

Volume 1
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Knight News

Father John Cosmic Council #291



CHARITY - UNITY - FRATERNITY - PATRIOTISM

JANUARY RECAP

DINNER RECAP: BAKED ZITI AND MEATBALLS

January was pasta night and marked the first dinner of 2026. Kenny Paragon treated the Knights to an excellent baked ziti and giant meatball dinner. The main meal was complemented by antipasto salad (provided by Jim), fresh bread, and sweet treats. A new dessert was also introduced that was unfamiliar to many, Salvadorian *arroz con leche* (rice with milk), a Latin dish similar to rice pudding. The dessert sparked plenty of good-natured jokes as members tried to guess its main ingredients. Filled with laughter, conversation, and full plates, the night served as a reminder of the importance of fellowship within the council, making it a well-enjoyed start to 2026.



MONTHLY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Every month, the council and the Ave Maria Circle host a pancake breakfast to benefit Augustinian Academy. Nothing says breakfast like fresh eggs with sausage and pancakes, or French toast served with a side of coffee or juice. These breakfasts are more than just a meal, they are a chance for our parish community to come together in fellowship while directly supporting the students of Augustinian Academy. Thank you to all that help support this event. During this month's pancake breakfast, it was also announced that the winner for the Keep Christ in Christmas raffle was Charley Westerhold and the winner of the Keep Christ in Christmas banner was Kenny Paragon. CONGRATS!

WELCOME TO COUNCIL #291!

The council held an exemplification ceremony on January 18th for many men joining the KofC. Our council had the honor of receiving 5 new members:

Eric Dickson (Left), Joseph Deveines, Brodie Wojcikowski (Center), Phillip McHatton, Scott Soules Jr. (Right)

Welcome men! The Snowbusters (Joe, Todd, Steve, and Darwin) were honored at this exemplification. GK Tom thanked the snowbusters for their "selfless dedication to the parish and the staff and students of Augustinian Academy". Afterwards, Kenny and Bucky treated everyone to an amazing BBQ styled feast. Thank you to everyone involved with welcoming these new men.



CAA WINTER GALA: A NIGHT ON THE RED CARPET

The Augustinian Academy held its annual Winter Gala on January 31st. The evening was filled with great conversation, food, music, and plenty of laughter. Some of my favorite moments included watching Jacob Buskey shadowbox Father Todd and seeing our newest member, Scott Soules Jr., walk around in a dinosaur costume that may have been just a little too small for him. Thank you to all the Knights who helped support this event, which greatly benefits our academy!

Officers**Grand Knight***Tom Wojcikowski***Deputy Grand Knight***Ray Bodle**(315) 405-2909***Chaplain***Fr. Todd Thibault***Chancellor***Deacon Richard Staab***Financial Secretary***Jim Gratch***Treasurer***Steve Szalach***Advocate***Jim Cassoni III***Recorder***Mike Sligar***Warden***Kenny Paragon***Inside Guard***John Jones***Outside Guard***Robert LaPlatney***Lecturer***Darren Bracy***Trustees****First***Todd Norrgard***Second***Garry Stevens***Third***Joe Margray*

Have a top and want
the KofC logo added?
Contact DGK Ray
Bodle for details.

Check out our
[facebook](#) page and
[homepage](#)!

Knightly Giggles

What do you call a
knight who's great at
math?

Sir Cumference!

FEBRUARY UPDATES



A Note from the Grand Knight

Tom Wojcikowski

Brothers, as we continue to move forward into 2026 we are quickly moving into Lent with Ash Wednesday being February 18th. During this Lenten season, take the time to reflect on how we can be better Catholic Gentleman, husbands, fathers, sons, and members of our Community. As Knights, as well as members of other organizations, we can sometimes neglect other duties. This is a time for us to slow down and remember who we are and that Jesus died for our sins. I am excited to welcome our five new members to our Council. I see great things happening in the future. I also would like to take the time to thank Todd, Joe, Darwin, and Steve for their dedication to snow removal. In my opinion, the Snow Busters are a perfect example of who the Knights of Columbus are. They gave selflessly of their own time to make sure our CAA teachers and students, as well as our parishioners could make it this winter. I look forward to seeing you all at our events, meetings, dinners, and in the back of the Church before Mass. It's great work that we do.

