



The Knight News

Father P.J. Slane Council #1139

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March 2026



Heartfelt Tribute to Ray Scherer

This last December we combined our seasonal Light up for Christ with a tribute to our friend Ray Scherer. We were celebrating having him as a member for **80** (that's right, 80) years. Fr. Mike O'Brien offered a prayer to open and close our evening. Tom Connell was our emcee and walked us through Ray's life as member of the Knights of Columbus. He was not just a dues paying, on the books member but is and has been an active Council member. He joined our Council when he was 18 and has held numerous Council and Fourth Degree Assembly positions ever since. For many years he has served us as our resident electrician. If there was a light bulb to be changed, a circuit added or appliance to be fixed Ray was there. His smile and gentle presence always brighten the day for those around him. When you see him at Mass, fish fry, chicken dinner or about town be sure to say hello.

Grand Knight's Corner

Hello fellow Knights,

We are now into our Lenten celebrations and preparations for Easter. Lent should be a time of contemplation and penance to strengthen our connection with God. The Knights support and participate in programs such as TMIY and the Saturday study group. We encourage you to contact Matt Vondrasek or Dennis Hrcka for information on becoming stronger Catholic men.

This winter our Owosso Knights teamed with the Morrice group to purchase several boxes of coats for kids. We distributed them to several local elementary schools in the area.

The Owosso knights with the help of our tootsie roll sales were able to assist the ARC including their Halloween party. We also had a strong presence in the special olympics with the Snow Bowl tournament. This event was so popular that it took both the Owosso High and middle school gymnasiums. This event is worthy of our continued support.

We are also blessed and proud of our core group of knights who are always there for our regular events. Our chicken dinners, fish fries, burger nights, setting up the nativity and always having the halls set up for every need. Thank you all and God bless.

Chicken Dinner

Our Chicken Dinners are held the first Sunday of every month with the exception of April 2026. The first Sunday of April is Easter so this year it will be March 29th.

We will roughly serve 250 people and the cost is \$16.00 per person.

We have Shiawassee County's best Chicken Dinner! We start with chicken purchased from a local market in town. We clean, trim, marinate and bread the chicken and then Broast it. Broasting is a specialized, commercial cooking method that combines pressure cooking with deep-frying to produce chicken that is exceptionally crispy on the outside and moist on the inside. The meal consists of chicken, mashed potatoes, redskin potatoes, gravy, awesome stuffing, baked beans, green bean casserole, green beans, corn and an awesome salad bar! We round out the meal with freshly made cakes and brownies for dessert.

Please consider supporting our chicken dinners! We are always looking for help as well!

KofC Fish Fry

Our fish fries began in January and will continue every Friday through Good Friday. The dinners are coordinated by your House Committee and serve approximately 130 meals per week. The Lenten season always shows a significant increase. The profit from the regular season is used for repair and maintenance of our facility. The Lenten season profit is used by our Council for charitable works of the Order.

Our dinners have a long history as being a successful fund raiser and social event for both customers and workers. We currently have four teams that rotate during the season. Some of the team members have worked for many years and some are new. It takes around 8 to 10 people per dinner so there is always room for more people to become involved. Our team leaders are currently Pat Marrah/Al Bulemore, Larry Butcher/ Charlie Bruckman, Dave Loznak/Jeff Gerding, Mark Bruckman/Freddie Peterson. If you would like to help please contact any of those guys. The good times far outweigh the work, so give it a try!

Thursday Burger Night

Burger nights are open to the public. They start serving at 5:00 p.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. The menu includes Burgers (done your way), brats and hot dogs. Onion rings, fries and the normal condiments are available.

Four teams work this fundraiser. Team one is Pat Marrah, Andrew Marrah and Jeff Bartz. Team two is Mark Bruckman, Fred Petersen, Will Bendall and Jeff Gerding. Team three is Joe Petersen and Paul Dunn. Team four is Bob Kersjes, Chad Riley, Annie Carpenter, Matt Vondrasek, Joe Pakorny, Bob Hardenbough and Dennis Hrcka. There is also a number of family members who collect money and assist where needed. Also, it is not unusual for team members to help other teams as needed.

