

St. Thomas Council Meeting Minutes - May 4, 2026

Meeting Called to Order

The regular St. Thomas Council # 13861 meeting was called to order by Grand Knight Gregory Cyr at 7:02 pm on Monday, May 4, 2026. 21 knights were present.

Decade of the Rosary

Life Director Mike 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:	Excused
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:	Excused
1st Year Trustee, Brian Theriault:	Present

Reading of the Previous Month Meeting Minutes

Gerry Newport motioned to accept the April council meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. K seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Lecturer's Presentation

Lecturer Kevin Neely made a presentation to the Council:

"Worthy Grand Knight, distinguished guests and Brother Knights;

My question for you is, how far is the furthest you have walked? It doesn't have to be a walk in one day. Have you ever taken a long hike, like say, the Appalachian Trail? Google says that distance is roughly 2,200 miles, spanning many mountains and difficult terrain. You have to be in good physical shape to do that. How about walking from Bethlehem to Egypt? That is what St. Joseph did when an angel woke him from a deep sleep and told him to move, NOW! He said that Herod was searching for the child Jesus and wanted to kill him. Google says that walk took between 150 to 300+ miles (depending on how far into Egypt they went). It likely took two to four weeks, assuming a pace of 10–15 miles per day. You'd have to be in good physical shape to do that.

The reason I bring this up is that many pictures and statues we see of St. Joseph depict him as an old man. Often times we may think that marrying Mary was something he did later in life, in his 50's or even 60's.

But a book by Fr. Donald Calloway called "Consecration to St. Joseph, The Wonders of our Spiritual Father" challenges our assumptions of St. Joseph. Calloway points out that St. Joseph was courageous, taking his family in the dead of night into enemy territory. He knew he might need to defend his wife and child against physical assaults and he was willing to do that. Egypt was a land notorious for thieves, pagan rituals, idols, and sorcerers.

Father Calloway points out that Jesus learned to be courageous from the example of his father St. Joseph. He witnessed his courage in Egypt, Nazareth, Jerusalem and many other places they traveled together. Others believe that St. Joseph was younger. St. Josemaria Escriva said, "I see St. Joseph as a strong, young man, perhaps a few years older than Our Lady, but in the prime of his life." Venerable Fulton Sheen said, "He (St. Joseph) was not in the evening of life, but in its morning, bubbling over with energy, strength and controlled passion." Mother Angelica said simply, "All I know is, old men don't walk to Egypt!"

Because he saved the life of Jesus and Mary from certain death at the hands of Herod, many have called St. Joseph the Savior of The Savior. Pope St. John Paul II said we need to pray to St. Joseph for protection every day dangers and from the snares of the devil. He said, "We commend human life to Divine Providence and to St. Joseph, especially the life of children not yet born..." St. Padre Pio tells us that St. Joseph guarded Jesus with love and generosity and that he will guard our souls as well." He went on to say, "St. Joseph will free you for the persecution of the wicked and not allow your heart to be separated from Jesus. ***Ite ad Joseph!*** Go to Joseph with extreme confidence, because I do not remember having asked anything from St. Joseph, without having obtained it readily."

So not only does this book by Fr. Calloway dismiss the idea that St. Joseph was an old man when he married The Virgin Mary, but it tells some fascinating stories. For instance, the Holy House of Loreto is the family home of the Holy Family. For 13 centuries it remained in Nazareth. Now, it now rests in Italy! Yes, on May 10, 1291 the house disappeared from Nazareth! All that remained was the foundation. How could that happen? Why would that happen? Well, three years later the entire town of Nazareth was sacked by invading Muslims. God anticipated that event and sent his angels to relocate the house. Centuries later, scientists conducted a study of

the materials in the Holy House of Loreto. They discovered the walls are made of stones unique to the area of Nazareth and the wood comes from the exact area of Nazareth! Even the mortar is of material originating in the Holy Land. Perhaps St. Luke says it best in his Gospel, "Nothing is impossible with God" LK 1:37

One other quick story; In 1873 in Santa Fe New Mexico some nuns had a problem. They had just had a new chapel built for their school and realized that the only way to get to the second-floor choir loft would require a very long ladder. It was 20 feet up and there was no room for a traditional staircase. The architect/builder had recently died. So, they prayed a novena to St. Joseph for help. They asked him for a carpenter to help them. On the final day of the novena, a mysterious man arrived at their convent and said he was interested in building a staircase to the choir loft for them. His only request was that he wanted to work alone behind closed doors. He only carried a T-square, a hammer, a saw and a few other basic tools.

