



# THE SHIELD

## Grand Knight's Message



Gene Jajuga  
Grand Knight  
GrandKnight7109@gmail.com

**Issue 4, April 2023**

Next Council Meeting  
Thursday, April 13 @ 7:30 pm  
Live 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!

As I write my newsletter article for our April Council Newsletter, we are just a few days now from our sixth and final Fry-day Fish Fry for this Lenten Season. Outside of our very first Fish Fry on February 24<sup>th</sup>, which now feels like it was last year, and that started off on an awesome note with over 400 served dinners, all fish fry's since then have been in the 200 to 300 range of fish fry dinners served. I think that a good many of us thought that after the success of the first one, we were well on our way back to the huge successes of past years, pre-Covid, of serving 500-600 dinners. Now that reality has set in after the last five weeks, I'm just hoping that our final fish fry will be successful.

Regardless of how many fish fry dinners we serve on any given Friday during Lent, the same exact preparation must go into each and every one and it's a huge responsibility for all of us and I couldn't have asked for any more than what our Knights and Ladies have done and I'm so very proud, grateful and blessed to have you all. Once all six of our fish fries are done and, in the books, it will be very interesting to review the numbers for each and try to analyze exactly what happened. From dine-in to take-out dinners, I'm sure that I will have everything to report at our next Council Business Meeting.

At this time, I would like to recognize our awesome volunteer staff from our fifth fish fry:

- |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Peggy Gohman | John Clarke  | Betsy Clarke |
| John Gohman  | Jean Wozniak | Tom Wozniak  |

- |                    |                |                     |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Rosalie Resler     | Paul Harvey    | Robin LaChance      |
| Betty D'Amelio     | Jim Montali    | Phyllis Montali     |
| Shirley Drake      | Jean Wozniak   | Adel Nammour        |
| Terry Drake        | JJ Coyne       | George Inderweis    |
| Karen Jajuga       | Wally Vazquez  | Ed Amador           |
| Mark Feldman       | Frank DiMattei | Angela DiMattei     |
| Richie Resler      | Joe D'Amelio   | Irving Hernandez    |
| Brian Riley        | Tom Harkins    | Tom Fitzpatrick     |
| John Gohman        | Frank McEwen   | Santo Loparo        |
| Bob Justiana       | Pat Nocerino   | Bill Gallant        |
| Bill Krajieski     | Rita Wolanin   | Margaret Krivchenia |
| Phil Farney        | Gene Wolanin   | Tom Krivchenia      |
| Carolyn Annis      | Rob Pickard    | Sue Engelmann       |
| Brian Annis        | Chris Kearns   | Brian Kearns        |
| Maggie Cappabianca |                |                     |

I sincerely apologize if I have missed listing anyone.

**Student Volunteer Servers:**

- |              |              |                 |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Tyler Harden | Mark Murack  | Nicholas Murack |
| Arwen Hagan  | Grifyn Hagan | Ryan Burricsci  |

**PINELLAS HOPE LUNCH PREP & DISTRIBUTION**

We had our monthly Pinellas Hope Lunch Food Prep and Distribution on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, and the following volunteers assisted with this awesome ministry. Thank you one and all for your terrific work on behalf of our entire council.

- |                |                |                 |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Pat Nocerino   | Santo Loparo   | Tom Fitzpatrick |
| Bob Justiana   | Joe D'Amelio   | Robin LaChance  |
| Betty D'Amelio | Bill Krajieski | Richard LeClerc |
| John Malone    | John Gohman    |                 |

**UPCOMING EVENTS APRIL**

- Saint Vincent de Paul Easter Meal Delivery – Saturday, April 1st, 9:00 AM John Bosco Center
- Council Officer’s Meeting – Thursday, April 6th, Cancelled due to Holy Thursday
- **HOLY THURSDAY** – Thursday April 6th
- **GOOD FRIDAY** – Friday, April 7th
- **HOLY SATURDAY** – Saturday, April 8th
- **EASTER SUNDAY** – Sunday April 9th
- Council Business Meeting – Thursday, April 13th, 7:30 PM in the Parish Center
- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting – Thursday, April 13th, 7:30 PM in the Gathering Room
- Kimberly Home Yard Work Day – Saturday, April 15th, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM (1189 NE Cleveland Street, Clearwater)
- Council Informational Open House – Tuesday, April 18th, 7:30 PM in the Gathering Room
- Pinellas Hope – Lunch Meal Prep and Delivery – Thursday, April 20th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM PC Kitchen
- Unified Degree Exemplification – Thursday, April 20th, 7:30 PM in the Parish Center
- Tootsie Roll Drive – Saturday & Sunday, April 22nd & April 23rd, after all masses
- Assembly Business Meeting – Thursday, April 27th, 7:30 AM in the John Bosco Center
- Council Officer’s Meeting – Thursday, May 4th, 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Council Program Director Meeting – Tuesday, May 9th, 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Council Business Meeting – Thursday, May 11th, 7:30 PM in the Parish Center
- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting – Thursday, May 11th, 7:30 PM in the Gathering Room



WGK Gene Jajuga presents SK Brian Riley with February Knight of the Month

**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, April 13th, at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center. Please see Sir Knight Doug deWolfe. Thank you.

