

St. Thomas Council Meeting Minutes - January 12, 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, January 12, 2026. 21 knights were present.

Decade of the Rosary

Life program director Michael Alexandre 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:	Present
Chaplain, Fr. Bill Labbe:	Excused
Financial Secretary, John Greenlee:	Present
Recorder, Jonathan Brock:	Present
Warden, Bob Demers:	Present
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:	Present
2nd Year Trustee, Rick Southwick:	Present
1st Year Trustee, Brian Theriault:	Excused

Reading of the Previous Month Meeting Minutes

Rick Southwick motioned to accept the December council meeting minutes as submitted. Terry Sylvanus seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The December 2025 minutes were accepted as presented.

Lecturer's Presentation

Lecturer Kevin Neely gave a presentation:

"Worthy Grand Knight, distinguished guests and Brother Knights;

We all know about the Bible. We know that most of the prayers in our Holy Mass come from the Bible. We hear readings of the Bible from the Old Testament, the Psalms and the Gospels at Mass. My question is, have you ever studied the Bible? I mean not just read a section of the Bible, or even a whole book, but taken the time to dissect a section of a book, or even a whole book? Many refer to that as a Bible study. It usually entails a study guide that will take each verse and give background and cross references with other sections of the Bible. Actually, if you check the parish bulletin this week you will find a Bible study group.

My first Bible study was the Gospel of Mark. We had a few families that would meet once a week at people's homes and we chose a study guide from the Little Rock Scripture Study. They cover most books of the Bible and in four or six weeks you can walk through a comprehensive, detailed look at a particular segment of the books that our faith are built upon.

So, as an example; I recommend that between now and Lent (which begins on February 18th this year), you take time during your daily prayer time to contemplate the 14th chapter to Mark. It focuses on the Passion of Our Lord. Focusing on the Passion isn't just about remembering historical events; it's about internalizing Christ's sacrificial love for us. He gave His life for you and me so that we can share eternal life with Him.

Chapter 14 covers, among other things, The Last Supper, His time in the Garden of Gethsemane, His arrest and his betrayal by one of his best friends.

⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said.⁶⁸ But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway.⁶⁹ When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them." ⁷⁰ Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean."⁷¹ He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about." (he denied it.)

When I take this short section to prayer, it raises all sorts of questions; Would I have denied my best friend like that? Have I denied my best friend like that? If I did deny my best friend like that would he or she ever forgive me? Would I ever be able to forgive myself for knowingly rejecting my friend like that?

Many saints like Francis of Assisi, Padre Pio, and Faustina Kowalska emphasize meditating on Christ's suffering in order to grow closer to Him and to help us better understand His immense love for us. The Church provides many opportunities like The Stations of the Cross, The Holy Rosary, The Divine Mercy Chaplet, and even meditating on the four Gospels to gain insight into why Jesus gave His life for us.

I recommend studying a few verses of Chapter 14 in Mark's Gospel each day.

Vivat Jesus!"

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Matthew Pettine reported for December 2025:

Beginning	4629.46
Disbursements	
G Newport	580.88
St Therese	1500
St Thomas	920
Receipts	
Donation	200
Food for Families	100
50/50	16
Donation	16
Bean Supper	920
Ending	2910.58
Christmas Party:	0
General Fund:	2,910.58

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

Dues collection is going well, though there are still a number of unpaid renewals.

Grand Knight's Report

Grand Knight Gregory Cyr congratulated Gerry Newport on the Children's Christmas Party. A copy of the report is included in the old business section of these minutes.

At the bean supper on January 3 we had somewhat lower attendance, though \$565 profit was made for St. Thomas School. We have been raising an average of \$816 for each bean supper. This year we have made \$104 more compared to the same timeframe last year. We have two more bean suppers and Bob Demers estimates that we will raise the funds equivalent of last year or perhaps \$100 to \$200 more. The next two bean suppers are scheduled for February 7 and April 18.

The Knights of Columbus will be holding a turkey dinner fundraise on Saturday, January 24. Dinner will be served 4:30-6:00 PM. Volunteers can set up Saturday morning after That Man is

You. In the evening, volunteers can start prepping for the dinner around 3:00 PM. We specifically need help drying dishes.

For the Lenten fish dinners we can look into buying bulk soda, ginger ale, or seltzers to sell for additional income. Bob Demers mentioned there is also the possibility of doing lobster rolls.

Gerry Newport mentioned we could consider food and drink sales at the Sanford fireworks this summer.

For the upcoming free throw contest, the Nasson gym costs \$50/hour to rent. If someone has a facility that could be used without rental fees, that would be ideal.

District Deputy's Report

District Deputy John Chandonnet reported:

On behalf of State Deputy Michael Giroux, I present my District Deputy report.

- I attended the Knights of Columbus Maine State Council midyear meeting in Bangor, Maine January 9 through January 11, 2026.
- On Friday, we attended a Sacred Heart Holy Hour at St. Mary's Church, which was coordinated by State Faith Director Bob Dumont.
- I did bring back the Pilgrim Icon for the use of the St. Thomas Council. We'll have to discuss how long we'll have it and what we will do with it. We should have the celebration or celebrations before the end of February in order to qualify as a Faith requirement.
- Following the Mass, we had a dinner, also at St. Mary's Church.
- The business meeting was conducted on Saturday.
- Immediate Past State Deputy Jon Harvey delivered a presentation on the Into the Breach program, which emphasized re-centering our lives on Christ.
- Much emphasis was placed on Safe Environment compliance. I am pleased to say that the St. Thomas, Springvale, and Limerick councils are either Safe Environment compliant or in the process of being.
- Emphasis was also placed on recruitment. According to Regional Growth Director Ray Sands, our order, as a whole, loses about 30,000 brother knights per year. We've lost 9,629 brothers so far this year.
- The State Membership Director noted that the Maine State Council has reached 40% of its recruitment goal for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. State Deputy Michael Giroux is optimistic that we'll get 160 additional new members within the next four months.

