



**Knights of
Columbus[®]**
Montana
State Council

Knights Visions

Montana State Council

Post Convention 2026

State Deputy- Bernie Adams. State Chaplain- Fr Leo McDowell. Editor- Scott Held.

A Word from the State Chaplain

I'm writing this just after celebrating Good Shepherd Sunday. In my homily this weekend I spoke about the realization that I am not a shepherd who knows all of my sheep. Jesus is that good shepherd who knows all of his sheep and he uses me, and other priests as tools to guide the sheep. I think of myself as a shepherd's staff. When the consecration takes place at Mass, it is Jesus who changes the bread and wine. When one is absolved from their sins, it is Jesus working through the priest that makes that happen.

As I thought about this message for the newsletter, I realized that just as Jesus has the priests as a tool, so the priests have the Knights of Columbus as tools. I am not able to do everything required of me as a priest on my own. I was just watching a short video on Facebook. The first thing you see is a priest in his clerical attire and the line "You are just a priest." We then see the priest in the next frame saying "Not to my parishioners." Then we see various quotes from parishioners with the priest in the proper "uniform." "There's a pipe leaking." "We are out of creamer." "When will the construction be done?" "Is it going to rain tomorrow?" When Knights are in solidarity with their priests, they not only support him spiritually, they also become the tools he may need to address the needs thrown his direction. When you see your priest looking flustered because he's trying to do things outside of his regular job.

Remember to pray for your priests daily and learn about your facilities, your kitchen set up, the updates on any projects and how to forecast the weather so the priest can direct parishioners to you to help get things fixed.

Vivat Jesus.

Reverend Leo McDowell.

State Chaplain.



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Upcoming Events

April 30-May 2

State Convention, Kalispell

June 19

Charity Golf Tournament for Catholic Social Services, Helena

July 25

Charity Trap Shoot for Catholic Social Services, Billings

Remember to send news and updates of what your council has going on to Marty at ipsd@montanaknights.org.

2026 State Convention Wrap-up

What a convention! It was a wonderful weekend in Kalispell. Below are some of the important things that happened during and to know from this year's convention.

Fourth Degree Exemplification

A Fourth Degree Exemplification was held at St. Matthew's Church in Kalispell on Sunday, May 3, following the Convention. Five new Sir Knights were exemplified.

Congratulations to:

- Michael J. Moore of Shelby
- Ben E. Bryson of Kalispell
- Kenneth B. Pravin of Stevensville
- Charles J. See of Columbia Falls
- Jerry L. Thornberg of Lakeside

Welcome to the Fourth Degree!



Charities, Inc. Donations

Despite a lower number of Green Sheets being returned this year, Charities, Inc. was still able to make significant donations to the following organizations and programs:

- \$1,000 to Bishop Austin Vetter and Bishop Jeffrey Fleming
- \$500 to Aurora Pregnancy Center
- \$815.62 to Native American Children's Fund
- \$815.62 to LaSalle Blackfeet Indian School
- \$6,000 to Catholic Social Services of Montana
- \$500 to the CSSM Golf Tournament
- \$500 to the CSSM Trap Shoot
- \$1,214.05 to the Supreme Wheelchair Program
- \$1,000 to Montana Catholic Conference
- \$2,469 to Project Hope
- \$6,000 to Special Olympics Montana
- \$4,400 to Special Olympics Montana from Supreme
- \$1,500 to the Carroll College scholarship fund
- \$1,500 to the Providence University scholarship fund

Total Donations: **\$21,714**

State Awards

Priest of the Year- Father Cody Williams, Council 2360

Knight of the Year- Tom Schmitt, Council 6130

Family of the Year- Sean Claffey, Council 4069

Program Awards

Life Large Council- Council 9395

Life Small Council- Council 1508

Community Large Council- Council 9395

Community Small Council- Council 1508

Faith Large Council- Council 844

Faith Small Council- Council 13022

Family Large Council- Council 9395

Family Small Council- Council 2464

Diaper Drive

This year, the State Convention hosted a diaper drive to benefit the Baby Boutique ministry at Catholic Social Services of Montana. This drive was incredibly successful, with over 12,000 diapers donated! INCREDIBLE! Thank you to all who contributed to giving the families served a hand-up in their lives. A picture of a portion of the diapers donated is below. Currently, the Baby Boutique has locations in Helena and Billings, but the program hopes to expand to additional communities in the near future.



