **On the Our Father Beads:** “Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.”
- **On the Hail Mary Beads:** “For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”
- **Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)**
- Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Day 5: For Those Who Have Left the Church

Intention:

Today, bring to Me those who have separated themselves from the Church.

Prayer:

Compassionate Savior, You long for unity in Your Body. We lift up those who once walked with us in faith but have gone astray. Call them back, Lord. Heal wounds, soften hearts, and renew trust in Your Church as the home of mercy.

(Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet)

How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

The chaplet is prayed using standard rosary beads and includes:

- **Opening Prayers:** The Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Apostles’ Creed.
- **On the Our Father Beads:** “Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.”
- **On the Hail Mary Beads:** “For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”
- **Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)**
- Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Day 6: For the Humble and the Little Ones

Intention:

Today, bring to Me the meek, the humble, and little children. These souls most resemble My Heart.

Prayer:

Jesus, Friend of the lowly, thank You for the gift of humility. We pray for all children and the innocent of heart. Keep them safe from harm and sin. Through their simplicity, may Your mercy shine forth with purity and peace.

(Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet)

How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

The chaplet is prayed using standard rosary beads and includes:

- **Opening Prayers:** The Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Apostles’ Creed.
- **On the Our Father Beads:** “Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.”

- **On the Hail Mary Beads:** “For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”
- **Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)**
- Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Day 7: For Those Who Honor God’s Mercy

Intention:

Today, bring to Me the souls who especially venerate and trust in My mercy.

Prayer:

Lord of Mercy, we praise You for those who spread devotion to Your infinite compassion. Bless their efforts and reward their trust. May they be living vessels of mercy, drawing others into Your Heart.

(Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet)

How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

The chaplet is prayed using standard rosary beads and includes:

- **Opening Prayers:** The Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Apostles’ Creed.
- **On the Our Father Beads:** “Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.”
- **On the Hail Mary Beads:** “For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”
- **Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)**
- Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Day 8: For the Souls in Purgatory

Intention: Today, bring to Me the souls in Purgatory who long for heaven.

Prayer:

Eternal Jesus, we remember the souls who are being purified in love. They suffer with patience, yearning to be with You. Let the rays of Your mercy bring them swiftly to the joy of heaven, where they will praise You forever.

(Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet)

How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

The chaplet is prayed using standard rosary beads and includes:

- **Opening Prayers:** The Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Apostles’ Creed.
- **On the Our Father Beads:** “Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.”
- **On the Hail Mary Beads:** “For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”
- **Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)**
- Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Day 9: For the Lukewarm

Intention:

Today, bring to Me the souls who are lukewarm and indifferent.

Prayer:

Jesus, our gentle Savior, our hearts ache for those who know You but live without love. Set them aflame again with passion for You. Awaken their souls with the fire of Divine Mercy, and never let them drift away from Your grace.

(Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet)

How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

The chaplet is prayed using standard rosary beads and includes:

- **Opening Prayers:** The Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Apostles’ Creed.
- **On the Our Father Beads:** “Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.”
- **On the Hail Mary Beads:** “For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”

- **Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)**
- Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Dates to Remember



April 5 to 12, 2026
The Octave of Easter
 The Octave of Easter is an eight-day period starting on Easter Sunday and ending the following Sunday, where each day is celebrated as if it were Easter itself, highlighting the joy of Jesus Christ's resurrection.



April 5 to May 24, 2026
The Easter Season
 The Easter Season is the 50-day period from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and culminating in the coming of the Holy Spirit.



May 17, 2026
Ascension Sunday
 In the Philippines, Ascension Sunday is usually celebrated on the Sunday following the traditional Thursday observance, marking Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven and the end of his earthly appearances.



May 24, 2026
Pentecost Sunday
 Pentecost Sunday marks the Holy Spirit's coming Easter and the start of the Church's mission.

Spread the Faith

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Friday Morning	Rachel Rosary at 9:30 am, 3420 Centennial Boulevard
April 9, 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.
April 12, Sunday	Parish Breakfast after 8:30 & 10:30 Masses (St. Francis Boyz cooking and serving)
April 16, Thursday	Council Officers' Meeting, Rooms B and C, Time: 6:00 p.m.
April 19, Sunday	CUF Exemplification -Church
May 7, 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.
May 10, Sunday	Mother's Day Breakfast (Harvey's Hashers cooking & serving)
May 14, Thursday	The Ascension of the Lord
May 21, Thursday	Council Officers' Meeting, Rooms B and C, Time: 6:00 p.m.
May 31, Sunday	5 th Sunday Rosary after 8:30 and 10:30 Mass

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 Condron
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 Condron
Technical Support	Paul Lagatta Michael Kindt
Newsletter Editor	Harvey Siegle
INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE	
Brandon L. Nelson	719-565-8896 brandon.nelson@kofc.org

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>

