



# THE SHIELD

## Grand Knight's Message



Gene Jajuga  
Grand Knight  
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**Issue 1, January 2023**

Next Council Meeting  
Thursday, January 12 @ 7:30 pm  
in the Parish Center

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View the Newsletter online at:  
[www.safetyharborkofc.org](http://www.safetyharborkofc.org)

Visit the State Website at:  
[www.floridakofc.org](http://www.floridakofc.org)

Visit the Supreme Website at:  
[www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org)

Worthy Brother Knights & Ladies!

By the time everyone receives and reviews this newsletter we would have already celebrated the Christmas and New Year's Day Holidays. My sincere hope is that everyone had a very blessed and most Holy Christmas this year and the New Year brings health and happiness for you and for all of your families! Blessings!

We had yet another extremely busy month in December to wrap up the 2022 calendar year! Since the start of our new fraternal year and with all of our parish facilities now back to normal operations, our volunteer hours are like they were pre Covid. Busy! Busy! Busy!

On Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, we had a very successful "Council Christmas Party". It was awesome to see a very nice turnout of about 100 Knights and Ladies for the first Council Christmas Party that we have had in about three years. Even though the food was catered in by Felice Italian Deli, it still takes a cast of many to make all of the preparations, decorations and cleanup for the enjoyment of all. I would like to thank all of our Brother Knights and Ladies for all of their volunteer assistance with taking this on and to pull it off with terrific reviews from all attending!

- |                 |                  |                |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Ramona Vazques  | Wally Vazques    | Robin LaChance |
| Roe Resler      | Richie Resle     | Jean Wozniak   |
| Rita Wolanin    | Carolyn Annis    | Brian Annis    |
| Tom Fitzpatrick | Santo Loparo     | Betty D'Amelio |
| Karen Jajuga    | George Inderwies | Ann Harkins    |

- |               |               |                |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Tom Harkins   | Sue Engelmann | Mike Engelmann |
| Terry Drake   | Joe D'Amelio  | Frank McEwen   |
| Doug de Wolfe | JJ Coyne      | Addy Coyne     |

If I have missed anyone, my sincere apologies.

Also, on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, we had our Family Breakfast with Santa! How absolutely amazing and incredible did this turn out! From our dedicated set up crew with decorations to our fantastic cooks, servers, runners and replenishment team! Now, that's what I'm talking about! Incredible job everyone!

We had some very exciting entertainment as well. Our own in-house Santa, (Richie Resler) Mrs. Clause, (Roe Resler) and their best helper ever, (Robin LaChance). Very well done and a great big thank you!

Another huge hit at the Family Breakfast with Santa was all the pictures that were taken by again, our very own, John Ruckart and his wonderful daughter Allison, assisting with all the pictures that were taken of all the kids and families with Santa.

This year, we also welcomed a wonderful new addition to our entertainment. The Miller Sisters! Both Reagan and Rowan did a beautiful job of singing a great many Christmas carols and songs for our enjoyment. All I can say is WOW! What incredible voices and how blessed and talented these young ladies are. They are truly blessed! Thank you!

We also featured for the very first time our new Membership Table with our new Barney Gonyea Council 7109 tablecloth and new Council 7109 Membership Banners. Membership Director, Brian Riley was very busy recruiting new candidates.

I would like to recognize all our Family Breakfast with Santa volunteers:

Brian Annis	Carolyn Annis	Don Puchalski
Frank McEwen	Vincent Cristiano	Adel Nammour
Rita Wolanin	Rob Pickard	Terry Drake
Pat Nocerino	Tom Fitzpatrick	Santo Loparo
Paul Harvey	Karen Jajuga	Brian Kearns
Frank DiMattei	George Inderwies	Rich Roberto
Tom O'Rourke	Phil Farney	Bill Krajieski
Betty D'Amelio	Joe D'Amelio	Brian Riley

Awesome job everyone! God Bless you all for all you do! Again, if I have missed anyone, my sincere apologies.

We are so very blessed to have a council of Knights and Ladies that will give so much of themselves to make this an outstanding parish, council and community! Please see the January schedule listed below:

**UPCOMING EVENTS JANUARY**

- St. Joseph Pilgrim Icon Program – Mass & Rosary Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM in the Main Church
- Council Officer's Meeting – Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Council Coffee, Donuts & More – Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Postponed to January 22<sup>nd</sup>)
- Council Business Meeting – Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM in the Parish Center
- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting – Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM in the Gathering Room
- Pinellas Hope – Lunch Meal Prep and Delivery – Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM PC Kitchen - (Sign Up Sheet Will Be Sent Out)
- Kimberly Home Work Day – Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM (1189 NE Cleveland Street, Clearwater)
- Council Coffee, Donuts & More – Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Sign Up Sheet Will Be Sent Out)
- Assembly Business Meeting – Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 AM in the JBC
- Council Officer's Meeting – Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Assembly Family Breakfast – Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM in the Parish Center.

- Program Directors Meeting – Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM in the JBC
- Council Business Meeting – Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM in the Parish Center

**KOFC FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL – RAFFLE TICKETS**

We will continue the distribution and sale of the Knights of Columbus - Florida State Council Raffle Tickets at our Council Business Meeting on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center. Please see Sir Knight Doug de Wolfe.

Thank you.

Blessings for an awesome New Year!

Vivat Jesus!

Gene Jajuga, PFN, FFA  
[grandknight7109@gmail.com](mailto:grandknight7109@gmail.com)  
 727.403.3261



WGK Gene Jajuga presents SK Santo Loparo, Jr with November Knight of the Month



WGK Gene Jajuga presents SK Mike Engelmann with November Family of the Month

# COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year's Brothers,

Hope this article finds you well and you all had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday. As the Christmas season draws to a close, we will be celebrating the "Baptism of our Lord" on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Not only is this a time to recognize this special occasion between John and Jesus, but also to reflect on our own baptism and what it means. Remember, through our baptism, we are called to be Priests, Prophets, and Kings, which includes evangelization. With the start of a new year, let's evangelize "A Few Good Catholic Men" into our ranks to help build a larger, stronger Catholic community.



Membership Director Brian Riley conducts a membership drive during the Full Family Breakfast

Right now, headquarters has us down for three new members towards our goal of 15. We just need 12 more (2 to 3 per month) to reach our goal by June. Here's a list of membership events over the next couple months for opportunities to bring potential new Knights.

- 01/22/23 – Coffee & Donuts
- 02/05/23 – Full Family Breakfast
- 02/24/23 – Fish Fry



If you have somebody ready to join, no need to wait for an event, feel free to sign them up on the spot with this QR Code or visit: <https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-the-knights.html> and a brother Knight will reach out to them.

