



Knights of Novi Newsletter

Council #11811

Summer, 2026

Formed in Faith, United in Freedom

Worthy Brothers, Families, and Friends, as we approach the Fourth of July, our nation prepares to gather for fireworks, backyard barbecues, and parades.

As Knights of Columbus, this day calls us to a deeper reflection. This year is particularly momentous as we stand on the precipice of a historic milestone: the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



As members of Holy Family Council #11811, it is entirely fitting that we look at this milestone through the lens of our faith. The unique experiment that is America did not sprout from a vacuum; it was deeply rooted in the fertile soil of religious conviction and the fundamental belief that our rights are granted by God, not by government.

Our Religious Roots

When our Founding Fathers penned the Declaration of Independence, they explicitly anchored our freedom in the Divine. They wrote that all men are *“endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights”*; they appealed to the *“Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God”*; and placed their *“firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence.”*

From the very beginning, the quest for liberty was inextricably linked to the freedom to worship. The architects of our nation understood that true liberty requires a moral foundation—one that recognizes a higher authority than the state. As Catholics, we recognize that the freedoms we enjoy today are a gift from God, nurtured by the sacrifices of generations who believed that faith and freedom walk hand in hand.

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Patriotism: The Fourth Pillar

This beautiful connection between faith and country brings us directly to the Fourth Principle of our Order: Patriotism.

When Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus, Catholics in America were often looked upon with suspicion, falsely accused of being unable to be loyal citizens while remaining faithful to the Church. Father McGivney and the early Knights proved the exact opposite: a good Catholic makes a stellar citizen. Patriotism, for a Knight, is not about blind allegiance or political divisiveness. It is a virtue rooted in charity and gratitude.

Our patriotism compels us to:

- **Serve** our communities and support our veterans and active-duty military.
- **Protect** the religious freedoms that allow us to live out our faith openly.
- **Pray** for our nation's leaders and the common good of all citizens.

By standing up for the vulnerable, serving our parish, and defending the moral fabric of our society, we are exercising the highest form of patriotism. We honor our country best by helping it live up to its founding ideals.

A Historic Celebration

Brothers, let us carry this spirit of faithful citizenship into our holiday celebrations. We have been blessed to inherit a legacy of freedom that has endured for a quarter of a millennium.

Happy 250th Birthday, America! May God continue to shed His grace on thee, from sea to shining sea. On behalf of Holy Family Council #11811, I wish each of you, your families, and our entire Holy Family parish community a safe, blessed, and very **Happy Independence Day!**

Vivat Jesus!

Fraternally yours in Christ,
Keith Siopes
Grand Knight Knights of Columbus Council #11811



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One Nation, Under God

Did you know that the Knights of Columbus originated the addition of "Under God" to our Pledge of Allegiance?

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal society, named after Christopher Columbus and comprised of lay Catholic men dedicated to providing charitable services, promoting Catholic education, and defending Catholicism in countries around the world. The Knights were established by Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1882.

The short historical recap that follows is a testament to how the Knights of Columbus in particular, and therefore Catholicism in general, has played significant role in contributing to and shaping Christian faith in the United States of America.

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One Nation, Under God (*continued...*)

1885 – The first version was written by Captain George Thatcher Balch, a Union army officer in the Civil War who later wrote a book on how to teach patriotism to children in public schools.

1892 - Francis Bellamy, circulation manager for the magazine *"The Youth's Companion"* revised Balch's verse for the World's Columbian Exposition, which celebrated the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas.

1942 - Congress formally adopted the pledge 50 years later.

1945 - The official name of *The Pledge of Allegiance* was adopted.

1951 - The Knights of Columbus adopted a resolution to amend the Pledge of Allegiance for use in their own meetings with the addition of the words "Under God" after the words "One Nation."

1952 - The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus, at its annual meeting, adopted a resolution to urge this change to the Pledge to be made on a national level. They sent letters of request to the President, Vice President, and Speaker of the House.

1953 - The Knights of Columbus repeated this request, sending letters to every member of both Houses of Congress requesting this change.

1954 - A Joint Resolution of Congress, passed and was signed into law by President Eisenhower on Flag Day, June 14. President Eisenhower stated,

"From this day forward, the millions of our school children will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural school house, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty... In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource, in peace or in war."

*Summarized from Wikipedia

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Exemplification

Welcome to Mike Drapeau, and Luis Aguirre, our latest worthy brother Knights, who were exemplified May 17th at St. Fabian, and on May 31st at Holy Family, respectively.



Pancake Breakfast

On April 26th, the Knights cooked up a veritable feast for the pancake breakfast, and fed several hundred parishioners after the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses. The ham and cheese omelets were a big hit! Thanks to all who made this possible – setting up tables, shopping for food preparing the meals and cleaning up – it takes a lot of work, but the parish really enjoys it!



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Eucharistic Procession -

On the feast of Corpus Christi, Holy Family took Jesus through the streets of Novi in a beautiful Eucharistic procession of about 200 people, with the participation and direct support of many of our Brother Knights and their Families. What a beautiful testimony to the City of Novi and all passersby. VIVAT JESUS!