Vivat Jesus
Tom

Behind the Armor

Tom Wojcikowski

Nearly nine years ago, our featured Knight joined the Knights of Columbus after encouragement from his wife, Michelle, and a call to Joe Margray. That single call led to years of service, and today he is in his second year as Grand Knight after serving as Deputy Grand Knight and being installed in fall 2024.

He and Michelle have been married for 25 years and are proud parents and grandparents, known lovingly as “Boss” and “O G Ma” to their three grandchildren (Whitaker, Maggie, and Opal). When he's not at a Council event, he works at Fort Drum as a Family Advocacy Program Specialist, teaches karate (continuing to study the martial arts after 16 years) as a black belt instructor, and enjoys cooking on one of his many grills or smokers (8 or 9 🤪) because, as he'll tell you, you can never have too many.



One of the things he's most proud of is helping start fellowship meals before meetings with Past Grand Knight Deacon Gary Stevens. He's also excited to see younger men joining the Council and especially proud that his son, Brodie, became a Knight this January. It can be tough balancing duties to the council with his other responsibilities. Tom relies on calendars, notes, and the steady support of fellow Knights like Jim Gratch. Jim is a great asset to him as he keeps him on track of what needs to be done and informs him on things for the Council. He values strong communication and makes it a priority to keep everyone connected through weekly Flocknote updates.

Fun fact: Tom once got lost at a Syracuse football game in the Carrier Dome at age seven, a game Syracuse won over number-one Nebraska in front of 50,000 fans. He was eventually found by his brother.

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 31st and Feb. 1st, after mass, *Pennies Collection*, St. James Church
- Feb. 5th, 6:00 PM- 7:00 PM, *Dinner*, St. James Community Room
- Feb. 5th, 7:00 PM- 8:00 PM, *Meeting*, St. James Community Room
- Feb. 6th, *First Friday*
- Feb. 7th, after 7:00 AM Communion Service, *Men of Faith*, St. James Church
- Feb. 8th, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM, *Pancake Breakfast*, St. James Community Room
- Feb. 14th, *Valentine's Day*
- Feb. 16th, *Presidents' Day*
- Feb. 18th, *Ash Wednesday*
- Feb. 18th, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM , *Fish Fry with Elks Club*
- Feb. 21st, 8:30 AM, *Men's Rosary*, St. James Church
- Feb. 26th, 5:00 PM start, *BINGO*, Carthage Elks Lodge — **HELP WANTED**
- March 15th, *Chicken and Biscuit Dinner*



From the Knights' Kitchen



Recipe of the Month, *Arroz con leche* (Rice with milk)

Provided by, *Darwin Castillo*

Ingredients

- 2 ½ cups of water
- 1 cup long grain white rice
- 2 cups of milk of choice (I use whole milk)
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 14 oz. cans sweetened condensed milk
- 12 oz. evaporated milk
- ¼ tsp salt
- (Optional) Sugar

Directions

1. Add water, rice, 1 cinnamon stick, and salt into a pot. Cover the pot and bring to a boil, then reduce the heat and let it simmer, covered, for 15 minutes.
2. Add the milk, sweetened condensed milk, evaporated milk, and the other cinnamon stick into the pot. Stir and cover again and cook on a low heat for another 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.
 - a. Keep stirring so that the milk does not burn on the bottom of the pot.
3. Remove the lid and cook for another 10-15 minutes until the desired consistency is reached (I like it a little thick). Continue stirring so that the milk does not burn.
4. Let the rice cool for 15 minutes. Serve warm or refrigerated.
5. Add sugar in increments of ¼ cup until desired sweetness is achieved.



GALLERY



