



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Our Mission

Welcome to the Wilton Knights of Columbus Annual 2025 Newsletter.

Our Mission is to provide our members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, their communities' families, and our young people.

We partner with our sister organization, the Columbiettes, to empower Catholic men and women to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work and in our own community.

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On January 25th, at 11am, about 30 Volunteers turned out to help Fr. Reggie move to his new St. Mark's Parish in Stratford. Fr. Reggie was the Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima for the past 12 years and was a big supporter of the Wilton Knights of Columbus, and was also the Faithful Navigator for Bishop Fenwick Assembly 100 based in Norwalk CT.

Everyone got stuck in and helped load the truck which was generously provided by Richie Cunningham. Loading and unloading took over 3 hours and everyone returned to Our Lady of Fatima for some refreshments and pizza, a well earned meal! On the following day, Sunday, a huge crowd turned out for the official goodbye party for Fr. Reggie at the Parish Center to thank him for 12 great years and to make sure he left in good spirits for his next challenge.



Fr. Paul M Hrebenko, who was born in Lubin, Poland, joined us as Pastor in January. Fr. Paul is the youngest of six children. His home parish is Sacred Heart Church in Lubin, where he attended the Parish's religious education program as a child. He also attended the Salesian Oratory where his desire to become a priest was nurtured by the Salesian Fathers and Sisters.

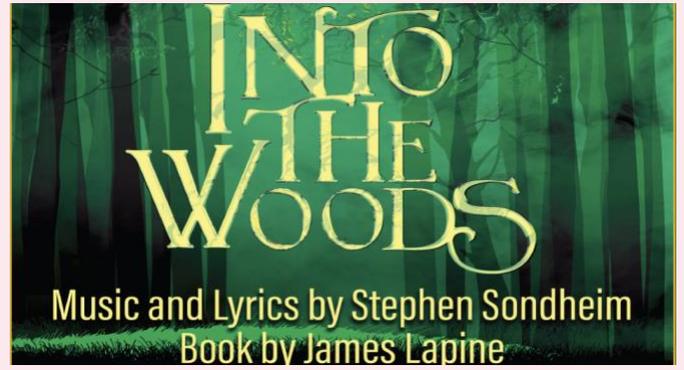
Following graduation from High School, he completed his philosophy in the Salesian Major Seminary in Lodz, before making the decision to serve the Church in the United States. Fr. Hrebenko was later assigned to the Archdiocesan St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, NY where he completed his studies in STB (from St. Thomas Aquinas University in Rome) and Master of Divinity in theology. Following his graduation, he was ordained to the priesthood in 2004 by Bishop William E. Lori.

Before coming to Our Lady of Fatima, Fr. Paul served St. Ann Parish in Bridgeport, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish in Brookfield, St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown, and St. John Fisher Seminary as a Spiritual Director to our Diocesan seminarians. In 2012, he was appointed first an Administrator and later Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Stamford. During his time at Holy Name, Fr. Paul studied liturgy at The Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow, Poland. Over the years, Fr. Paul served on the Diocesan Priest Personnel Board, Vocations Advisory Board, faculty of Permanent Diaconate Program, and currently as Episcopal Vicar for the Polish Community.



A fantastic night was had at Our Lady of Fatima School Gym on **Saturday afternoon, March 15th**. A huge crowd of over 130 parishioners turned up to celebrate **St. Patrick's Day** in style. The afternoon started with Fr. Paul giving an Irish Blessing to kick things off, followed by a fantastic meal provided by our top two sponsors, O'Neills Pub and Restaurant of Norwalk who provided the Irish food, and the Wilton Market who provided cookies and dessert for everyone. Afterwards there were prizes handed out, from companies such as Rings End Wilton, The Village Market Wilton, The Little Pub Wilton, Stop & Shop Wilton, Wilton Hardware, Marleys Restaurant Wilton, Craft 14 Kitchen & Bar Wilton, Pinocchio Pizza Wilton, Tavern on 7 Norwalk, Wilton Kneads, Tusk & Cup Wilton, the Wilton Chamber of Commerce and Sipsters Wilton. This was all followed up with Irish Dancing from the MulKerin School of Irish Dancing from Fairfield.

Yet another fantastic night was had at the annual **Fish Fry Friday** on April 4th hosted by the Columbiettes. A large turnout meant the Columbiettes had a lot of fish to fry – “Simply Delicious” lived up to their company name and provided excellent food cooked onsite for everyone



On Friday May 9th at 7:00pm, The Wilton Knights of Columbus hosted our “Knight at the Playshop” which was organised by Peter Rubsam. The event was held at the Wilton Playshop at 15 Lovers Lane, Wilton, CT 06897. As usual, there was a small gathering reception area in the back prior to the event where everyone gathered to have hors d'oeuvre and some beverages.

