



MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Knights of Columbus Council # 17304
Monthly Business Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, 5/11/2026
Time: 7:20 PM
Location: St. Martin de Porres Parish Hall

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM by Worthy Grand Knight Nathan Bernard.

2. Opening Prayer

The Council prayed the Lord's Prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests:

Casey Foote, a brother Knight transferring from Louisiana.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from the April 2026 Council meeting were posted to the Council website.

Motion: Approve April minutes as posted.

Made by: Mark

Seconded by: Ron

Vote: Motion carried by voice vote.

5. Chaplain's Report

Fr. Steven was absent.

6. Grand Knight's Report – Nathan Bernard

Worthy Grand Knight Nathan Bernard provided the Grand Knight's report.

- The State Convention was held at the end of April in Dallas.
 - Dean Hansen was appointed as the next Diocesan Deputy for Fort Worth.
 - Bingo de Mayo was held on May 2 and went well. Thanks were given to Russ Woodford and all who helped with the event.
 - Wheelchair Mission / Wheelchair Sunday took place on May 3. The event had a good turnout and strong response from the parish. This will continue as an annual effort.
 - Mother's Day flowers were handed out to mothers after Masses. The program was very well received, and several mothers expressed appreciation.
 - May birthdays were recognized.
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7. Treasurer's Report – Sergio Guerrero

Sergio Guerrero presented the Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer's Report as of 4/30/2026

- **Chase Checking:** \$11,371.03
- **Chase Savings:** \$1,000.71
- **CDs:** \$12,311.08
- **Total Cash & CDs:** \$24,682.82

CD Allocations:

- \$3,077.77 CD @ 3.4%, maturing in approximately 5 months – Crisis & Contingency Fund (\$3,000)
- \$3,077.77 CD @ 3.4%, maturing in approximately 5 months – Monument Fund (\$3,000)
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- \$3,077.77 CD @ 3.4%, maturing in approximately 5 months – Monument Fund (\$2,000) / Grand Piano (\$1,000)

Outstanding Checks: \$0.00

Allocated Projects: \$0.00

Available & Unallocated: \$12,371.74

8. Membership & Admissions – Dean Hansen

Dean Hansen had no formal report for the evening.

Nathan introduced Casey Foote, a brother Knight who recently moved from Louisiana and is seeking to transfer into Council #17304. Casey introduced himself and shared background information with the Council.

Motion: Approve Casey Foote’s transfer into Council #17304, pending the normal transfer/background process.

Made by: Ed

Seconded by: Ray

Vote: Motion carried.

Casey was welcomed by the Council and asked to connect with the Financial Secretary after the meeting to complete the necessary paperwork.

9. Program & Committee Reports

Faith – Rob Daleo

No formal report. The Council is wrapping up the fraternal year and finalizing remaining Faith in Action reporting requirements.

Family

Mother’s Day flowers were completed and well received. Nathan noted that Food for Families would be addressed under New Business, as it is the remaining item needed for the Family program area.

Life – Paul Parks

No formal report.

Community – Dominic Gervase

No formal report.

St. Lawrence Crew – Ray

Taco Sunday is scheduled for the coming weekend. Carlos and Matt will lead the event, and volunteers are needed to help. Setup typically begins around 6:00 AM and runs through late morning/noon.

Technology / AV

No update.

Fraternal

No separate report.

Fourth Degree – Mario Martinez

Mario provided the Fourth Degree update.

- The next Fourth Degree exemplification will be held Saturday, May 16, in Lufkin, Texas, at St. Andrew's Catholic Church.
- This will be the final Fourth Degree exemplification of the fraternal year.
- Members interested in joining the Fourth Degree were encouraged to attend.

Insurance Agent Report – Don Burks, CFP®

Don Burks provided an insurance update focused on disability insurance.

Don explained the importance of disability coverage and noted that the Knights of Columbus disability insurance program has recently added several strong riders and enhancements, including:

- Regular / own occupation rider
- Family care benefit
- Reduced disability income benefit
- Catastrophic disability rider

Don encouraged members to consider whether disability protection is appropriate for their families, especially as a way to protect income in the event of illness or injury.

10. District Deputy Report – Dominic Gervase

Dominic Gervase provided the District Deputy Report.

- The State Convention was held April 24–25 in Dallas.
- Bob Goss will be the new State Deputy.
- Dean Hansen will serve as Diocesan Deputy for Fort Worth.
- Don Burks was recognized at the state level with an insurance award.
- Dominic emphasized the importance of Knights of Columbus meeting protocols heading into the next fraternal year, including proper meeting procedure, motions, seconds, use of the gavel, and member participation.

- The next Diocesan Meeting for the new fraternal year will be held July 11 at Good Shepherd in Colleyville, beginning around 8:00 AM and running until approximately noon.
 - The next Chapter Meeting will be May 27 in Muenster.
 - The Religious Appreciation Dinner will be July 27 at St. Jude in Mansfield. Council #17304 typically sponsors a table.
 - Council #17304 received the Charities Quick Start Award for meeting 100% of its charity goal by December 31.
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11. Unfinished Business

None.

12. New Business

Financial Secretary Report / Bills Presented

The Council remains in good standing with Supreme and the Texas State Council. There are still delinquent dues outstanding.

