



knights of st. irene

Vol. 34 No. 12
June, 2025

Council 6710
Warrenville, IL



June 29 10:00 AM Mass—High School Scholarship Presentation

We congratulate **Katherine White** (daughter of **Brother Knight Andy and Patty White**) as our winner of the \$1000 annual memorial scholarship. Katherine is attending Rosary College Prep High School, Aurora this Fall. Her scholarship application and essays are published on page 5.



July 3-4—Council Celebrates Independence Day in Warrenville; Council Hosts Food Stand at Cerny Park

Plan on joining your Brother Knights & Families at Cerny as we cook our famous burgers, hotdogs, and sweet corn. Grillers, cashiers, set-up crew and general helpers are needed. **Best of all!** Come gather with your family around the Knights concession area for the July 4 fireworks display.

Signup to volunteer is not necessary. Help is needed as follows:

Thursday July 3:

- 11:00 AM—Set-up begins at St. Irene's Parish storage garage.
- 6:00 PM—July 4th Parade
- 3:00 - 11:45 PM—Concession booth operates.

Friday July 4:

- 1:00 AM - Set-up begins at Cerny Park
- Noon - 9:15 PM—Concession booth operates. 2-3 hour time slots available. Fireworks at 9:15 PM
- 10:00 PM—Concession booths close and clean up begins at Cerny Park

Saturday July 5:

- 9:00 AM—Cleanup at St. Irene (subject to change).

The July 4th and line-up of entertainment are as follows:

Thursday July 3

- 5:00-11:00 PM Concession Booths open
- 7:00 PM—9:00 PM—Live music at the Main Stage

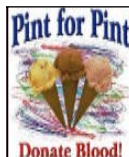
Friday July 4

- Noon—Children's Parade on Warren Ave.
- 2:00 PM—9:15 PM - Live music at the Main Stage
- 9:15 PM—Fireworks
- All concession, beverage and beer stands open at noon. During the day there are water fights, horseshoe contest, bingo & prizes, pickle ball, face painting, and karaoke.



Congratulations to our New Pope Leo XIV

A native of Chicago and Augustinian missionary who worked for years in Peru, the new Pope Leo XIV had been working at the Vatican as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops under the late Pope Francis.



June 21—Blood Drive at VFW Hall

The next blood drive will be held from 7:00 AM—11:30 AM at the VFW Hall, Warrenville. You may register in advance at the [Versiti of Illinois web page](#). Walk-ins are also accepted.



July 26—Kane County Cougars Baseball

We have purchased 20 tickets for the Kansas City vs. Kane County Cougars game on Saturday July 26 at 6:30 PM. The special event for the night is "Christmas in July".

The tickets are available on a come-first served basis. For tickets call **Michael Bates** (630-836-0223).

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Council Business Meeting June 12, 7:00 PM

The next meeting will be held in the St. Irene Activities Center Lower Level. Officer elections for the next fraternal year. The slate of officers are:

Chaplain—**Fr. Gregory Rothfuchs**
 Grand Knight—**Pat McGowan**
 Deputy Grand Knight—**Paul Burgermeister**
 Financial Secretary—**James Halama**
 Treasurer—**Mark Spiotta**
 Chancellor—**Tom Nemo**
 Recorder—**John O'Malley**
 Advocate—**Joshua Bates**
 Warden—**Patrick O'Connor**
 Inside Guard—**James McDermott**
 Outside Guard—**Joe Kubal**
 Lector—**Jeffrey Schmitz**
 Trustees—**Erich Pavel, Mike Bates, Kevin Looby**



Membership Drive Ever Present! We cannot let up

We have recruited 7 new members. We need one more to reach our Goal

Ask the man next to you at Mass. You will be surprised when he responds by saying no one has asked me before!

Urge prospects to join electronically. The QR code shown here with the KC insignia at its center can be used. The web page requests your name, contact information, parish name, and Council number: 6710. A notice will be sent to the Grand Knight and financial Secretary.

A council Trifold of our activities can be found [here](#). There are no fees or dues required to join.



Fourth Degree

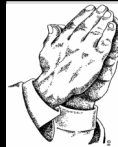
June 11—The next Assembly 3044 meeting will be held at Corpus Christie Council, Carol Stream. The Rosary begins at 6:30 PM. Fraternity begins at 7:00 PM, with the meeting beginning promptly at 7:45 PM.

