



# Knights of Novi Newsletter

Council #11811

December, 2025

## From the UCCSB – **What is Advent?**

<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-worship/liturgical-year/advent>

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of [Christmas](#).



The Advent season is a time of **preparation** that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. All these things together, help to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.

O Come,  
O Come,  
Emmanuel

# Knights of Novi - 11811

## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE – Keith Siopes

For most of my working life, my time was consumed by my career, professional organizations, and family. After my wife was called home to God in July 2020, I became more involved at Holy Family Church by joining several programs and groups. During that time, I also felt a strong calling to help veterans in crisis and made several attempts to answer that call.

A couple of years ago, shortly after retiring, I attended a Holy Family pancake breakfast hosted by the Knights of Columbus. During the event, Don Garon spoke with me about the Knights' pillars of charity, unity, and fraternity. When I shared my desire to support veterans, he explained the fourth pillar—patriotism—which is dedicated to serving those who serve. He told me that the first step was to join the Knights as a Third Degree member, embracing the first three pillars, and that after six months I would be eligible to join the Fourth Degree.

As a Knight, I have found great fulfillment in sharing my time and talents with a wonderful group of men and their families who share strong Catholic values and a commitment to helping those in need. Working together, Third Degree and Fourth Degree Knights have planned and hosted meaningful events to honor and support our veterans.

In November 2024, we hosted our first Veterans Mass and Celebration, followed by a second event in November 2025, continuing our mission to honor veterans and donate funds to local organizations that assist veterans in crisis. In June 2025, Brother Knight Gary Rose also led our efforts for a D-Day Victory Buffet at George's Senate Restaurant, which generated additional financial support for organizations serving veterans in need.

I strongly encourage all men who desire to live out Catholic values and serve those in need to speak with a Knight at one of our events or whenever you may meet one. Through the Knights of Columbus, I have found a way to answer God's call to serve, to heal, and to stand in solidarity with others—especially those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom. I am grateful for the opportunity to put my faith into action, trusting that God continues to guide our work and bless our efforts.

As Scripture reminds us:

*"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* — Ephesians 2:10

Thank you to Holy Family Council #11811 for welcoming me into your fellowship and for allowing me to serve alongside you.

Vivat Jesus!

*Keith Siopes* / Grand Knight Council #11811

# Knights of Novi - 11811

## Knights in Action

The Knights were founded based on principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. Our Catholic faith teaches us to “Love thy neighbor as thyself.” As Knights, we recognize that our mission, and our faith in God, compels us to action.

## Fall Charity Poker –

In the last edition of the newsletter, the fall Charity Poker fundraiser was in progress at Vision Lanes in Westland. The final tally yielded a net profit of \$6080, that will help fund a number of charitable endeavors in the coming year.



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## Fall MI Drive -

During October, 22 brother Knights (*plus 5 dear family members*) participated in the Tootsie Roll drive to raise money in support of those with Intellectual/Developmental disabilities. Collections were done at Holy Family, Busch’s and St. James, pulling in \$4309 in donations! There’s a pot of gold at the end of that rainbow!



# Knights of Novi - 11811

**Knights in Action** - Council 11811 held a heartfelt celebration to honor our Holy Family veterans.

After celebrating Mass with an Honor Guard procession, friends and family came together to recognize the contributions and sacrifice of our veterans. Commentaries were shared and prayers were offered for the benefit of our veterans and for healing for our nation and protection for our world. The recipient of the proceeds and donations was Vets Returning Home which is a nonprofit and non-government funded organization dedicated to help our veterans transition into stable lives.



## Prayer to Obtain a Favor

Through the Intercession of Servant of God  
Father Vincent R. Capodanno, M.M.

May God who has offered healing and strength through the hands of His only Son, Our Lord, and through Christ's many servants grant me the favor of His healing hand through the intercession of His servant, Father Vincent Capodanno, priest, missionary, and chaplain, who always sought to heal and comfort the wounded and dying on the field of battle. May I be granted this request on my own field of battle I pray in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



Servant of God  
Father Vincent R. Capodanno, MM  
February 13, 1929-September 4, 1967



# Knights of Novi - 11811

## Knights in Action

### Fall Cleanup –

Several of the Knights have made a few trips to the Spallone residence to help with the fall cleanup activities, while our brother Rob recovers from his heart surgeries. The brothers joined forces with some caring neighbors of the Spallones, and some of the Men of Fire in this effort and also cleaned up the leaves at the home of another one of our parish neighbors.