Thursdays continue to grow because it is a good night where families and friends can relax and enjoy of good meal in a friendly environment.

House Meeting

House meetings are held the third Monday of the month. There are 12 members on the House committee along with the Grand Knight. Meetings are held at 7:00pm

Monthly reports are reviewed as well as any maintenance, smaller inside of the building projects, and bar items.

The House Committee has mainly two fundraisers throughout the year, the Golf fundraiser and the Dueling Piano Fundraiser. The funds from the fundraisers pay for all building and grounds upkeep which consist of Taxes, insurance, licenses, trash removal, Consumer Energy Gas/Electric, lawn mowing, snow removal, any plumbing, electrical or HVAC issues,

Please keep an eye out for some more **AWESOME** updates to our hall!

Last year we removed the suspended ceiling, spray foamed the roof deck, painted the newly exposed ceiling and updated the lighting. The hall is way more energy efficient, heats and cools with less cost and the lighting is way better!

St Patrick's Day

Please stop in and join us for some St. Patty's Day Cheer on March 17th. The lounge opens at 3:00pm. Come on out, stop in and celebrate with us! Chad Riley and his crew will be serving corned beef and cabbage dinners from 5:00-8:00 pm on Tuesday March 17th ... **St Patricks Day**. Please keep an eye out for emails, Facebook updates or info in the Church bulletins!

Did You Know

We have many events at our building in the Flynn Room and Waldie Hall. Often there is prepared food left over us to distribute. The Salvation Army and Homeless Angels are always willing to serve this food. This long standing relationship helps them serve those in need and makes us aware of a community need that often gets overlooked.

American Red Cross Blood Drives

Our Council has been hosting blood drives for many years. Our state organization has designated the Red Cross as one of our statewide charities. For many years this association has been coordinated by Shelva Cebulski and her long-time friend June Macklin. The set up and staffing would typically include John Kuchar, Ray Scherer, and Jack Davis and other Knights they would ask to help. Fortunately, new people have stepped up help. Mia Thelen is our liaison with the Red Cross, Deb Bendall and Sheri Kirkconnell share the registration duties and Dan Koch helps with the refreshments or wherever he is needed. The guys from your House Committee take care of the set up.

Starting in January, the drives are every other month on the third Wednesday of the month. The next drive is March 18,2026. Ever since Covid scheduling is highly encouraged to be online at **www.redcrossblood.org** or **1-800-733-2767**. If you have never given or have in the past, please give it some thought. The need is great and you will be glad you did. If you cannot give but would like to help just let one of us know.

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree

The Patriotic Degree of the Knights (4th Degree) is committed to the preservation of our Church, our Order and to the many nations where Knights help their community. We serve as an example of Christ's presence in the world. At some point in our lives there comes a time when we realize that our Christian duty extends beyond our own lives. This is exemplified by how we lead our families and serve fellow man.

Our members participate in many activities during the year. We are very visible by attending Corporate Communion in Owosso, Durand, Laingsburg, Morrice and Ovid. Our honor guard stands at attention at the casket of deceased 4th Degree members. They also present the chalice ceremony for those deceased members. We march, in uniform, at parades in Owosso, Corunna, Durand, Perry and Ovid. We place flags at the cemetery for Memorial Day. We will be accepting donations for small flags to the public at Walmart May 22 and 23rd to emphasize our respect of the flag. We will be at the beginning of Advent we celebrate "Light Up for Christ" with a brief ceremony in Owosso. We also have a float that we use for special occasions such as The Curwood Festival.

We do assist during the year for burger nights as a way to get some income to support their activities.

If you are interested in learning more about the 4th Degree please call Bob Kerges at 989-445-0088.

