



K N I G H T S

OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Medina Knights of Columbus #4168

December 9, 2025

Grand Knight: Rick Dudas - **present**

Deputy Grand Knight: Kevin Lynch - **present**

Financial Secretary - Steve Durbin - **present**

Chancellor: Dan Cathcart - **present**

Recorder: Jon Cwalina - **excused**

Treasurer: Mark Shee - **present**

Warden Barry Norris - **absent**

Advocate: Matt Lower - **present**

Inside Guard: Dave Swancer - **present**

Outside Guard: Michael Conley - **present**

1 Year Trustee: Andy Swancer - **absent**

2 Year Trustee: Tom Maren - **present**

3 Year Trustee: Brian Coughlin - **excused**

Spiritual Director: Bob Cavanaugh - **absent**

Lecturer: Brian Lombardi - **excused**

Call to order:

1. Knights in attendance: Dan Cathcart, Vincent Arndt, Mike Conley, Tim Leahy, Dave Swancer, Kevin Lynch, Matt Lower, Steve Durbin, Mark Shee, Gregg Finkler, Tom Maren, Brian Cerio, Rick Dudas, and Special Guest Jonathan Otto.
2. Meeting officially began at 7:07 p.m. All in attendance recited The Lord's Prayer (Our Father) and the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. A motion to approve last month's Meeting Minutes by Tom Maren, Second by Kevin Lynch. Motion Approved.

Chaplain's Message: No Report.

Grand Knight's Report:

1. Raffle tickets for our Super Bowl Monday Raffle (GRAND Prize \$3,000.00 Ticket Cost \$20.00 Each - Based on Ohio Lottery Pick-3) February 9, 2026 are Available Right Now. Please Take as Many tickets as you can Sell or Buy. A Sign up Sheet can be found with the tickets. Make sure you enter your name and the ticket numbers you are taking. Let's make this a successful 2 months selling raffle tickets, which will fund the charitable donations from the Medina Knights of Columbus Council 4168 for 2026.
2. Our Knights of Columbus Council built the Creche out in front of St. Francis Xavier Church on Saturday morning. Special Thanks go out to Matt Lower for providing directions and the trailer to haul the Nativity Scene statues and shelter to the front of the church from the Randel House Garage. I'd also like to thank Brian Lombardi, Steve Durbin, Vincent Arndt, David Cathcart, Mike Nemec, and RCIA / possible Knight Candidate Ben Wagner who were able to help build the Christmas display. Our hands were cold, but the work was completed in about 2 hours
3. Rich Amiot from the St. Francis Xavier Stewardship Committee was inquiring to different Ministries like the Knights of Columbus. They wanted to update their description of Council 4168, Here is what they had:
 - A. Knights of Columbus - Founded by Father Michael McGivney in 1882, the Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization that helps the Church and local community through charitable support of the parish CYO program, Camp Paradise and pro-life events. The Knights are family-focused and help spread Catholic values in all their endeavors. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, at 7 p.m., at the Knights Hall, 131 N. East St., Medina. Contact: Tom Maren: 440-289-0454, marent@zoominternet.net
 - B. Knights of Columbus Council 4168 - Founded by Father Michael McGivney in 1882, the Knights of Columbus is a 2.1 million member worldwide fraternal organization that helps the Church and local community through many charitable causes. Our local council supports local organizations such as Oasis of Hope, Birthcare Medina, The Society, Integrated Community Solutions, Medina County Special Olympics, Food Pantries, and St. Francis Xavier just to name a few. Our Knights Council members are family and community focused while spreading our Catholic values throughout the Medina Community. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, at 7 p.m., in the St. Francis Xavier Church Basement Cafeteria. Contact: MedinaKofC.Org/contact-4168/ -- We are always looking for Practicing Catholic Men to become new members and get involved.
4. I heard from Beth Morrison, who with Dawn Cavanaugh, coordinates Life Teen and Confirmation Meals for the Teens at St. Francis Xavier. They want us to prepare (or get a caterer) and serve the meals to serve food to their Confirmation Group. These are the dates they have in mind: January 4th, February 1st, and/or March 1st. I still have some questions