Blessings for an awesome month!

Vivat Jesus!

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



# Council 7109 Membership Corner

Happy Easter My Brothers,

HE IS RISEN, Halleluiah!!! We've had a very active month this March with membership activities every Fish Fry, an Open House and an Exemplification. I witnessed quite a few Knights reaching out to potential candidates at the Fish Frys and at various Masses. We had four men show at our Open House that showed interest but have yet to enroll. Thanks Tom Wozniak and Paul Harvey for bringing two to the Open House. We also had three new members join us at our Exemplification night. That is now seven new members. I would like to give a special thanks to Tom Stanko and Bill Gallant for assisting me at manning the membership table this past month. You've been a great help. And Thank You ALL for your continuous evangelization and reaching out to Brother Catholics. We just need eight more to meet our goal of 15 by June. WE CAN DO IT!!!

Here's a list of membership events over the next month for opportunities to introduce new prospect to the Knights of Columbus.

- 04/18/23 – Informational Open House
- 04/20/23 – Degree Ceremony



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.

*Blessed Michael McGivney, please pray for us to enroll eight more Knights to support your cause!*

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:**

Apr 18, Jun 13

**Unified Degree Ceremony Schedule:**

Apr 20, Jun 15

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

**Council Membership Report**

Total Membership	328
Insurance Members	138
Honorary Life Members	68
Honorary Members	8
2022-2023 Membership Growth vs Goal	7/15
2022-2023 Insurance Growth vs Goal	(1)/2

## Council Officers 2022-2023

Grand Knight	Gene Jajuga, PFN, FFA	727.403.3261
Chaplain	Fr. Michael W. Cooper, SJ	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!

Denis Bethke, Jonathan Boyce, Kurt Clasen, Joe D'Amelio, Doug deWolfe, Peter Demzak, Dominic Friscia, John Hamm, David Harvey, Patrick Harwood, Kevin Hernandez, George Inderwies, Daniel Jordan, John Kane, Michael Landi, John Lenehan, Rocco Macaluso, Edward Mandichak, Frank Marsalek, John Martin, John Mills, Pat Nocerino, Todd Owers, Nick Petrarca, Mario Russica, Hugh Siegel, Massimo Simeoni, Matt Sunski, Reginal Termulo, Jack Tipton, Ronald Vance, Thomas Ziegler

### Prayers for the Sick

Don & Marie Bishop, Marie Burke (d), Bryan McGuire (d), Tim & Barbara Rush, Mario Zaccario, Ken Seguin, John Maloney (d), Sean Cooper, Ted Strab, Jim Gencur, Joseph McHale (d), Alfred Bonvicino, Ed Mandichak, Gaspar Lasanta (d), Lois Coyne (d), Ron Lexa, Susanne Papa (d), Jim Schownek, Ed Warticki, Desiree, Mrs LeClerc, Barbara Dimartino, Don Breitzman, Brady Cobb, Kathy Kukulski, Andrea Coe

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](mailto: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 Hoherl, 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 Susan Salesses, Morgan Sheaffer 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 Guizzerotti, 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 Petterson, 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 Kembell-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, Kevin Cordaro, Gerald Custin Jr, Timothy and Marcy Dolan, Christian Lyon, Edward Martinenko, Thomas and Gwendolyn Odmark, Bradford Patterson, Lawrence and Corinne Steinhardt, Skip and Margaret Vankleeck, John Willyoung, Darryl and Mary Miller, John J Liu, John T Liu, Peter and Susan Salesses

**Total Collected to Date: \$2,166.22**



Father Michael W. Cooper, SJ  
Chaplain

# Chaplain's Corner

## HOLY WEEK 2023 UNITATIVE SUFERING AND HOPE IN NEW WAYS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have been very moved by the generous labors of so many Knights and Ladies at our Friday Fish Frys. These Fridays are a beautiful example of community, brotherhood, and sisterhood lived in generous and joyful service. I was also very appreciative of the number of Knights and Ladies at the Seder Meal. The event itself was very moving and faithful as well as educational. So how do we celebrate Holy Week in maybe new ways?

I understand the events of Jesus' life we celebrate during Holy Week as suffering due to the social sin around him. The religious leaders were jealous of Jesus. His message of compassion and goodness of a loving God challenged the agenda of those in power. In a very real way it was hate, jealousy, prejudice, and self-serving leadership that killed Jesus. "Better that one man dies for the sake of the nation." The religious and political leaders thought they had gotten rid of Jesus, so they could get on with their evil ways, but God brought Jesus back—Resurrection! Thus, the Easter Narratives celebrate **New Life, New Possibilities, New Beginnings, Hope** for Jesus and for us not just over sin but over seeming dead ends, limitations, death in many symbolic but very real ways.