Thank you Sir **Knights James Halama and Erich Pavel** for providing an Honor Guard at the First Communion on May 2, May Crowning on May 3, and Confirmation on May 21; **Bishop Dennis Spies** presided (see Above).



New Council Directory Available

A new directory for Council members is now available on the Council web site: st-irenekofo.org. Select Directory Tab. Password is "mcgivney5".



Pray for Our Loved Ones

Pray for the health & recovery of **Ken DiIulio, Bill Hughes, Alan Jarasius, Rachel Jarasius, George LaRocco, Rosemary Maher, Andrea Olson Martin, Tyler O'Malley, Rich Planek, Beverly Scott, Mary Ann True, Beverly Murphy, Paula Peterson, Bill Hughes, James McDermott, and Fr. Gerald Riva.**

St. Irene Knights of Columbus Council 6710, Warrenville, IL

Council Officers 2024-2025	
Chaplain	Fr. Gregory Rothfuchs (630-621-6730)
Grand Knight	Patrick McGowan (630-863-8708)
Dep. Grand Knight	Paul Burgermeister (630-877-1574)
Financial Sec.	James Halama (630-433-6240)
Treasurer	Mark Spiotta (847-980-2461)
Chancellor	Tom Nemo (630-808-1900)
Recorder	Bob Rauko (630-337-1568)
Advocate	Joshua Bates (630-836-0223)
Warden	Patrick O'Connor
Inside Guard	James McDermott
Outside Guard	Joe Kubal (630-470-3807)
Lecturer	Jeffrey Schmitz (630-917-2002)
3rd Yr. Trustee	Michael Bates (630-836-0223)
2nd Yr. Trustee	Ken DiIulio (630-747-3673)
1st Yr. Trustee	Erich Pavel (630-817-2919)
Insurance Agent	Matthew Kling (630-485-8705)
District Deputy	Bruce Klecker (630-995-0764)

Business Meetings: 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM
Meeting Location: St. Irene Activities Center

Committee Directors	
Program Director	Paul Burgermeister (630-877-1574)
Membership Director	Jeffrey Schmitz (630-917-2002)
Community Director	Bob Rauko (630-337-1568)
Church Director	Joe Urso (630-853-2070)
Family Director	Michael Bates (630-836-0223)
Youth Director	Tom Nemo (630-808-1900)
Public Relations Director	Joe Kubal (630-983-6159)
Blood Drive Director	Ken DiIulio (630-747-3673)
Life Director	Jack Gorski (630-393-4742)
Vocations	
Support our Troops	Kevin Looby (630-329-1316)

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to all Catholic gentleman over 18 years of age. To join or obtain further information, contact GK Patrick McGowan at 630-863-8708.

The Knights' News is published monthly by Council 6710. For contributions and corrections contact James Halama at 630-433-6240. Please make submissions by email at jrhalama@comcast.net prior to the 21st day of each month.



Grand Knight's Corner

As we welcome the month of June, we find ourselves at an important moment of reflection and transition—both within our Council and across the Universal Church.

We join Catholics around the world in celebrating the election of our new Holy Father. What makes this moment especially meaningful is that the new pope comes from our very own region—near Chicago. His roots in the Midwest remind us that even in our own communities, the seeds of faith can grow into something extraordinary. Let us keep him in our prayers as he takes on the sacred responsibility of shepherding the Church into the future.

Here at home, we also mark a time of transition in our Council. Some of our officers are completing their terms this month. Their leadership, dedication, and countless hours of service have helped strengthen our mission and impact, and I offer my deepest thanks to each of them. You have helped guide our Council through challenging times and joyful ones, and your legacy of commitment will not be forgotten.

At the same time, we look forward with hope and excitement to electing and welcoming our new officers and those continuing their service. Let us support them as they step into their roles, offering encouragement, collaboration, and fraternity.

Looking ahead, our big fundraising event is just around the corner—our July 4th Festival booth (July 3 and 4)! We'll be firing up the grill once again with burgers, hot dogs, and our always-popular buttered corn. This event is a great opportunity for us to show our spirit of service, work side by side, and engage with our wider community. I encourage all members—especially those who haven't been involved lately—to stop by and lend a hand in some way. It's a team effort, and with all of us pitching in, I know we'll make it a success.

