

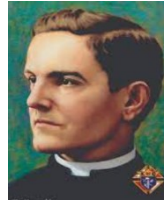


THE BANNER

Unfurled for God and Country



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Blessed Michael McGivney
Feast Day, Aug 13
See below for details.

BUSINESS MEETING, August 6 7:30PM ♦ ALL MEETINGS @7:30PM IN PERSON ONLY!

Meetings IN PERSON ONLY @7:30pm!

Business Meeting, Aug 6, 7:30pm; Officers' Mtg, Aug 27, 7:30pm.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR AN EMAIL FROM OUR GRAND KNIGHT REGARDING MEETING REMINDERS.

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From the Desk of the Grand Knight

August 2026

Dear Brothers,

The next business meeting will be August 6th at 7:30.

The Special Olympics collection was uplifting as the parishioners showed unbelievable generosity.

We are still in need of Officers for the new fiscal year that starts July 1st. Deputy Grand Knight and Recorder are the spots that need to be filled ASAP.

Thank you to all the Officers who have served the Council this past year.

Until next month.

Vivat Jesus!
Jim Woodruff
Grand Knight

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**WE NEED
VOLUNTEERS**

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO BE
AN OFFICER.**

Feast Day for Our Founder

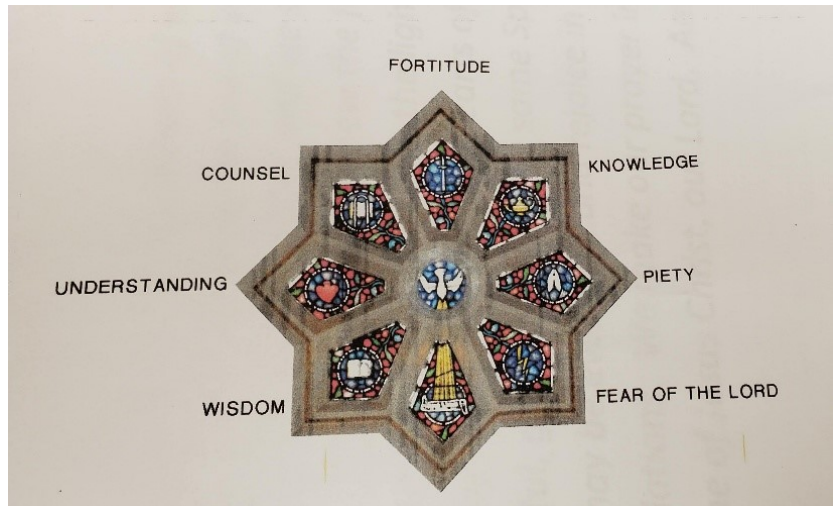
The Feast Day of Blessed Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, is celebrated on August 13th.

This day is designated for the liturgical calendar of the Archdioceses of Hartford, where he served as a priest and was beatified, according to the Knights of Columbus.

It's also widely observed by the Knights of Columbus and the wider Catholic community.

The Window that Prays for You

Above the altar at St. Cecilia's there is a stained-glass window which stands as a silent teacher. Such windows were designed for the instruction of the faithful—sermons, as one medieval writer put it, that “reached the heart through the eyes instead of entering at the ears.”



Joseph Schmid and Family donated that window so the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit would stand watch over every Mass, every soul who kneels beneath it.

Why Stained Glass? Scripture tells us God is light (1 Jn 1:5). Medieval theologians saw a perfect analogy in the sun pouring through stained glass — alive and active like the Holy Spirit, ablaze with morning hope, subdued in winter shadow, but always present.

The number seven in that window is no accident. In sacred art, seven represents the Sacraments, the Gifts of the Holy Ghost, the deadly sins, the days of the week, and the Penitential Psalms. Count those seven gifts, and you’re reading a theological library encoded in glass.

The Gifts Themselves are rooted in Isaiah 11:1–3 and given to us through Baptism and Confirmation (CCC §1303). Starting at seven o’clock on the window, let us walk clockwise through all seven gifts:

- Wisdom – The book symbolizes the word of God. Wisdom perfects charity — the highest gift, letting the soul taste and savor God Himself.
- Understanding – The heart symbolizes penetrating insight into the truths necessary for salvation — in effect, the ability to see God.
- Counsel – The Stole Laid on the Divine Book. The stole is the vestment of priestly authority. Laid on the book, it shows the Spirit speaking through the Church.
- Fortitude – The sword is a weapon of spiritual warfare. It cuts through fear, paralysis, and human respect, demanding decisiveness — even a willingness to suffer.
- Knowledge – An oil lamp with a flame recalls the wise virgins (Mt 25:1–13) and “a light for my path” (Ps 119:105). Through infused knowledge, the faithful see the providential purpose in whatever enters their lives — a gift given, not merely acquired by study.
- Piety – Hands in Prayer. Piety is not mere rule-following but filial devotion — the love a child bears a father. The Spirit draws the soul into an affectionate relationship with God as Abba, Father, Daddy.
- Fear of the Lord – A Lightning Bolt. This is the most striking, most misunderstood symbol on the window, evoking divine majesty and power — Exodus 19, the whirlwind in Job, Satan falling like lightning (Lk 10:18). But this is not servile fear—the dread of a slave. It is filial fear—the awe of a child who loves his father so completely that offending him is unbearable.

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“The soul starts here and climbs through each gift toward wisdom” (Pope St. Gregory the Great). The lightning bolt is not the end of the journey. It is the ignition. At a time when most could not read or write, the cathedral was a school in stone and glass. As Pope St. Gregory the Great said, “Painting can do for the illiterate what writing does for those who can read.” The window isn’t just beautiful — it’s a commission, offering these seven gifts to every man who walks through those doors.

-The dove at the center — the Holy Spirit — sends rays of light down to you. Every time we look up during Mass, we see the whole economy of grace: the Spirit descending, the gifts radiating outward, the soul equipped on every side. The window is instruction and love. It says: you did not come here empty, and you will not leave here unarmed.

Here’s something worth sitting with: That window has been praying over St. Cecilia parish for over 75 years. Which of the seven gifts do you think is most neglected by Catholic men today — and why?

Vivat Jesus!

Will Schmitt



Happy Birthday to all Knights born in August!

Emilio F Agresti

John F Carroll

Richard K Girkin

Rev Robert F Lucas

Stephen Malen

Matthew Morgan

Stanley Rimdzius

Tom Sims

If we missed your birthday, we apologize. Please send an email to the editors at council5036@gmail.com.

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