Good Luck, God Bless, and Peace Always!

Brian Riley  
 Membership Director  
[Brian.S.Riley@gmail.com](mailto:Brian.S.Riley@gmail.com)  
 Cell: 303-921-9861

**Informational Open House Schedule:**

Mar 14, Apr 18, Jun 13

**Unified Degree Ceremony Schedule:**

Mar 16, Apr 20, Jun 15

**Look for more information from our Grand Knight**

**Council Membership Report**

Total Membership	330
Insurance Members	139
Honorary Life Members	69
Honorary Members	8
2022-2023 Membership Growth vs Goal	3/15
2022-2023 Insurance Growth vs Goal	0/2

## COUNCIL OFFICERS 2022 - 2023

Grand Knight	Gene Jajuga, PFN, FFA	727-403-3261
Chaplain	Fr. Michael W. Cooper, S.J.	727-644-5544
Deputy Grand Knight	Tom Krivchenia, PFN	727-366-5422
Chancellor	Mark Feldman	727-366-5959
Recorder	Bill Krajeski	727-784-2817
Financial Secretary	Tom Harkins	727-772-0607
Treasurer	Jerry Custin, PGK, PFN	727-244-6464
Lecturer	Paul Harvey, PFN	727-286-7171
Advocate	Richard Resler	727-744-8923
Warden	Mark Peterman, PFN	727-403-5993
Inside Guard	Paul Cooper	727-726-6837
Outside Guard	Jim Lankford	813-455-2292
Guard Alternate #1	Tim Rush	727-797-7818
Trustee Three Year	John "JJ" Coyne, PGK	901-832-7332
Trustee Two Year	Kenneth Seguin, PGK, PFN	727-331-7278
Trustee One Year	Frank McEwen, PGK	727-239-2687
District Deputy	Alan Gauzens, PGK	727-483-8250
District Warden	Frank McEwen, PGK	727-239-2687
Fraternal Benefits Advisor	John Ruckart	813-855-5111
Special Assistant to the Council	Vincent Cristiano	
Special Assistant to the Council	Gary Murphy	

### Happy Birthday Brothers. Many Happy Returns!

Maroun Aoun, Paul Barry, David Behrle, Domenic Berenato, John Cathcart, Richard Ciardullo, Ricardo Colina, Robert Ehrman, Ward Griffin, William Griffin, Gerald Grubba, James Hayes, Derek Jones, Brian Lawandus, Gerald Lubig Jr, Francis Mahoney, James Montali, Francis Mutesaasira, Javier Ortega, Gerald Pappa, Christopher Purcell, Kenneth Ruckart, Keith Taylor Sr, Steven Verba

### Prayers for the Sick

Don & Marie Bishop, Marie Burke (d), Bryan McGuire (d), Tim & Barbara Rush, Guillermo Romero Sr (d), Mario Zaccario, Mohan Vswani (d), Ben Perry (d), Audry Hritz, Ken Seguin, Elizabeth Inderwies, John Salesses, Avis LaChance (d), Baby Jonas, Phil Farney, John Maloney (d), Sean Cooper, Ted Strab, Jim Gencur, Joseph McHale (d)

Please pray for all our sick and deceased Brothers, Ladies, and family members. Please report illnesses and deaths to Sir Knight Paul Harvey, Lecturer, at 727.286.7171 or pharvey10@verizon.net

## Support our Vocations Fund



Austin Smith



Benjamin Harris



Nicholas Gunn

Thank you for your continued support of the Vocations Fund. As most of you know we are making annual donations to three seminarians. Two of our three new seminarians this year are located at St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami. Austin Smith, Sophomore Year who is from Nativity parish in Brandon. His birthday is 11/19. Benjamin Harris, Freshman Year from St. Theresa parish, Spring Hill. His birthday is 12/31. Nicholas Gunn, in his Freshman Year, is studying at St. Vincent's in Boynton Beach.

Please get your name on the list by giving \$5.00, \$10.00 or whatever you can in support of this worthy endeavor! We need to continue to support these young men and vocations but it will take everyone's help. Thank You!