Dueling Pianos

Dueling Pianos will be our 2nd largest fundraiser of the year! We will profit close to 8,500.00. We will sell close to 30 tables of 8 people plus! The entertainers are from Rochester Hills, MI and are awesome! We have had them for the last 5-6 years they play from approx 7:00 until 10:00 pm NONSTOP! And yes we save space for a dance floor...Who dances at a Dueling Pianos Party??? Everyone!!

Please consider supporting this event next year...you will not be disappointed!

Host Your Next Event with the Knights of Columbus

Make Your Occasion Unforgettable

The Knights of Columbus is proud to offer exceptional facilities ideal for any occasion – from intimate gatherings to large-scale celebrations.

Whether you're planning a wedding, fundraiser, corporate function, funeral or family event, our mission is to help you host a memorable and budget-friendly experience.

Our Event Spaces

The Flynn Room

Perfect for smaller gatherings, the Flynn Room comfortably accommodates 10 to 100 guests and includes tables and chairs for your convenience.

The Large Banquet Room

Designed for grand occasions, this elegant space can host up to 300 guests and features a stage, dance floor, and all necessary tables and chairs.

Both rooms offer optional professional bar service to complement your event.

Decorations

Elevate your event with our rental decorations and event essentials, including:

- Tulle and lighting around the room perimeter
- Elegant backdrops for the main and cake tables
- Linens and chair coverings
- China and silverware
- Chafing dishes

Pricing Overview

Funerals

Members: Free

Member's Family / Non-members:

Flynn Room – \$150

Banquet Hall – \$250

Fundraisers

Members: \$495

Non-members: \$595 (at our discretion)

Weddings & Large Events

Members: \$595

Non-members: \$745

Flynn Room (General Events)

Members: \$150

Member Sunday: \$225

Non-members: \$250

Bar Service

\$100 per bartender (up to 5 hours)

\$25 per additional hour per bartender

Security (Required for Hall Events)

\$100 per guard (up to 5 hours)

\$25 per additional hour

Catering

Starting at \$17.00 per person

Book a Tour or Get More Information

We'd be delighted to answer your questions or schedule a personal tour of our facilities so you can see firsthand how we can help make your next event a success.

Contact us today to start planning your special occasion!

Rachelle Bendall (989)413.4376

kofcbar@gmail.com



Waldie Hall Update

If you have not be in our hall recently you may have not noticed the updated lighting and ceiling, and now it's time to paint the walls! Denny Johnson and Rob Bendall have once again stepped up and volunteered to give our hall a fresh new look. Stop by and if you like what you see be sure to thank them.

Thanks

This newsletter is supported by over 20 businesses. Some of these sponsors have helped for years! We hope you will take a look at their advertisement and support them when it works for you. A big THANK YOU to these friends for helping to offset the cost of getting this newsletter to our members!

Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive

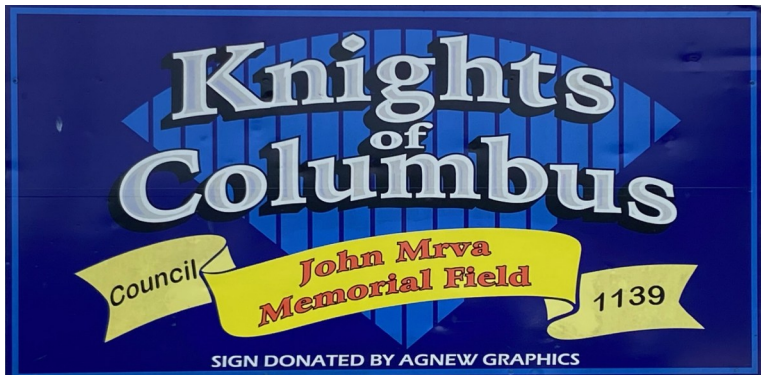
For many years the Knights have solicited donations for Tootsie Rolls to raise funds to assist the developmentally disabled in our area. This is a statewide activity conducted by the individual councils. Each council can decide, with the state organization's approval, what organization will benefit from those funds. For many years we have decided to support the ARC of Mid-Michigan, based in Owosso, and Special Olympics. In the 3-day Palm Sunday weekend, Mar. 27, 28 & 29 we will typically raise over \$7,000. This is sent to our state leadership with 80% returned to the ARC of Mid-Michigan and 20% to Special Olympics. As you can see 100% is returned to these worthy organizations. One of the changes this year will be the addition of Walmart to our collection sites. Dan Koch has spent countless hours in securing administrative approval. However... we can only be there on April 3 and 4, 2026. We will schedule abbreviated time slots at Walmart only on Good Friday and Saturday.