To fully enter the Hope of Easter, the Hope and Joy of the Paschal Mystery, I suggest we pray any "death" we are going through and take it to the Lord in prayer to open up new Life and Possibilities. Maybe that includes letting go of some hurts and "deaths" of our own life, so that some New Life and Possibilities can open up. Maybe our own

everyday life and faith are OK. Then I suggest we prayerfully enter the pain and suffering of others, so that we can appreciate what they are going through. We are not looking for "suffering for suffering's sake" but to enter very humanly and compassionately into the suffering and "deaths" of the Christ Today—our brothers and sisters. Maybe we are aware of "the problem" some people are experiencing, for example the People of Pinellas Hope, or the Families we take Easter Baskets for St. Vincent de Paul, those who have lost a loved one, or maybe dealing with being under employed or just out of work. For some of us the experience of aging is our cross.

I suggest this **unitative suffering** as a way to walk more deeply spiritually and humanly with those we love and serve. Then the Resurrection narratives become real celebration of Hope and helps us to encourage ourselves and others not to give up or to just walk away. May we be deeply grateful for the many blessings and New Life and possibilities the Lord sends us. May we also be Jesus' Real Hope to those we love and serve every day.

We invite as many of you who can to join us on Easter morning in Philippe Park at 6:30a for the Sunrise Mass or at 9:15a for the second Mass in the Park. Many of our Knights and Ladies are part of the ministry team that make Easter Mass in the Park so life-giving. Don't forget to bring a chair. Pets are very welcome also.

**HAPPY EASTER!**

Michael Cooper, S.J.  
Chaplain

## 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 Easter to everyone! After spending 40 days in the desert on our Lenten Journey, which I hope was a successful and rewarding time spent deepening our faith and becoming closer to God, we have reached the day of the Resurrection. It is great time to remember and to celebrate what God has done for us and what we can do for him in return.

I would like to thank everyone who helped out and worked many hours this Lenten season on making our Fish Fry very successful. We provided a wonderful, charitable opportunity for our parish community to come together and reconnect with old friends and those they haven't seen in a couple of years. What a great way to bring our church family back to life!

Thank you to Wally, Ramona and Santo for helping with the pizza party for the Altar Servers. You did a fantastic job. Thanks for all your time and effort.

Thank you to all the people that showed up for the road clean up.

### From the Faith Director's Desk

We had a very good turnout for our second Rosary in March. We will be having our 3<sup>rd</sup> Rosary on April 13<sup>th</sup> in the JBC starting at 6:30p. All are welcome.

On March 5<sup>th</sup> we had our Altar Server pizza party, and it was well attended with around 45 people.

Our Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> from 9a until 1p in the Parish Center with lunch being served at noon. We will have coffee and donuts and fruit beforehand. Fr Cooper will do the opening and closing prayers. Dr. Wayne Phillips will be the main speaker, presenting his research on the Shroud of Turin with a question-and-answer session to follow.

Our Corporate Communion Breakfast is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> in the JBC. More details to come.

### From the Family Director's Desk

**MOTHER TERESA – NO GREATER LOVE** is a movie released last fall in the theaters. This documentary explores the varied life of Mother Teresa and her mission to change the world. Dedicated to serving Christ, Mother Teresa leads the Missionaries of Charity to support the poor worldwide. Her commitment and passion make her one of the most noteworthy philanthropists in history.

As a family event, your K/C council is planning a free showing here at Espiritu Santo in the near future. Although the date and time are yet to be planned, please keep a lookout for notifications. We want this to be a time when your entire family can share this beautiful message a love and service. We know all have very busy schedules, especially those with children who are involved with many activities. So, we ask for your feedback as to suggested days and times as to when we should plan this event. Weekend, afternoon, evening? Let's all make this a fun-filled family event.

### From the Community Director's Desk

Brothers, there will continue to be opportunities for reaching out to our greater community in service. We recently did a road cleanup on Enterprise Road on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. This was a nice project and several of our "neighbors" saw us in action. I know I got to talk to a few who asked what I was doing. We plan to do this every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, although we will not be doing one in April, since it would fall on Holy Saturday. We are planning another for May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9a.

Also, as a part of our community outreach, we are planning to once again help with delivering meals on the Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> prior to Palm Sunday, in conjunction with St. Vincent DePaul. Please look for further communication on this opportunity.

### Easter Sunday, The Resurrection of the Lord, April 9

Jesus is risen! As Pope Francis said, "This message resounds in the Church the world over, along with the singing of the Alleluia. He remained two days in the tomb; but his death contained God's love in all its power, released and made manifest on the third day, the day we celebrate today: the Easter of Christ the Lord. The words



heard by the women at the tomb are also addressed to us: Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Death, solitude, and fear are not the last word. There is a word that transcends them, a word that only God can speak: it is the word of the Resurrection.” Christ has made good on all he promised. He is truly risen.

**April Liturgical Calendar**

- April 2 Palm Sunday of the Lord
- April 3 Monday of Holy Week
- April 4 Tuesday of Holy Week
- April 5 Wednesday of Holy Week (Priest Preparation before the Chrism Mass.)
- April 6 Holy Thursday (Chrism Mass, Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, Adoration Vigil.)
- April 7 Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Celebration of the Passion of the Lord, The Way of the Cross.)
- April 8 Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)
- April 9 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (Solemnity)
- April 10 Monday within the Octave of Easter
- April 11 Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
- April 12 Wednesday within the Octave Easter
- April 13 Thursday within the Octave Easter
- April 14 Friday within the Octave Easter
- April 15 Saturday within the Octave Easter
- April 16 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter or (Sunday of Divine Mercy)
- April 21 St. Anselm
- April 23 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter
- April 24 St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen
- April 25 Saint Mark (Feast)
- April 28 St. Peter Chanel, St. Louis Grignion de Montfort
- April 29 Saint Catherine of Siena (Memorial)
- April 30 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Vivat Jesus!

