

St. Thomas Council Meeting Minutes - December 1, 2025

Meeting Called to Order

The regular St. Thomas Council # 13861 meeting was called to order by Grand Knight Gregory Cyr at 7:00 pm on Monday, December 1, 2025. 19 knights were present.

Decade of the Rosary

District Deputy John Chandonnet led the council in a decade of the rosary to lead our country to a culture of life.

Pledge of Allegiance

Grand Knight Gregory Cyr led the council in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officer Roll Call

The officer roll call was taken and recorded by Recorder Jonathan Brock. Attendance was as follows:

Grand Knight, Gregory Cyr:	Present
Deputy Grand Knight, Nate Libbey:	Present
Chancellor, Ron Robichaud:	Absent
Chaplain, Fr. Bill Labbe:	Excused
Financial Secretary, John Greenlee:	Present
Recorder, Jonathan Brock:	Present
Warden, Bob Demers:	Excused
Treasurer, Matthew Pettine:	Present
Advocate, Richard Caroti:	Present
Outside Guard, Rene Robichaud:	Present
Inside Guard, Gerry Newport:	Present
Lecturer, Kevin Neely:	Present
3rd Year Trustee, Ray Sargent:	Excused
2nd Year Trustee, Rick Southwick:	Present
1st Year Trustee, Brian Theriault:	Absent

Reading of the Previous Month Meeting Minutes

Rick Southwick motioned to accept the October council meeting minutes as submitted. George Kanelos (Mr. K) seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The November 2025 minutes were accepted as presented.

Lecturer's Presentation

Lecturer Kevin Neely gave a presentation:

Worthy Grand Knight, distinguished guests and Brother Knights; Happy New Year!

Now you may have always associated that greeting with the January 1st Holiday, but as of yesterday, the Catholic Church began their new Liturgical Year. In the three-year cycle of Liturgy, we are now in the A year where the Gospels are primarily from Matthew. His Gospel is considered the most Jewish-centric. His audience was primarily Jewish. His Gospel contains many references from the Old Testament, because he wanted to show that Jesus was indeed the Jewish Messiah, long prophesied and waited for.

Usually, every year at New Years we spend some time thinking about what we will do, and how we will improve our lives in the upcoming months. We often make resolutions that we hope will advance our health, or our wealth, or our prosperity.

The first season in the Catholic new year is Advent. It began yesterday and we lit the first of four candles in the sanctuary before Mass. Those candles symbolize hope, peace, joy and love. They represent Jesus coming as a light in the darkness. We make time during Advent to prepare and celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

Recently, our parish distributed a book to help us journey through Advent. It's called Waiting WELL by Fr. Mike Schmitz. Its purpose is to help us refocus our attention toward Jesus in this brief season. Fr. Mike recommends that we create a plan to do that. He gives us five questions to consider and suggests we visit them at the beginning of each week during Advent. Our plan should answer:

- 1) When will I spend time with Jesus?
- 2) Where will I spend time with Jesus?
- 3) What are Jesus and I going to do together?
- 4) Who will hold me accountable for my time with Jesus?
- 5) Why am I prioritizing my time with Jesus?

So; When, Where, What, Who, and Why? Let's just take a moment to consider the When I invite you to close your eyes for 30 seconds. Think about your daily schedule. Think about your week. Think about the last 12 hours. Did you say to yourself ... "These 10 minutes I am going to spend with Jesus".

I am not going to go through all five W's, but I will ask you to close your eye's again. Visualize WHERE you will spend time with Jesus each day during Advent. Just Jesus. Is it with your first cup of coffee in the morning? Maybe on your drive to work? Lunch time? Bed time? Think about When. Think about Where, and make a commitment to make an appointment with Jesus. Every day during Advent.

There are many resources to help us make our New Years Advent resolutions. Find one and make a commitment. You will be glad you did.

Vivat Jesus!

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Matthew Pettine reported for November 2025:

Beginning	4502.10
Disbursements	
Wreaths	40.09
Raffle 1st, 2nd, 3rd	600
Essay/Poster Gifts	661
Receipts	
Ad Reimburse	62.50
50/50	15
Donation	15
Turkey Dinner	1352
Ending	4645.51
Christmas Party:	350.88
General Fund:	4,294.63

Financial Secretary's Report

Financial Secretary John Greenlee reported:

150 Total Membership
87 Associate Members
55 Insured Members
8 Inactive Members
1 Honorary Member
32 Honorary Life Members
6 Exempt Members

John will collect dues at the Christmas party, dues are \$30 for Third Degree and \$15 for Fourth Degree.

Grand Knight's Report

Grand Knight Gregory Cyr reported:

The turkey dinner fundraiser went well and had good turnout.