Bills presented:

- Russ Woodford – Bingo expenses: \$665.32
- Nathan Bernard – Roses, Home Enthronement, and Bingo expenses: \$1,603.27
 - Roses: \$1,311.95
 - Home Enthronement: \$253.78
 - Bingo: \$37.54
- Ron Echevarria – Roses: \$98.86

Total Council Expenses Presented: \$2,367.45

Motion: Approve payment of bills as read.

Made by: Ed

Seconded by: Mark

Vote: Motion carried.

FY 2026–2027 Preliminary Budget – First Vote

George presented the preliminary budget for the 2026–2027 fraternal year. The proposed budget has been reviewed during two planning meetings and reflects input from those discussions.

Key points discussed:

- Event revenue and expenses remain generally consistent with prior years.
- Fellowship was added to the budget, including:
 - \$1,500 for a Council-paid Christmas party
 - \$250 per quarter for fellowship events
- No individual ministry amounts are budgeted this year in the same way as prior years.
- Council meals will no longer be free and will be paid by those attending.
- A charitable line item of approximately \$10,000 is included for combined parish/school support, intended to streamline requests rather than handling repeated individual ministry requests throughout the year.
- The Council discussed how requests from the parish and school would be handled under this broader allocation.
- The Council discussed possible future expenses such as shirts/badges for new members and support items for Council operations.

Motion: Approve the preliminary FY 2026–2027 budget as presented for the first required vote.

Made by: Mark

Seconded by: Jerry

Vote: Motion carried.

A second vote will be required at the June meeting.

Proposed Officer Slate for 2026–2027

Dominic presented the proposed officer slate for the 2026–2027 fraternal year.

Proposed Officer Slate:

- **Grand Knight:** Nathan Bernard
- **Deputy Grand Knight:** Vacant / TBD
- **Chancellor:** Paul Parkes
- **Treasurer:** Sergio Guerrero
- **Advocate:** Brandon Story
- **Recorder:** Nick Cumberland
- **Warden:** Ron Echevarria
- **Inside Guard:** Michael Echevarria
- **Outside Guard:** Marc Murrin
- **Trustee 1st Year:** Russ Woodford
- **Trustee 2nd Year:** Steve Bredeson
- **Trustee 3rd Year:** Rob Daleo

Dominic emphasized the need for someone to prayerfully consider stepping into the Deputy Grand Knight role, noting that this is an important leadership role and typically a path toward serving as Grand Knight. Members interested in the position were asked to speak with Nathan or Dominic.

Dean also spoke on the importance of leadership planning and noted that strong councils develop future officers and ensure continuity.

Officer elections will take place at the next meeting. Officer installation is planned for June 27 after the 5:00 PM Mass at St. Catherine's in Carrollton, together with St. Catherine's and Holy Cross Councils, followed by a meal.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Consecration / Home Enthronement Support

Nathan discussed an upcoming consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus connected to the national effort through the USCCB and local Home Enthronement Ministry efforts within the parish.

The Council was asked to support a kickoff event/meal tied to the parish mission and consecration effort, with support up to \$500. The Council will also help support a Holy Hour connected to the effort, and members were encouraged to consider having their own homes enthroned.

Motion: Approve up to \$500 to support the kickoff meal/event for the Sacred Heart / Home Enthronement mission.

Made by: Jerry

Seconded by: Ron

Vote: Motion carried.

Food for Families Disbursement

Nathan noted that Food for Families is the final item needed for the Council's Faith in Action / Family program reporting.

The local food bank identified for support is **Neighbors Nourishing Neighbors**.

Motion: Approve disbursement of the budgeted \$1,000 for Food for Families to Neighbors Nourishing Neighbors.

Made by: Mark

Seconded by: Ed

Vote: Motion carried.

Additional Announcements

Russ thanked the Council for prayers related to his recent heart surgery.

The next fraternal meal is scheduled for **May 19 at Rosa's in Prosper at 6:00 PM**. No volunteer work is required; members and families are invited to attend.

13. Good of the Order

Knight of the Month

Michael Echevarria

Family of the Month

Parks Family

14. Lecturer's Reflection – Jerry Barta

Jerry gave the Lecturer's Reflection based on Christ sending His disciples into the world, just as the Father sent Him.

Jerry reminded the Council that Knights are called to be more than receivers of the Gospel; they are called to witness to the Gospel through word, action, family life, work, and service. He encouraged members to reflect on how they are using their gifts for Christ's mission.

Monthly Challenge:

Take a few minutes each morning to prayerfully ask Jesus how to use your gifts for His mission that day. Set one clear, specific resolution for that day.

15. Grand Knight's Summary

Skipped in the interest of time.

16. Prayer Requests

The Council offered prayers for:

- **Rob Daleo** – recovery and health
 - **Ed Flanagan** – remembrance of his youngest daughter, Megan Flanagan, on the 15th anniversary of her passing
 - **Jim Slee’s niece, Nicole Slee** – repose of her soul
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17. Closing Prayer

The Council prayed the **Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney**, led by Grand Knight Nathan Bernard.

18. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at **8:19 PM**.

Minutes prepared by:

SK Nick Cumberland, Recorder