Thanks to all the Knights and our sister Columbiettes who volunteered and participated in the **Easter Activities over the Easter Weekend**. What a fantastic effort to get everything just right, from the cleaning of the Church, the beautiful flowers that were added by the Columbiettes, the washing of the feet, the preparations for the Easter Egg Hunt, the joy on the children's faces, and the beautiful Easter Vigil Service by Fr. Pawel. And, of course, the Easter Bunny turned up to visit!





Wilton Knights of Columbus

Officers Update

The KOFC Officers elected in June of 2025 were:

Grand Knight	Michael Healy
Deputy Grand Knight	David Flynn
Financial Secretary	John Danaher
Chancellor	Bob Lenihan
Recorder	Peter Rubsam
Treasurer	Brian Rafferty
Lecturer	Barry Gunderson
Advocate	Bill McMorris
Warden	Brad Wolf
Inside Guard	Scott Douglass
Outside Guard	Steven Dzik
Trustee For 1 Year	Paul Niche
Trustee For 2 Years	Jamie McDowell
Trustee For 3 Years	Rob McCullough

New Joiners

Our Council also had 4 new joiners who each participated this calendar year, which was a tremendous help with all our initiatives. Steven Dzik, Brad Wolf, Mark Drumer and Brian Dinkelacker's participation was greatly appreciated.

Memorials

Unfortunately, we lost 2 long serving members this year.

- Mark Durma passed away on Wednesday July 30th.
- John Karlson passed away on December 26th.

May they both Rest In Peace.

Members Achieving 4th Degree

- Peter Rubsam became a 4th Degree Knight on February 22nd in St. Patrick's Cathedral, marking the 125th anniversary
- David Flynn became a 4th Degree Knight on July 19th at St. Andrews Church in Bridgeport



On Saturday, November 1, more than 1,100 brand new coats, gloves, and hand-knit winter hats were distributed to clients of Family & Children's Agency (FCA) by the greater Norwalk area Knights of Columbus Councils as part of the Order's Coats for Kids Initiative. Sizes from toddler and children's to men's and women's were organized and distributed. Since the initiative launched in 2009, more than 1 million coats have been distributed in 49 states and all 10 Canadian provinces to keep kids warm through the winter.

The Wilton Knights of Columbus made a significant contribution this year representing the Our Lady of Fatima Parish – collections were held over 2 weekends and the parishioners contributed \$3,774 towards the initiative. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a huge success!





A group of Knights gathered at the **Our Lady of Fatima Parish's 911 Memorial** to remember the 4 Parish victims who lost their lives – Edward Fergus; Peter Fry; John Iskyn; Edward York and John Henwood. May they Rest In Peace.

The Wilton Knights of Columbus Council 12698 held their **Annual Officer's outing** once again at Norwalk Yacht Club on a beautiful afternoon on Sunday September 21st to show gratitude for the work done during the year. While some officers were unable to make it due to conflicts, a large contingent turned out with their wives and had a fantastic time. Brian Rafferty and Jamie McDowell oversaw the BBQ and cooked some great burgers and sausages for all. There was a huge selection of starters, salads and desserts for after's, where everyone contributed to a shared meal by bringing their own food and beverages.



A fantastic party atmosphere was present on Saturday October 18th as the annual **Oktoberfest** event kicked off at the School Gym of Our Lady of Fatima.

A large crowd turned out to experience the excellent food provided by the Columbiettes with the Knights assisting when needed.

Great traditional German folk music featuring polka and oompah music was provided by the Austrian Boys Band who dressed to fit the occasion.





On a cold Saturday morning, on November 29th, a group of hardy young Knights of Columbus men gathered for the annual procedure to put together the **Church Creche in the Wilton Town Center**. There was a lot of energy and laughter provided by all who turned out and, thanks to Louis Furlo, everyone followed the instructions resulting in the quickest time ever! Thanks to Rich Cunningham for providing the van to move the Creche from the Church to the town center, and to everyone who volunteered and turned out to make it an occasion to remember.

Keep Christ In Christmas Poster Competition Winners

The Wilton Knights of Columbus held a “Keep Christ In Christmas” Poster Competition for our children in the Parish again this Christmas. Peter Rubsam and Brad Wolf led the initiative and worked with the Parish and CCD Parents to distribute the initiative to all the Kids. We had 3 great winners who each received a \$25 gift voucher for their great efforts. Congrats to all involved!

Congrats to Ella Trojek Grade 2, Isabella Ciano Grade 3 and Aurora Dusi Grade 6



Calendar Year Accounting for 2025:

Funds Raised (net of expenses excluding dues):

- \$756 - St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser
- \$3,774 – Coats For Kids Drive

Funds Donated:

- \$3,774 - Coats for Kids
- \$200 – OLF Vegetable Garden
- \$600 - Laboure on behalf of William Coupe's Melkite Catholic Church priest education
- \$500 - OLF Faith Formation Classrooms
- \$500 – Ultrasound Machine for Carolyn's Place in Waterbury CT