# Knights of Novi - 11811

## Guardian Angels are Real, Both Kinds!

By SK Rob Spallone  
December 13, 2025

Brothers,

Imagine you are humming along in life when suddenly you can't catch your breath. You go to the doctor and next thing you know, you are going through open-heart surgery to fix several issues. Surgery is successful and you recover quickly and strongly, getting back in the groove and even returning to work once given the OK to drive again. Everything seems to be going great, and you are looking forward to your checkup appointments in January so you can get rid of this uncomfortable Life Vest defibrillator device the doctors made you wear to be discharged from the hospital.

The "Life Vest" is a group of sensors and electric shock paddles that go around your chest and back and connect to a battery pack. If you go into a bad heart rhythm or cardiac arrest, it shocks you back to a good rhythm and back to life. The doctors' wisdom in having me wearing this device certainly saved my life.

I was coming home from my morning shift at work, driving special needs kids to school for a transportation company. I knew I was wearing this device, but the doctors had given me the OK to drive and I thought they were just being cautious in making me wear it. I never thought I'd actually need it. After all, I was recovering like a champ, walking a half mile or further each day, riding my exercise bike for 20-30 minutes with no problem. No more shortness of breath, my vitals were all good. Everyone I saw thought I looked great. Then it happened. I was at the stop light on the corner of Halsted and 12-mile road in my SUV. The light was red and as I came to a stop at the edge of the intersection on Halsted, I suddenly felt the sensation that I was about to lose consciousness. The best way I can describe it was a sensation like an elevator is going up from your body to your head and it's moving fast. Once it gets to your head you are out. I had a split second to think, "oh no, I am driving, I can't pass..." - and then I was out. In my SUV, which was in drive. My foot on the brake, but unconscious. The "Life Vest" did its job when it detected a life-threatening arrhythmia and shocked me. Somehow, even as it shocked me (and these are not small jolts!) my foot stayed on the brake at the intersection, and I did not roll out into traffic on 12-mile road.

I woke up soon after and saw the light turn green. My device was squawking, "*You had a treatment. Call your doctor*". I was a little confused, I didn't understand what had just happened but had the presence to drive the mile or two home. I called the doctor, but he wasn't available right away. I called Darinka, my wife. I even called the Life-Vest company. My doctor called. The consensus was for me to get to the hospital. My wife called a friend and brother Knight, who took me to the ER and graciously stayed with me all day until Darinka could get there from work. I ended up getting a permanent pacemaker-I.C.D. device put in my chest and now I am back home recovering from that procedure.

*(continued...)*

# Knights of Novi - 11811

## Guardian Angels are Real, Both Kinds!

(continued...)

I had some time in the hospital to think about what happened and get some hard data about it, since the "Life Vest" also sends telemetry to the doctor and maintains a record. I found out that the episode lasted for 91 seconds from the time I went unconscious, was shocked and came back to consciousness at the stop light. For 91 seconds I somehow kept my foot on the brake while my car was in drive. For 91 seconds I had no awareness of what traffic was coming along 12-mile road. Somewhere around 46 seconds into the 91, the Life-Vest delivered its shock, that, as you have seen on TV shows, makes your entire body heave, yet my foot stayed on the brake.

It was a miracle! The nurses couldn't believe it. The doctors were amazed I was sitting in the bed before them. As I thought about it, I knew that my Guardian Angel had kept my foot on the brake. My Guardian Angel had heard my last thought and swooped in to save me. There is no other way to explain it and if you try; you won't be able to change my mind. I'm 62 years old and alive because my Guardian Angel was watching over me in that SUV.

But that's not my only Guardian Angel. I am blessed to have this other one, that is a group of men I call brothers, called Knights of Columbus Council 11811. Since I fell into this health nightmare, my brothers have been there every step of the way. My brothers visited me in the hospital. My brothers brought food and sent gift cards to my family so they wouldn't have to worry about making dinner when I was in ICU. My brothers came to visit me at home, but not only that, they helped repair things around the house, they helped rake the leaves and bag them up, they helped bring groceries, they drove me to doctor appointments. My brothers picked up my duties as Financial Secretary when I couldn't keep up with them. My brothers passed the hat and helped us financially when I couldn't work. My brothers prayed for me. Everything the Knights of Columbus stands for, the brothers of Council 11811 have been for me.

Thank you, my brothers! You are my earthly Guardian Angels. I am blessed to have you all in my life.

So, when someone asks me if I believe in Guardian Angels, I will say yes, of course! I believe in both Kinds - Heavenly and earthly.