- Norm Gray, Director of Special Olympics urged each council to submit a 10784 form for Special Olympics--even if we have not participated. I believe Ray Sargent had mentioned that in a previous meeting. This could meet one of our Life requirements.
- Phil Lizotte, Past State Deputy and District 16 Director reported that the Maine State Council raised \$28,747 from the Cash Calendar program. This figure is still counting, as cash calendars are still available. The drawings go on until April 1st.
- I have tentatively scheduled a District 15 meeting on Monday, February 16 at 7:00 PM at the Limerick council chambers. Limerick Grand Knight Tom Hawley is currently verifying that the hall will be available on that date.

New Business

Ray Sargent stated that there will be a Fourth Degree exemplification in Lewiston on Sunday, February 15. There will be a 10:30 mass at the basilica followed by a luncheon and exemplification.

Gerry Newport motioned that we make a plaque and present to the Sanford VFW post for all of their support including use of the hall and money donated for Children's Christmas Party. Kevin Neely seconded. The motion passed.

There will be a men's retreat in Winthrop on September 25, 26, and 27. The Into the Breach program is coming out with new session.

The That Man is You program meets every Saturday 7:00 - 8:00 AM, year round, in the church basement.

Ray Sargent stated that now through end of February is the time when we can nominate worthy causes or organizations that can use funds from the State Council.

Ray Sargent reminded the council that we can nominate our priest as chaplain of the year for State Council.

Terry Sylvanus reported that the creche was vandalized. We will need to come up with a replacement. It is possible to get a ceramic set with 12" high figures for \$600.00. The side panels need to be fixed as well. We resolved to take a photo, write a brief description of what happened, and send to State Council asking if anyone has a set they would like to donate or sell at a decent price.

Terry Sylvanus said that this year we will be supporting the Novena for Life, with prayer for nine days in church, also live-streamed. Terry Sylvanus and Mike Alexandre will meet with Ashley Buxton to discuss prayer cards and the novena.

Mike Alexandre said that we will hold the Hands Around Holy Family rosary prayer for life on Sunday, February 8 after 10:00 AM Mass.

Ray Sargent received a text from Dan Rooney. His council in Florida is thinking of starting up fish suppers like we do and was asking for a copy of our menu, etc. There were no objections to sharing our information.

Dennis Breton was approached by the Daughters of Isabella asking for a donation for a dance fundraiser next month for St. Thomas School. The Fourth Degree Assembly authorized a donation of \$100. Terry Sylvanus motioned that the Third Degree Council donate \$150. Richard Caroti seconded, and motion passed without discussion.

John Chandonnet stated that our district has the Pilgrim Icon through the month of February. Kevin Neely recommended speaking with Ashley Buxton about the icon and coordinating with other groups in the parish. Last year we were able to place the icon by the altar for a couple weeks. John will follow up with Ashley Buxton.

Old Business

"Report of the 2025 Children's Christmas Party

On Saturday, December 13, 2025, the annual St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Council #13861 Children's Christmas Party was held. This party assists families in need during the Christmas season.

Funds were raised through the efforts of members who collected various donations outside of Shaw's Supermarkets, as well as St. Therese Parish and other various locations. The amount of \$3904.60 was raised to use in providing this event. Expenses included crafts and activities for the children, food (pizza, baked goods, cake, and drinks including gluten free food), one gift for each child (valued at \$40 or higher), coloring and crayons for each child, and goodie bags which totaled an additional gift per child, with wrapping paper purchased from a St. Thomas School fundraiser.

Registration was required with a time frame of November 1 through November 30 and parents needed to attend. When the children arrived, they signed in and were given a number to correspond with the gifts received. They were directed to the tables for coloring, activity sheets and crafts.

Food was then distributed with the purchase of pizza through Paras Pizza in Sanford, but at time of pickup was transferred to a donation from Paras and John Chandonnet. Pizza from Otto's was required for children with allergies. Happy Birthday was sung to Jesus around a cake donated by Dave Vanesse. Snacks and drinks were provided. Other baked goods were purchased from Biddeford Middle School fundraisers.

The children then sang songs as Santa arrived. Each family in attendance was called by number and came up to receive their presents, and have a picture with Santa, as well as a goodie bag. Approximately 79 children received gifts with remaining gifts being donated to other charities to be distributed to families in need.

The party ran from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the VFW in Sanford, due to the use of the hall as a donation from the VFW.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gerald Newport Sr.
Children's Christmas Party Chair"

Knight of the Month

Richard Caroti was selected as the November Knight of the Month.
Rick Southwick was selected as the December Knight of the Month.
Ray Sargent was selected as the January Knight of the Month.

Gerry Newport was selected as the Knight of the Year!

50/50 Drawing

Terry Sylvanus won the 50/50 drawing. The amount was \$14, which Terry donated to the Council.

Good of the Order

The following prayer petitions were presented:

Joan Breton
Claire Buck
Sharon Desrochers
Margaret Hebert
Matthew L'heureux
David Roy
Dennis Roy
Bill Sheehan
Rick Southwick
Georgia Sylvanus
Joe Sylvanus
Monica Sylvanus
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, February 2 at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jonathan T. Brock
Recorder*