

St. Thomas Council Meeting Minutes - April 6, 2026

Meeting Called to Order

The regular St. Thomas Council # 13861 meeting was called to order by Grand Knight Gregory Cyr at 7:07 pm on Monday, April 6, 2026. 21 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 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:	Excused
3rd Year Trustee, Ray Sargent:	Present
2nd Year Trustee, Rick Southwick:	Present
1st Year Trustee, Brian Theriault:	Present

Reading of the Previous Month Meeting Minutes

Rick Southwick motioned to accept the March council meeting minutes as submitted. Gerry Newport seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The March 2026 minutes were accepted with the correction that Rick Southwick was not present at the March meeting.

Lecturer's Presentation

Recorder Jonathan Brock gave a presentation prepared by Lecturer Kevin Neely:

Worthy Grand Knight, distinguished guests and Brother Knights;

Last week, after 40 days of Lenten prayer and fasting, we celebrated the Triduum, which is the shortest season on the liturgical calendar. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night are considered by many to be the Catholic Church's High Holy Days. They recall and commemorate so many of the bedrock components of our faith. On Holy Thursday night we celebrated the institution of the Catholic priesthood, the call to humble service by Jesus when he washed the apostles' feet and the gift of the Holy Eucharist, the very body and blood of Jesus. Holy Saturday begins in darkness because we are still in mourning from the crucifixion of our Savior on Good Friday. The Easter Vigil scriptures remind us of God's love for us, beginning with the creation of the world and how God saw that it was good. They remind us of how God saved His people from slavery in Egypt and how he crushed their enemies in the Red Sea. They go on to show how even though we continue to turn away from God, He wants to renew our relationship with Him. The prophet Baruch pleads with us "to walk by [God's] light ... [and] not give your glory to another". The prophet Ezekiel reminds us that God says, "you shall be my people, and I will be your God."

The first Gospel of Easter from Matthew tells the story of the woman who went to the tomb of Jesus at dawn only to find out from an angel that Jesus was gone! The angel said, "do not be afraid" and the gospel goes on to say, "They went away ... overjoyed...!"

So much packed into those three days. You might think that God is done with celebrating. Think again.

Next Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday. It was officially designated by Pope Saint John Paul II on April 30, 2000 to honor the wishes of Jesus when He spoke with a young Polish nun in Poland in the 1930's. Saint Faustina Kowalska began to write down all the things Jesus was telling her and they were all centered on the Divine Mercy of God. You see even though, Jesus gave His life for us on the cross to redeem us, we are still turning away from Him in sin. Just as in the Old Testament when God saved His people time after time from their sin, they still continued to turn away from Him. Our society is doing that same thing today.

Jesus told Faustina, "Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy. If they will not adore My mercy, they will perish for all eternity." (*Diary* 965) Jesus told St. Faustina that "Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. **Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy.**" (*Diary* 300)

A person who goes to sacramental confession and receives Holy Communion on that Sunday, shall obtain the **total forgiveness of sins and punishments**. This grace is similar to the grace received at baptism and is greater than a plenary indulgence.

St. John Paul II said, "This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity." Let us honor the Love of Jesus this coming Sunday by saying Jesus, I Trust in You, and accepting His gift of salvation. **Vivat Jesus!**

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Matthew Pettine reported for March 2026:

Beginning	6104.88
Disbursements	
St Thomas - Beans	907.00
St Thomas - Haddock	745.00
St Thomas - Haddock	765.29
John C. - Plaque	99.61
Sister Bryant (Hermitage)	50.00
St Thomas - Haddock	654.97
Bob D. - Haddock Supplies	26.82
St Thomas - Haddock	706.62
St Thomas - Haddock	582.88
St Thomas - Haddock	509.95
WB Webb - Supplies	30.69
Receipts	
Haddock	1410.00
Donation	600.00
Dues	300.00
Donation	220.00
50/50	12.00
Haddock	1520.00
Haddock	1596.00
Haddock	1456.00
Haddock	1652.00
Ending	9,791.22
Christmas Party	600
General	9,191.22

(Haddock Profit = \$4,658.23)

Financial Secretary's Report

Financial Secretary John Greenlee reported:

147 Total Membership
83 Associate Members
55 Insured Members
9 Inactive Members
3 Honorary Member
31 Honorary Life Members
6 Exempt Members

Grand Knight's Report

Grand Knight Gregory Cyr reported:

We previously approved a donation to the sisters' hermitage and got a letter of thanks.

Spring Fever Fair is coming up, we have donated two bicycles. John Chandonnet motioned we donate two bikes for a total of \$300 value, Dennis Breton seconded. The motion passed without discussion. Bob Demers will purchase the bikes on behalf of the Council.

A Third Degree exemplification is coming up on Sunday, May 3.

The last bean supper for the year will be Saturday, April 18. We have been waiting a little later to clean up so people don't feel rushed. GK Greg said that if any brother knights can help prepare earlier in the day for the bean supper that would be appreciated.

Mother's Day is coming up on Sunday, May 10. The cost of carnations to distribute is \$1.50 each. GK Greg is working through how to order them in bulk. The parish office should have received a letter from Maine Right to Life asking how many carnations we would like.

There will likely be another parish block party in June. We will look for brother knights to volunteer to prepare and serve food.