*Rob Spallone*

*Psalm 91:9-12 - Because you have the LORD for your refuge and have made the Most High your stronghold, No evil shall befall you, no affliction come near your tent. For he commands his angels with regard to you, to guard you wherever you go. With their hands they shall support you, lest you strike your foot against a stone.*

# Knights of Novi - 11811

## Knights in Action

At the November 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, worthy District Deputy Gary Mallia presented Dave Stulock and 11811 with the Star Council award, for the 2024-25 fraternal year for reaching 100% of our goal.



## Exemplification

Welcome to Harry Mueller, our latest worthy brother Knight, who participated in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree exemplification at Monaghan KofC hall on November 18<sup>th</sup>.



# Knights of Novi - 11811

## Knights in Action – Sponsor A Family

This year, council 11811 sponsored 5 large families (a total of 33 people) for Christmas gifts as part of the annual Holy Family / Christian Service project. The crew came together on December 7<sup>th</sup> to wrap the gifts, which will be distributed to families on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Through this outpouring of generosity, these families receive more than just gifts, they receive a reminder of God's presence through the caring actions of others.



# Knights of Novi - 11811

## 2025 Special Recognition:

	<u>Knight of the Month</u>	<u>Family of the Month</u>
October	Rick Lombardi	Tom & Rosita O'Connor
November	Keith Siopes	Tim & Carol May

## Birthdays:

### OCTOBER

Tom O'Connor  
Steven Page  
Paul Schmidt  
John Eckenrode  
Gary Rose  
James O'Neill  
Carl Rickel  
Don Garon  
John Havrila

### NOVEMBER

Hank Levine  
Thomas Menovcik  
Michael Schafer  
Donald Porter  
Phil Austin  
Edward Widun  
Steve Ernster  
Greg Martin  
Francisco Diaz Herrera

### DECEMBER

Michael Meyer  
Dan Czarniecki  
Thomas Marzonie  
Dan Ranks  
Chris Gier  
Clayton Tierney  
Joseph Fraser  
Mark Somerville



## Wedding Anniversaries:

### OCTOBER

Terry and Diane Jolly  
Paul and Denise Gillespie  
Daniel & Kate Angeski  
Greg & Lori Burkhardt  
Dave and Alice Stewart

### NOVEMBER

Tim and Carol May

### DECEMBER

Thomas and Judy Noteman  
Stephen and Christine Hahn  
Ted and Jo-Ann Mech  
Thomas and Kari Malarkey



# Knights of Novi - 11811

We are in search of candidates for a new role in the council –

## Council Evangelization & Faith Formation (EFF) Director:


- Appointed by and reports to the Grand Knight.
- Promotes and communicates directives, opportunities, and goals of the State Council concerning evangelization and faith formation.
- Collaborates and consults with State EFF Director on these initiatives.
- Collaborates and consults with the pastor and/or Council Chaplain on these initiatives.
- Manages and coordinates **Cor\*** – free to delegate and involve members of the council as needed or desired.
- Collaborates with Council Membership and Program Directors to ensure centrality of Christ in all council communication, programs, and activities with the mission and purpose of evangelization and faith formation within the Order. Assists council leadership with this strategic planning.

*\*Cor is a flexible framework of **prayer, formation and fraternity** that helps focus men on Jesus through building Christ-centered brotherhood.*

**Blessed Michael McGivney**  
*Founder of the Knights of Columbus*

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (*here make your request*). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Please report all favors received:*  
The Father McGivney Guild  
1 Columbus Plaza  
New Haven, CT 06510-3326 • USA  
[www.fathermcgivney.org](http://www.fathermcgivney.org)



## Council #11811 Officers

<b>Chaplain</b>	Fr. Bob LaCroix	<b>District Deputy</b>	Gary Mallia
<b>Grand Knight</b>	Keith Siopes	<b>Deputy Grand Knight</b>	Michael Canfield
<b>Chancellor</b>	Mike Dompierre	<b>Recorder</b>	Gary Rose
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Rob Spallone	<b>Treasurer</b>	Mark Amaya
<b>Lecturer</b>	<i>(this could be you!)</i>	<b>Advocate</b>	Terry Jolly
<b>Warden / PD</b>	Tom Herc	<b>Inside Guard</b>	Johnny Garcia
<b>Outside Guard</b>	Jeff Boggio	<b>Trustee 1yr</b>	Dennis Strikulus
<b>Trustee 2yr</b>	Victor Centeno	<b>Trustee 3yr</b>	Dave Stulock