



For more information visit our link at: stmarycentralia.org

This block contains a list of officers for K of C Council 1025 for the year 2026. The list is presented in a vertical column on the left side of a rectangular box. The box has a dark blue header with the council name and year. The background of the box features a faint image of a church steeple. At the bottom of the box, there is a decorative banner with the words 'CHARITY • UNITY • FRATERNITY • PATRIOTISM' in a small, white, sans-serif font.

K of C Council 1025
— OFFICERS 2026 —

Chaplain
Fr. Steve

Grand Knight
Greg Schwartz

Deputy Grand Knight
Rodney Resch

Chancellor
Dustin Meier

Recorder
David Ford

Financial Secretary
Steve Beard

Treasurer
Garrett Ford

Lecturer
Larry Gettinger

Advocate
Bob Shawn

Warden
David Knowles

Inside Guard
Eric Quandt

Outside Guard
Jim Opolony

Trustees
Steve Pigg, Steve Brink, Jack Graham

CHARITY • UNITY • FRATERNITY • PATRIOTISM

Brother Knights, prospective Knights and friends,

Welcome to the first issue of The Centralia Knights, the newsletter of Knights of Columbus Centralia Council 1025. For more than 120 years, our Knights have faithfully served the parish and community through prayer, charitable work, fellowship, and service. This newsletter will keep our Brother Knights, prospective Knights and parishioners, informed about council goals, meetings, parish events, projects, and opportunities to serve.

Thank you to everyone who attended the September 21st. special meeting concerning the future of Council 1025. After thoughtful discussion and many creative suggestions, the members voted to continue moving forward. Father Steve volunteered to serve as Grand Knight, **for one year only**, with Steven Pigg serving as Deputy Grand Knight. The council will evaluate its progress after six months. Another vote will be held in October 2027 to determine its long-term direction.

Over the coming months, we will begin an aggressive membership drive and work toward becoming a stronger parish-based council. Please share this newsletter, invite other Catholic men to join us, and send us your stories, photographs, events, and council memories. Together, we will honor the Knights who came before us and prepare Centralia Council 1025 for many more years of faithful service. New officers will be installed at the November meeting. **Vivat Jesus!**

**Next Council
Meeting**

**Monday, October 19, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
St. Mary School Cafeteria**

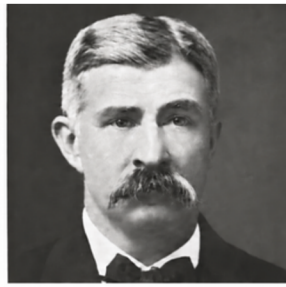


James L. Brady

James L. Brady, above left, was instrumental in the creation of the local chapter. Schultz, center, served as the chapter's first treasurer, and C. A. Garnier served as a Grand Knight.



Fred A. Schultz



C. A. Garnier



Blessed Father Michael McGivney
Founder of the Knights of Columbus

COUNCIL 1025: HOW OUR STORY BEGAN

Let's explore the history of Centralia Knights of Columbus Council 1025, chartered on July 9, 1905, through the determination of Catholic men committed to faith, fellowship, and service. The effort brought together Knights from Jacksonville, Canton, Murphysboro, and St. Louis. Centralia's pastor, Father John H. Bruns, persuaded State Chaplain Father William J. Healy to visit and explain the Order to local Catholic men. Organizing a council proved difficult, but his visit encouraged interest. District Deputy Maurice V. Joyce of East St. Louis soon joined the effort. Following his address, more than thirty applications received signatures. The organizers eventually assembled fifty-three candidates, enough to move forward with establishing the council.

On the day of its institution, visiting officers conferred three degrees. Effingham Council conducted the first, East St. Louis the second, and Joyce the third. The historical account remembered the occasion as one of Centralia's greatest days for its Catholic community. Members formed a large procession downtown and marched to Mass. Dinner followed in the school hall. After the ceremonies, everyone gathered for an elaborate banquet downtown. Apparently, good food has always belonged on a Knights' agenda.

The council's influence extended beyond Centralia. Charter members from DuQuoin later helped form their own council, while Carlyle Council also developed from Centralia's membership. Membership fluctuated over time, yet service continued. Of fifty-eight members at the outbreak of World War I, eighteen entered military service. Those at home supported community wartime activities. These Knights established a tradition of faith, fellowship, and service. Their story invites today's members to continue their work.

CONSIDER YOURSELF INVITED!

"No one ever asked me to join the Knights of Columbus." We hear this too often. Consider yourself invited! Join Centralia Council 1025 and put your Catholic faith into action through service to your family, parish, community, and country. Founded by Blessed Michael McGivney in 1882, the Knights unite Catholic men through charity, unity, and fraternity. Build friendships, strengthen your faith, and help neighbors in need. Your time and talents matter. Speak with Father Steve, Greg Schwartz or a fellow Knight about joining today!

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER?

Interested in joining the Knights of Columbus? We are planning an open house in November for prospective members to meet our Knights, ask questions, and learn more about Centralia Council 1025. The date and time will be announced soon. Come hear about opportunities to serve our parish and community, grow in your Catholic faith, and build friendships with fellow Catholic men. Bring your questions and learn where your interests and talents fit. Getting started is easy. Speak with any Knight or visit the St. Mary Parish website at stmarycentralia.org for more information. We look forward to welcoming you!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS THE 2026-27 VOCATIONS FUND DRIVE IS OPEN

Help us support the men and women
who are fulfilling their call to serve.



Scan the QR code
to purchase books.



A BOOK OF
5 TICKETS
IS **\$20**



THIS ONLINE FUND DRIVE
WILL CLOSE ON
**SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 29, 2026**

SINGLE TICKET DONATION: \$5.00

ILLINOIS STATE COUNCIL K OF C CHARITIES INC.
BENEFIT OF ILLINOIS VOCATIONS SUPPORT PROGRAM

\$20,000 IN CASH AWARDS 20 PRIZES

1st Prize	\$10,000	7th-10th Prizes	\$500 each
2nd Prize	\$2,500	11th-15th Prizes	\$200 each
3rd-6th Prizes	\$1,000 each	16th-20th Prizes	\$100 each

DRAWING: DECEMBER 5, 2026
WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT



Scan the QR Code
or contact a member of the
Knights of Columbus