Mark Barrett, David and Patricia Behrle, Patrick and Beatrice Boland, James and Jean Burris, John and Sharon Cathcart, Christopher and Debra Constantine, John Coyne, Joseph and Biagia D'Amelio, Douglas and Carol DeWolfe, Peter Demzak, Jerome Dewberry, Frank and Angela Di Mattei, Jonathan Di Mattei, Francisco and Mildred Diaz Estrella, Terry and Shirley Drake, Robert and Zoe Dufour, Robert and Patricia Ehrman, Philip and Janet Farney, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Charles and Raquel Friesema, William and Marie Gallant, John and Peggy Gohman II, Joel Gray, Gerald and Lorraine Grubba, Thomas and Anne Harkins, Thomas Hart Jr, Paul and Rose Marie Harvey, David and Donna Heezen, Kevin and Gidet Hernandez, Joseph and Sandra Hocherl, Jarret Honahan, George and Claire Inderwies, Steven and Anne Marie Ippolito, Eugene and Karen Jajuga, Shawn and Pattie Jajuga, Gregory and Kim Juedes, Peter and Nancy Jula, Matthew Killeen, William and Katherine Krajewski, Tom and Margaret Krivchenia, Frank and Deborah Laffey, James and Maria Lankford, Stephen Leger, Santo and Karen Loparo Jr, Frank and Juliann Marsalek, Frank and Cindy McEwen, Charles McEwen Sr, Kevin McMullen, Stuart Miller, James and Phyllis Montali, Adel Nammour, David Neal, Chris Nesci, James and Patricia Nolf, Thomas and Carolyn O'Rourke, Mark and Melissa Ostapowicz, Todd and Margaret Owers, Donald and Carol Palacheck, John and Susanne Papa, Gerald and Holly Pappa, Paul and Virginia Pappas, Brandon and Mirela Parrinello, Mark and Christine Peterman, Richard Roberto Jr, John and Kathleen Ruckart, Peter and Susanne Salesses, Morgan Sheafer Sr,,James and Karin Smith, Thomas and Janet Stanko, Matthew and Julie Sunski, Walberto and Ramona Vazquez, Steven and Jaclyn Verba, Eugene and Rita Wolanin, Mario Zaccaria, Patrick and Joan Alix, Victor and Suzanne Berggren, Donald and Linda Motika Borbath, Herman and Mary Jo Brames, Sal and Ingrid Burriesci, Robert and Nancy Carman, Anthony Crevello, Sean Donahoo, Zach Faraone, Mark and Elaine Feldman, Edward and Anne Fucillo, Joseph Guazzerotti, David and Paula Harvey, Karl and Lisa Held, James Jessup, James and Karen Kurzdorfer, Brian Lawandus, Francis and Carol Mahoney, Christopher Mazzone, William Mc Fadden, Michael and Maria Li McCarthy, Clifford and Michelle Merz, William Nies, George and Tracy Paradise, Thomas and Nancy Penders, Daniel and Teresa Peterson, Glen and Jennifer Pettersen, Christopher and Carol Purcell, Richard and Rosalie Resler, Brian and Erin Riley, Juan and RoseMary Romero, Guillermo Romero, William and Mary Scott, Kenneth and Gabriella Seguin Sr, Jim and Nancy Shirer, Jugdesh and Sucheta Sujanani, Chuck and Elizabeth Sullivan, Roy and Linda Vanderveer, Brian and Carolyn Annis, Dennis and Joyce Ayril, Paul and Jacqueline Barry, Fred and Caroline Bennett, Robert and Ann Marie Bonvicino, Jonathan and Marianne Boyce, Tim and Stacey Bruggeman, Jacob and Mary Burnett, Patrick Carroll, Francis Cayer, Kenneth and Debra Chmara, Terrell and Victoria Clampitt, Joseph and Ellen Cortese, Anibal Cruz, Austin Davis, Eric and Bernadette Flores, Michael and Lisa Furman, Joseph Gajewski, Ward and Kathleen Griffin, Mark Gurley, Lawrence and Nancy Harkins, James and Janetze Hart, James Hayes, Michael and Anna Heider, Kenton and Sue Heuertz, Christopher and Celise Jones, Mark and Maryann Locascio Kapinos, William and Elizabeth Kasak, Brian and Christine Kearns, Richard and Cecilia Kemball-Cook Jr, Dan and Donna Kistel, James and Patricia Kleinsorge, Brian and Christina Lapointe, Milton Levine, Louis Lyons, Kenneth (Ken) Miller, Javier and Xiomara Ortega, Edmund and Diane Pagnott, Frank and Patricia Piro, Edward and Sandra Riley, Jeffrey and Roxann Rogers Sr, James and Drema Rooney, Timothy and Barbara Rush, Mario and Karen Russica, Kurt Salac, Daniel and Paula Saracki, Robert and Teresa Shafer, Hugh and Katie Siegel, Massimo Simeoni, Bryan and Krista Snyder, Gregory and Carolina Sohn, James and Darlene Stanley, Keith and Griselda Taylor Sr, Edward Warticki, Benjamin and Rosmeli Workman

**Total Collected to Date: \$1,735.38**



Father Michael W. Cooper, S.J.  
Chaplain

# Chaplain’s Corner

## 2023 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Where do we start in 2023? First of all, January 1 is not just a day on the calendar. This is the beginning of another sacred/holy year for us. The first reading at Mass on January 1 from the Book of Numbers is very indicative. It is not that we bless the Lord, but the Lord blesses us:

*May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May the Lord let God’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you!  
May the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace.*

What a great blessing. In good times and challenges times our Lord is with us and walks with us giving us Peace, Strength, Hope, and Joy in all situations. We are never without the Lord.

In addition, how should we start this sacred year 2023. I am not a big advocate of New Year’s Resolutions. They usually do not last. In preparing this article, I asked myself what I am going to do for the New Year. I share my response and suggest you might want to do likewise. I begin with **gratitude**.

I started with thanks to the Lord for being active in my life. I thank God for the gift of Sister Caroline and LuLu - two gifts beyond price. I am grateful for my Catholic faith and the Community of Faith in our Brotherhood of Knights. I am grateful too for other friends and for my ministry as a Jesuit Priest.

I am grateful for friends who are blessings for me, and I begin the New Year by calling them up and telling them how grateful I am that they are a blessing and an important part of my life. I suggest you might do some thank you calls as well.

Michael Cooper, SJ  
Chaplain



Santa & Mrs Claus with Fr Len

## Service Program Directors 2022 - 2023

Program Director	Tom Krivchenia, PFN	727-366-5422
Membership Director	Brian Riley	303-921-9861
Faith Director	Wally Vazquez	727-542-5376
Community Director	Jim Lankford	727-698-3489
Family Director	Tom Wozniak, PGK, PFN, FDD	727-214-8377
Public Relations Director	John Gohman	813-810-3735
Life Director	David Behrle, PGK, PFN	727-723-1169
Vocations	Frank McEwen, PGK	727-239-2687
Retention Chairman	Frank McEwen, PGK	727-239-2687



Tom Krivchenia  
Deputy Grand Knight  
dgk7109@gmail.com

# Deputy Grand Knight's Report

Worthy Brother Knights!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! To all my brother Knights, I trust that you all had a wonderful Christmas spent with family and friends. Let me be the first to wish you a Happy New Year. May all your wishes and dreams come true this year and that you have a Blessed and prosperous year. A big thank you to all those who set up and decorated the Parish center for the Christmas Party and those who helped serve the food. I would like to thank Fr. Cooper for a great Mass and prayer service for the Saint Joseph icon. In January, we will be having coffee and donuts and the basketball free throw, and possibly, the hockey challenge on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### From the Life Director's Desk

We are having the Altar servers' pizza party on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be setting up a schedule for the Rosary for the rest of the year at our next officers' meeting. Details to follow.

We are starting to plan the retreat. We will ask Fr. Rich to participate. We will also ask the Diocese for a speaker.

### From the Community Director's Desk

Brothers, as we enter the new year, we have great opportunities ahead to better our greater community through service. One of the ways will be through our cleanup responsibilities along Enterprise Road from the Railroad tracks down to Philippe Parkway. We did this in December and there was a surprisingly large amount of trash picked up. This was also visible to the community of our service in action. We will do this again on January 14<sup>th</sup> and all are invited to take part. We begin at 9am and it only takes about ½ hour.

Coming soon, we will be conducting our annual free throw championship. This is a great competition, and the young people really love it. I have worked this in the past and, it's a fun morning. This is a great volunteer opportunity for

us all. We are looking at January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Stay tuned for official announcement.

### From the Family Director's Desk

The Feast of the Holy Family was this past weekend. Actually, it is December 30. As we reflect on this feast, let us remember the holiness of our own family. As we start this new year of 2023, as Knights and leaders of our family, the "Domestic Church," let us frequently call our family together and recite the following prayer entrusting our family to Jesus Christ and his family.

