

St. Thomas Council Meeting Minutes - June 2, 2025

NOTICE - Upcoming Volunteer Opportunity at Sanford Mainers Concession Stand:

Friday, June 6
Thursday, June 12
Monday, June 16
Wednesday, June 18
Monday, June 23
Monday, June 30
Wednesday, July 16
Tuesday, July 22

Meeting Called to Order

The regular St. Thomas Council # 13861 meeting was called to order by Grand Knight John Chandonnet at 6:57 pm on Monday, June 2, 2025. 20 knights were present.

Decade of the Rosary

Chancellor Ron Robichaud led the council in a decade of the rosary to lead our country to a culture of life.

Pledge of Allegiance

Grand Knight John Chandonnet 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, John Chandonnet:	Present
Deputy Grand Knight, Greg Cyr:	Present
Chancellor, Ron Robichaud:	Present
Chaplain, Fr. Bill Labbe:	Excused
Financial Secretary, John Greenlee:	Present
Recorder, Jonathan Brock:	Present
Warden, Aaron Downs:	Excused
Treasurer, Matthew Pettine:	Present
Advocate, Richard Caroti:	Absent
Outside Guard, Rene Robichaud:	Present
Inside Guard, Gerry Newport:	Present
Lecturer, Kevin Neely:	Excused
3rd Year Trustee, Jerry Nulton:	Excused
2nd Year Trustee, Terry Sylvanus:	Present
1st Year Trustee, Ray Sargent:	Present

Reading of the Previous Month Meeting Minutes

Gerry Newport motioned to accept the May council meeting minutes as submitted. Greg Cyr seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The May 2025 minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Matthew Pettine reported:

May 2025 Treasurer's Report:

Starting Balance:	7998.51
Disbursements:	
Receipts:	
Bike Reimburse	125
Dues	30
50/50	15
Donation	15
Bulletin Reimburse	270
Ending Balance:	8453.51
Christmas Party:	317.88
Food Pantry:	50.00
General Fund:	8085.63

Financial Secretary's Report

FS John Greenlee reported:

145 Total Membership
80 Associate Members
57 Insured Members
8 Inactive Members
1 Honorary Member
31 Honorary Life Members
6 Exempt Members

FS John reminded the Council that we have a fund for the food pantry. Brother knights can make a donation to the fund, and when the Council donates \$500 to the food pantry, Supreme Council will match with \$100. Supreme Council will match up to four times per year.

Grand Knight's Report

Grand Knight John Chandonnet has become District Deputy. He will attend the upcoming State Council meetings.

Installation of New Officers

The new fiscal year officers were installed:

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

SURGE Hours Update:

Faith: 313 service hours
Family: 519 service hours
Community: 558 service hours
Life: 93 service hours
Total: 1483 service hours

Lecture

Lecturer Kevin Neely prepared a presentation:

"Thank you Worthy Grand Knight.

Last Thursday we celebrated the Ascension of Jesus going back to be with his father in heaven and leaving his closest friends on earth. Next Sunday is Pentecost when we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, and upon the church. It is a change in seasons. Changing from when Jesus was physically present every day with the disciples, to a time when he is spiritually present everyday in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Change can be challenging. Often times we prefer the status quo. We don't like when our routines in life are thrown out of wack, but it happens. It happens a lot. A new job, graduations, the birth of a child, the death of a loved one. The list is endless.

I recently read a book about change, drastic change, called "Between Two Kingdoms". I wasn't looking for a new book, in fact my wife and I were watching a Netflix documentary called American Symphony. It starts out talking about Jon Batiste, an Academy and Grammy award winning musician and composer who was actually the band leader on the late show for seven years. I don't watch the late show, so in all honesty, this was my first introduction to Jon Batiste. The documentary is great however if you like great music and a great story about change in our lives. I recommend it.

The book however, is not about Jon Batiste, it's about his wife Suleika Jaouad and her battle with cancer. The book is mentioned in the documentary, and we are introduced to Suleika as she prepares for her second bone marrow transplant. If you've ever been confronted with cancer you know it's a club that you never want to join. My wife is a 20 year survivor of breast cancer and is now dealing with a form of leukemia (like Suleika documents in this excellent book). Cathy always says that while you never want to join the cancer club, you will meet some of the most courageous, bold and gutsy people anywhere on the planet.

Cancer is not for wimps, and this book documents Suleika's struggles with trying to 'stay normal' while dealing with the onslaught of leukemia. She talks about how her life was interrupted as a result of this change and that we never return to 'normal', so we have to accept a 'new normal'. She quotes another author, who wrote, "Everyone who is born holds a dual citizenship, in the kingdom of the well and in the kingdom of the sick." So the name of the book, "Between Two Kingdoms" documents her journey between the kingdom of the well and the kingdom of the sick. Perhaps we all won't get cancer, but we will all experience challenging changes in our lives.

The question for us is, how will we deal with these significant changes and challenges in our lives? Will we try to tough it out and go it alone; trying to figure things out as we go along? Or will we accept the guidance of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit that God gives to us?

Our catechism tells us that the Holy Spirit bestows seven gifts on us. Of those, I think the gifts he bestows on us to deal with life's uncertainties are these;

Wisdom: This gift enables us to discern God's will and make wise choices in all aspects of our life. Do you ever ask God, "what do I do in this situation?" or "where should I go now?" Try it.

Understanding: Provides a deeper understanding of God's love and will for us. Is it God's will that someone suffers with debilitating illness? No, but it is His will that we reach out to Him during our struggles and let Him help us in our struggles.