Sanford Mainers concession stand: we have not confirmed our dates with the Mainers yet, but the schedule for organizations to volunteer is released. GK Greg is proposing these dates for our Council to work the concession stand (all games start at 6:30 pm):

Thursday, June 4
Monday, June 8
Monday, June 22
Tuesday, June 30
Monday, July 6
Monday, July 13
Monday, July 20
Tuesday, July 28

GK Greg is working to put on free throw contest for next year and a soccer contest after youth season ends in May.

GK Greg obtained the list of women that contributed desserts to the fundraising suppers. At the next meeting we will determine a way to recognize them:

Sandy Jalbert
Bea Fletcher
Helen Bergeron
Elaine Morin
Gisele Dolbec
Lynda Murphy
Laura Alexandre
Cathy Neely
Lucille LaChance
Barbara Theriault
Jessica McMahon

Pam Kutzer
Loren Murphy
Brigit Salantri
Joan Camire
Lucille Demers
Margaritte Cannon

District Deputy's Report

District Deputy John Chandonnet reported:

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

- I am pleased to announce that the St. Thomas, Springvale, and Limerick councils will have representation at the upcoming Maine Knights of Columbus State Convention April 24-26 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Auburn, Maine. Past State Deputy and Secretary to the State Deputy Ray Sargent, along with District 15 Deputy John Chandonnet will be representing the St. Thomas Council. Warden Richard Auger and Trustee Paul Labbe will be representing the Springvale Council. Deputy Grand Knight Don Berthiaume will be representing the Limerick Council. These gentlemen will be attending the convention as voting delegates.
- There will be a Charity, Unity and Fraternity Exemplification on Sunday, May 3 following the 10:00 am Mass. Zander Tevanian, a communicant at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish will be taking his Charity, Unity, and Fraternity degrees. I believe there is a gentleman interested in joining the Limerick Council.
- The Cash Calendar campaign has met with considerable success. I won! I received a phone call from Phil Lizotte in February advising me that I won fifty bucks. My sister also won \$100 in March. I bought her a calendar for Christmas. I never win money buying chances, but my sister and I won this time! All the reason to buy more calendars next time. All the reason for you to buy calendars. If I can win, so can you! I'll be bringing back a stack of calendars from the summer meeting in Bangor. Get your money ready!"

Old Business

Bob Demers reported that the Lenten haddock suppers went well, and thanked everyone for their support. GK Greg remarked that going forward, if any knights can come at 6 pm to help clean up that would be a huge help.

New Business

Baby Bottle Drive: we usually distribute the bottles on May 10 and collect them on June 24. Terry Sylvanus stated that two years ago we ran out of bottles and collected about \$1000. Last year we ordered more bottles and raised about \$2000. Not all bottles came back. Terry motioned to buy another set of 120 bottle at a cost of approximately \$200 including shipping. Rick Southwick seconded. The motion passed without discussion.

John Chandonnet is planning a holy hour with the Sacred Heart Icon. This will occur the third Friday after Pentecost, June 12, at 7:30 am at Holy Family Church. John Chandonnet will confirm with Bob Dumont at State Council that we will have access to the icon.

There is a slate of officers to vote on in May. We will firm up the nominees and vote at next meeting. The floor will be open to any new nominees.

In preparation for Memorial Day, Gerry Newport said the local veterans' groups could use as many volunteers as possible putting flags on grave sites. Will have the volunteer date next meeting. Also, we are looking for as many Knights as possible to participate in the parade on Memorial Day.

Ray Sargent reminded the council that the State Convention is at the end of this month.

Ray Sargent state that Sunday, May 3 is the date for our council to go to the Togus VA Medical Center to take veterans to Mass. Volunteers need to be there at 8:30 am to bring veterans to the 9:00 am Mass. Our service consists of pushing wheelchairs to chapel, and bringing veterans back to their rooms after. We should have at least five knights to volunteer.

Ray Sargent notified the council that there will be a Fourth Degree exemplification on Saturday, May 30 at St. Joseph's Church in Brewer, Maine.

Ray Sargent suggested we should set up a committee to decide what to do with the proceeds from haddock dinners. GK Greg agreed.

Terry Sylvanus reminded the Council of the upcoming Novena for Life, May 16-24. We will need brother knights to hand out prayer cards before Mass prior to the event.

Terry Sylvanus discussed our membership drive efforts and encouraged brother knights to recruit.

Terry Sylvanus said that it is normal practice to reimburse our two delegates to the State Convention. Terry motioned we fully reimburse Ray Sargent and the balance of John Chandonnet's cost to attend after what the Fourth Degree paid (\$550 and \$350 approximately). Romeo Zuniga seconded. The motion passed.

Terry Sylvanus reported that for our creche we were gifted new set of of figures, and the roof needs to be higher to accommodate St. Joseph. We are looking for a brother knight or someone else to help with the modification.

At the meeting we had coffee and baked goods. We will plan to do this next month as well.

50/50 Drawing

Romeo Zuniga won the 50/50 drawing. The amount was \$8, which Romeo donated to the council.

Good of the Order

The following prayer petitions were presented:

Gerry Newport
Rick Southwick

Terry Sylvanus
David Roy
Alex Pettine
Margaret Hebert
Ron Robichaud
Rob Martin
Joan Breton

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, May 4 at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan T. Brock
Recorder