This is one of our major civic fundraisers, so it requires a lot of members contributing a few hours. In the past we would solicit donations in front of many of our local businesses in 2-hour shifts. That has been very successful until COVID. The need didn't change but our method had to. Fortunately, our membership stepped up through direct contributions to help meet the need. Like many things post COVID we are using a hybrid of both methods. This year Mike Crawford will be helping Gary Bendall with putting this project together. We will do our best to contact every member to participate so please consider how you can help when called.

There are many worthy causes with ever decreasing social services in our community. These two organizations serve a population with a voice that is seldom heard. In our own way, we are trying to make their voice heard. When you get a call this spring to help, please consider giving of your time or resources.

A Thought

We hope you are proud to be a member of the Owosso Knights of Columbus. We continue to have a membership of over 475 members. As we are trying to recognize activities and people who make these activities successful with our newsletters. We continue to strive to get more members to attend or assist with an activity of your choice. We don't believe everyone wants to be a member of a committee. We REALLY hope that more members would be willing to help a couple times a year. If you can't assist, maybe you could attend a couple activities during the year. Whatever your choice is, we hope you are proud to be a member of the Owosso Knights of Columbus.



Little League Ballfield Light

Council 1139's involvement with the Little League Ballfields began in the late 1970's. A group of Knights, led by John Mrva, got together with Consumers Power to install lights for the ballfields near Gould Street just North of the river. The Council has been donating the electrical usage since that time to the present day.

The largest of the fields was dedicated as Knights of Columbus Field in honor of John Mrva. In the late 2010's the signage for the fields were reconditioned and for unknown reasons John's name was left off. In 2021 this was brought to the Council's attention. In October of 2021 the sign was updated as seen in the photo.

So, as we begin this season of Lent, which is also the time of year that daylight becomes longer, of new growth and of spring weather, our thoughts turn to spring training and Little League players success. Play Ball!

The Lounge

Our lounge is a business for us. We invite members AND their guests to enjoy a drink, friends and food Tuesday through Friday, beginning at 3:00 each day. Tilli works both Tuesday and Fridays. Theresa works Wednesdays. Tammy works Thursdays. All three ladies make great drinks! Also, as in any business, we have costs associated with providing an excellent place to enjoy your time to relax. You may notice a slight increase in some prices to help offset our costs. We still believe our prices are fair, and usually lower than other local establishments. We hope you will stop in!

Columbian

The five members of this committee have a couple projects that they plan to complete now and in the summer. They have partnered with the House Committee to replace the front main door of the building. It is time to replace the original door. The second project that you should notice is the maintenance of the parking lot. It will be repaired where needed and re-stripped. They are looking at future items as well so that we do not have any serious problems.

Knights of Columbus - Men's Golf League

We are actively seeking two-man teams to join our growing league at **TWINN BROOK GOLF CLUB, in Chesaning, MI on Wednesday afternoon between 4pm and 5pm**

The course is 18-holes, we alternate nine each week. The course fees for 2026 have not published, however options including Senior rates, full membership and league membership are available. The course provides full-service drink cart, providing refreshments during play. Twinn Brook also has a driving range, chipping area and putting green to practice your skills. Powered golf carts are optional for additional fees and walking is welcome.

Leagues begin last week (Wednesday) in April and consist of two nine-week halves. Each half has eight handicapped stroke play matches and one position round. The position round will determine the winner of each half. At end of season, we have a two-week playoff to crown the league winner. This format changes to a two-week low net (includes established handicap) this determines the winner of the league.