*O Lord Jesus, you lived in the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth. There you grew in age, wisdom and grace as you prepared to fulfill your mission as our Redeemer. We entrust our family to you.*

*O Blessed Mary, you are the Mother of our Savior. At Nazareth you cared for Jesus and nurtured him in the peace and joy of your home. We entrust our family to you.*

*O Saint Joseph, you provided a secure and loving home for Jesus and Mary and gave us a model of fatherhood while showing us the dignity of work. We entrust our family to you.*

*Holy Family, we consecrate ourselves and our family to you. May we be completely united in a love that is lasting, faithful and open to the gift of new life. Help us to grow in virtue, to forgive one another from our hearts, and to live in peace all our days. Keep us strong in faith, persevering in prayer, diligent in our work, and generous toward those in need. May our home, O Holy Family, truly become a domestic church where we reflect your example in our daily life. Amen.*

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!*

### The Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Born to a prominent, wealthy, Episcopalian colonial family in 1774, Elizabeth married William Seton in 1794 and bore him five children. After William's business failed, he contracted tuberculosis and died in 1803, leaving Elizabeth to care for their five children alone. She converted to Catholicism after her encounter with the Catholic faith through her friends in Italy. She was especially drawn to the doctrine of the Eucharist as the real body of Christ. She was received into the Church at Saint Peter's in lower Manhattan, New York. She was the victim of anti-Catholic prejudice, but through the struggles and tragedies she faced in life, she remained devout. Elizabeth accepted an invitation from a Sulpician priest in Baltimore to establish the congregation that became the Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph, and the beginning of the American parochial school system. She is the founder of the first Catholic Schools in the United States and is the patron saint of Catholic Schools, widows and seafarers. She died at the age of 46 on January 4, 1821. She was canonized a saint on September 14, 1975, by Pope Paul VI. She was the first native-born saint of the United States. In her sufferings, she resorted to prayer: "And do I realize it-the protecting presence, the consoling grace of my Redeemer and my God. He raises me from the dust to feel that I am near him."

### January Liturgical Calendar:

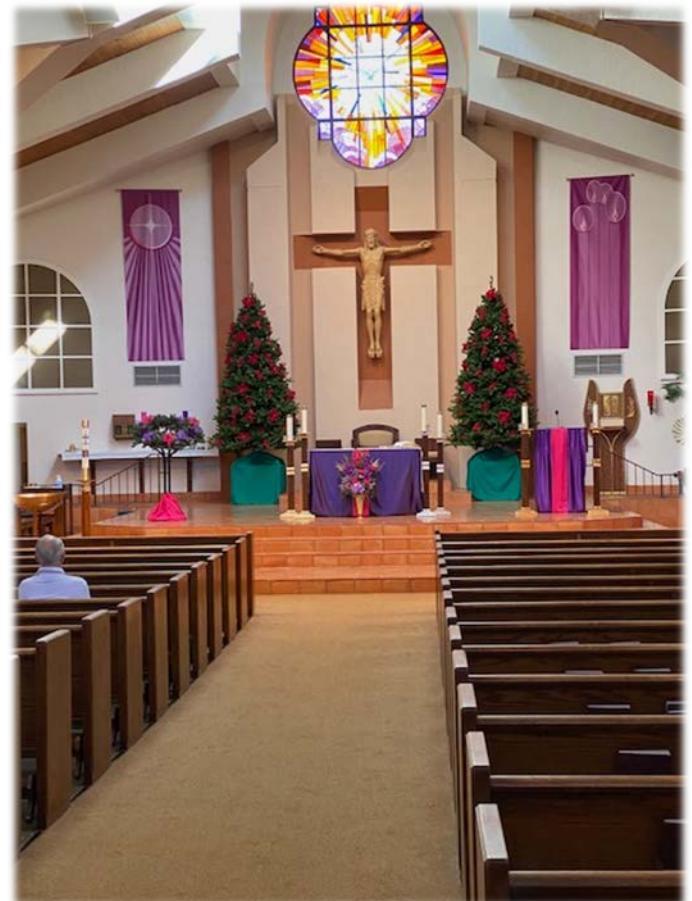
- Jan 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Solemnity)
- Jan 1 The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord
- Jan 2 Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen (Memorial)
- Jan 3 The Most Holy Name of Jesus
- Jan 4 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (Memorial)
- Jan 5 Saint John Neumann (Memorial)
- Jan 6 St. Andre Bessette
- Jan 7 St. Raymond of Penyafort
- Jan 8 The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)
- Jan 9 The Baptism of the Lord (Feast)
- Jan 13 St. Hilary
- Jan 14 Bl. Virgin Mary
- Jan 17 Saint Anthony (Memorial)
- Jan 20 St. Fabian, St. Sebastian
- Jan 21 Saint Agnes (Memorial)
- Jan 23 Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn Children
- Jan 24 Saint Francis de Sales (Memorial)

- Jan 25 The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle (Feast)
- Jan 26 Saint Timothy and Titus (Memorial)
- Jan 27 St. Angela Merici
- Jan 28 Saint Thomas Aquinas (Memorial)
- Jan 31 Saint John Bosco (Memorial)

Many Blessings in 2023.

Vivat Jesus!

Tom Krivchenia, PFN  
[dgk1709@gmail.com](mailto:dgk1709@gmail.com)  
 727.366.5422







John Ruckart  
Field Agent  
John.Ruckart@kofc.org



## FRATERNAL BENEFITS ADVISOR REPORT

Happy New Year to all my brothers and their families! I wish you Peace, Joy and good health this coming year!

It's that time of year when we make resolutions. Have you made any yet? Maybe the realistic question is, "Have you already broken some of them?"

Here are 10 popular New Year's resolutions from the internet along with some of my own:

1. Get in shape; for some of us this means to lose some weight, exercise more and staying fit; to stop smoking or eat healthier foods.
2. Stop procrastinating; I don't know about you, but I'm going to put this off for yet another year!
3. Improve my prayer life; there's an app for that! The Laudate app claims it is the most downloaded Catholic app. It has an immense library of prayers, devotions, daily readings, podcasts and Vatican documents.
4. Improve on a skill or develop a new hobby; maybe you want to lower your golf handicap or learn to bowl. Go for it!
5. Be more thankful; God has blessed me in so many ways and sometimes I forget to thank Him for all of those things...usually because I'm too busy asking for something else.
6. Spend more time with the people that matter most; sometimes I get so busy working, keeping the house up or going to some meeting, I forget the ones I do these things for. I've got to set aside more time to just be with them.
7. Reduce stress; in this sometimes hectic and seemingly crazy world, it's easy to get swallowed up in the latest tragedy and worry all the time. Cutting out those sources of stress or learning how to deal with them more effectively means a more settled life.

