

St. Thomas Council Meeting Minutes - March 2, 2026

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, March 2, 2026. 22 knights were present.

Decade of the Rosary

Life 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:	Absent
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:	Absent

Reading of the Previous Month Meeting Minutes

Gerry Newport motioned to accept the February council meeting minutes as submitted. Romeo Zuniga seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The February 2026 minutes were accepted as presented.

Lecturer's Presentation

Lecturer Kevin Neely gave a presentation:

"Worthy Grand Knight, distinguished guests and Brother Knights;

Last week we celebrated our men's and women's Olympic hockey teams winning gold medals. For many, it brought to mind the 1980 men's hockey victory over Russia. Al Michaels made the famous call at the end of that game; "Do you believe in miracles?!!!"

That's a good question. As Catholics, we believe in transubstantiation, i.e. when the priest prays over simple bread and wine during the consecration of the Mass, it literally changes into the body and blood of Jesus Christ. It can't be explained. It's miraculous right?

The Oxford dictionary defines miracle as: "a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency." In other words, something we mere mortals cannot do on our own.

I am reading a book for Lent on the miraculous life of St. Padre Pio. It's titled "Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry!" It's not so much a biography as it is a compilation of almost 50 stories taken from people who met this humble saint personally. Most of these occurred in his monastery in a little mountain hamlet named San Giovanni Rotondo in Italy. Others document his appearance in other parts of the world.

On February 12, 1953 Padre Pio was seen at a hospital in New York at the birth of a little boy. His mother had two boys already, but was told not to have any more children because she could die from the next birth. She and her family prayed fervently to Padre Pio. Her Aunt, who lived in Italy, near the monastery traveled with family and friends to personally visit Padre Pio and ask for his intervention. Padre Pio told them to go home, that their prayers had already been answered. "You don't understand they said, the mother's life is in danger!" Padre Pio said, "She has already delivered the baby. It's a boy. His name is Michael. I was there."

Another story is by a man who visited Padre Pio personally in his monastery in 1919. When he saw him, the man began to cry. "Padre Pio, thank you for saving me from death!" He yelled. Pio answered, "Thank Jesus and the Virgin of Graces." You see, during the first world war, this man was an infantry captain. He was standing on the battlefield when he noticed a friar standing some distance away. "Captain, come here quickly! Move away from where you are standing immediately!" The captain ran toward the friar and immediately a grenade exploded where he had just been standing, knocking him down and leaving a large hole in the ground. When the captain rose to thank the friar, he was nowhere to be found.

Those stories are both examples of bilocation, that is, being in two places at once. Miraculous!

Other stories in the book explain how Padre Pio suffered with the stigmata. That means that his hands, feet, shoulders and side had the same wounds that Jesus did during his crucifixion. St. Francis of Assisi and many other saints have experienced this same phenomenon. More than one story relates to how his hands continually bled during the mass, especially during the consecration.

So, if you believe in miracles and you want to know more about miracles in our lifetime, I encourage you to read this book.

Vivat Jesus!

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Matthew Pettine reported for February 2026:

Beginning	3832.61
Disbursements	
St Thomas	117.42
Receipts	
Dues	360
Donate	10
50/50	23
Donate	23
Bean Supper	907
Haddock Supper	1066
Ending	6,104.08

Financial Secretary's Report

Financial Secretary John Greenlee reported:

147 Total Membership
84 Associate Members
54 Insured Members
9 Inactive Members
1 Honorary Member
32 Honorary Life Members
6 Exempt Members

Dues collection: we still have 26 members who have not paid their dues for this year.

If you send paperwork by email to FS John, please send it as an attachment instead of in the body of the email. An attachment is much easier for him to make copies.

Grand Knight's Report

Grand Knight Gregory Cyr reminded the Council of last month's request for money for the hermitage in central Maine. John Chandonnet motioned we donate \$50 to the hermitage. George K. seconded. The motion passed without discussion.

Grand Knight Greg thanked Mike and Laura Alexandre for leading the rosary for life around the church.

The first Lenten fish supper was slow, but the second one was much better. This year we started selling soft drinks. We didn't sell many soft drinks at the first couple suppers, and will move the beverages to the beginning of the line instead of the end. We have made about \$1000 from the first two fish suppers. The first supper doesn't profit as much because of the up front cost for supplies for the following weeks. The second supper did considerably better.