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Knights in Action – Firm Foundations of Hope

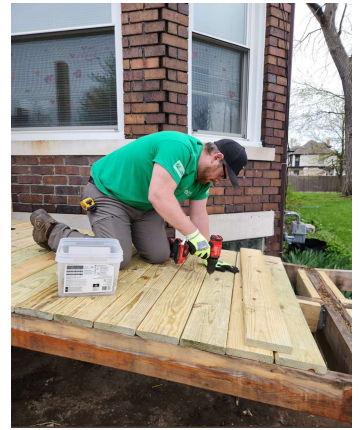
Firm Foundations of Hope (<https://firmfoundationsofhope.org/>) is a charity in the city of Detroit that Holy Family will be supporting. Roxanne Hundraker had met founder Genevieve Koucourek (President & Missionary) a number of years ago while they were working on their Masters program at Sacred Heart Seminary. She brought this to the Leadership Team

"Firm Foundations of Hope is committed to spiritual revival and neighborhood revitalization. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, we seek person-by-person transformation of residents by making known the fullness of life to which Jesus Christ invites us, by providing employment and mentoring to unemployed persons, and by doing home repairs for the poor."

It was truly a blessing to work with Genevieve (President & Missionary), Ethan, Lynell and Larry on our first project together.

Brilliant Detroit (<https://brilliantcities.org/detroit/>) purchases homes within neighborhoods to establish as "hubs" for the community, offering programming and services focused on early child development. This home had a wheelchair ramp that was unsafe – structurally unsound, with rotting deck boards and an excessively steep slope that prevented functionality. Brilliant Detroit contacted Firm Foundations of Hope for the project, who in turn contacted Holy Family for volunteers. It's amazing to see how God is at work, making these connections and bringing us all together.

A BIG THANKS to the work crew (*pictured below, left to right*) – Lynell, Holy Family K of C members Dan Phelps (seated), Chuck Gaidica, Kevin Daly, Steve Ernster, along with Holy Family parishioner Keith Arcicovich, Genevieve, and Larry.



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Knights in Action – Firm Foundations of Hope

The second project that we worked on happened to be another wheel chair ramp. This time the project was for a 13yr old girl named Jasmine, who is dealing with multiple sclerosis. Due to the layout of their home, having multiple steps at each entrance, it was very difficult to get Jasmine out of the house. Not only is she bravely dealing with MS at such a young age, she was basically homebound until we constructed this ramp. She was brought out to greet the crew, and was very excited to have this ramp!

A BIG THANKS to the work crew (*pictured below, left to right*) – Top Row - Firm Foundation members Antonio & Shelby, Ryan Daly, Luis Diaz, Genevieve Kocourek. Bottom Row - Kevin Daly Firm Foundations member Lynell, Tom Herc and Robert Clemens.



NEXT PROJECT: JULY 11th!

We have been asked to help with staining and sealing the ramps and walkways that Firm Foundations built for the beautiful St. Augustine / St. Monica parish in Detroit, to enable safe access for their parishioners.

Please consider signing up: [Sign Up Genius - Firm Foundations of Hope](#)

Sign Up QR Code



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Knights in Action – Holy Family Soup Troop

NEXT DATE: AUG 7th & 8th!

Friday evening, we will do meal prep at Holy Family, and then on Saturday we travel to Cass Community Services to prepare and serve lunch for the needy. Let's make this a Council Activity!

Please consider signing up: [Sign Up Genius - Soup Troop](#)



Soup Troop

Kitchen Prep at Holy Family or Set-up, Serving, and Clean-up at Cass Social Services- Detroit.

BM Christian Service  Contact

Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!

 Share   

Dates shown as mm/dd/yyyy EDT 

Date	Location	Available Slot	
06/12/2026 6:00pm-8:00pm Friday	Holy Family Kitchen - Elizabeth (lead)	Meal prep for Cass 5 of 6 slots filled	Sign Up Elizabeth Canfield EC Maria Conti MC

Scroll Down to
August 7th & 8th

08/07/2026 6:00pm-8:00pm Friday	Holy Family Kitchen-Kevin (lead)	Meal prep for Cass 3 of 6 slots filled	Sign Up KEVIN DALY   KD Michele Martin MM Eva Drafta ED
08/08/2026 8:45am-2:00pm Saturday	Carpool from Holy Family to Cass Social Services- Kevin (lead)	Set-up, serve lunch and clean-up 4 of 10 slots filled	Sign Up KEVIN DALY   KD David Campbell DC Dave Meier DM Eva Drafta ED  Need a ride

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Fr. Drew Maybee Farewell

We at Holy Family have been incredibly blessed to have a number of great Associate Pastors over the years. Fr. Drew Maybee has been such a wonderful addition to our parish lives, and it is sad to see him go. We appreciate the reverence he brings to every mass, and how he manages to stop by and give a warm greeting to all, at the many events taking place in our parish - even though his schedule always keeps him on the run!

Our loss is the gain of St. John Fisher Chapel in Auburn Hills. I know the Lord has big plans for Fr. Drew – many blessing, until we meet again.



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Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

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.



Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

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.