8. Read more; with so much on the internet, TV and radio it's easy for me to get lost in those. Reading for pleasure has become something of a lost art.

9. Spend wisely; it's so easy to spend money on things we really don't need, buy on a whim or because we're keeping up with the Joneses.

10. Review your current financial situation; it's always a good idea to take stock on a yearly basis.

Now this last resolution I can definitely help you keep. My resolution is to contact each of you this year to check in and if appropriate, set up a time to meet. We can update your information and see where you stand. Your financial health is critical to your family's future security. We'll take a look at your goals and aspirations and help make sure you're on track to reach them.

Vivat Jesus!

John D Ruckart, FICF  
813-855-5111

Book an appt with me here: [kofc.ruckart.com](http://kofc.ruckart.com)



WGK Gene Jajuga presents SK Kevin McCullagh with his Honorary Life Membership cards



Frank McEwen  
Faithful Navigator  
[fmcewen99@gmail.com](mailto:fmcewen99@gmail.com)

## *Faithful Navigator's Log*

As we start the new year, it is hard to believe how much our American culture has regressed in the last half century. Powerful demonic forces have been persistent and relentless in their war against God and family. The exceptional country we all experienced years ago has slowly deteriorated into the debauchery of today.

As Sir Knights we cannot despair or lose hope. It takes work and focus to reject the social and cultural forces that try to distract us from our true mission in this life. The greatest miracle of this life is that, with the assistance of the sacraments and sanctifying grace, we may obtain spiritual conversion that transforms us to an elevated and holy existence.

Each new year is a good time to renew our commitment to spiritual growth. For this very reason we take time at our January Assembly meeting to renew our oaths as Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus.

Only by transforming our lives, may we then "Step into the Breach" to attract and transform others through exemplary kindness and goodness. We must always remember that every person was created in God's image and has an immortal soul. We must pray and do all we can to guide every soul to eternal life. As the world around us rejects God and natural law, it is easy to become despondent and give up. We must remember, all is possible with God.

As I witnessed the rudeness and depravity of the pro-abortion activists at the local abortion clinic, I could only feel sorry for them. They seemingly have no awareness of their divine nature, of the soul within. We must pray for all such lost souls with increased intensity. An illumination of conscience and transformation is not only possible, but likely if we all do our part in daily prayer.

Starting this new year, we will be praying the Patriotic Rosary in the John Bosco Center on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm, just before our regular council meeting. Let us exert every possible effort in prayer to ask intercession to restore our country to the original foundation of Christian values. I do hope you all make a new year's resolution to participate at the monthly Rosary.

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen reflected; "Each new year is actually a testing and proving ground for eternity, a kind of novitiate in which we say 'aye' or 'nay' to our eternal destiny. Our eternal destiny is Heaven, and we must recognize that reality, whether it is 11:00 pm on December 31 or 11:00am on January 15, or any other time of the year, what matters most is the sanctification of the now moment."

Sir Knights, let us continue to demonstrate a resounding 'aye' to our eternal destiny.

Warmest Wishes for a Blessed Year.

Vivat Jesus!

Frank McEwen  
FN

### Assembly Membership Growth

Current Membership	141
2020/2021 Goal	0/6



Dave Behrle  
PGK, PFN  
(727) 723-1169



Today is Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, so yes, I am running late on submitting. I turned 71 yesterday; it's a poor excuse, I admit. But today, I was blessed to attend the Epiphany "Dive for the Cross" Celebration held annually in Tarpon Springs. Today was the 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Epiphany Celebration there. More coverage should be on Bay News 9 and in our local newspapers. The cross was thrown more in the middle of the 10 boats, and I saw more security on the water and in the water than what I recall seeing in the past.

On another note, let us take time to be thankful for all our blessings of 2022, and the lives of Pope Benedict who died at age 95 on Dec 31, and the Buffalo Bills player, Damar Hamlin, #3, who survived his heart stopping Monday night, Jan 2, during the NFL game with the Cincinnati Bengals. Pope Benedict XVI reigned from 2005 to 2013. Many of his legacy writings are used in the monthly Magnificat booklet, and I'm sure will be used for theological training for years to come. Damar's recovery continues as I write this, and may the prayers offered by his teammates, fellow players, and all of us continue to support his way back.

Drag Queen entertainment in Safety Harbor? Who would think that would happen? A public event was held at Ruth Eckerd Hall on Saturday, Dec 30. I remember checking the Ruth Eckerd Hall website and confirmed it myself, and believe I saw it advertised as Drag Queen Christmas, but I can't find my notes, so . . . while the 'Christmas' part of the event is not definite, I can attest that 'Drag Queen' most surely was. Incredible!? I have also heard third hand reports of something similar done at the Safety Harbor Library for a children's reading event. Can any brother provide input on this?

Finally, a promotion of the upcoming Tampa Bay Men's Conference, to be held Sat, Feb 25, at Higgins Halls, St Lawrence Catholic Church, 5225 N Himes Ave, Tampa. Go to [SunCoastCatholicMinistries.com](http://SunCoastCatholicMinistries.com) for more information and to register. CU there.



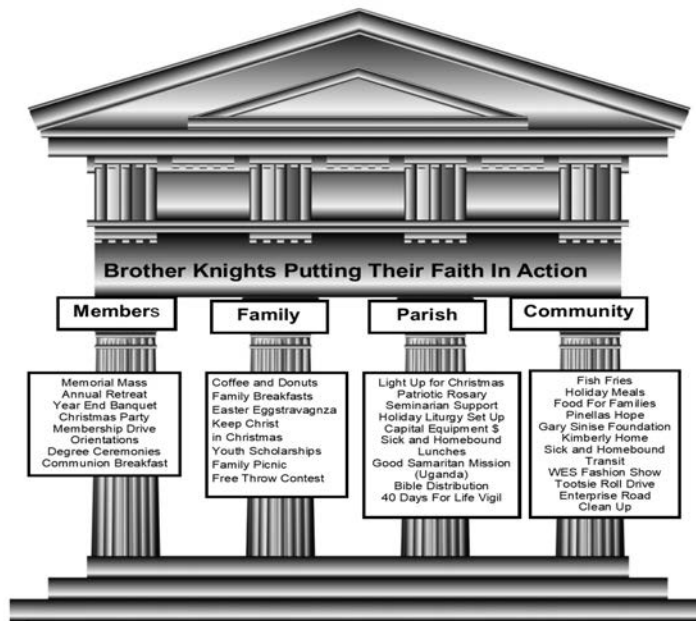
How many Knights does it take to put up a Christmas tree?