After three months, the work was done and the man had vanished. The sisters tried in vain to find him, even putting an ad in the local newspaper. They also wanted to pay for the lumber, but no local suppliers had delivered it.

The staircase was spiral, with 30 steps and no center support or load-bearing column. It contained no nails. It still exists today and is held together with wooden pegs. In 1996 the US Naval Research Laboratory and the US Forest Service analyzed the materials. The wood is spruce, but is found only in Israel. It is an architectural wonder! Remember; "Nothing is impossible with God" LK 1:37

Our own patron, St. Therese of Lisieux wrote of her devotion to St. Joseph. When she was a little girl, she was miraculously healed through the intercession of St. Joseph. She prayed to St. Joseph everyday and credits him with granting her countless favors.

St. Faustina of The Divine Mercy fame, wrote that St. Joseph frequently appeared to her to assure her of his protection over her important mission of making God's mercy known and trusted.

So let us also learn to trust in the Saviour of The Saviour, the working man from Nazareth, the head of the Holy Family and the terror of demons! In the words of Pope Leo XIII we pray, "O Blessed St. Joseph.... Shield us by your constant protection, so that supported by your example and strengthened by your help, we may be able to live a virtuous life, die a happy death, and obtain everlasting bliss in heaven.

Amen? Amen!

Vivat Jesus!"

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Matthew Pettine reported for April 2026:

Beginning

9791.22

Disbursements		
J Chando	300	
R Sargent	550	
Right to Life	750	
Liturgical Publications	1092	
St Thomas	693	
Receipts		
Supreme - Food	400	
Dues	220	
T-Shirt	15	
Soda	75	
50/50	8	
Donation	8	
Beans	693	
Ending	7,825.22	
Christmas Party	600	
General	7,225.22	

(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

Election of Officers for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year

Below are the officers elected for the upcoming fiscal year:

Grand Knight	Greg Cyr
Deputy Grand Knight	Nate Libbey
Chancellor	Ron Robichaud
Recorder	Jonathan Brock
Financial Secretary	John Greenlee
Treasurer	Matt Pettine
Lecturer	Kevin Neely
Advocate	Richard Caroti
Warden	Bob Demers
Inside Guard	Ray Sargent

Outside Guard	Rene Robichaud
3rd Year Trustee	Rick Southwick
2nd Year Trustee	Brian Theriault
1st Year Trustee	George Kanelos
Chaplain	Fr. Bill Labbe

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 130th Maine State Council Convention at the Hilton Garden Inn at Great Falls Plaza in Auburn, Maine from Friday, April 24th through Sunday, April 26th. Attendees from District 15 were as follows: Past State Deputy Ray Sargent and myself representing the St. Thomas Council; Warden Richard Auger and Trustee Paul Labbe representing the Springvale Council; and Deputy Grand Knight Don Berthiaume representing the Limerick Council.
- There was a prayer service Friday afternoon, followed by the welcome dinner and awards ceremony. Terry Sylvanus received the "One Man Who Makes a Difference" award for District 15. The various committee meetings followed after the awards ceremony.
- After breakfast, the business meeting was called to order by State Deputy Michael Giroux at 8:30 am.
 - a. State Chaplain Father Nathan March led the opening prayer.
 - b. Diocesan Director of Vocations Father Brad Morin spoke about vocations and the priesthood.
 - c. State Advocate Gary Boynton indicated that 41 of 55 councils are safe environment compliant. (Our council is safe environment compliant.)
 - d. Jon Harvey, District Master indicated an upcoming 4th Degree Exemplification at St. Joseph's Church in Brewer on Saturday, May 30th. The three candidates for District Master will be:
 1. Jon Harvey
 2. Michael Giroux
 3. John Deetjen, Jr.
 - e. State Web Master Dan LaLond spoke about streamlining our program recording and indicated an upcoming zoom training session at 6:00 pm on May 14th.
 - f. General Agent Kevin Brown spoke about the various insurance and financial services offered by the Knights of Columbus and indicated that 1.6 million members are currently insured.
 - g. Phil Lizotte reported that last year's Cash Calendar program raised approximately \$28,000.
 - h. Norm Gray, Special Olympics director, noted that Summer Special Olympics games will be held in Orono on June 5th, 6th and 7th. He also asked for volunteers to help in the cleanup at Camp Tall Pines in Poland, Maine on May 15th. Norm also indicated

