



Michael A. Allen, PSD
South Carolina District Master

Knights of Columbus

South Carolina District

De Soto Province

Fourth Degree

Phone: Cell (803) 397-7803
E-mail: scdistrictmaster@gmail.com

February 2, 2026

My Brother Knight,

To be an American patriot is to be committed to certain principles regarding liberty, equality, individual rights, and limited government. Principles articulated in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. To be a Catholic American patriot is to understand that these principles ultimately come from an authority higher than the state and that loyalty to one's country is to be tempered by reason, judgment, and faith.

We warmly invite you to take part in the Exemplification of Patriotism on Saturday, March 14, 2026, in Lexington, South Carolina at Corpus Christi Catholic Church.

Over a century ago, the vision of a Patriotic Degree ignited a movement among the Knights of Columbus. In 1899, the Supreme Knight appointed a committee to establish this new degree, and in just one year, enthusiasm spread so rapidly that on February 22, 1900, history was made.

On that day, 1,000 candidates stood together to be exemplified into the Fourth Degree. They were joined by a choir of 283 men and supported by 100 New York City Police Officers, bringing the total to 1,383 Brother Knights who became Sir Knights of the Fourth Degree. Imagine the magnitude of that moment, at a time when the population was much smaller, such a turnout was an incredible testament to the deep call of patriotism and faith. That same spirit endures in our Order today.

This ceremony takes place as we approach the 250th Anniversary of our nation. If you have not yet joined the Fourth Degree, we urge you to prayerfully answer the call to become a Sir Knight on March 14, 2026. This Exemplification will not only deepen your understanding of our principles of patriotism but will also reignite your call to civic duty.

We promise an experience that will inspire and enrich your faith. All necessary information is attached. After 125 years, families can witness this sacred tradition, hear the profound lessons of patriotism and civic responsibility, and celebrate the knighting of their fathers, husbands, and sons.

Join us as we continue the legacy of Faith, Patriotism, and Service.

Vivat Jesus!

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Exemplification Details

Corpus Christi Catholic Church
2350 Augusta Highway
Lexington, SC 29072

Candidate Registration.....	2:00 PM
Candidates Assemble.....	2:30 PM
Exemplification of Patriotism.....	3:00 PM
Anticipated Mass of Sunday.....	5:30 PM
Dinner.....	6:30 PM

Exemplification Fee

- Candidates.....\$70
- Priest Candidates.....\$50

The Assembly is expected to cover the Priests candidate fee.

Dinner Fee

- Sir Knights/Guests.....\$40

Fees payable to **District Master Michael Allen** and brought to exemplification with Form-4's.

Assemblies shall email a list of candidates and a guest count for dinner to District Secretary Jeff Crouch no later than 3/7/2026: jeffrey.crouch7@gmail.com.

Eligibility requirements for candidates

- Third Degree Knight of Columbus with current membership card.

Uniform Guidelines for Candidates/Sir Knights

The preferred attire for candidates is the current Fourth Degree uniform. An appropriate alternative is a dark suit with a conservative tie or a dress uniform for military members, law enforcement or firefighters without a firearm. It would be inappropriate for law enforcement officers to open carry a firearm at the Exemplification. Candidates may no longer wear a tuxedo for the exemplification. Social Baldrics are no longer issued to new Sir Knights, nor should the social baldric be worn with the official uniform, a suit, or any attire other than a tuxedo.

Members admitted prior to June 30, 2024, may continue to use the social baldric when wearing a tuxedo. Tuxedo and social baldric for these Sir Knights are permitted at this event.

Please reach out to Jeff Crouch at 864-430-0938 or jeffrey.crouch7@gmail.com with any additional questions.