Santa & Mrs Claus pose for a picture with their helper



**Heal Family Wounds.** What a great way to start each year. All our families face stress in various forms and all too often that leads to some wounds. Psalm 51 reminds us that we ALL are fallen and must first seek mercy and forgiveness from God. That also means we must take accountability for our discretions if we are to obtain a clean heart as well as promise to start each day with a willing promise to uphold His word and teach the wicked His ways. We must also give mercy as we seek mercy and accept blame when we are the issue.



**Psalm 51:** Have mercy on me, God, in accord with your merciful love; in your abundant compassion blot out my transgressions. Thoroughly wash away my guilt; and from my sin cleanse me. For I know my transgressions; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your eyes So that you are just in your word, and without reproach in your judgment. Behold, I was born in guilt, in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, you desire true sincerity; and secretly you teach me wisdom. Cleanse me with hyssop,<sup>2</sup> that I may be pure; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. You will let me hear gladness and joy; the bones you have crushed will rejoice. Turn away your face from my sins; blot out all my iniquities. A clean heart create for me, God; renew within me a steadfast spirit. Do not drive me from before your face, nor take from me your holy spirit. Restore to me the gladness of your salvation; uphold me with a willing spirit. I will teach the wicked your ways, that sinners may return to you.

# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

## St Joseph Pilgrim Icon Program

### **A Higher Purpose**

Spread devotion to St. Joseph and pray for the courage to stand up and carry out our mission of protecting, defending, and raising future generations.

### **About the Icon**

This beautiful icon is housed at St. Joseph's Oratory in Montréal, Canada's preeminent Shrine to St. Joseph, founded by St. André Bessette. The original is written (prayerfully painted) by Elizabeth Bergeron, from a drawing by famed iconographer Alexandre Sobolev. In the image, St. Joseph stands with his eyes cast humbly down, but with a determined strength in his face. In his covered arm he bears the Child Jesus, whose own hand is raised, blessing the world. In his right arm, St. Joseph holds a flowering staff, a sign that he was chosen by God. The white lilies of the staff signify his purity and chastity. Taken together, the icon provides a window into the life and mission of this courageous father, a man who was one of us and yet called to a mission of incomparable significance. Since its inception in 1979, the Knights of Columbus Pilgrim Icon Program has held more than 174,800 local council and parish prayer services with some 22 million participants. Featured images have included Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Our Lady of Pochaiv, Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of Charity, Our Lady of Persecuted Christians and the Holy Family.

### **Overview**

The Knights of Columbus were founded in 1882 by Fr. Michael J. McGivney, a parish priest at St. Mary's Catholic Church in New Haven Connecticut. Since our founding, the Knights of Columbus number some two million Knights in 16,000 councils in 25 different countries around the world. Every few years, the Knights of Columbus selects an icon of a saint whose patronage is particularly inspiring to Knights and their communities. Each jurisdiction receives one or several of these icons which travel from council to council and serve as the centerpieces for prayer services in parishes throughout the Order.

### **Locally**

Our Council here at Espiritu Santo Catholic Church is very fortunate and blessed to have been selected to receive and participate in the St. Joseph Pilgrim Icon Program for the Florida District 40 of the Knights of Columbus. We received the St. Joseph Icon on Monday morning, December 26<sup>th</sup>, and it was prominently displayed on the altar of the Main Church directly above the Christmas Nativity Scene. Our Pastor, Fr. Len, welcomes the St. Joseph Pilgrim Icon into our parish and spoke frequently about it at all Masses held during the week that it was with us. We had a very special Mass and Rosary on Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, in the Main Church. We were honored to have our own Council Chaplin, Father Michael Cooper, presiding and our Assembly Faithful Friar, Deacon Greg Nash, assisting at the Mass and Ceremony. We were very privileged to have the St. Joseph Pilgrim Icon for the entire week between Christmas and New Year's Day. The perfect time to honor our Blessed and Most Holy Family!



# PHOTO GALLERY



Scenes from our Full Family Breakfast with Santa. Special thanks to the Miller sisters – Reagan & Rowan – for their incredible musical entertainment, Santa & Mrs Claus – Richie & Roe Resler, and their tireless helper, Robin LaChance - and photography courtesy of our Fraternal Benefits Advisor – John Ruckart!

# In Memoriam

## MSGT Andrew J. Lopreato, USAF (Ret)

December 26, 1929 – May 11, 2022



Andrew was the seventh of ten children and attended Corpus Christi Church and High School. He graduated from Calvert Hall College in 1947. Andrew served in the United States Air Force at HQ USAF Weisbaden, Germany; Burtonwood AFB, Warrington, England; Mitchell AFB, Long Island, NY; South Ruislip AFB, England and finally at Patrick AFB Cocoa Beach, FL where he retired in June 1972 as a Computer Superintendent with over 20 years of service. MSGT Lopreato's awards include the Good Conduct Medal with five clusters; Air Force Commendation Medal; National Defense Service Medal with clusters; European Occupational Medal and Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

After transitioning from the USAF, he moved to Clearwater, FL in August 1981 and worked at GTE until May 1993. He was a member of Espiritu Santo Catholic Church since 1981 and joined the Knights of Columbus and attained his 1st Degree on April 17, 2008. His 4th Degree installation was on April 17, 2010, in Jacksonville, FL and became a member of the Knights of Columbus Color Corps in December 2011.

Andrew is predeceased by his parents, Nicola and Catherine Lopreato; brothers Joseph Lopreato, Frank Lopreato, Nicholas Lopreato; sisters Angelina Lopreato, Lena (Lopreato) Stains, Rose Marie (Lopreato) Miller, Mary (Lopreato) Farrell, and Teresa (Lopreato) Chenoweth; and a son, Anthony Lopreato.

Andrew is survived by his loving family, his wife of 43 years, Carol (Doney) Lopreato: children Donna (Lopreato) Parrish of Melbourne, FL, Michael Lopreato of Clearwater, FL, Perry Lopreato of Melbourne FL, Andrew N. Lopreato of Clearwater, FL, Christopher Lopreato of Melbourne, FL, Paul Lopreato of Melbourne, FL, Melissa Lopreato of Clearwater, FL; his grandchildren, Theresa (Lopreato) Robles, Jonathan Lopreato, Christina Lopreato, Katie Lopreato, Christopher Lopreato, Veronica Lopreato, Nicola Lopreato, Francesca Lopreato; great grandchildren Kiera, Kiley, Nathan and Shaza; siblings, Catherine (Lopreato) Polkowski and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Andrew's Funeral Mass was held at Espiritu Santos Catholic Church on May 21, 2022, with Father Michael Cooper officiating and full military honors presented by USAF MacDill AFB Honor Guard.