There is a volunteer opportunity this Saturday, December 6 at the St. Thomas School Bean Supper, which is open from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Set up crew is needed from 9:00 to 10:00 am, dinner volunteers should arrive at St. Thomas School by 3:30 pm.

The Children's Christmas Party will be Saturday, December 13 at the VFW on School Street in Sanford. Volunteers are needed to set up 9:00 to 10:00 am, to help with the party 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, and for cleanup 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

Another volunteer opportunity to support the Children's Christmas Party is gift wrapping at the parish office on Thursday, December 11 at 6:00 pm.

Saturday, December 13 is also the parish pilgrimage to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland, ME. Departure time will be 12:00 pm from Holy Family Church. Confession will be at 3:00 pm and Mass at 4:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. Sign up at the parish office, cost is \$15.00.

Sunday, December 7 the Fourth Degree will be sponsoring a Christmas party at the St. Thomas School cafeteria from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The luncheon will be pot luck, and families are invited. There will also be a yankee swap gift exchange. Knights from the Fourth Degree Assembly as well as both Sanford and Springvale Third Degree Councils are invited.

The fish suppers are on the horizon for early next year. Volunteers are needed. Lent starts February 18. Fish suppers will be held on Fridays during Lent, but not Good Friday.

New Business

Due to inclement weather, Terry Sylvanus motioned to change the lighting of the creche from Tuesday, December 2 to Monday, December 8. Kevin Neely seconded. The motion passed. It will be directly after the 6:00 PM Mass.

Terry Sylvanus stated that we will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 20 at 8:15 am (right after That Man Is You).

Richard Caroti thanked everyone for helping with Turkey Dinner.

The proceeds from the Turkey dinner were \$1352, which was slated to be donated to the parish capital campaign. Terry Sylvanus motioned to increase to the donation amount \$1500 and to present the donation from our Council to the parish during the capital campaign telethon on December 9. The motion was seconded and passed.

Mike Alexandre reminded the Council that this Friday, and every first Friday of the month, members of the parish pray a rosary for the lives of the unborn in front of Planned Parenthood. Mike encouraged brother knights to participate. Participants meet at 10:30 am at the Midtown Mall.

David Murphy stated that the Haiti committee has planned a mission trip for mid-February. Brother knights that would like to join the mission trip are welcome, the trip is self-funded by anyone who joins.

District Deputy's Report

District Deputy John Chandonnet reported:

- The Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest and the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest to be sponsored by the St. Thomas Council are underway. Deadline for students to turn in posters will be Friday, December 12. There will be a winner and runner-up prize awarded for each division. Each winner receives a \$50 gift card; the runner-up will receive a \$25 gift card.

Father Bill will present the gift cards at the St. Thomas School pre-Christmas Mass at Holy Family Church. Essays will be due on Tuesday, January 6. Each student is to write a 500-to-600-word essay on the topic: *"Who are my Three Favorite Popes and Why."* Tiffany Bourque has graciously agreed to judge the essays. The winner will receive a \$100 gift card and the runner-up will receive a \$50 gift card. Each participant will receive a certificate for both the poster and essay contests.

- Still have cash calendars remaining. I mailed 61 stubs and money to Phil Lizotte last week. I will remind Bob Tyler to turn in his calendar stubs and money. Cash calendars are available here or at the Christmas Potluck / Yankee Gift Exchange on December 7.
- Have Right to Life lapel pins. These are free! They'll look good on your jacket or blazer. You can show the world that you support a culture of life!
- We are having a Christmas Potluck and Yankee Gift Exchange at the St. Thomas School cafeteria on Sunday, December 7 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The Pats will have their by-week, so you won't have to keep checking the score. All St. Thomas, Limerick, and Springvale Council knights, along with their wives or significant others, are invited. Bring a dish to share. A gift in the \$15 to \$20 range for the Yankee Gift Exchange is optional.
- Limerick council meeting on Thursday.
- Winter meetings in Bangor for all District Deputies, January 9 - 11.

50/50 Drawing

Jim Sanger won the 50/50 drawing. The amount was \$16, which Jim donated to the Council.

Good of the Order

The following prayer petitions were presented:

Joan Breton
Wayne Demers
Margaret Hebert
Brian Paul
Ron Robichaud
David Roy
Dennis Roy
Rick Southwick
James Traverse

Closing Prayers

Both the Blessed M. McGivney prayer and the Bill Sheehan prayer, which were recited by the council, were dedicated to the above prayer petitions.

Next Council/Zoom Meeting

The next council meeting will be on Monday, January 5 at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jonathan T. Brock
Recorder*