Tom Krivchenia, PFN  
[DGK7109@gmail.com](mailto:DGK7109@gmail.com)  
 727.366.5422



Community Director Jim Lankford and Clan Verba are ready to perform roadside clean-up along Enterprise Road.



Altar Servers pizza party just getting started.





John Ruckart  
Field Agent  
John.Ruckart@kofc.org



# Fraternal Benefits Advisor Report

Easter greetings! As we roll through the first full month of spring, we celebrate Easter with thoughts of gratitude for the gift of new life. The Resurrection and thoughts of our Savior’s sacrifice and triumph over death are fresh in our minds and hearts. That is the wonderful part of April.

The not so wonderful part of April is tax time. It’s a time when most of us focus on the income we’ve made....and how much of that we must hand over to the government. Nobody’s happy about that. And nobody’s happy about all the complicated tax laws and regulations.

However, now is a good time to take stock of your finances and make sure you’re on the path you want to be on. The focus around this time of year is obtaining a tax deduction by contributing to an approved retirement account. And whether you’re getting close to retirement or whether you’re fresh into a career and working life, it’s not too early...or too late...to plan. But many of the folks I talk with have lots of questions:

What kind of plans are available and how do they work?

Which one is better for my circumstances?

How much can I contribute?

Do I earn too much money to qualify for a tax deduction?

What if my wife doesn’t work...can she contribute to a plan of her own?

As your Knights of Columbus field agent, I can work with you and your tax advisor to help. Our annuities can be used as a vehicle to fund retirement plans. And although I don’t give tax advice there may be some advantages to contributing before the deadline. Our annuities pay a guaranteed interest rate for life, consistent with our primary goal of absolute safety of principal...so you never have to worry. Remember, an annuity is intended to be a long-term product, particularly for retirement...and our guarantees are based on the financial strength and claims-paying ability of the Order. One of the best features of an annuity is, when properly structured, it can provide retirement income you cannot outlive—guaranteed! You can open a retirement annuity for as little as \$300.

So here are some facts about our annuities: Low contribution to get started; guaranteed lifetime interest rate; possible tax advantages; safety of principal; potential to provide an income you cannot outlive...all from the Knights of Columbus—How does that sound?

I’d be happy to meet with you in your home and at your convenience to explain the advantages of a Knights of Columbus annuity—and our other products: our life insurance, long-term care insurance and our disability income insurance.

Let’s get together!

Vivat Jesus!

John D Ruckart, FICF  
813-855-5111

Book an appt with me here: [johnruckart.10to8.com](http://johnruckart.10to8.com)

## RECOGNIZED AGAIN FOR WHAT WE DO BEST.



\*Knights of Columbus ranked #26 in the permanent life insurance category on Forbes 2023 America's Best Insurance Company list. Forbes, partnered with Statista to independently survey more than 16,000 customers who owned at least one insurance policy across 7 insurance product categories.

LIFE INSURANCE - DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE - LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE - RETIREMENT ANNUITIES





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

# Faithful Navigator’s Log

On March 10th, Sir Knight Tim Rush, our Assembly’s liaison to veterans, delivered five wheelchairs to the Bay Pines VA hospital. A week later, on March 17<sup>th</sup>, Tim delivered 40 McDonald’s \$25 gift cards to the VA. The cards will be distributed to homeless veterans during the April Stand Down at Bay Pines. Worthy Sir Knights, thank you for your continued support for our local veterans. Special thanks to Tim for his dedicated service as our special liaison to veterans.

The Florida State Council has announced the dates and locations for three Fourth Degree Exemplifications scheduled for this year:

- Saturday, June 24, in West Palm Beach
- Saturday, August 24, in St. Augustine
- Saturday, November 25, in Orlando

Please contact me if you are interested in attending the June Exemplification.

In leu of our regular business meeting, the Assembly will have a social outing on Thursday, April 27. We are currently looking at venues. Watch for an upcoming email with the details. All wives and significant others are welcome at our spring social.

The Assembly Golf Tournament is scheduled for Sunday, October 22. Planning and preparation are already underway. The 50-50 raffle tickets are available for purchase at our Council and Assembly meetings.

If you are not a member of the Color Corp, please prayerfully consider joining. The Color Corp is likely the most recognizable image of the Knights of Columbus. It is truly an honor to wear the uniform of the Fourth Degree and represent our distinguished Order. The Color Corp Honor Guard will participate at the Holy Thursday Mass and then stand guard during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Garden of Gethsemane in the parish center until midnight.

We begin the month of April celebrating Holy Week and the Easter Triduum.

On Holy Thursday, we celebrate the Mass of Our Lord’s Supper. In the washing of the feet, Jesus sets the example of selfless service to others. Jesus then institutes

the Eucharist, bestowing the priceless gift of His Real Presence at every Mass.