**Epiphaneia!  
Happy New Year!!  
God Is With Us!**

What do these three things have in common? Epiphaneia is a Greek word meaning appearance or manifestation. It refers to the manifestation of Christ to the world. In the Christian tradition the Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated twelve days after the birth of Christ on Christmas Day. It marks the time it took the Magi to travel to Bethlehem to personally witness the Christ child. So, this is the day that Christ was actually made manifest to the world.

In the Greek tradition which we witness here in Tarpon Springs each year at the Spring Bayou, the Epiphaneia marks the Baptism of Christ when, for the first time, the entire Trinity was made manifest to the world. As God the Father validated the Jesus and He were one and the Holy Spirit rested on Jesus.

What's this mean to us? Simply, everything. We belong to a church that is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. All these traits came into the play at the birth of Christ. He is THE One! He is Holy! His mission is catholic meaning universal! And His calling was apostolic or to spread the Word of salvation. Each year we celebrate His birth and its impact on us and this starts our New Year and renewed commitment to our four pillars of Knighthood: Unity, Charity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

The readings of the Epiphany back that up. I John 4 tells us, "Beloved, we love God because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from him: Whoever loves God must also love his brother." The responsorial Psalm reminds us that, "Lord every nation on earth will adore You!"

The Gospel recounts that Jesus went back to Galilee and taught in their synagogues and all marveled at his wisdom and knowledge. On one occasion He recounted the prophesy Isaiah, "He came to Nazareth, where he had

grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. Then He simply added, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

Epiphaneia? Manifestation? One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic? Unity, Charity, Fraternity and Patriotism? Happy New Year? See the linkages?

We now have our orders for 2023. Do as Jesus has done!

Lines from the  
**Ladies Auxiliary**

Happiest of New Year's!

May God's blessings for good health and happiness be to you and yours. Looking forward to our next ladies auxiliary meeting on the 12th.

Thanks to our generous parishioners, Katie, our group's Christmas gifts, and these shoppers for Toys for Tots was once again, a great success. A total of over \$1150 worth of toys were delivered to Oldsmar fire department!

A potential fundraiser will be discussed at our next meeting and looking ahead to our Lenten fish fries. Hope to see a good turn out our next meeting.

Jean Wozniak



## *From the desk of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly...*

“**ALL OF HUMAN LIFE**, whether individual or collective, shows itself to be a dramatic struggle between good and evil, between light and darkness” (*Gaudium et Spes*, 13). These words from the Second Vatican Council’s Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World are just as evocative today as when they were written nearly 60 years ago.

I have written previously about the fact that the whole of our lives is a spiritual battle. While many are faced with larger battles — we remember especially our brothers who are literally at war — the struggle between good and evil goes on even in our most simple human relations. As we approach the Christmas season, when we celebrate the glorious gift of God becoming man, it’s a good time to consider the small spiritual battles that are manifest in our personal lives.

Christmas can be an occasion of great happiness and togetherness. But for many, it can also be a time of stress and anxiety — when, for example, we struggle with wounds and divisions within our families that have gone on far too long. I would offer that, as Knights, we are called to the spiritual battleground to bring about greater unity in our families.

Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus upon the principles of “Unity and Charity.” That is, he listed unity even before charity, which is often acclaimed as our first principle. The principle of fraternity was added several years later.

As a spiritual brotherhood, we all know just how important unity is for our councils. It’s a precondition, in fact, for our many works of charity. This is also true for the Knights of Columbus as a whole. Our unity as a spiritual brotherhood is what has made the Order grow stronger over the past 140 years.

If unity is important for us as Knights, it is even more important for our families. The love of families is the very way that God chose to reveal himself to us — the love of the Holy Family is a model for all families, and the Father is the one “from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named” (Eph 3:15).

As individuals, we are made for unity. We are made in the image and likeness of the Trinitarian God, who is the source of unity. That is to say, we are made to live in communion with one another; we are hardwired to be connected to others.

However, the evil one is always trying to destroy this unity and disconnect us from others, especially from our families, through our own sin and those of others. One of Satan’s most effective tactics is to isolate us and separate us through suspicions, selfishness and wounds both old and new.

Sin and division are cruel captors. They bind us and prevent us from breaking free. But as St. Paul proclaimed in his Letter to the Galatians, “For freedom Christ set us free; so, stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery” (5:1).

Christ wants us to be instruments of unity in our families. More than that, he wants us to cooperate with him to sanctify our families. To do so, I recommend two key paths — those of forgiveness and truth.

First, to reach unity, the barriers of resentment and sin must be removed, and this requires forgiveness. We should seek to sincerely forgive our family members and graciously ask forgiveness for our own offenses. Second, we should seek to find points of commonality with our family members, for all true unity is built on truth. Though there are sometimes points of division that seem insurmountable, we can begin with that which unites us.

So, as we look forward to celebrating Christmas this year, let us ask for the grace to be agents of unity, driving out darkness and spreading light.

*Vivat Jesus!*

Patrick Kelly  
Supreme Knight



## *From the Florida State Council Chamber...*

### **Knights of Columbus Florida State Council Programs**

#### **Faith**

Our goal is to strengthen men and their families in the Catholic faith. Formation in our faith goes beyond mere facts or religious practice to an authentic connection with a loving God and his son Jesus Christ. Programs in this category are designed to draw us closer to God and the Church in a tangible and meaningful way.

- *Faith Programs include Spiritual Reflection, Refund Support Vocations, Building the Domestic Church Kiosk, Holy Hour, Into the Breach Kiosk, Marian Prayer Program, Rosary, and Sacramental Gifts.*

#### **Family**

Father McGivney sought to strengthen the familial bond of father to mother and children to parents. His vision for family life was not only financial and material aid but also spiritual strength. The majority of our time is easily spent in secular circles unless we intentionally create ways to live the domestic church. These programs, created for families by families, help us to live this call.

- *Family Programs include Consecration of the Holy Family, Food for Families, Family Fully Alive, Family of the Month/Year, Family Prayer Night, Family Week, Good Friday Family Promotion, and Keep Christ in Christmas Campaign.*

#### **Community**

Knights are called to serve others. Our first principle is Charity – at home with our families and in our communities. When Knights of Columbus members come together as one through their council and parish, they accomplish great things.