that went unanswered, but if we do this, we will need at least a dozen Knights to pull it off. In my mind, we might have to get it catered and then we would just have to serve the food. I do not know the actual number of participants. I think Brian Lombardi knows more details about this dinner, but he was unable to attend the meeting tonight. Any Thoughts? We decided we would volunteer as a Group on Sunday February 1, 2026. Do you think we could get about a dozen volunteers to help? Do you think we should get this catered once we know how many people will be eating? Discussion? The topic was brought up about Pizza for 76 to 80 people. Everyone agreed upon this choice of food, because it would be easier on the Knights, no preparation, and an easy cleanup. We will talk more about this in the January Meeting. Motion by Dan Cathcart, Second by Tom Maren, Motion Approved.

5. We received a thank you letter from Anna Guy-Leach of the Children's Center of Medina County in response to our gift (WGK read the letter).
6. Last month, we gave \$500.00 each to local Seminarians Quinn McNeill and Gabriel Kasper. The money was sent to the Center for Pastoral Leadership (St. Mary / Borromeo Seminary) in Wickliffe, OH. I received a thank you letter from Father Andrew Turner - President and Rector of the Seminary. (WGK read the letter).
7. We tabled the discussion about the Ohio State Council's "Support Our Seminarians" Campaign, when we donated to the 2 Seminarians. Way back in April we decided we were going to donate \$300.00 to the SOS Campaign. Discussion: we still have time, so discussion is tabled once again (deadline for first turn-in - March, 2026).
8. Do we want to have a discussion about Father Tony and the announcement of building a new church for St. Francis Xavier and the involvement of Council 4168 monetarily? Notes from Jim Maslach - Ohio State Council State Secretary reported (*There are a number of capital improvement projects being implemented throughout the diocese. In most cases, the Knights are either running fundraisers to help contribute to the campaigns. For example, at Brunswick, we donated \$100,000 back for the modifications to the Lehner Center that led to the creation of the McGivney Room. We then turned around and had another \$10,000 donation over a 5-year period, to help with modifications to the rectory and Parish Life Center. St. Stanislaus is under a major renovation to the roof that is in the \$3 million range. They have submitted to the Ohio Charity Foundation a grant request for assistance based on the historical status of the church. I am sure there are other examples throughout the state of similar situations. My recommendation would be to see what is the project is, what the Knights can do to assist whether financially (because I am sure if it is a capital campaign, they will be asked as parishioners), and if so, do they donate proceeds from a fundraiser(s) to help the cause.*) Discussion? The discussion within the Membership was it is very early in the Campaign to raise funds for the New Church at St. Francis Xavier. The last comment: "Father Tony will find us".
9. As a note: the Website is being viewed. Over the last few weeks, I have been contacted twice about renting the Hall - one for a Baby Shower and another for the Medina County Share

Coalition, which strives to protect youths from predators and themselves. They wanted it for a meeting. I told them both we no longer owned a hall.

Financial Report:

Treasurer's Report:

| <u>Charity</u> | <u>General</u> | <u>Gimme5</u> | <u>Troop 506</u> | <u>Clambake</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| \$19,712.89 | \$7,812.33 | \$1,459.81 | \$2,000.00 | \$607.28. | \$31,592.05 |

Financial Secretary Report:

Present any bills not previously approved for payment. Motion Raised by Tom Maren, Second by Dan Cathcart, All Approved and Motion Passed.