On Good Friday, Jesus, the Son of God, lays down his life as the sacrificial lamb to redeem all of mankind from our sinful and fallen nature. There is “No Greater Love” than what Jesus has done for us.

On Easter, “Vivat Jesus”, Jesus lives! “By Dying He destroyed our death and by rising He restored our life”. As members of the Knights of Columbus, we live the Easter message. We understand that we have to “die to ourselves” in order to serve and benefit others. This Easter Season reminds us that Charity, Unity, and Fraternity are the principles we are called to live by.

I sincerely wish you and your loved ones a meaningful and Blessed Easter!

Vivat Jesus!  
 Frank McEwen  
 FN



SK Frank and Lady Angela DiMattei – AKA the Cod Father & Cannoli Queen get warmed up before a Fish Fry.

### Assembly Membership Growth

Current Membership	141
2020/2021 Goal	0/6



Dave Behrle  
PGK, PFN  
727.723.1169



The good Lord continues to bless us in many ways! This month, I want to highlight Sir Knight Emery “Jim” Gencur, who will be moving to Ohio the Friday after Easter, where he has family, namely his sister, Irene, and her husband, their daughters, and more family. As you may know, Jim had a fall January 3, and had his right artificial knee replaced with more surgery, and new hardware, then went to rehab, and then has been home the last couple of weeks. [Yes, his left knee has also been previously replaced!] Jim is a fighter, and we love his independent spirit!

In the adjoining two photos, you’ll see Jim at his early birthday party, held March 18 at the Crooked Thumb Brewery, Safety Harbor. Jean Wozniak and Sue Engelmann get Jim all alone in one photo (Jim’s smile gets wider when they turn to him and plant big kisses, but this is a family-read newsletter, so that racy photo was withheld.) In the other shown photo, those attending the party, from left to right, and front to back, are: John Clark, Betsy Clark, Andy Gateriewicz, Carol DeWolfe, Tom Fitzpatrick, Dave Behrle, Tom Stanko, Jean Wozniak, Frank McEwen, Mike Engelmann, Tom Wozniak, Sue Engelmann, Jim Gencur, Vince Cristiano, Richie Resler, Doug DeWolfe, Angela DiMattei, Jerry Custin, Frank DiMattei, Ron McGarrah, Tony Vogel, Patty Alterio, Deacon Vinnie Alterio. Jim, who turns 95 on May 3, wants all to know that he appreciates all the visits, all the prayers, all the assistance given over the past few months, and previous rehab stays. And, he asks that we continue to visit and pray for him.

Jim has been a Brother Knight for 71 years, and is an Honorary Knight for both our Council and Assembly. He has been named Knight of the Month at least 3 times, and also Knight of the Year, two times (2019 and 2003). Per his business card, he is a Consultant on Anything. He is foremost a salesman, has a quick wit, and loves to share jokes. For the Knights, he sold Raffle Tickets, forever, Jim says, sold 100 Rosary CDs for the Kimberly Home (2003), and entertained us with his great sense of humor. Here are some interesting facts, that many do not know: Jim has extensive experience as a clown, aka “Pol-A-Dot”, with a collection of many magic tricks; Jim was a volunteer at Morton Plant hospital for 20 years, maybe more; Jim was a member of Handman Club, and President of

Tampa Bay Automotive Booster Club (1977). Jim epitomizes the Knights of Columbus, as he is a great example of being a Knight, he gets involved and helps others; that’s what we do.

Does Jim have any enemies? I don’t think so, for I asked him recently, about having any enemies that he needed to forgive, and after a long 1 second or less, Jim said, “No . . . they have all died.” I’m still laughing. Thanks, Jim, for great memories. Best wishes on the next chapter of your life in Ohio. Stay in touch. Au revoir!

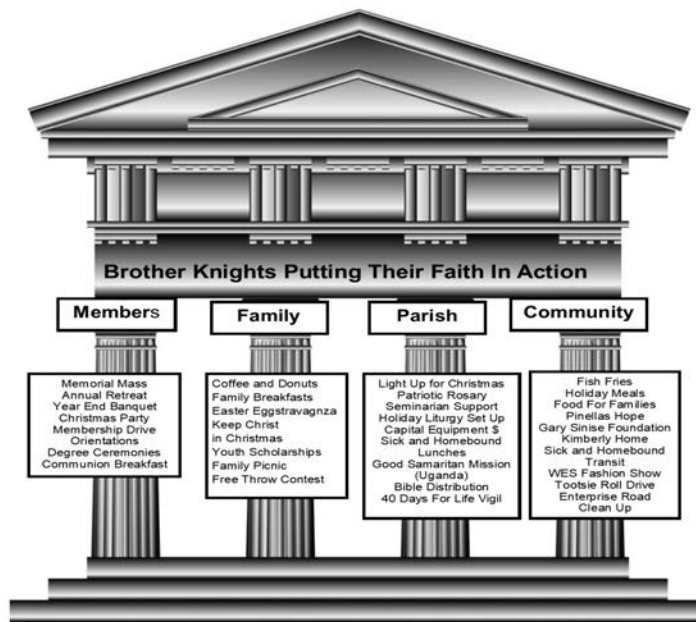






**Marriage and Family Life**

Psalm 16 is somewhat similar to Psalm 23...the Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want...but in this case we are active, we take refuge in Lord as our only Lord and only good. How important is this in our marriage and family lives when we face some blips or difficulties? Is it all too easy to multiply our own issues and “court other gods” by shifting the blame? Of course, that’s often the quick nut always dangerous path. We are called to recognize that the Lord is our portion and cup, and the Lord has made our destiny secure. With Him at our right hand we will never be shaken despite the hurdles that sometimes weigh us down. Our call as Christians, spouses and parents is simple...Love one another as I have loved you.



