



THE BANNER

Unfurled for God and Country



Fr. Thomas J. F. Ryan Council # 5036
9090 Old Bustleton Ave, Phila, PA 19115
Email: Council5036@gmail.com
Web: www.KofC5036.org
Facebook: [@council5036](https://www.facebook.com/council5036)



In-Person Only: Business Meeting, Jan 8, 7:30pm; Officers' Mtg, Jan 8, 7pm
BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR AN EMAIL FROM JAMES WOODRUFF REGARDING MEETING REMINDERS.

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✠ *From the Desk of the Grand Knight*

January 2026

Dear Brothers:

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas with time to spend with family and friends. Here are some photos from the Grand Knight Christmas party is December 18th. We were able to give a generous gift to the Sisters of Life because of the Brothers' generosity. Your generosity also allowed us to provide meals to our neighbors in need this season. See a few pictures below. The Officers' Meeting is at 7pm before the Business Meeting at 7:30 on January 8th. The February meetings will be on February 5th with the officers meeting at 7 and the business meeting at 7:30pm.

Vivat Jesus,
James Woodruff
Grand Knight
Knights of Columbus



(continued)

Meeting Jesus Face-to-Face

I fear dying. Not the departing itself, not the crossing from this life into the next. What I fear is the face-to-face encounter with Jesus. I fear standing before Him because I know my life has not been exemplary.

I have gone to confession. I have repented. I truly intend not to sin again. Yet, I feel incomplete—still weighed down, as though something is missing, as though forgiveness has not fully reached me. In the past, confession left me clean, pure, fresh, exhilarated—utterly forgiven. Now, that joy feels distant.

I know the problem is mine. I know God loves me and forgives all my sins. But I cannot shake the uneasy sense that He is disappointed in me, that my failures have built a wall between us.

So, for the past year, I have prayed for grace: to feel His love and forgiveness again, to be renewed, to reclaim that exhilaration of absolution, to face Him with confidence in His mercy.

Sometimes we know truths in our minds but not in our hearts. We hear them so often they become familiar, almost dulled, and they fail to penetrate.

On Wednesday, December 3, 2025, Father Phang's homily on Matthew 15:29–37 broke through that dullness. He spoke of the healings and the feeding of the multitude, but then he said the greater miracle was Jesus' love and compassion for us: "Then Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, 'I have compassion on the crowd...'"

That single phrase pierced my heaviness. It was as if the words were spoken directly to me. And when Father Phang added, "God wants us," my private doubts were named aloud—and answered. Pause and let that truth sink in: **God wants us!** Say it out loud "**God wants me!**"

I felt a stirring, a desire to lean into God's love instead of shrinking away from it. I went home from Mass and searched the New Testament for every passage where Jesus expresses His love, mercy, and compassion. I wanted to engrave it on my mind and heart: how much He truly wants us. The entire Bible is God's love story to us.

And then a thought came: How could a God who wants me, who longs for me to belong to Him ever be disappointed in me? How could there ever be a wall between us?

Now, when I picture that face-to-face encounter with Jesus, I no longer see fear. I see love in His eyes; His arms extended in welcome; His smile--and in that smile, the weight of years of doubt dissolves. It is not disappointment I see, but delight.

As He draws me into His embrace, He whispers, "Thanks, Will. Job well done." And I finally understand: His love has always been greater than my fear.

Vivat Jesus
Will Schmitt, PGK, Lecturer





Happy Birthday to all Knights born in January!

Thomas T Durkin
Timothy Durkin
Thomas P Frank
John J. Foley
Frank Geiger

William Keane
Francis C. Layton
John F. Lehane
John Joseph Marnell
William P Schagren

William Appell Schmitt
Daniel V Small
George W. Smith, III
Thomas C Voisard
James Woodruff

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Grand Knight.....Jim Woodruff215-588-3182.....jmwoodshark@gmail.com
Deputy Grand KnightGeorge Warren, Jr.....georgejr@cletus3.com
Chancellor..... Chris Fried.....christof.cf@gmail.com
Financial Secretary..... Adam Ungaro.....215-284-1997.....adamungaro57@gmail.com
Recorder..... Will Schmitt.....215-745-9710.....wajschmitt@gmail.com

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR BROTHER KNIGHTS & LADIES

Also, please pray for an end to war everywhere. Please pray for victims of gun violence and the wildfires. Please pray for government officials, for a commitment to peace.

Please call or email Jim Woodruff with the names of all ill Brother Knights and Ladies.

PA KofC Newsletter: http://www.pakofc.us/newsletter/keystone_knight/index.html

BANNER STAFF ~ Editors: Tom Sims and Will Schmitt tomhsims@gmail.com or wajschmitt@gmail.com



**Knights of
Columbus®
Pennsylvania
State Council**

COAL (CHANCE OF A LIFETIME)

Tickets now on Sale

The cost of the chances are \$5 each. The proceeds are used to fund the State Council Scholarship Program and provide an easy opportunity to raise funds for our Council. There are 16 monetary prizes totalling \$65,000 with the first prize set at \$15,000. Our Council gets to keep \$2.50 per ticket for all tickets sold and returned by April 1, 2026. The drawing will be held on Friday May 15, 2026 at 9:00 PM at the State Convention. The tickets are available at the Council on the bar or you can see Adam Ungaro (215-284-1997).