Interested players must be Knights of Columbus members, or have applied to be members, and your membership must be in good standing.

Additional details available, have questions please contact contact **Jeff Wolf 989-277-7420 or Rick Zwolensky 989-721-7098.**

"GOLF CLUB"

Golf season is almost here so brush the dust off your clubs, get them out of the basement, and back into your car. We would like to extend an invitation to all KofC members that would like a relaxed golfing experience. This is not a league, as we don't keep handicaps or scores. We just enjoy the day. We have a tentative starting time of 9:00a.m. every Wednesday at Holiday Meadows beginning on May 6th through the end of August. Following golf most of us get together for lunch. For more information please contact: Chuck Hegg by text or call at 989-413-9660. Hope to see you there!

Nativity Scene

For many years we never really had a Christmas scene that reflected our belief in the "reason for the season". In 2017 we took the big step and dedicated a lot of resources in time and money to create a scene that reflects the true "Reason for the Season".

On Thanksgiving weekend, we usually pick the coldest, rainy day borrow Troy Crowe's trailer and head to John Bruckman's barn to load up the statues and stable. After an in-depth discussion regarding the proper orientation to M-21, always the same spot, five or six guys re construct the scene, minus the figurine of Jesus. On Christmas morning the figurine is placed in the manger. After Epiphany the same crew picks the worst weather and reverses the procedure. If you would like to observe or participate in this chaos watch you email for the invitation!

Hello Brother Knights,

As of the time of this writing, dues season is in full swing. For our honorary life members, you should have already or will shortly receive your cards. In addition, for the other two membership classifications you should have or will shortly receive your notices. As a reminder the council financial secretary only processes dues for the council, that's 1st, 2nd and 3rd degree. All dues for 4th degree have to go through the faithful comptroller of the assembly D.J. Herka. Lastly if you do not receive your notice by March 1st, please let me know by sending a letter to PO Box 366 Morrice MI 48857 or emailing me at fs1139@mikofc.org

Fraternally Yours
Don Andrews
FS 1139

**Council #1139
Assembly #0511**

March 2026
Mar 1 Chicken Dinner
Mar 3 Assembly Meeting following
Mar 4 Taco Night
Mar 5 Burger Night
Mar 6 Fish Fry
Mar 10 Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm
Mar 11 Taco Night
Mar 12 Burger Night
Mar 13 Fish Fry
Mar 16 House Meeting @ 7:00 pm
Mar 18 Taco Night
Mar 19 Red Cross Blood Drive
Mar 19 Burger Night
Mar 20 Fish Fry
Mar 25 Taco Night
Mar 26 Burger Night
Mar 27 Fish Fry
Mar 27-29 Tootsie Roll Drive
Mar 29 Palm Sunday
Mar 29 Chicken Dinner
Mar 29 Chicken Dinner

April 2026
Apr 1 Taco Night
Apr 2 Burger Night
Apr 3 Good Friday Fish Fry
Apr 7 Assembly Meeting @ 7:00 pm
Apr 8 Taco Night
Apr 9 Burger Night
Apr 14 Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm
Apr 15 Taco Night
Apr 16 Burger Night
Apr 18 St Paul Auction
Apr 20 House Meeting @ 7:00 pm
Apr 22 Taco Night
Apr 23 Burger Night
Apr 29 Taco Night
Apr 30 Burger Night

May 2026
May 3 Chicken Dinner
May 5 Assembly Meeting @ 7:00 pm
May 6 Taco Night
May 7 Burger Night
May 12 Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm
May 13 Taco Night
May 14 Burger Night
May 18 House Meeting @ 7:00 pm
May 20 Taco Night
May 21 Burger Night

We need your help. In an effort to maintain current member information we are asking that if your address, phone or email has changed to please let us know. Call (989) 725-8348 or email gk1139@mikofc.org

Knights of Columbus
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