- *Community Programs include Helping Hands, Coats for Kids, Global Wheelchair Mission, Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, Disaster Preparedness, Free Throw Championship, and Soccer Challenge.*

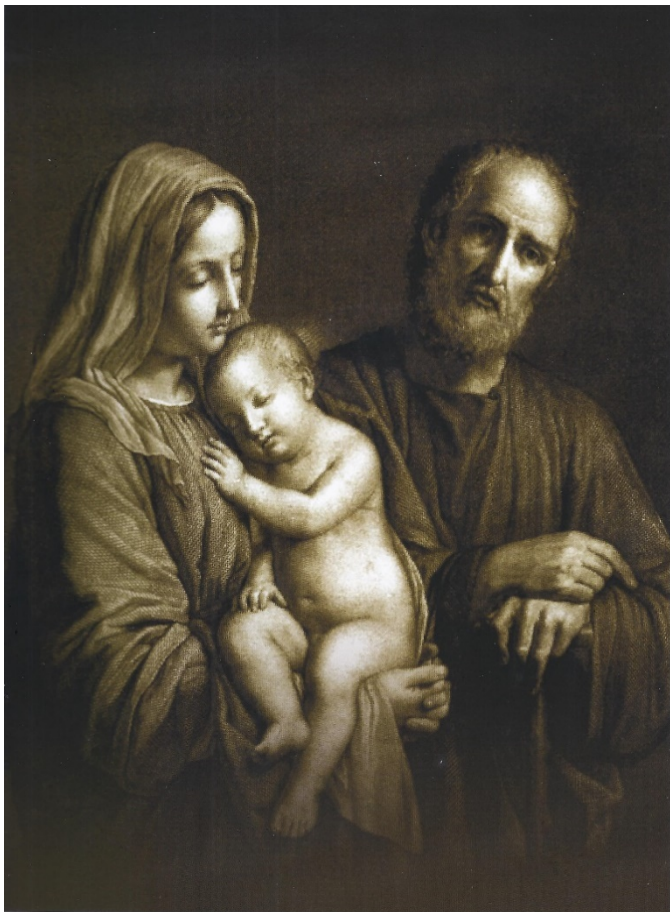
#### **Life**

"Catholics must be committed to the defense of life in all its stages and in every condition" (St. John Paul II, 1995). The urgency of the threat to a culture of life in our world cannot be misunderstood. The Knights of Columbus vigorously defends the dignity of each human being at every stage of life. Councils and parishes can work to build a culture of life and a civilization of love through these important programs.

- *Life Programs include Novena for Life, March for Life, Special Olympics, Ultrasound, Christian Refugee Relief, Mass for People with Special Needs, Pregnancy Center Support, and Silver Rose.*

## ASSEMBLY OFFICERS July 2022 – June 2023

Faithful Navigator	Frank McEwen, PGK	727-239-2687
Faithful Friar	Deacon Greg Nash	813-267-1535
Faithful Captain	Walberto Vazquez	727-542-5376
Faithful Admiral	Frank DiMattei, PGK, PFN	727-871-6506
Faithful Pilot	John Gohman	813-810-3735
Faithful Scribe	Jack Tipton, PGK	727-510-9997
Faithful Comptroller	Tom Harkins	727-772-0607
Faithful Purser	Jerry Custin, PGK, PFN	727-244-6464
Inside Sentinel	Vincent Cristiano	727-725-5647
Outside Sentinel	Richard Resler	727-744-8923
Sentinel-at-Large	George Inderwies	727-647-1601
Trustee Three Year	Gene Jajuga, PFN, FFA	727-403-3261
Trustee Two Year	Mark Peterman, PFN	727-403-5993
Trustee One Year	Paul Harvey, PFN	727-286-7171
Color Corps Commander	John Papa, PGK, PFN, FDD	727-482-3734
Veterans Liaison	Tim Rush	727-797-7818



### A Family Prayer

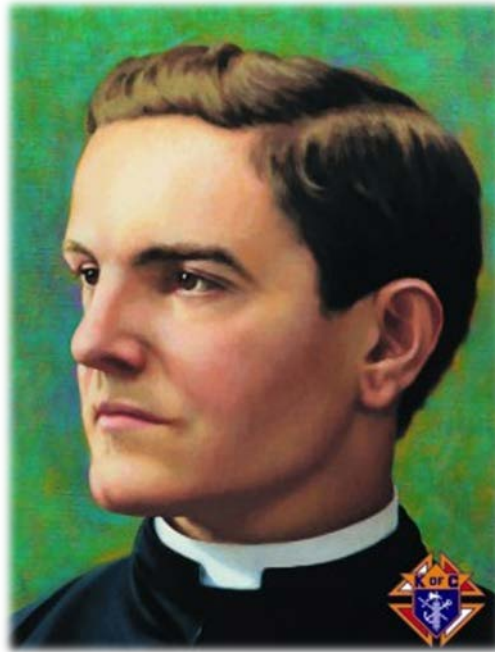
Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of our family.  
Enlighten our hearts and minds that we may live more  
fully this vocation to love.

In our daily life and work,  
May we reflect the self-giving love which you,  
O Father, eternally show with your Son  
and the Holy Spirit.

Let your love be evident in the peace that reigns in our  
home and in the faith, we profess and live. May our  
family always be a place of generosity, understanding,  
forgiveness and joy.

Kindly give us the wisdom and courage to be witnesses  
to your eternal design for the family; and grant that the  
Holy Family of Nazareth may always guide our path to  
holiness as a family.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, one God for ever and ever.  
Amen.



***Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney***  
*Founder of the Knights of Columbus*

*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.*

## *What's Happening?*



### Council 7109 Calendar of Events...

#### January 2023

- Tue Jan 10 | 9:30a Remove Christmas Decorations
- Thu Jan 12 | 7:30p Council Membership Meeting
- Thu Jan 19 | 8:00a Pinellas Hope Meal Prep & Delivery
- Thu Jan 19 | 7:00p Fish Fry Planning Meeting
- Sat Jan 21 | 8:00a Kimberly Home Yard WorkDay
- Sun Jan 22 | 8:00a Coffee & Donuts



### Assembly 2474 Calendar of Events...

#### January 2023

- Thu Jan 26 | 7:30p Assembly Membership Meeting  
(Renewal of Obligations)

#### February 2023



- Sun Feb 05 | 8:00a Full Family Breakfast

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**Veterans Crisis Line**



**1-800-273-8255**  
**PRESS 1**

• Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to **838255** • •

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**RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF SUICIDE RISK**

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.
- Hopelessness, feeling like there's no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends

**the presence of these signs requires immediate attention.** **Call us if you experience any of these warning signs.**



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

God our Father, Giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to Your loving care.

You are the rock on which this nation was founded.

You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Reclaim this land for Your glory and dwell among Your people.

Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders.

Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom.

Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing Your will.

Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death."

Lead us into a new millennium of life.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.