Thank you, as always, for all you do. Let's keep building on our strong foundation of faith, charity, and brotherhood.

**Vivat Jesus,
Patrick McGowan**



ProLife

Too often, our national conversation on marriage, adoption, and IVF focuses entirely on the desires of adults – while completely ignoring the rights of children. But if we're serious about restoring a moral foundation in this country, we must flip that script.

Recently on [At the Core](#), I spoke with Katy Faust, founder of [Them Before Us](#), about what happens when society – and policy – fail to prioritize children's wellbeing. The truth is sobering: Kids need a married mom and dad, preferably biological. Social science confirms it. Scripture affirms it. Yet current cultural trends and public policy treat that truth as optional. Whether it's commercial surrogacy, no-fault divorce, or the reckless expansion of IVF, too many decisions are being made without considering what's best for the most vulnerable among us.

Katy reminds us that adoption should never be about adults getting what they want. It should be a response to tragedy – a way to restore what a child has lost, not to institutionalize that loss from the start. And IVF? An estimated 97% of embryos created are never born. Most are either discarded, indefinitely frozen, destroyed in failed implantation, or used for research. That's not pro-life; it's a silent tragedy hiding in plain sight.

The path forward is simple, but not easy: We must put children first. That single shift reframes everything. As Katy said, "Looking at everything through the lens of 'what if we put children first?' solves all of these problems."

It's time to refocus our attention on truth and begin protecting children.

Listen to the [full episode of At the Core](#) with guest Katy Faust here.

In Christ,
Walter Wildmon, CEO
AFA Action

Jack Gorski
ProLife Chairman



June 14—Maintenance of City Signs

Please consider participating in this community program during the summer. We meet at corner of Batavia and Butterfield Rd at 9:00 AM. Subsequent scheduled dates are as follows (all Saturdays at 9:00 AM): **July 12 Aug. 9, and Sept. 13.** Bring a spade, shoe, shears or other piece of gardening equipment you find useful.

Thank you to **PGK James Halama, PGK Bob Rauko, and PGK Mike Bates** for maintenance of signs on May 10. Thank you to **PGK James Halama, PGK Bob Rauko, PGK Mike Bates, Patrick O'Conner and James McDermott** on Warrenville in Bloom Volunteer Planting Day on May 24.



Mark Your Calendar

The 2025 Intellectual Disability i.e.. "Tootsie Roll Drive" is scheduled for Sept. 19-20.

Participation by as many Brother Knights, your friends and family makes this drive successful. We raised nearly \$10,000 in 2024.

Dominic Lynch
ID Drive Chairman



Support our American Legion

Burger Night—June 25

Serving hamburgers & bratwurst from
5:00—8:00 PM.



St. Irene Council 6710 to Celebrate 50 Years

The St. Irene Council was chartered July 4, 1975. Thirty-two members joined to form the Council. **Rev. Charles Van Duren** served as it's first Chaplain, and **James Egert** served as the first Grand Knight.

It is our Council's intention to make our 50 Year Anniversary a 'Grandiose Event' with every member participating in some way or another. Tentative planning for this event has begun. **We are looking at hosting the event at the Warrenville VFW in September.** The exact day has not been determined as of yet. We ask you to submit written stories, and photographs that will be compiled onto signage boards and will be presented amongst other memorabilia at the VFW for all to share and enjoy. Remember, as they say, every picture tells a story. When submitting your written stories or pictures it is helpful if you could include an approximate date and a little back ground of what is being depicted or illustrated. If you would like to share other memorabilia or large photo albums that would be great!

We are looking for additional ideas on how to celebrate. Feel free to submit suggestions about our Council's History. For example: Why was July 4th chosen as our Charter date? How was James Egert chosen as our first Grand Knight and what's a little back ground about who he was? etc. Please submit all the aforementioned items to **GK Patrick Mc Gowan, PKG Kevin Looby, DGK Paul Burgermeister**, or our **Financial Secretary James Halama**.

Again, we need full participation from all our members to make this celebration an event to remember. Fifty Year Anniversaries come only once in a life time! Let's get all hands-on deck to make this an event like no other!!

DGK Paul Burgermeister

Knight Out with Fr. Greg on April 20

A lively group of 13 Knights and Fr. Greg joined our annual supper social at Markito's Restaurant and Cafe in Warrenville this year for hardy Mexican-inspired comestibles and great camaraderie. If you were not there, you should have been as you were missed at this event developed to promote increased brotherhood within our Council.



