



# 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](mailto:Council5036@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.KofC5036.org](http://www.KofC5036.org)  
Facebook: [@council5036](https://www.facebook.com/council5036)



**Ash Wednesday  
is February 18**

**Business Meeting, Feb 5, 7:30pm; Officers' Mtg, Jan 29, 7:30pm (weather permitting)**  
BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR AN EMAIL FROM JAMES WOODRUFF REGARDING MEETING REMINDERS.

+++++

✠ *From the Desk of the Grand Knight*

February 2026

Dear Brothers:

I hope everyone is being extra safe during this winter snow. Weather permitting, we will have an Officers' Meeting this Thursday January 29. Our regular business meeting will take place on February 8. For those who missed it, here is the picture from when we gave a generous gift to the Sisters of Life because of the Brothers' generosity. Your generosity also allowed us to provide meals for our neighbors in need this season.

Lent comes early this year, on Wednesday February 18. As we prepare for the Lenten season and Easter holiday, please continue to do good works for your neighbors and all those in need. It could be something small. Whatever you decide, we know your help will mean a lot to the person you're helping.

Vivat Jesus,  
James Woodruff  
Grand Knight  
Knights of Columbus

(continued)



**Knights of  
Columbus®**  
Pennsylvania  
State Council

COAL (CHANCE OF A LIFETIME)

## C.O.A.L. 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).*

# The Unimaginable Wonder of God's Grace and Love

## *A Personal Reflection for Every Brother Knight*

Dear Brothers,

Last Monday, we buried my cousin Stephen ("Skipper") Rauscher. We were close. We grew up together. My mother and her two sisters raised their families in Fox Chase, and all of us cousins were as close as many siblings. Skip is the fourth person dear to my heart to pass in the past year — my brother Pat, my sister Ritanne, my cousin Jack, and now Skip.

In the midst of this grief, my heart is drawn again to the breathtaking reality of Jesus' love for each of us — vast, personal, and beyond what we dare to hope. It is love that meets us at our lowest, sees our hidden wounds, and embraces us with a tenderness that never falters.

Each time someone I love passes, I find myself contemplating what it must be like to step from this world into Christ's presence. I return again and again to the parable of the forgiving father in Luke. I picture the son stumbling home — ashamed, afraid, bracing for reproach — only to be swept up in the arms of a father who runs to meet him. No anger. No coldness. Only love.

That moment of unexpected embrace reveals the very heart of God toward us. The saints tell us that our souls long for purification, but Scripture shows us that the tone is not terror — it is homecoming. Christ is the Father who runs to greet us, not with judgment, but with overwhelming compassion and joy. I believe with all my soul that, for those in Christ, the first thing we encounter will be relief and recognition — not accusations but affirmation, not disappointment but love, security, happiness, and fulfillment.

- We do not dissolve or disappear. He knows our heart and every wrinkle of our story and calls us by name.
- Christ welcomes us as beloved children, not as strangers at the door.
- There is no fear, suspense, or condemnation — only the peace of being finally, truly safe.

Sometimes I wonder how the Maker of galaxies could love someone as fragile and flawed as I am. But Jesus Himself gave us the answer: a father scanning the horizon, waiting for his child to return. When our journey is over, there will not be an interrogation or a lecture. There will be a feast. There will be arms wide open. "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" — those words of trust are ours because Christ has made them ours.

(continued)



When I picture that first moment — standing before Jesus — I do not imagine a courtroom or a tally sheet. I imagine the embrace of the father in Luke’s story, and I am undone by the thought.

No rejection or disappointment awaits us. Only welcome. Only joy. Only love freely given, not because we earned it, but because He delights to give it. So, dear brothers, let us encourage one another to come home to this love every day. To trust it.

To rest in it. To let it transform our lives. My prayer is that each of us, deep in our hearts, knows the truth of the Father’s embrace — a love that waits for us, delights in us, and will never let us go.

With all my affection in Christ,  
Will Schmitt, PGK, Lecturer  
Vivat Jesus – He Indeed Lives!

	<b>Happy Birthday to all Knights born in February!</b>	
	Richard L Girkin	Anthonay Stamato
	Patrick M. Gleason	Michael Suarez
	Charles P Kuhar, Sr.	Rev Joel F Szydowski
	Charles P Kuhar, Jr.	Paul J Wuestkamp

**In-Person Only: Business Meeting, Feb 5, 7:30pm; Officers’ Mtg, Jan 29, 7pm**  
**BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR AN EMAIL FROM JAMES WOODRUFF REGARDING MEETING REMINDERS.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Grand Knight.....	Jim Woodruff .....	215-588-3182.....	<a href="mailto:jmwoodshark@gmail.com">jmwoodshark@gmail.com</a>
Deputy Grand Knight .....	George Warren, Jr.....		<a href="mailto:georgejr@cletus3.com">georgejr@cletus3.com</a>
Chancellor.....	Chris Fried.....		<a href="mailto:christof.cf@gmail.com">christof.cf@gmail.com</a>
Financial Secretary.....	Adam Ungaro.....	215-284-1997.....	<a href="mailto:adamungaro57@gmail.com">adamungaro57@gmail.com</a>
Recorder.....	Will Schmitt.....	215-745-9710.....	<a href="mailto:wajschmitt@gmail.com">wajschmitt@gmail.com</a>

**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](http://www.pakofc.us/newsletter/keystone_knight/index.html)

**BANNER STAFF** ~ Editors: Tom Sims and Will Schmitt [tomhsims@gmail.com](mailto:tomhsims@gmail.com) or [wajschmitt@gmail.com](mailto:wajschmitt@gmail.com)

Happy  
St. Valentine’s  
Day!