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Praying for Life

Some of our Brother Knights from Helena have spent many hours outside of Planned Parenthood praying for all those in a difficult place and thinking about the tragic option of abortion. Make sure to continue supporting Catholic Social Services of Montana and your local pregnancy care center as they seek to help these women and families. Nice job and keep it up gentlemen!



27th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit Catholic Social Services of Montana

**June 19, 2026
Bill Roberts, Helena**

**Learn more and
register by visiting
www.cssmt.org/golf-tournament/, scan the
QR code, or call
(406)442-4130**



Charity Sport Shoot to benefit Catholic Social Services of Montana

**July 25, 2026
Billings Rod and Gun Club**

**Come "bust" some clays
for a good cause!**

**Learn more and register
by visiting
www.cssmt.org/sport-shoot/, scan the QR code,
or call **(406)442-4130****



Icons of the Sacred Heart

Where are the Sacred Heart Icons? They're traveling around the state.

1. District Deputy Francis Rodgers has one, and it's being used in parishes in Billings and throughout his district. It is scheduled to travel north to Roundup, Plentywood, and Scobey.
2. District Deputy Sylvester Barros has another icon, which will be used in the Conrad area before returning to Polson and eventually traveling south to Stevensville and Hamilton.
3. The third icon will make its way to St. Ignatius, the Deer Lodge area, and then to Butte and Anaconda.

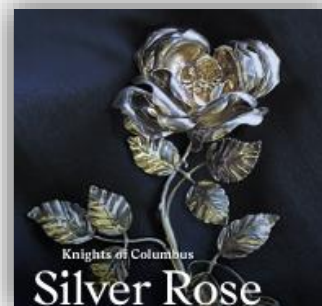
All three icons will be returned at the next Montana State Convention. For more information about the Sacred Heart Icon program, contact Icon Chairman Rick Nease.



Silver Rose Schedule

The Silver Rose will come to Montana on May 17th. Its travel schedule is below. After Hardin, it will travel to Wyoming. It will come to southwestern Montana next year. Contact Leon Setera or Rick Nease with questions.

- May 18- Glasgow
- May 19- Wolf Point
- May 20- Scobey
- May 21- Plentywood
- May 22- Culbertson
- May 23- Sidney
- May 25- Glendive
- May 27- Baker
- May 30- Miles City
- June 1- Forsyth
- June 2- Hysham
- June 3- Colstrip
- June 4- Hardin



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VISION OF THE ORDER

Founded by Blessed Michael McGivney in 1882, the Knights of Columbus is the premier lay Catholic men's organization. Guided by the principles of charity, unity and fraternity, we build lifelong relationships with our members and families. We are multigenerational and international. We offer formation, mutual aid and financial security to members through our charity, products and outreach. We aspire to invite every Catholic man to join the Knights of Columbus and to extend our charitable reach as widely as possible.

Your Mental Health
affects
Your Spiritual Health



Catholic-based Mental Health Counseling

If you feel like your mental health is negatively impacting your life, work, or relationships, we're here for you!

- ✓ Our counselors are Catholic and welcome faith as a part of the counseling experience, although it does not have to be.
- ✓ You can meet with a counselor either in-person or online from your computer or mobile device.
- ✓ They specialize in many areas, including grief, trauma, anxiety, depression, relationship, CBT, IFS, and more.
- ✓ The first session is free. Insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, some EAP, and private pay (discounts are available) are accepted for additional sessions.



Getting started is easy!
You can call (406) 442-4130 and select option 2 or send us a message at www.cssmt.org.



Knights of
Columbus®

Insurance and Retirement

Rick Nease- Kalispell
406-471-2697
Edward J O'Brien-
Lewistown
406-350-2408

Membership

As Patrick Kelly, Supreme Knight, says, "Become fishers of men, ask men to join the Knights of Columbus." Let's keep building Catholic Fraternity!



Featured Initiatives

Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP)

For every \$500 up to \$2000 a council donates to a local pregnancy care center or Catholic Social Services of Montana, Supreme will add an additional \$100 donation. This turns \$2000 into \$2400, helping your council reach even more needy families!

Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP)

For every \$500 up to \$2000 a council donates to an "adopted" seminarian, Supreme will add an additional \$100 donation. This turns \$2000 into \$2400, supporting the seminarian's journey to priesthood! Councils are also called pray for the success of and to provide moral support to the seminarian they've "adopted."

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. 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.



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