Program Awards for May 2025

Special Recognition for both Knight and Family of the Month—As we speedily progress towards and through the month of June, our Council is making plans to celebrate our 50 Year Anniversary which was Chartered on July 4, 1975. Although some of our newer members may not have even been around in 1975, there are still others that may remember hearing the names of our 'Founding Fathers' when they became new members of our Council. In any event this is a very special time for our Council and one that deserves the highest recognition. Every member, new or old, holds some special memory of their time spent as a Knight of Columbus. Whether it was a funny situation that occurred while working on a Council activity together, or perhaps when participating in a Council activity which overwhelms you with deep emotion because you didn't realize the impact you had in making a difference in someone's life. Its times like these that need to be shared at our 50 Year Anniversary up coming event. We encourage you to share these special times by writing them down or by sharing photographs. These shared moments are sure to generate the 'Remember the Time...' conversations, mixed in with the comradery we laughed about at that time. It is this comradery that we enjoy while working on the task at hand that unites us in brotherhood with each other and with Christ Jesus.

It is overwhelming to think of how many men were Knights in our Council over the past 50 years, and it is even more overwhelming to think of all their family members that supported our Council and participated in so many St. Irene Parish events. Its these families' names, faces, and the good times that were shared that need to be remembered and celebrated. Therefore, our Council #6710 recognizes every member of our Council and their families past and present as our Knight of the Month and Family of the Month for May 2025.

Trivia Night

Saturday, June 21 in the ACL
5:30pm – Doors Open
6:00pm – Trivia begins!

Raffles, games, and plenty of music ... it's part of the trivia!

Reserve your table or spot today!

Email: kevin.Druley@gmail.com

Call/text: 314-973-8670

Trivia night benefits our parish.

Chairmen Needed to Conduct Council Outreach Programs

We, our Council, is looking for members who are wanting have more active participation in Council programs. Please contact **GK Pat McGowan** of your interest. These programs were designed by **Joe Kubal** and he has provided a detailed manual for each program for someone to follow. The programs that need attention and direction are:

- **Feed the Need Food Packing Event**—The program is typically held each March at Benedictine University, Naperville. The Food Packing event is sponsored Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) and provides food for needy children internationally.
- **Feed My Starving Children Food Packing Event**—The event is typically held each November. The purpose is helping to feed children internationally and at home by packing food at the Aurora facility located at 555 Exchange Avenue although there are other centers available.
- **March for Kids Donation Drive**—The program is typically held each March. The purpose is to support the Mission of Mercy Home for Boys and Girls in providing a haven for abused youth. Donations are solicited at St. Irene Church during a weekend of Masses.
- **Bread Tag/Key/Poptop Tabs**—This is a semi-annual Collection Drive typically held in February and July each year—The drive is in support of Danielle Cares for Chairs who provides wheelchairs to the needy through bread tags, SCARCE, a local environmental resource center through keys and works in collaboration with Danielle Cares for Chairs, and Ronald McDonald House through pop-top tabs. Collection receptacles are placed in the church.
- **KofC/Lions Club Annual Eyeglass Drive**—This drive is an annual drive typically held in May. The purpose is to support visually impaired individuals through a joint endeavor between the Knights and Lions Club International. Collection receptacles are placed in church during the period of the drive.
- **Share Your Soles Shoe Collection Drive**—The drive is annual held each October and into November. The is to collect shoes in support of Share Your Soles Foundation who provides gently worn shoes to the needy both locally and internationally. Collection vessels are placed in the church during the period of the drive. There is also an ongoing drive at two locations in Warrenville outside of the parish.
- **Knights Men's Night Out**—This a social event held annually in May held at a local restaurant. A requirement is to invite our Pastor.

Brother Knights—Please ask Knights, Families, Friends Neighbors to come to Mass. Fr. Greg will greatly appreciate it.

Katherine White Wins Memorial Scholarship—To attend Rosary College Prep High School, Aurora this Fall

Please congratulate Katherine (daughter of Andy & Patty White) for winning \$1000 for continuing her education at Rosary High School, Aurora. She listed as her activities as participating in the Church as an Altar server and helps with Mass AV presentations; at school on the Math Team and Student Ambassador Leadership Team; for the Community Scouts, and Little Friends and Fusion Social, Warrenville.

