



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

**Portland Council #2168**

690 Maynard Road  
Portland, MI 48875

*gk2168@mikofc.org*

*Grand Knight SK Brian Brown*

*517-526-1674*

<b>Chaplain</b>	SK Fr. Michael Alber	<b>Grand Knight</b>	SK Doug Smith
<b>Deputy Grand Knight</b>	SK Dan Arwood	<b>Chancellor</b>	SK Rich Schneider
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	SK Rex Waltersdorf	<b>Treasurer</b>	SK Dan Lawless
<b>Recorder</b>	SK William Vallier	<b>Advocate</b>	SK Gary Fedewa
<b>Warden</b>	SK Dan Arwood	<b>Lecturer</b>	SK Donald Gunderman
<b>Inside Guard</b>	SK John Hengesbach	<b>Outside Guard</b>	SK Dan Schafer
<b>Trustees</b>	SK Jacob Lowe	SK Robert Pline	SK Bob Fox

## **July, August, September - Grand Knight's Report**

**Proverbs 27:17**

**Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.**

Brother Knights,

It is my pleasure to create this Grand Knight's report in conjunction with the new Grand Knight of the Portland Council, Doug Smith. Please take a few short minutes to get to know him with his introduction below. As I reflect on my time as Grand Knight, I'm reminded of iron sharpening iron and how it has been a blessing to work with so many of you on a variety of different initiatives. You have helped me to grow in several areas with the most profound being in service to others. Special thanks go out to Jacob Lowe, Bill Vallier, Gary Fedewa, Rex Waltersdorf, and many other brother Knights. God bless you all! Viva Jesus!

My fellow Brother Knights,

My name is Doug Smith and I want to take a moment to introduce myself as I prepare to become Grand Knight for Portland Council 2168. I have been an active member of St. Patrick Parish for 30 years. My wife, Brenda, has been a parishioner her entire life and graduated from St. Patrick School. We have four adult children: Nikki (Brian) Brown, Kelsey (Brandon) Rockey, Riley Smith, and Graham (Kenzie) Smith all of whom graduated from St. Patrick School. We also have five grandchildren, four who are students at St. Patrick School. I am an engineer at Spartan Motors in Charlotte, and Brenda is retired from the State of Michigan.

Having been a Knight for many years, I know first-hand the dedication and commitment it takes to positively impact those we serve in a Christ-centered way. The fruits of our labor allow us to keep the light shining bright for many in times of need -- whether it be on a personal or a community level -- and we desire to continue to be supportive and compassionate brothers of Christ. The numerous events our Council sponsors require many volunteers -- none of which are time intensive. So, I ask that you prayerfully consider volunteering your time and talent when the call to action is put forth.

To our **young** Brother Knights, we need you! Your energy and enthusiasm are key to future generations to come. I promise you won't regret the opportunity to serve others. Your "Yes!" is the foundation of our faith and what better way to demonstrate that faith than by getting involved in various Council activities. You'll find these events not only enjoyable but also rewarding on so many levels. I encourage you to contact me to talk about the opportunities available or you can find a list of upcoming events in this newsletter.

*(continued on page 2)*

Finally, our Council is always looking for additional ways in which we can serve those in need. Please keep me informed of any opportunities you believe would be fitting for our organization, particularly those that support our community through the three pillars of the Knights of Columbus: charity, unity, and fraternity.

I look forward to working with each of you in the upcoming year.

Vivat Jesus!

Doug Smith, Grand Knight  
Portland Council 2168  
517-896-5718

### **Knights in the Community**

- Mother's Day Breakfast
- Spring Garage Sale
- Past Grand Knight's Banquet
  - *Family of the Year, Terry and Carmen Austen and family with the State Secretary of the Michigan Knights of Columbus, Barry Borsenik.*
- New Knights Joining our Council



## Message from Our Insurance Agent

### Fulfilling Fr. McGivney's Mission

Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus 142 years ago with two purposes in mind: To strengthen men in their faith and to provide for the widow and orphan if the breadwinner died or could not work. Our Order continues his mission today. That two-pronged approach to the young Catholic men of New Haven, Connecticut was important then and even though much has changed in our society since 1882, I believe that approach is important now. I am honored and blessed to be a part of continuing that mission.

While we work together to strengthen our brother Knights in their faith, I am able to work to secure the future for those who are left behind. For those who know me and the indispensable work I do for our members, you already have a good idea of how I do that work. But I'd like to take a minute to explain my approach.

My approach is to help members solve problems. The most important thing I can do for you is listen: listen to what you want to accomplish, listen to what keeps you up at night, listen to the plans you have for you and your family's future. And the first step is to take stock of where a family is at the present...a snapshot of this time in your life. The Order has equipped me with a financial needs analysis platform to help you take that snapshot. We plug in the numbers and it does the calculations, taking any bias out of the process.

If your analysis shows there are gaps, we can discuss how to fill those gaps. We have a wide range of life insurance products that can be tailored to your needs if that is where the gap is. We have fixed rate annuities that are designed for retirement savings. Long-term care insurance and disability income insurance can provide peace of mind for the unexpected that life throws at us. Stepping back and taking stock is not a difficult process and I try to make it as easy as possible. I can meet with you face to face or if you prefer, we can meet virtually. My goal is to fulfill Fr. McGivney's mission of taking care of every member and his family in this council. But I want to further his legacy and offer membership to every man eligible in the parish. His goal was to protect Catholic families...that's my goal, too.