- that we are to use Form 1074 to report any Special Olympics activities performed by a council.
- i. Anthony Alfiero, State Activity Director, urged all district deputies to put in their tootsie roll orders. It is noteworthy to mention that Anthony Alfiero bathes in the Annual Lobster Dip and has done so for the past 13 New Years. He makes excellent Jello shots!
 - j. State Deputy Michael Giroux spoke about becoming a star council: performing four programs in each of the faith, family, community and life areas; sponsoring two fraternal benefits events, meeting the council's recruitment quota and being safe environment compliant. He also mentioned that a new council is being formed at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Portland.
 - k. Past State Deputy Jon Harvey delivered his report and asked the group to recognize State Deputy Michael Giroux and his wife Barbara for their hard work and dedication to the Maine State Council over the past two years. He also requested that Gilman Berube be recognized, as he will be our next State Deputy. John Harvey emphasized proper meeting etiquette, as well.
 - l. The following four resolutions were passed:
 - 1. That the Knights of Columbus maintain loyalty to our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV.
 - 2. That the Knights of Columbus maintain loyalty to our Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly.
 - 3. That regalia baldricks be of different colors denoting each rank.
 - 4. That the Knights of Columbus honor Diane Berube, the deceased wife of our incoming State Deputy Gilman Berube.
 - m. The minutes of last year's 2025 Main State Council business meeting were approved.
 - n. The financial reports were approved.
 - o. Gary Boynton, State Advocate, conducted the election of Maine State Council officers for the upcoming 2026-27 fiscal year:
 - 1. Gilman Berube, State Deputy
 - 2. Gilman Ouellette, State Secretary
 - 3. Gary Boynton, State Treasurer
 - 4. Michael Foster, State Advocate
 - 5. Robert Michaud, State Warden
 - 6. Father Nathan March, State Chaplin
 - p. Each State Officer offered closing remarks at the end of the meeting.
 - q. State Chaplin Father Nathan March delivered the closing prayer.
 - r. Maine State Deputy Michael Giroux declared the 130 Maine State Council Convention business meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.
- We had lunch following the meeting. Had a quick dip in the pool and a Jello shot (Anthony Alfiero was also at the pool.) I dressed into my Honor Guard regalia and proceeded to the lobby to board the shuttle bus to the St. Peter and Paul Basilica in Lewiston for the honor guard drill prior to the 4:00 pm service. Unfortunately, the floor and steps on the bus were extremely slippery and my patent leather shoes compounded the problem. I slipped on the steps coming out of the bus and slammed onto the sidewalk. I was okay. Although I took the Lord God's name in vain before picking myself up. Taking the Lord God's name in vain outside of a basilica. Humm. I was among 14 honor guards at the service. His Excellency Bishop James Ruggieri was the celebrant. All state officer elects were installed during mass. On the return trip to the hotel, I

debated whether to reboard the shuttle bus or walk back to the hotel... barefoot! I took the bus. The bus driver, now familiar with my ability to climb stairs, told me to get off the bus going down the steps backwards. I thought she was going to tell me to go down on all fours!

- We adjourned back to the hotel. As honor guards we escorted each dignitary and his wife, along with his excellency to their places at the banquet. Following the dinner, we had a number of speakers including Supreme Advocate Anthony Picarello, Jr. who offered some words of inspiration and Bishop Ruggieri who offered some words of spiritual inspiration and guidance.
- Following the banquet, the day's activities concluded with dancing and complimentary beer and wine. It was a fun weekend, and I look forward to the 131st State Convention next year!
- There was a Charity, Unity and Fraternity Exemplification on Sunday, May 3rd following the 10:00 am service. Zander Tevanian, a communicant at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish took his Charity, Unity and Fraternity degrees. Richard Caroti also took his second and third degrees.
- I will obtain (again) the Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon on June 7th for the Prayer Service at Holy Family Church on Friday, June 12th at 7:30 am to commemorate the Feast of the Sacred Heart."

Old Business

Bob Demers reported that the bean supper and fish supper profit is finalized because all expenses are paid and we are squared up with the school. Profit was down a bit from last year but still good given the poor weather.

Bob Demers stated that St. Thomas School would like to recognize volunteers with a breakfast on Thursday, May 14 or Thursday, May 21. It would be in the cafeteria around 8:45 am. There would be an assembly with the students. The council aligned on May 21 for a date to give the school.

Ray Sargent motioned we donate an extra \$1077.44 from the council treasury to make \$5000.00 total raised for St. Thomas School from the bean suppers. The funds are to be disbursed fish supper proceeds. Terry Sylvanus seconded. The motion passed without further discussion. Bob Demers will present the check to St. Thomas School.

Brian Theriault made a report on Togus Operation Wheelchair. Brian said the veterans were so appreciative of what we were able to do to support them. We are scheduled to do this the first Sunday in May every year.