Attendance: 65 attendees the first week, 85 the second week. For all those who can help, preparation starts at 1:30 pm on Fridays. Help is also needed for clean-up time.

Ray Sargent suggested we set up a committee to decide how to disburse the funds gained from the fish suppers.

Grand Knight Greg reported that we will try to work with SSYAA to make a free throw event work in the near future.

We will lead the Novena for Life at our parish on May 16-24.

Grand Knight Greg motioned that Ray Sargent and John Chandonnet be our delegates for the upcoming state convention. Kevin Neely seconded. The motion passed without discussion.

The Sanford Mainers concession stand schedule is out. We will discuss any potential issues with the schedule at our next council meeting.

The parish block party in the spring will likely be held again. We anticipate helping by serving hamburgers, hot dogs, etc.

Grand Knight Greg submitted the Chaplain of the Year nomination for Fr. Bill.

We will hold a Sacred Heart Holy Hour on Friday, June 12 at 7:30 am.

We need to assemble the new nativity figures to ensure they fit in the new creche. If someone can help that would be appreciated.

We will discuss officer nominations at the April meeting.

The children's Christmas party will be held Saturday, December 12.

District Deputy's Report

District Deputy John Chandonnet reported:

"Three Limerick council knights, District 15 Warden Gerry Newport, myself, State Warden Mike Giroux and State Community Director Anthony Alfiero attended my District 15 meeting on Monday, February 16. I attribute the sparse attendance to the fact that the meeting was held on a holiday (President's Day) and the fact that it is a 25 mile, 40 minute one way drive from Sanford to Limerick through back roads in the dark in the middle of winter. Now I know what Father Bill goes through every week. In any case, we talked mostly about Safe Environment compliance, as both the Limerick and Springvale councils are in the process of becoming Safe Environment compliant.

I will schedule the summer district meeting in Sanford at our meeting chambers.

At the behest of Gerry Newport, I had a plaque made for VFW Post 9935 commemorating them for graciously allowing us to use their hall to hold the children's Christmas party for the past

three years. They were so happy with their plaque that they booked us for December 12 to hold our party.

I booked the weekend of August 15 and 16 with Shaw's Supermarket in Sanford to sell raffle tickets to raise funds for the next children's Christmas party. We want to sell raffle tickets during the summer--especially with the tourists. These dates will not conflict with our dates at the Sanford Mainers concession or the Acton Fair.

The next step will be to have raffle tickets printed. I'll need someone to go to the printer and order the books.

Both the Springvale and Limerick councils are in the process of nominating officers for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The St. Thomas council will have to set up a nominating committee to come up with a slate of next year's officers to vote on at the May council meeting.

New Business

Ray Sargent reported that we have four new members this year, and our new membership goal is eight. We are lining up two prospects and need two more. If we get four new members, our council will fully qualify for Star Council status.

Ray Sargent suggested that we should schedule a Third Degree exemplification after an upcoming 10 am Mass after Easter.

Ray Sargent stated that our council participated in sponsoring a soccer challenge every year for many years. GK Greg will try to talk to Coach Chuck at St. Thomas School to set something up with Sanford soccer.

Kevin Neely asked if there has been discussion about reaching out to recent new members about what their expectations are, and if we are giving them what they need. Discussion about membership followed.

Kevin Neely reminded the council of the men's retreat on Tuesday nights this Lent.

Knight of the Month

Bob Demers was selected the knight of the month.

50/50 Drawing

Rene Robichaud won the 50/50 drawing. The amount was \$12, which Rene donated to the Assembly uniform fund.

Good of the Order

The following prayer petitions were presented:

Sharon Desrochers
Aaron Downs and family

Steve Gannaway
Peter Godin
Robert Hatch
Margaret Hebert
Nancy L'Heureux
Cathy Neely
Gerry Newport
Shane Paul
Ron Robichaud
Ann Marie Sanger
Jim Sanger
Rick Southwick
Terry Sylvanus
Service members deployed
Victims of human trafficking

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, April 6 at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan T. Brock
Recorder