Membership report: (From Brian Lombardi): WGK mentioned prior to the Membership report, we need to push Brother Brian Coughlin to view the Online Exemplification with Son Keegan (State officials were involved, so Keegan does not need to attend in person). Our Membership Director Brian Lombardi was unable to attend, tonight. But, Brian is not invisible to us tonight. First of all, Brian has produced a 5 1/2 minute YouTube video on why parishioners of St. Francis Xavier, OLHC, and Holy Martyrs should join our Fraternity of Catholic Men. The video can be watched on YouTube. I sent out an email last week with a link. You can also find the video on the St. Francis Xavier YouTube channel and on our web page MedinaKofC.Org under Council News (Join Council 4168 - Medina OH - Video Attached). Brian receive accolades from our District Deputy Tom Donovan and our Ohio State Council State Secretary Jim Maslach, where they commended Brian's Effort. Great Job Brian. Speaking of Membership, we have a new candidate in our midst tonight. His name is Jonathan Otto. Jon can you stand, introduce yourself, tell us a little about yourself and why you would like to become a Knight of Columbus? *Jonathan Otto introduced himself and described himself as a "Lukewarm Catholic", though he has done Men's Renewal, Exodus90, and readings at Masses.* Brother Knights, how do you feel about welcoming Jonathan into our Fraternal Organization? Discussion? Everyone agreed, Jon Otto will be a Great addition to our Council. Our Membership Director and Deputy Grand Knight have suggested that we have a short meeting in January and have an Exemplification of Unity, Fraternity, and Charity for Jonathan - all agreed.

Chancellor's Report (from Dan Cathcart):

- Blessed Advent to all brothers and their families. Please keep all on our Prayer list in your daily petitions if at all possible.
- Grateful for the brothers that put the Creche up this past Saturday!
- As we head into the last month of the year with prayer, fasting and almsgiving being our Advent call, I hope you will consider the Tony Imburgia Scholarship Fund in your yearend gifting as we did not have the Hold'em Tourney this year due to the amount of

work and lack of return on investment. Gifts can be made to the Medina Knights Imburgia Fund at 1114 N Court St PMB209 Attn.: Dan Cathcart.

- As well, please consider a gift to support the Angel Scholarship Fund <https://www.catholiccommunity.org/give/catholic-education/angel-scholarship-fund?amount=750> with \$750 per taxpayer receiving a tax credit for their gift! So in effect it costs you nothing and saves on taxes while benefitting SFX Day School or any other Catholic School you would support!
- Lastly, the Bishop's Seminary Brunch will take place at Landerhaven on Sunday Mar 22 and I would hope we could purchase a table for \$600 or simply make a gift for that amount.
- Oh and of course please plan to sell at least 10 ticket for the Super Bowl Raffle so we can support our Charities and continue making a difference in our community!

4th Degree Report - Tom Maren: The Jospeh Bender Assembly #1766 will hold a Reverse Raffle on Saturday February 14, 2026 at the Knights of Columbus Hall 148 N. Lyman St. Wadsworth, OH. Tickets are \$40.00 per person and ALL Are Welcome to purchase tickets and attend. Other 4th Degree information: 4th Degree will assemble at Sacred Heart Church in uniform on Christmas Eve and 3rd Degree are welcome; a Holiday Party will take place on January 4, 2026 - 148 N. Lyman St.; A son of a former 4th Degree Sir Knight (Harry Beckwith Jr.) contacted us via website to donate his Father's Sword, which was retrieved by Faithful Navigator Aaron Stratman.

Unfinished Business (motions carried over from previous meetings): WGK: Do we have any new information about how we can move forward with the Hoffmann Hall / Herman Dorey funds as far as investing them is concerned? - Carry the unfinished business forward to the next meeting (January).

Lecturer's Report (from Brian Lombardi): Our Lecturer Brian Lombardi could not be with us, tonight. In his absence, WGK will read the inspirational message.

Brother Knights: As we finish up 2025 and peek around the corner towards the New Year, it is always a good time to take an introspective look back at our accomplishments and challenges this past year. Certainly we've had some difficult moments together with the passing of some good men such as Bob Bilbrey, and some family members of fellow Knights such as Lexi Cerio. We've also had some amazing blessings with the many Knight of Columbus sponsored events that have our coffers well stocked to provide assistance to those in need in the future. We took the big step of selling the Knights of Columbus Hall and now have another nest egg of funds to share.