Counsel: This is the gift of right judgment, enabling us to make wise decisions. We don't have to go it alone, in fact God wants to be there with us in our journey through life.

Fortitude: This helps us to stand firm in faith and to persevere in the face of trials in our life. It's sad when we hear that someone "doesn't pray" or "doesn't believe that God even exists". Not only does he exist, but he wants to reveal himself to us more and more.

Knowledge: This gift allows individuals to understand the meaning and purpose God has for their lives and to live up to that purpose. Suleika writes that, "Ultimately, the events of the last few years have been a terrible lesson in being present---and not just being present in my own life, but being present in the lives of the people I love. Tomorrow may happen, tomorrow may not."

Two other quotes of significance I found in this book: "God doesn't give you more than you can handle" and "Every day is a gift." May we all learn to accept the challenges that come our way in life with grace and to use the gifts that God gives us to grow closer to Him, regardless of our everyday trials.

Vivat Jesus!"

New Business

Fr. Bill will be hosting an open house at the rectory on Wednesday, June 25 from 4-7 pm. The open house is to celebrate the new rectory, office renovations, and plans to break ground on the parish hall. The parish is looking for help setting up, taking down, potentially cooking hamburgers and hot dogs and offering financial support. Rick Southwick motioned we donate \$500 from the Council to the open house. Terry Sylvanus seconded the motion. The motion passed without discussion. If you are interested in helping you can contact Laura Alexandre (benelijp3@gmail.com) or Jana Allain (janaallain@gmail.com) who are coordinating the logistics.

Warden Bob Demers reported that St. Thomas is putting together a plan for bean supper fundraisers for the upcoming school year. As before, different grades will be assigned to support each month. The plan is to have the bean suppers on the first Saturday of each month from September to February. After that, the K of C haddock suppers will take place every Friday from February 20 until March 27. There are no bean suppers planned March or April. There is also no bean supper planned for May because it interferes with Spring Fever Fair. Rick Southwick asked if we will have another turkey dinner fundraiser. Deputy Grand Knight Greg Cyr stated that we need to confirm the bean supper schedule before deciding to do the turkey dinner, and all agreed.

Inside Guard Gerry Newport reminded the Council of a volunteer opportunity this Saturday, June 7, at 9am to pick up flags at the St. Ignatius cemetery.

Inside Guard Gerry Newport is also looking for volunteers to support Children's Christmas Party fundraising at Shaw's on Saturday, July 12 and Sunday, July 13. We are looking for two more people for both Saturday and Sunday with shifts 9 am - 1pm and 1 pm - 4 pm. To volunteer please contact Gerry Newport at 324-2427.

Terry Sylvanus reported that there is a St. Thomas "Block Party" being planned for Sunday, June 22 from 11 am - 2 pm that will be open to students, families, and parishioners. The school is asking for volunteers to cook as well as financial support.

Trustee Rick Southwick reported on behalf of the trustees: Based on various requests for money, the trustees recommend we give \$500 to the parish capital campaign for the open house (as noted above), \$500 to the Haiti fund, and \$1000 for St. Thomas School. As the \$500 donation to the capital campaign was already voted on, Rick motioned we donate \$500 to the Haiti fund and \$1000 to St. Thomas School. Ray Sargent seconded. The motion passed with discussion about ensuring the Council can support the various activities.

Trustee Ray Sargent reminded the Council of upcoming first communions on June 28 and our custom of providing for sacramental gifts. Rick motioned we continue giving the gifts. Jim Landry seconded. The motion passed without discussion. Terry will get count of those receiving sacraments so that gifts can be procured.

This coming weekend is the Maine Special Olympics in Orono. On Saturday, June 7 there will be a photographer from Columbia magazine so brother knights are requested to wear K of C branded gear. The event starts at 8 am and ends 5 pm.

Trustee Ray Sargent asked about status of the Tootsie Roll Drive. Warden Bob Demers said we are looking to go to Shaw's for fundraising. He proposed to fundraise August or September when weather is warmer and there is more seasonal traffic. Bob will see what dates are available for us to fundraise. Walmart did not accept the Council as a registered nonprofit to hold fundraisers because we are a 501C7 organization instead of a 501C3. There is an alternate path working to get the parish listed as a nonprofit because it is a 501C3 organization.

Warden Bob Demers stated that there is a request for volunteers to cook for kids, staff, and parents at the St. Thomas School Olympics on Tuesday, June 3.

Field Agent Report

Field Agent Aaron Weiss is now also a financial advisor in addition to insurance agent. Beyond insurance, there are other financial services offered by the Knights of Columbus. Our council has met the fraternal benefit seminar quota for the fiscal year. Aaron plans to do another fraternal benefits event after July 1.

50/50 Drawing

Bob Demers won the 50/50 drawing. The amount was \$14, which Bob donated to the council.

Good of the Order

The following prayer petitions were presented:

Paul Cunningham
Wayne Demers
Erica Dicentes
Aaron Downs
Bill Flynn
John Gagnon
Steve Gannaway
Paul Goyette
Nancy L'Heureux
Don Leeman
Br. Jerome Lessard
Connie Littlefield
Rob Martin
Paul McNutt
Louis Melanson
Cathy Neely
Jerry Nulton
Jen Patterson
Tyler Patterson
Alex Pettine

Michael Roy
Dennis Roy
David Roy
Michael Roy
Claire Sargent
Bill Sheehan
Shirley Sheehan
Joe Sylvanus
Steve Taylor
Tristan Theriault
David Wright

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 Meeting

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan T. Brock
Recorder