



# The Outer Guard

## Knights of Columbus #1143

7132 Marine Road  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

618-656-4985

Meetings: Council -- 2nd Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Fourth Degree -- 1st Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Grand Knight Marcus Agustin  
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OG Submissions—denrhes@yahoo.com

### April 2026

### Grand Knight's Letter

Hello Brother Knights,

Happy Easter! May this Easter season bring you and your family peace through the love of our risen Lord. We are reminded, from *John 11:25*, of the promise when Jesus said ***I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live.***

Let us finish the last quarter of the 2025-2026 fraternal year in a good upward trajectory. You have worked extremely well on the Lenter Fish Fries which will greatly help the various council initiatives, such as our efforts toward supporting the three Catholic schools. With two fish fries this month (Team 4 on April 3 and Team 1 on April 17), let us make sure that this month will be as productive as the past two. There are community-related activities during the month

of April that will not take much of your time, while we have the monthly Rosary for Life on the second Saturday of the month at St. Mary's Parish. Finally, the council will be holding elections in the month of June for the upcoming fraternal year. Please pray if you may be able to serve the council as an officer. Particular emphasis will be in finding a Deputy Grand Knight, an important position that has been vacant for almost a year. We have been blessed with a great group of committed and fully engaged council officers and program directors and let us continue this rich history of the council.

Last month, we welcomed a new Brother Knight, Steve Amizich, and welcomed back a returning Knight, Richard Malawy. The work by the council in recruiting new members

during the months of February and March will result in an additional contribution to A Beacon of Light. Big thanks to our ever-dependable council Exemplification team as well as to Father Jeff and Father Bob in their support of increasing Knights of Columbus membership.

*Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us. St. Joseph, pray for us. Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us.*

*Vivat Jesus!*

Marcus Agustin  
Grand Knight

### MONTHLY FISH FRY

**April 3 rd Good Friday Team #4 4:30-7:30 pm**

**April 17 th Team #1 4:30-7:00pm**

**Calendar of Events April 2026**

April 2	Holy Thursday Mass
April 3	Good Friday Service
April 3 (4:30-7:30pm)	KC Fish Fry (Team 4)
April 4	Easter Vigil
April 5	Easter Sunday
April 7 (7:30pm)	Assembly 225 meeting
April 11 (9am)	Rosary for Life (St. Mary's Church)
April 11 (9am)	Highway Cleanup (meet at the Hall)
April 13 (7pm)	Council 1143 meeting
April 15 (3:30-6pm)	KC Blood Drive
April 17 (4:30-7pm)	KC Fish Fry (Team 1)
April 20 (7:00)	Fred Mills Board Meeting
April 27 (7pm)	Council 1143 Officers Planning Meeting

**April Birthdays**

		13	Frederic Kolesa
2	Charles Burcham	15	David Boduch
2	Joseph Shannon	16	Kris Horvath
4	Kenneth Hyten	16	Gary Landoll
4	Jeff Worman	17	Robert Nelson
5	Gary Doiron	20	David Jurgena
5	Rick Ryan	23	Richard Dustman
9	David Knetzer	28	James Caulk
10	Timothy Henke	29	Christopher Chleboun
11	Mark Brase	29	Luke Harris
12	Philip Kosydor	30	Aaron Bohnenstiehl



**April 2026 Knight of Month: Lynn Ripper**

Lynn has served the council and the assembly in several positions (what other position has he not served!). He singlehandedly leads the council blood drive, is a constant help with the Fish Fry, a member of the Fred Mills board serving as Treasurer, a reliable member of the council Exemplification team, a constant presence in the Assembly Honor Guard, and always ready to serve any ad-hoc position that is needed. Lynn and Marlene are active parishioners at St. Mary's Parish, serving as an example to fellow Knights on how to serve the Catholic Church, the community, and the council.



Picture from March 27th Fish Fry

**Picture from March 21, 2026 Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity  
at St. Boniface Catholic Church**



# FAMILY

## **April Wedding Anniversaries**

15	Bob & Kathy Hotz - 49	23	Brent & Dana Kerns - 21
17	Charles & Rhonda Burcham - 40	24	Anthony & Nancy Zollo - 40
18	Timothy & Deanna Moorman - 11	29	Dave & Dana Strong - 31
19	Tom & Susan Tucker - 52	29	Dr Michael & Kyle Lask - 20
20	Jim & Betty Burns - 63		
20	Raymond & Mary Jane Kerkemeyer - 58		
22	Bruce & Connie Gerstenecker - 37		

**CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY MORES!**

## **April 2026 Family of the Month: Greg and Julie Goin**

The Goin family are active parishioners of St. Boniface Church, typically attending the 10:15am Mass. Greg and Julie are engaged parishioners, with Julie serving as a reader during Mass and Greg being involved in several men's groups. The Goin family are involved in promoting the culture of Life here in Southern Illinois. Greg is an active Team 3 Fish Fry member and always ready to assist the council whenever there is a need.



NO Fred Mills BBQ Sunday April 5th

**Because it's Easter Sunday.**

# FAITH

## ***Ora Pro Nobis (Pray for Us)***

*Saint John Paul II stated that praying for the souls in Purgatory is the “highest act of supernatural charity”. The souls in Purgatory rely entirely on the prayers of the living, as they can no longer help themselves.*

Anyone interested in participating in this new program is asked to include in their daily rosary the soul of a departed Brother Knight, friend or family member. At the beginning of each month, we will provide a list of names to include in your rosary intentions for every day that month.