Terry Sylvanus and Gerry Newport came back from the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. and had a great time. They attended events Fort Mead Saturday and Fort McHenry on Sunday that weekend.

Grand Knight's Report

Grand Knight Gregory Cyr reported that the May 3 exemplification went well and we gained a new brother knight.

The 500 carnations were paid for and should be here on Friday, May 8, in time for distribution for Mother's Day.

Sanford Mainers concession stand schedule: we will lock in on the dates previously proposed. There will also be a St. Thomas School Mainers night.

Last year we had a parish block party. The date is still tentative June 9 is the last day of school, and June 14 is the graduation Mass for the eighth graders. Bob Demers has talked with Mrs. Walker at St. Thomas School because we supported in the past with cooking and serving food, and we are willing to support it again. Last year we donated \$500. Bob suspects it could be less this year because we have some existing supplies. Greg Cyr will reach out to the school to confirm if we are having the block party.

Acton Fair participation is tentative, there is a new contact for volunteer work coordination.

GK Greg talked to Sanford Rec and SSYAA about a potential soccer contest or free throw contest but the event is still tentative.

GK Greg asked Bob Demers about Acton School asking for donations to support their participation in Odyssey of the Mind. This is an academic event for 5th and 6th graders that will be held at Iowa State University. Parents and children travel to compete. Gerry Newport motioned that our council donate \$250.00, Kevin Neely seconded. The motioned passed without further discussion.

GK Greg wants us to consider a cookout for the Third and Fourth Degree this summer.

New Business

Ray Sargent congratulated the new slate of officers. Ray reported that there is another opportunity to become a Fourth Degree Knight at St. Mary's Church in Bangor on Saturday, May 30.

Terry Sylvanus reported on the upcoming baby bottle drive for the Alpha Pregnancy Center. We received the new ones, and will need volunteers to hand out bottles after the 4 pm, 10 am, and 5 pm Masses. We will ask to return the bottles with donations inside. Our council's goal is to raise \$2,000.00. For every \$500.00 we donate to the Alpha Pregnancy Center, we get a \$100.00 donation matched from Supreme Council. \$2000 = \$2400.

Memorial Day: Gerry Newport stated that on Saturday, May 23 volunteers are requested at 9am to put flags on veterans' graves at St. Ignatius cemetery. Our council will be working that morning with the Patriot Riders and Amvets. Gerry Newport reminded us that the Memorial Day parade is Monday, May 25, we have been invited to march. The parade will be leaving the Number One Pond at 10 am sharp. Participants will start lining up at 9:30 am. At 7:30 am, veterans meet at Dunkin Donuts and then place wreaths at Central Park and all cemeteries in town. There will be a barbecue at the American Legion after the parade for parade participants.

Nate Libbey volunteered his truck for the parade. Brother Knights marching in the parade are requested to wear Honor Guard uniforms or K of C apparel. Also, please bring flags. GK Greg pointed out this year is the 250th anniversary of the USA.

Terry Sylvanus reminded the council of the upcoming Novena for Life at church at 6:30pm, May 16-24. Terry will make sure we have announcements in the bulletin.

Terry Sylvanus mentioned our donation of sacramental gifts. The administering of the sacraments will be on Saturday, June 20 (4 pm Mass). This year the Knights of Columbus will hand out the gift bags to the kids receiving their sacraments. The parish is also requesting Honor Guard. Brother Knights should attend dressed in suits even if they are not Fourth Degree or Honor Guard.

On Saturday, May 30 after 4 pm Mass, the Honor Guard is requested along with other members to attend a rosary prayer in honor of our blessed mother Mary.

Ray Sargent gave an example of recruitment: when he attended the State Convention last month. By striking up a conversation, Ray recruited the clerk of the hotel he was staying at to the K of C for the Lewiston Council.

Ray Sargent gave a monthly report for Star Council and we are in good shape but need eight more knights to participate in a Fraternal Benefits Event and we need three new members. We should strive for Star Council status to ensure our council is recognized for all the work we do.

St. Thomas School bean suppers start September 5 for the next school year.

50/50 Drawing

Aaron Downs won the 50/50 drawing. The amount was \$15, which Aaron donated to the council.

Good of the Order

The following prayer petitions were presented:

Joan Breton
Paul Cunningham
Steve Gannaway
Paul Green
Margaret Hebert
Nancy L'Heureux
Robert Levine
Connie Littlefield
Rob Martin
Paul McNutt
Gerry Newport
Gerry Nulton
Alex Pettine
Ann Price

David Roy
Dennis Roy
Rick Southwick
Joe Sylvanus
Terry Sylvanus
Kevin Welch
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, June 1 at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan T. Brock
Recorder