

St. Therese Church
Knights of Columbus Council 12885
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2026

Call to Order by Grand Knight Frank A. Bio at 6:30 pm. All Officers were in attendance except for the Chaplain, Financial Secretary, Warden, Outside Guard, Second Year Trustee and First Year Trustee. All absences were excused.

- > The Recorder noted that all members present were credentialed.
- > The opening prayer was offered and led by Bro. Bob Smith, Lecturer.
- > GK Frank A. Bio led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
- > The Minutes of the last Council Meeting were approved by motion.

GK Frank A. Bio welcomed all the Council members to the meeting. GK Frank A. Bio also thanked DGK Frank Weisgerber for conducting the February Council Meeting in his absence.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE / REFLECTION

Bro. Bob Smith, Lecturer, read the monthly challenge from the Supreme Chaplain, Archbishop William Lori, and his reflection on the Gospel of John 11:16. "Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." Look at the bravery of Thomas! Jesus had just announced his intention to travel to Judea, where he had narrowly escaped getting stoned to death. Given the potential danger ahead, Thomas seems prepared for martyrdom. Later, of course, he and the other disciples would flee as Jesus was arrested, and Thomas would doubt reports of Jesus' resurrection. As fallible humans, our strength and resolve sometimes collapse into weakness. May we always seek the courage to follow Jesus faithfully, even when the going gets tough.

Archbishop Lori challenge this month, as we continue through Lent, is to pray the Stations of the Cross each week -in your parish community, with your family or individually- with the intention of receiving the courage to suffer for Christ.

A good resource is the Catholic Information Service booklet *The Way of the Cross: Traditional and Modern Meditations*. (kofc.org/shopcis)

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

GK Frank A. Bio advised the Council that the 2026 North Carolina Fourth Degree Exemplification will take place on Saturday, March 21 and will be hosted by the Fr. Thomas Price Assembly 3952, at the All Saints Catholic Church located in Hampstead, North Carolina. Congratulations to the eight members of this Council who will be participating in this Fourth Degree Exemplification. Bros. Bill Balaban, Richard Clark, Giuseppe Cortina, Greg Gausman, Greg Marchi, Craig Morehead, Bob Smith and Anthony Ward.

GK Frank A. Bio also congratulated and presented Bro. Richard Clark with his gold Knight's of Columbus "Life Membership Card" for completing 25 years of service.

GK Frank A. Bio advised the Council members that anyone interested in purchasing Council Shirts, the shirts are available. See Bro. Phil Ley after the meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Council's Financial Report was presented by Bro. Phil Ley, Treasurer. Details of the report are available and can be requested through the Faithful Comptroller or the Faithful Treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our K of C Council, 12885, currently has 103 members. Bro. Paul Johnson, Financial Secretary has requested that any member who has not satisfied his 2026 Yearly Dues can pay by QR code on our Council website or by mail to Bro. Johnson. The new 2026 Membership Cards and Name Tags are available to members after the meeting.

PROGRAMS REPORT

Bro. Holden Spain, Faith Director, informed the Council that he has been in communication with the North Carolina "Silver Rose Pilgrimage" Committee. The event will be traveling through the central part of the State making stops at various designated communities and churches to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe. See the Council's February Minutes for more information.

A March for Life was held on Saturday, February 28 at Long Leaf Park. The event which included prayers and a walk to promote awareness and respect for the sanctity of life and the unborn. Several Council members were in attendance and a monetary donation of \$100.00 was presented to the organization from Council 12885.

Bro. Greg Gausman reported that the next quarterly "Road Cleanup Event" will take place on Saturday, 28th. Any and all volunteers are welcomed and needed. Meet at the Church at 9:15am. A Breakfast meal at McDonald's will be provided afterwards.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

February 24, 2026 marked the 25th Anniversary of the founding of Council 12885 in 2021. On Tuesday, February 24, 2026 the noon Mass at St. Therese was dedicated to the Council and it's members. Prior to Mass, the Rosary was prayed with several members participating. The original Council Charter with all twenty-one members listed is framed and will be displayed in the Parish Hall by Bro. Richard Clark. On Saturday, March 14, 2026, The Wilmington St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place in downtown Wilmington at 11:00 am. Knights of Columbus Brothers from several local councils will be marching and members of this Council are encouraged to join and march with the group. Council Brothers Joe Costa and Tom Brady are members of the HOA and serve on the Parade Committee.

A second "Knight Out with the Ladies" is being organized by Bro. Bob Smith and Bro. Greg Marchi. The proposed date is scheduled for Wednesday evening April 8th, and will take place in the Parish Hall. See the Council website for more information. The Easter Basket Fundraiser Sales will begin on the weekends of March 21st and March 28th after all Masses. Volunteers to assist with sales are welcomed. The raffle tickets can also be purchased through the QR code on the Council website. Bro. Patrick M. Kolenik and his wife have organized this event as well as the Christmas Basket Fundraiser for many years. Any questions please contact Bro. Patrick Kolenik, (516) 236-2248 or pat.kolenik@gmail.com

NEW BUSINESS

The St. Joseph Pantry Thanksgiving Drive (For Pete's Sake), sponsored by this Council for many years, has been chosen as one of three finalists for the North Carolina Knights of Columbus State Family Program Award. The Council has been requested to draft a report describing the Thanksgiving Drive and the assistance we provide to the Food Pantry throughout the year. GK Frank A. Bio has spearheaded this project and requests that anyone with pictures of our Council members, preferably wearing our Knight shirts, who volunteer and participate at the St. Joseph Pantry, to please share the photographs to submit with the report.

Bro. Bob Cantwell, who has organized the purchase and distribution of the Mother's Day Flowers after Mass will be out of town this year. As a result, Bro. Richard Clark has volunteered to oversee this project.

The Knights of Columbus North Carolina State Convention will take place on May 15-17, 2026 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Raleigh-Durham Airport. This Council will place a small ad in the Convention Program. GK Frank A. Bio made a motion to send two delegates from this Council to the State Convention. Motion was seconded by Bro. Richard Clark and unanimously approved.

During an open discussion, Bro. Bob Smith presented and suggested to the members an idea for some type of spiritual program that could involve watching a short video and a subsequent discussion session. The program would be approximately 1 hour long and frequency could be once a week or once a month depending on interest and participation. More information being developed.

NEW BUSINESS cont.

Bro. Holden Spain shared with the Council a book he was reading and suggested for all members, titled "Faith of our Fathers" written by James Cardinal Gibbons. The State Council, in support of the Save the Veterans Organization which focuses on PTSD victims and suicide prevention, is having a raffle consisting of "theme baskets" depicting various locations of Councils through out the state. GK Frank A. Bio purchased and donated a small painting of Wrightsville Beach from our Council.

BROTHERS /SISTERS IN NEED

Healing prayers are requested for:

Fr. Gregory Spencer, Pastor, St. Mark Catholic Church and School

District Deputy Robert Hack

Faithful Navigator Larry Greer

Bro. Walter Flippin

Bro. Joseph DeRobertis

Bro. Ralph O'Donnell

Bro. Fred Finkledie

Patricia Kopchick, Director of St. Joseph's Food Pantry

CLOSING PRAYER

Led by Bro. Bob Smith, Lecturer, the Hail Mary, Mary Queen of the Knights pray for us, and the Grace before meal.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 14, 2026. Officers at 5:45 pm, Members at 6:30 pm.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.

A dinner meal was provided by GK Frank A. Bio and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Submitted by Bro. Roger Wachnicki, Recorder