We need to, however in this Advent season, also look beyond the activities and events that take place in our lives and seek for God in the “wilderness” of our daily life. What does that mean? It means that we don't experience God in the shallow parts of our soul that experience the daily hustle and bustle of activities. Because even though God is there the whole time, the noise in our lives drowns out his voice. Instead as we hear in the readings from Advent, a voice cries out to us in the wilderness, which is that deep voice within us calling us towards God. As John

the Baptist taught us, there's a life outside the city within our souls where God resides deep inside us. This is the wilderness that I'm speaking about. How do we find that place within ourselves? Mainly by intentionally walking away from the noise and finding some quiet time to be with God.

We're fortunate to have some great opportunities at St Francis to experience that quiet retreat to God. The next two Wednesday evenings at 6pm, we have Vesper prayer services with Eucharistic Adoration. I'd highly recommend taking this opportunity to sit quietly in front of the Blessed Sacrament and let God reveal to you what He would like to say to your soul. We also have special reconciliation opportunities available Monday through Wednesday December 15-17th. Taking some quiet time after a good Confession, with a pure heart, forgiven of our sins, is a great way to explore the wilderness inside your soul.

Lastly, I'd like to invite all men of the parish to consider participating in Exodus90 that starts January 5th. We're having a meeting on December 18th at 7pm in the Randel House to provide information and answer questions.

(At the meeting, Deputy Grand Knight Kevin Lynch can now give his personal witness about Exodus but the following can be added for the notes).

There isn't a better actualization of going into the wilderness than experience of Exodus90. I hear many men quickly react negatively that that's not for them because of all the misconceptions about the requirements to participate in Exodus90. Before letting those elements scare you off, be open to at least venturing a little bit into the wilderness. The devotions we perform are personal and only you decide which apply to you. But when it comes to the spiritual experience of the daily readings and weekly meetings, you'll not find a better devotion to advance you spiritually into the wilderness of your soul. There are several Knights that participate in Exodus90 and all of them will tell you that it's the best Catholic spiritual experience of their lives.

As Knights, we need to be the leaders of faith in our households. Please take some time this Advent to seriously consider how God is calling you to be the man that He created you to be.

Grand Knights Summary: Last year, our Charity Fund profited over \$10,000.00 (net) even after giving out a Grand Prize of \$3,000.00. Let's PRAY we make 2026 as successful (if not more) in 2025.

Closing Prayer - Before proceeding to the closing prayer, let me ask: Does any brother know of a member of this council, or a brother of the order or any family members who are sick or in distress?

Read off the list of Sick below _____

Anonymous Donor - HM

Prayers for Our Country

| | |
|--|---|
| Betty Braskie | Kasper Family |
| Reno Buca | Ed Martin (continuing Recovery) |
| Nancy Blinkhorn | Terry Moynihan brother of Mark Moynihan |
| Rob Musial | Ed Greer |
| Brian Cerio Family | Joan Selby |
| Debbie Coons | Aiden Bugner |
| Courtney Courtney | Andrea Kennex |
| Amber Doucet | Jerome Dietrich |
| Elderly in Nursing Homes (and staff caring for them) | |
| Eric Uturo | Jessica Park Daughter in law of Mike Park |
| Wayne Boggs | Sheryl Mowery |
| Joseph Richards | Mary Maren (Stroke) |
| Herman Dehring | Tony Cathcart (Heart) |
| Kim Ford friend of Steve Braskie | |
| Lois Cathcart | Martha Anderson |
| Mark and Lindsey Phillips | Success of Pope Leo |
| Jim Sieniawski | |

Please let us recite the Prayer for the Canonization Blessed Michael McGivney as we pray for the distressed and close this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM Motion by Tom Maren Second by Dan Cathcart Motion Passed and Meeting Adjourned.

