

Amador Knights

February 2026

Volume 61

Division 2

District 8

IN SERVICE TO ONE, IN SERVICE TO ALL

Because 'Life Is a Gift'

Knights of Columbus march to defend the inherent dignity of every human person alongside tens of thousands in Washington

Every year, The Catholic University of America Council 9542 leads their university community in the March for Life. Together, the Knights carry the school's giant banner reading "Celebrate LIFE."

"It looks like Knights leading a charge," said Justin Caulfield, grand knight of Council 9542. "And ultimately, we know that this charge will win."

On Jan. 23, Council 9542 joined tens of thousands of pro-life advocates from across the country for the 53rd annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. The march, which identifies itself as "the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world," began in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, which legalized abortion nationwide.

Today, the march seeks to change laws and culture until abortion becomes not just illegal, but unthinkable. The 2026 march — the fourth held since the court overturned *Roe* in 2022 — emphasized the inherent dignity of every human person beginning at conception, with the theme "Life is a Gift."

Speakers addressed a vibrant, largely youthful crowd bundled up for the winter weather in brightly colored hats and coats. Handmade and printed signs — including the Knights' "Love Life, Choose Life" signs — filled the crowd as smiling marchers waved them.

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Minutes of the January Business

Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM on January 13 by Grand Knight Waverly. Guest DD Morris was present at the meeting. The Chancellor, Inside Guard and Trustee one year were excused. Roll call followed our Spiritual Advisor leading us in prayer. The Warden led the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes from December were approved as written.

Membership Report

Several candidates were interviewed tonight, Steve Bell, Alex Figueroa and Michael Moran. It was M/S/A to accept these men into the council. An exemplification is scheduled for January 20 after the 6PM Mass.

Grand Knight Report

The cook was thanked for the dinner.

Chaplain's Report –

Fr. Ryan reported there is early planning for a 24-hour adoration at St Patrick's on St. Patrick's Day along with mass and a meal afterwards.

Treasurer Report

Checking account balance - \$7,421.41

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January Meeting Minutes**Continued from page 1:****Financial Secretary Report****Income –**

Dinner - \$85

Dues – \$80 cash plus square payments to be reported

Bills –

Brother Ragusano - \$361.61 annual fee for Web hosting and exemplification supplies

Hospitality Sunday - \$141.73 Brother Simpson

Communications

Amador Pregnancy and Family Resource Center sent a thank you note for the donation provided on Giving Tuesday.

Programs Director Report

Donut Sunday is hosted by the council on the first Sunday of each month after the 10:00 AM Mass. Volunteers are needed to coordinate, help set up, serve and clean up. The recitation of the rosary is scheduled for the Tuesday before the first Wednesday of each month at 5:15. An update was provided and YLI is the next host. The Fish Fry is scheduled for February 7. Tickets will be for sale after all masses and dedicated support is needed at the tables. Raffle items and help is needed for set up, clean up and kitchen help. It is time to think about becoming an officer for the next Columbian year. If interested speak to the Grand Knight or a Trustee. There was a recap of the Advent celebration.

Unfinished Business

Safe environment, life scan completion is in progress. The Walk For Life is on January 24. A bus was chartered and will transport parishioners from SKD to San Francisco and back.

New Business

Help is needed moving a washer and dryer in lone. Two Brothers volunteered to help. Thank you Brothers. Help is needed Saturday January 17 to

breakdown tables at SKD. Several brothers volunteered. Thank you brothers.

Advocate Report

No report

Chancellor Report

No report

Insurance Agent Report

No report

Vocations Report

No report

Fourth Degree Assembly

Meetings are in Placerville on the fourth Thursday of each month, and attendance is growing at meetings. A Fourth Degree Exemplification is scheduled in Elk Grove on January 31. The Christmas party was a success.

District Deputy Report

DD Morris gave a brief report including. There was a training meeting in Visalia last week. The Audit and other forms need to be turned into Supreme.

Good of the Order

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Al Shindler and Mathew John Blanch. Pray also for Mia Martinelli, Benjamin Pulido and family, Deacon Jaime, John Edwards, and Fr. Arlon.

Lecturer Report

There was a presentation on St. Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers. January 13 is the feast day.

Chaplain's Summation

The meeting was closed in prayer.

GK Waverly closed the meeting at 7:50.

Respectfully submitted by David Sanders

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“The fight to end abortion is serious business,” Jennie Bradley Lichter, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, told participants at a pre-march rally on the National Mall. “But we go about that business with peace, confidence and the overflowing joy that’s on display here today, because all of this is rooted in our deep conviction that life is a gift.”