**Psalm 16**

Keep me safe, O God; in you I take refuge. say to the LORD, you are my Lord, you are my only good. As for the holy ones who are in the land, they are noble, in whom is all my delight. <sup>2</sup>They multiply their sorrows who court other gods. Blood libations to them I will not pour out, nor will I take their names upon my lips. LORD, my allotted portion, and my cup, you have made my destiny secure. <sup>3</sup>Pleasant places were measured out for me; fair to me indeed is my inheritance. I bless the LORD who counsels me; even at night my heart exhorts me. I keep the LORD always before me; with him at my right hand, I shall never be shaken. Therefore, my heart is glad, my soul rejoices; my body also dwells secure, for you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, nor let your devout one see the pit. You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever.



# Special Announcement



Father Frank Lubowa's (former chaplain of our council) St. Teresa Good Samaritan Mission School program is now a non-profit 501(c)(3) under the name Good Samaritan Mission of Uganda, Inc. The new non-profit is headed by Fr. Frank, with Brian & Ellen Jones as directors. This will allow donations to be tax-deductible and go to one place without having to follow Fr. Frank as he transitions to different parishes over time.

Because of your generosity and prayers, we have gone from a few students receiving their education under a tree when the weather was good to an education complex with three buildings housing four classrooms each, a playground, a multipurpose/dining hall, a teacher workroom and library, and a teacher's quarters/hostel along with fresh water and solar power helping over 300 students. There is much more to be done, however. We continue to work on teacher education as well as plans to update the kitchen area and a clinic to serve students and families in the area.

Donations can now be made electronically using your checking account or credit/debit card on a one time or recurring basis. Donations can be done online using Zeffy with this QR code:



You can mail checks - made out to "Good Samaritan Mission of Uganda" - to:

**Good Samaritan Mission of Uganda**  
**3023 Leanne Ct**  
**Clearwater, FL 33759**

If you are a current sponsor and did not recently receive a letter and magnet that means, we don't have a correct mailing address for you. Please email Ellen Jones at [ellenjones211@gmail.com](mailto:ellenjones211@gmail.com) with your updated information so that we can stay in touch and send updated information.

We are making a difference in the families of Uganda through your continued support and prayers. Thank you very much for your generosity!

Keep an eye out for our website [www.gsm-uganda.org](http://www.gsm-uganda.org) coming soon!

# Photo Gallery



*~ The 2023 Lenten Fish Fry Season is in the books! Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers! ~*





# In Memoriam

## **Bernard A.J. “Barney” Gonyea**

June 13, 1922 – April 1, 1986

It has been several years since we changed our name to the Barney Gonyea Council in honor of our late Past Grand Knight. Many of our newer members, as well as some of our older members, do not know who he was. Therefore, we have decided to print the narrative which was submitted to the Knights of Columbus Supreme when we requested the name change.

Brother Bernard A.J. (Barney) Gonyea was born in Rockwood, Michigan, and after completing 20 years in the U.S. Navy, he retired to Florida in 1960. He worked at Strike Command at MacDill AFB for two years before becoming an appraiser for Housing Urban Development (HUD) for more than 20 years.

Barney played an active part in Espiritu Santo Parish Life from its very beginning. His name is included on the list of original contributors to the Church, and he was a member of the first group formed for the groundbreaking ceremony. He sang in the Church Choir for over 20 years and was in the first group of commentators. He actively worked in training altar boys (including his four sons). He was president of the Men’s Club in 1974 and he was a member of the Gregorian Choir from 1982 to 1984.

Barney joined the Knights of Columbus while in service in March 1956. When a Council was formed at Espiritu Santo Catholic Church, he became active immediately. He served the Council as Recorder, Deputy Grand Knight, and Grand Knight (he had just been elected to a second term as Grand Knight). He was also active in the Pinellas County chapter of the Knights of Columbus and served as its Secretary in 1980-81. He joined the Fourth Degree in 1979 and in the Monsignor Leo M. Finn Assembly of Clearwater, he served as Faithful Scribe, Captain, Navigator and Admiral. He was Secretary to the Master, North Florida District, for three years. On July 9, 1984, he was selected District Warden for District 21 but was never able to serve in that position. Sir Knight Barney Gonyea was the Class Honoree of the November 10, 1984 Exemplification of the Fourth Degree, Northern District.

On July 10, 1984 Barney was shot in the head by a disturbed co-worker in his office. He never regained consciousness and he laid in a coma until his death on April 8, 1986.

Barney Gonyea was a credit to his Church and his beloved Knights of Columbus. His smile, dedication and willingness to work always found him in the center of KofC and Church activities. He and his wife, Kitty Gonyea, lived in this area for nearly 25 years where they raised their five children, one daughter and four sons.