Her submitted essay on “Why you feel a Catholic education will benefit you” is as follows:

“I feel that a Catholic education will benefit me and has benefitted me in that I am able to both learn more about my faith and grow in a community of people who share my faith. I grew up going to Christian schools, and I learned a lot about the Bible and God, which I believe has helped me to be able to have a very strong ability to learn about my faith in a Catholic school. I also believe that I will benefit from continuing my Catholic education by becoming a part of a community of people of the same faith as me who can help me understand things about my faith and learn more about why we believe what we believe. I also am able to build a community of close friends within my Catholic school, which allows me to have support from others throughout my education, but I am also able to support them. Because all of my peers are also benefiting from a Catholic education, we are able to have very deep and meaningful conversations about our faith. I also benefit from my Catholic education because all of my teachers are Catholic and therefore push me to do the best work I am able to do in order to glorify God and use the gifts He has given me to glorify Him. I enjoy being in a learning environment where people help me to grow in my faith and learn more about it. I think that a Catholic education is an amazing aid that I have to make my life more meaningful and glorifying to God. I also feel challenged in new ways through my Catholic education, as I am challenged to be my best self both academically and also in everything else that I do. This year has been my first full year of a Catholic education, and I feel that it has helped me to grow in so many ways, but specifically in the core pillars of my faith and ever growing understanding of God.”

Council Knights Participate Region C Spring Games Special Olympics May 4.

Those who helped were **Dominic Lynch, James McDermott, Tom Nemo, and Bob Heipp.**

**Tom Nemo
Youth Director**



Knights' Calendar

June 11	7:00 PM	Bishop Blanchett Assembly meeting—Corpus Christie, Carol Stream
June 12	7:00 PM	KC Council business meeting; officer elections—St. Irene Activities Center
June 14	9:00 AM	Maintenance at Warrenville City Signs—meet at Batavia & Butterfield Rd.
June 20		Summer Begins
June 21	7:00 AM	KC/VFW Blood Drive—VFW Hall, Warrenville
	5:30 PM	St. Irene Trivia Night—St. Irene Activities Center
June 25	5:00 PM	American Legion Burger Night—VFW Hall, Warrenville
June 28	7:00 PM	KC Council Officer installation— tentative
July 3-4		KC Food Concession—Cerny Park, Warrenville
July 10	7:00 PM	KC Council business meeting—St. Irene Activities Center
July 26	6:30 PM	KC Family Night at Kane County Cougars Game—Geneva, IL
Sept. 19-20		Council ID “Tootsie Roll Drive” - Mark Your calendar



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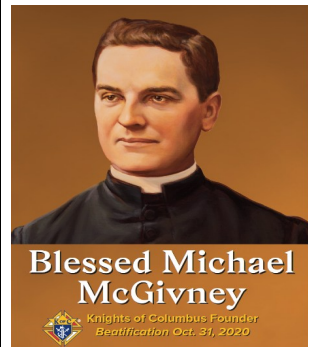
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June Birthdays

Stuart Aschauer	June 3	Laurie Schmitz	June 18
Carol Walsh	June 4	James Bartz	June 19
Anthony Parrino	June 5	William Lintner	June 20
Richard Behrens	June 6	Douglas True	June 20
Jaclyn Bosoli	June 7	Annette Hanson	June 22
Dominic Lynch	June 7	Amy Henry	June 23
David Abhalter	June 8	William Constable	June 24
Beverly Scott	June 11	Michelle Horan	June 24
James Sugrue	June 14	Loreta Jarasius	June 24
Judy Wilkie	June 14	Pamela Schefke	June 24
Andrew Seiberlich	June 16	Karen Graney	June 30
Nancy Markendorf	June 18		



June Wedding Anniversaries

Mark & Filomena Jarosz	June 1	John & Jacqueline Huttenhoff	June 25
Patrick & Mary Lawinger	June 2	Charles & Debbie Ingram	June 25
Thomas & Elaine Perez	June 19	Gary & Connie Dyas	June 27
Mark & Karen Rurka	June 24		

*** If your birthday or anniversary date is missing or incorrect, contact **PGK James Halama** at 630-433-6240 or jrhala-ma@comcast.net to make the corrections.