To participate in this daily rosary for Holy Souls, please email or text Brother Knight Jim Jatcko at [jjatcko@hotmail.com](mailto:jjatcko@hotmail.com) or 618-803-0570.

### ***Ora Pro Nobis (Daily Rosary Intentions for the Faithful Departed)***

April 1 Neil Joellenbeck (8/13/25)	April 16 Richard Trame (7/1/25)
April 2 Tim Gebke (9/5/25)	April 17 Msgr. Albert Hallin
April 3 Tom Jacober	April 18 Robert Wehling
April 4 Larry Luebbers (5/27/25)	April 19 Tom Luchtefeld
April 5 Dolores Smith	April 20 Laurence Theriault (9/14/25)
April 6 KofC Field Agent Jack Springmire (6/15/25)	April 21 Bill Plunkett
April 7 Allen Hawkins (12/4/25)	April 22 Lloyd (Tom) Harmon (5/3/25)
April 8 Helen Newton	April 23 Joshua Davis
April 9 Ryan Bampton	April 24 Jim Hickman (12/1/25)
April 10 Past State Deputy Charlie Foos (6/3/25)	April 25 Richard Ryan
April 11 Maurice Gutzler (6/17/25)	April 26 Nathan Jatcko
April 12 Tom Kienstra	April 27 Cletus Rattermann (10/21/25)
April 13 Tom Burns (10/20/25)	April 28 Former State Warden Gary Schmidt (11/12/25)
April 14 James Zupanci (10/22/25)	April 29 Dave McCausland (2/13/26)
April 15 Fr. Jim Neuman	April 30 George Korte

If you would like to add an intention for a departed Knight, family member or friend for the month of May, please email [jjatcko@hotmail.com](mailto:jjatcko@hotmail.com) by April 15.

## *Pro Life*

### **Rosary for Life - 9:00 am on April 11 th at St. Mary's Parish**

Each month, on the second Saturday of the month we gather to pray the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary to bring an end to abortion. Starting in May, we will pray outside the Hope Clinic in Granite City. April, is the last month we meet at St. Mary Church, 1802 Madison Ave. Edw to pray the rosary. This event is not limited to just members of the Knights of Columbus. Bring your spouse, your children and your fellow parishioners.

### ***Forty Days for Life***

THANK YOU goes out to the Brother Knights and family members that participated on March 28th, in the Forty Days for Life event at the Hope Abortion Clinic in Granite City. That day the Knights of Council 1143 prayed 96 rosaries for the end of abortion.

**Thank you for taking an hour out of your day for LIFE.**

## 4th Degree Assembly 225 News



### ***Faithful Navigator's Letter:***

Worthy Sir Knights,

The Joy of the Resurrection is upon us! As we move from the solemnity of the Triduum into the Easter Season, we celebrate the victory of Christ over death. This month, our focus shifts from the sacrifices of Lent to the profound joy of our faith and our continued duty to our country and community.

After the quiet reflection of March, April opens with the highest feast of our liturgical year. I hope you and your families find peace and renewal during the Easter Octave. We also look forward to Divine Mercy Sunday on April 12, a beautiful opportunity to reflect on God's unfathomable love and the mercy we are called to show one another as Brother Knights.

April is also a critical month for planning. The 128th Illinois State Convention is fast approaching in mid-May. For those planning to attend, please note that the room reservation deadline is April

14, 2026. I will ask Sir Knights of the Color Corps to stay in our area for the Father McGivney Catholic High School Graduation that weekend, but if not in the Color Corps consider attending the Convention to represent Assembly 225 as we celebrate the achievements of the past fraternal year.

While there are no confirmed 4th Degree Exemplifications scheduled in Illinois for April, now is the time to mentor our 3rd Degree brothers. Encourage them to mark their calendars for the next Exemplification on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at St. Norbert Catholic Church in Northbrook.

Let us carry the light of the Paschal Candle into everything we do this month.

Vivat Jesus!

Jason Jones

Faithful Navigator, Assembly 225



***Take the next step—become a 4th Degree Knight!***

## ***From Our Field Agent***

This month I am writing to inform you all that I will be retiring as a Field Agent, effective May 1st. I would like to thank all my Brother Knights and their families for putting your trust and confidence in me for over twenty years. I feel privileged and blessed to be a part of a Catholic Fraternal Service Organization that was founded to protect Catholic families from financial ruin.

I will still be very active this month with council meetings, appointments and recruiting new members. I have also been looking for a catholic gentleman that can take over my territory. If you know of anyone, certainly let me know. And please let me know if we can meet to discuss how our products can help you and your family.

A good place to start is protecting your family through life insurance. Term life coverage can help with temporary needs, while whole life coverage can last your entire lifetime and build guaranteed cash value over time.

Next, let's think about retirement. Whether it's years

away or right around the corner, having a strategy for income in retirement matters. The Knights of Columbus offers solutions that can be part of an overall plan you feel confident about.

It's also important to prepare for the unexpected. Thinking ahead about how your family would handle an extended care need or a disruption in income due to a disability is part of protecting what you have worked hard to build. We have products to help ensure your family's life will not be financially disrupted in either case.

Let's get together soon!

Vivat Jesus!



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