IN LOVING   
*Memory*



### Unity, Charity and Fraternity...Be the Light?

Lent is a time of reflection and time to think about how we can become a better person with each passing day. The readings of the Fourth Sunday of Lent gives plenty to think about in terms of our mission as Knights.

In the Gospel, it tells us, *“As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”*

What do we learn from that? Maybe one lesson is not to be so cynical and judgmental. Even His disciples when encountering the blind man assumed somebody messed up and was to be blamed and held accountable. But Jesus tells them, “Not so fast guys. Everything has a purpose, and everything can be turned to good if you can see through the fog.”

In the second reading, Paul tells the Ephesians, *“Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness.”*

Again, we’re being told that everything has a purpose, and a plan and God’s plan is for us to live in the light if the Lord. Could there be any more perfect readings for our vows of unity, charity and fraternity.

- Don’t be so quick to judge and blame others; everything has it’s purpose
- Can we find a way to help others especially in a world that can seem and act so dark
- Live with an attitude of gratitude and be the light!

Be a better man each and every day.

Please use this opportunity to pray for and support two of our brothers who face difficult decisions. Jim Gencur and Tim Rush. We know these brothers to be wonderful Christians, Knights and brothers whose hearts are full of the Light of Christ.

### Lines from the **Ladies Auxiliary**

Blessed & Happy Easter to everyone. We are closing the Lenten season, ending in our sixth fish fry on the last day of March. The ladies were able to have donations of more than \$1500, which will be given to charitable causes.

Thanks to everyone’s dedication and hard work each Friday, our attendees enjoyed a great meal and the ability to dine-in and socialize this year. We also thank our youth for assisting in various ways. And always with a smile.

The Ladies Auxiliary is looking forward to having the Mother’s and Father’s Day trees again this year to honor loved ones. Stay tuned-in for updates and look for the table in front of the parish center. The trees are so cherished when complete.

Once again, have a Blessed Easter season.



Ladies of the Auxiliary volunteering at the Lenten Fish Fry  
We could not make it happen without their tremendous support!



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

### **‘A Humble Worker’**

*Pope Benedict XVI was a friend of the Order whose life and teachings radiated his profound faith in Christ*

The death of a truly holy and beloved person, especially when that person is a former pope, is an extraordinary thing. It is a personal loss for countless Catholics, but also a moment of historical significance. I am still reflecting on what it meant to attend the funeral of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in early January. It was certainly a sad occasion, as we said farewell to a faithful servant and spiritual father. Yet, it was also an occasion of great gratitude. I was proud to represent the Order. But I was doubly proud and grateful simply to be a Catholic — to be part of a Church that produces men of such caliber as Pope Benedict.

I was also proud of our unity as a Church — that we came together to mark the life of this great man. For three days, from early morning till night, thousands of people waited in line to enter St. Peter’s Basilica to pay their last respects and to pray. Tens of thousands attended the funeral Mass, presided over by Pope Francis. They were all there to honor this man who aimed to be, as he said upon his election as pope in 2005, “a humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord.”

Our late pope was a great friend to the Knights of Columbus. He knew us well and appreciated what we were about.

In 2008, during his visit to the United States, Pope Benedict XVI celebrated Mass at New York’s St. Patrick’s Cathedral, which is affectionately called “America’s parish church.” He used that unique setting to talk about America’s quintessential parish priest. He was speaking, of course, about Father Michael McGivney.

In his homily, Pope Benedict praised “the remarkable accomplishment of that exemplary American priest, the Venerable Michael McGivney, whose vision and zeal led to the establishment of the Knights of Columbus.”

The pope knew of whom he spoke. Just one month before his visit to the United States, he had approved the “decree of heroic virtue” for Father McGivney, opening the path to his eventual beatification in 2020.

It is fair to say that without Pope Benedict’s love for the Knights and admiration for Father McGivney, who likewise lived as “a humble worker in the vineyard,” our Founder would not yet be declared Blessed.

Pope Benedict was a man of profound faith, intelligence and natural kindness. He could have done anything with these gifts, but he put them at the service of Jesus Christ and his Church. Unlike so many intellectuals who are in love with ideas, he was in love with a person: Jesus Christ. And he spent his life teaching us how love for Christ can truly transform our lives.

In his first homily as pope, Benedict paraphrased the words of his predecessor, Pope John Paul II: “If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. Only in this friendship are the doors of life opened wide. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed. Only in this friendship do we experience beauty and liberation.”

In his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est (God Is Love)*, he likewise affirmed, “Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction” (1).

These are challenging times for the Church and for Catholics, but Pope Benedict has taught us to have hope in the Lord. Even against strong headwinds, the only way forward, the only way to true happiness and liberation, is through an abiding friendship with Jesus Christ. We say goodbye to a great man, but his wisdom endures, and we remain strong in our hope that we will see him again in eternity.



## From the Florida State Council Chamber...



### We had a great week! Let's do it again!!

We are now nine weeks away from the State Convention. Last week we needed to average 81 new Knights per week to meet our goal of achieving the state membership requirement for Circle of Honor.