Vivat Jesus! Michael Thelen, FICF, LUTCF

Member of MDRT & NAFIC (989) 593-2200, [michael.thelen@kofc.org](mailto:michael.thelen@kofc.org)



*Permanent and Term Life, Disability Insurance, Dualife,  
Mortgage and Long Term Care Insurance, IRA's, Roth IRA's,  
Annuities, Estate Planning, Fraternal Benefits*

## Honors

When you see these men and families, thank them  
for their service to their families, church, council, and community.

### **2025**

**April**

**May**

**June**

### **Knight of the Month**

Andy Pulling

Chase Fitzsimmons

Sean Eddy

### **Family of the Month**

Greg & Kim Schrauben

Ken & Karen Schneider

Mike & Ann Kissane

Please pray for these Knights and their families:



*Strengthen them with Your love and Your grace.  
Console them with Your blessed Presence.  
Grant them the courage to persevere.*



Dick Manning  
Marie Shafer  
Noah Montpetit  
Dorothy Keusch  
John Russman  
Harry Klein  
Diane Beachnau

Father Mike Alber  
Gary Hodge  
Dick Brown  
Jeff Davlin  
Don Pohl  
Dale Cook

The Alber Family  
Tom Keusch Jr.  
Ronald Elston  
Mike Keusch  
Mandy Borsenik  
Dale Kramer

Jude Kramer  
Peyton Russman  
Randy Hodge  
Paul Jandernoa  
Jan Scheurer  
Romaine Lay

### **Building Corporation News**

The Annual Building Corp 50/50 Raffle was held in April and had a net profit of \$875. The raffle winners included Roy Schneider \$437.50, Tony Kolarik \$175, Jim Spohn \$87.50, Rocky Beckhold \$87.50, and Bob Fox \$87.50. Thanks to those who purchased your tickets. A big thank you to all who donated items to our spring garage sale as well as the volunteers and their wives who help make this fundraiser a fun and enjoyable event. The profit was \$5,098. The Fall Garage Sale is scheduled for October 1-3.

### **4th Degree News**

Welcome Bill Durnwald, Dan Lawless and Brian Lenneman as the newest members of our Council who joined the 4th Degree this past spring. Are you ready to complete your journey towards full Knighthood? The Fall exemplification will be held in October, the date and location TBD. Give Gary Fedewa (517-927-0798) or Bill Vallier (517-526-2956) a call for more information.

### **Funeral Honor Guard**

At the funeral of a Brother Knight, all Knights are asked to stand in solidarity as a group to honor our fallen Brother. Please consider joining us in the back of the church prior to the funeral.

## Building Corporation Raffle

We really appreciate the help of all the sellers and buyers. The funds raised from this raffle help to support the upkeep of the hall. Contact Gary Fedewa if you have any questions.

### 2025

**April**

**May**

**June**

### \$100

Jack Gillis

Colleen Gladding

Don Schneider

### \$75

Kevin Schrauben

Jerry Brown

Kevin Schrauben

### \$50

Ray Fedewa

Don Schneider

Mike & Ed Theis



## Upcoming Events

*Save this page for future reference*

Any changes to the events below will be announced in the St. Patrick Parish bulletin, time permitting.

### **Portland Council #2168**

*Grand Knight*

*SK Brian Brown*

*gk2168@mikofc.org*

*517-526-1674*

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

We spread our faith through our deep love for our Lord and that all begins and ends with a beautiful relationship with Him. Please consider finding time to spend adoring our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration.

- **Mondays** in the chapel: (across the street from the church): 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- **Tuesdays** in the church: 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm (ending just before Mass begins)
- **Wednesdays** in the chapel: 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- **Fridays** in the chapel: 9:00 am – 8:00 pm

### July 2025

Monday	7/7	Business Meeting ( <i>Rosary 30 minutes prior</i> )	7:00 PM
Friday	7/18	Blood Drive	8:00 AM-2:00 PM
Monday	7/21	Social Meeting	6:00 PM

### August 2025

Monday	8/4	Business Meeting ( <i>Rosary 30 minutes prior</i> )	7:00 PM
Tuesday	8/12	Blood Drive	11:30 AM-5:30PM
Monday	8/18	Social Meeting	6:00 PM

### September 2025

Monday	9/8	Business Meeting ( <i>to avoid Labor Day</i> ) ( <i>Rosary 30 minutes prior</i> )	7:00 PM
Monday	9/15	Social Meeting	6:00 PM
Monday	9/22	Newsletter Stuffing	6:00 PM

Knights Hall, 690 Maynard Road, Portland			District #301	
Hall Rental	Jude Kramer	517-647-2274	District Deputy	SK Ronald Carlotti
Building Corporation	Gary Fedewa	517-927-0798	Lake Odessa Council #14404	SK Joseph Hickey
			Pewamo Council #8071	GK Ron Simon
State Council of Michigan MIKofC.org			Portland Council #2168	SK Brian Brown
Worthy State Deputy	Barry Borsenik		Saranac Council #11113	GK Mike Lamphere