Marchers cheered as Lichter and other speakers marked 2026 as the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes a right to life. They cheered again when Lichter read a [special message](#) from a former marcher — Pope Leo XIV.

“I send warm greetings to those of you participating in the 2026 March for Life,” the Holy Father said in his message. “I likewise express heartfelt appreciation and assure you of my spiritual closeness as you gather for this eloquent public witness. By advocating for the unborn, please know that you are fulfilling the Lord’s command to serve him in the least of our brothers and sisters (cf. Mt 25:31-46).”

In addition to Lichter, speakers included Debbie Biskey, CEO of Options for Her; Sarah Hurm, a mother who sought abortion pill reversal and later gave birth to her son; Elizabeth Pillsbury Oliver, president of Georgetown University Right to Life; and Cissie Graham Lynch, senior adviser and spokesperson for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan’s Purse.

Following a video message from President Donald J. Trump, several elected officials addressed the crowd, including Vice President JD Vance, House Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana and Rep. Chris Smith of New Jersey, co-chair of the congressional Pro-Life

Caucus.

The Order has been involved since the earliest years of the march, volunteering and sponsoring the event for more than five decades. Each year, Virginia Knights serve as marshals, helping lead the procession and guiding participants along the route.

“[The Knights] are the reason the march has been able to endure for so many years,” Lichter said. “We’re very grateful.”

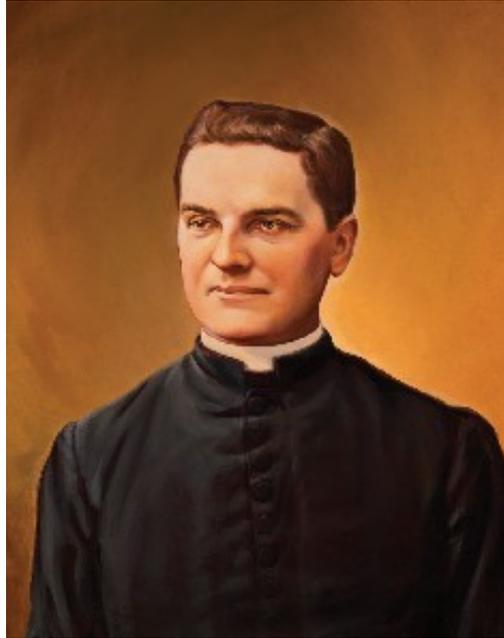
The Order also serves as a platinum sponsor of the national march, in addition to supporting the March for Life’s expanding state march program.

“The legacy of Blessed Michael McGivney continues to guide the Knights of Columbus’ pro-life mission,” Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly said in an interview. “We are being true to our founder’s original vision — and that vision was to help families in a particular way, to help vulnerable women and vulnerable children.”

Among the hundreds of Knights participating were members of the board of directors, led by Supreme Knight Kelly and Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore.

“The March for Life is an extremely important event for our country and indeed for our world,” Archbishop Lori said.

The Knights of Columbus recently commissioned [a new national survey](#) of 1,408 adults, conducted by the Marist Poll Jan. 12-13 and released the day before the march.



Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney Founder of the Knights of Columbus God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Officers of Council 1849

Grand Knight Matt Waverly

Spiritual Advisor Deacon Jaime Garcia

Deputy G.K. Phill Gonzalez

Chancellor Steve DeBenedet

Warden Jacob Schmidt

Treasurer Bob Strazzo

Recorder Dave Sanders

Advocate Mark Koenig

Inside Guard George Hoover

Outside Guard Brian Bulger

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Two Year Jack Magee

One Year Stephen Frias

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Field Agent Art Aguilar

All Council Officers can be reached by email. Use the first letter of their first name, the entire last name, followed by: @kofc-1849.org

Sample: mkoenig@kofc-1849.org

February Calendar of Events

Sunday, February 1: Knights Donut Sunday at SKD after the 10 AM Mass.

Tuesday, February 3: Rosary on KVGC Radio at SKD at 5:30 PM.

Wednesday, February 4: Planning Meeting at St. Patrick's Hall at 6:00PM.

Saturday, February 7: Fish Fry Dinner at SKD after the Vigil Mass at 6:00 PM.

Tuesday, February 10: Business Meeting at Saint Katharine Drexel at 7:00 PM. Dinner at 6:00 PM.

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