WE HAD A GREAT WEEK! We added 99 men and are now 709 men away from the goal! Thank you to everyone who contributed.

A few Councils gained their first new member of this year. Let's give them a big hurrah! We want EVERY Council to be membership active. If we keep positive thoughts, we will meet our goal.

As the song says... "We are called... We are called to come live in the light... We are called to serve one another... We are called to walk humbly with God." Let's invite a Catholic man to "walk with us" this week and put his Faith into Action as a new Brother Knight. Have him sign up at [kofc.org/join](http://kofc.org/join). His first year will be free if he enters '**BlessedMcGivney**' or your Field Agent's code when he signs up. Don't stop there. Invite your new Brother to a local CUF Exemplification and take him to your next Council meeting.

Let's have another great week! 1..., 2..., 3..., ACTION!

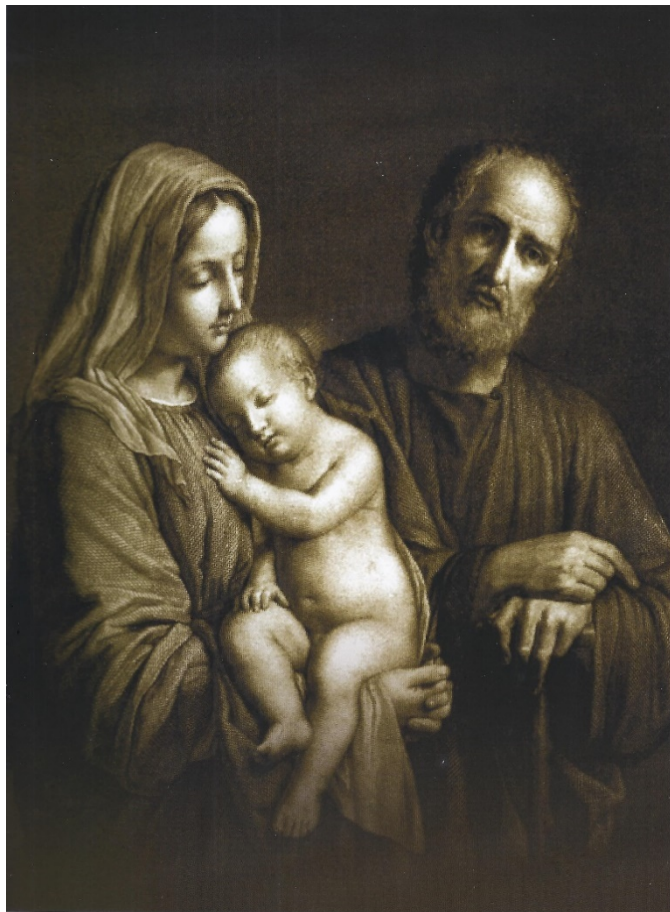
Thanks,  
 Danny McIntyre, FDD, PGK, PFN  
 State Membership Director



Members of KofC council, assembly, and auxiliary team with SVDP and other volunteers to deliver Easter meals to our neighbors.

## Assembly Officers 2022-2023

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.

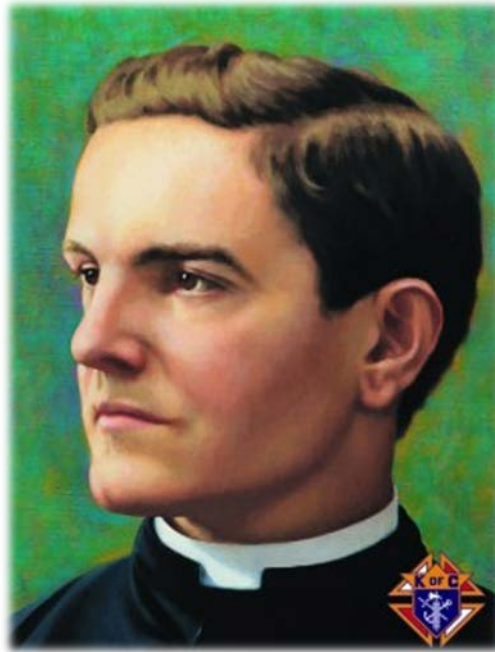
Let your love be evident in the peace that reigns in our home and in the faith, we profess and live. May our family always be a place of generosity, understanding, forgiveness and joy.

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 Calendar of Events...

#### **April 2023**

- Apr 01 Sat 9:00a SVDP Easter Meal Delivery
- Apr 13 Thu 7:00p Council Membership/Ladies Auxiliary Meeting
- Apr 15 Sat 8:00a Kimberly Home Yard Workday
- Apr 18 Tue 7:30p KofC Informational Open House
- Apr 20 Thu 9:00a Pinellas Hope Meal Prep & Delivery
- Apr 20 Thu 7:30p KofC Unified Degree Exemplification
- Apr 22 Sat Tootsie Roll Drive following all Masses
- Apr 23 Sun Tootsie Roll Drive following all Masses



### Assembly Calendar of Events...

#### **April 2023**



- Apr 11 Tue 7:00p Golf Tourney Committee Meeting
- Apr 27 Thu 7:00p Assembly Membership Meeting  
Social w/ spouses; venue TBD

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**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

## Prayer for our Nation

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.

