



The Shield

Grand Knight's Message



Gene Jajuga, PFN, FFA
Grand Knight
GrandKnight7109@gmail.com

Issue 3, March 2024

Next Council Meeting
Thursday, March 14 @ **7:00 pm**
in the Parish Center

View the Newsletter online at:
www.safetyharborkofc.org

Visit the State Website at:
www.floridakofc.org

Visit the Supreme Website at:
www.kofc.org

Worthy Brother Knights & Ladies!

NEW COUNCIL MEETING TIME OF 7:00 PM

We had another VERY, VERY BUSY month in February with a great many activities including the start of the Lenten Season with our fabulous "All You Can Eat" FISH FRIES at Pre Covid pricing!

MARCH UPCOMING EVENTS

- Council Fish Fry #3 – Friday, March 1st, 4:00 PM – 7:30 PM in the Parish Center
- Assembly Golf Committee Meeting – Monday, March 4th, at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Council Officer's Meeting – Thursday, March 7th, at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Council Fish Fry #4 – Friday, March 8th, 4:00 PM – 7:30 PM in the Parish Center
- Assembly Coffee, Donuts & More - Sunday, March 10th, 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Rosary – Thursday, March 14th, at **6:15 PM** in the St. John Bosco Center **NOTE: NEW TIME**
- Council Business Meeting – Thursday, March 14th, **7:00 PM** in the Parish Center **NOTE: NEW TIME**
- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting – Thursday, March 14th, **7:00 PM** in the Gathering Room **NOTE: NEW TIME**
- Council Fish Fry #5 – Friday, March 15th, 4:00 PM – 7:30 PM in the Parish Center

- Kimberly Home Work Day – Saturday, March 16th, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM
- Pinellas Hope – Lunch Meal Prep and Delivery – Thursday, March 21st, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM PC Kitchen
- Council Fish Fry #6 – Friday, March 22nd, 4:00 PM – 7:30 PM in the Parish Center
- St. Vincent DePaul Easter Food Basket Delivery – Saturday, March 23rd, 9:30 AM St. John Bosco Center
- **PALM SUNDAY** – March 24th
- **HOLY THURSDAY** – March 28th
- **GOOD FRIDAY** – March 29th
- **HOLY SATURDAY** – March 30th
- **EASTER SUNDAY** – March 31st

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE

On Saturday and Sunday, February 3rd and 4th, we had our **second-best turnout ever** that netted \$1080 from our own parishioners! An awesome job done by Mike Engelmann and Richie Resler coordinating volunteers after every Mass that weekend to help. I would like to thank and recognize all our Brother Knights and Sisters who volunteered their time and made this event a great success for our Council.

John Papa Brian Annis Betty D'Amelio
 Phil Farney Gene Wolanin George Inderwies
 John Clarke Ken Seguin Richard Cordaro
 Matt Sunski Tom Wozniak Mario Zaccaria
 Mike & Kathy

If I have missed listing anyone that may have helped and I'm sure that I did, I sincerely apologize.

COFFEE, DONUTS & MORE

We had our monthly Coffee, Donuts & More on Sunday, February 11th, after all morning Masses in the Saint John Bosco Center and we did well. We as a Council will never make a lot of money doing these but I'm seeing that we are building a nice following when we have these. I would once again like to thank and recognize all our Brother Knights and Sisters who volunteered their time and made this event a great success for our Council.

John Clarke Joe D'Amelio Betty D'Amelio
 Ed Amador Tom Harkins Amaro Lionheart
 Gene Jajuga Gene Wolanin Chris Mazzone
 Tom Krivchenia

If I have missed listing anyone that may have helped, I sincerely apologize.

LENTEN SEASON - FISH FRY FRIDAYS

Our first Fish Fry of this Lenten Season went terrific with a very respectable turnout of dinners served at 343. The word must be getting out on how wonderful our fish fry dinner is because our dinners served for the second Fish Fry went up to 435, which is excellent! That's a very impressive increase of 92 dinners served from the first to second week and headed in the right direction.

I was a sales manager for most of my adult career in business, so I like comparisons from one year to the next year as it kind of puts most everything into proper perspective. So far this year both the number of dinners served, and profitability are up nicely compared to last year after two fish fries! As I sit here writing this article for the Council Newsletter, I just returned home from the Parish Center Kitchen where Brother JJ Coyne and myself prepared baked beans and coleslaw. My best guess estimate is that we have enough food for our next Fish Fry, which is tomorrow, to feed 500!

I would like to shout out a great big THANK YOU and recognize all our Brother Knights and Sisters who volunteered their time and made these two events a great success for our Council. Thank you and God Bless all of you!!!

Tom Harkins Bill Krajewski Edward Amador
 Anne Harkins Joe D'Amelio Betty D'Amelio
 John Clarke John Gohman Peggy Gohman
 Betsy Clarke Frank McEwen Irving Hernandez
 Phil Farney Peter Demzak Tom Fitzpatrick

JJ Coyne Bill Gallant Bob Bonvicino
 JT Honahan Santo Loparo Rebecca Manetta
 Mike Furman Paul Harvey Jacob Burnett
 Brian Kearns Chris Kearns Fr. Michael Cooper
 Doug deWolfe Ann LeClerc Richard LeClerc
 Ken Seguin Tom Wozniak Jean Wozniak
 Paul Cooper Pat Nocerino Mike Englemann
 Jim Montali JK Sujamani Sue Englemann
 Phyllis Montali Richie Resler Roe Resler
 Matt Sunski Gene Jajuga Karen Jajuga
 Terry Drake Shirley Drake Margaret Krivchenia
 Jerry Custin Mario Zaccaria Tom Krivchenia
 Rob Pickard Frank DiMattei Robin LaChance
 Adel Nammour Angela DiMattei Kevin McCullagh
 George Inderwies

Once again, if I have missed listing anyone that may have helped, I sincerely apologize.

Student Volunteer Servers

Ava Nesci Ethan Reed Zachary Reed
 Mark Murack Arwen Hagan Gabriella Suarez-Vargas
 Carys Adams Ryan Burriesci Grifyn Hagan
 Tyler Harden Domenica Reed – Certified Supervisor

KOFC FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION:

The KofC Florida State Convention will be in Orlando, Florida from Friday, May 24th through Sunday, May 26th.

Representing our Barney Gonyea Council 7109 and elected by Council procedure as delegates to the State Convention will be:

Gene Jajuga, Grand Knight and Tom Krivchenia, Deputy Grand Knight.

NEW COUNCIL MEETING TIME OF 7:00 PM

BLESSINGS FOR AN AWESOME MONTH!!!

Gene

Vivat Jesus!

Gene Jajuga, PFN, FFA
 Grand Knight – Council 7109
 727.403.3261
www.safetyharborkofc.org





SK Edward Amador
Membership Director
Edamador00@gmail.com

Council 7109 Holy Moments

Dear Brother Knights,

As we step into March, let us reinvigorate our commitment to our mission and the profound impact we can achieve through our actions. Matthew Kelly's teachings remind us that every moment is an opportunity to create "Holy Moments," to elevate the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Disappointment in Membership Progress

I must express the profound disappointment at the lack of support we've seen from our Brother Knights in recruiting efforts. We must remember that membership of our order is a collective goal and not an individual one. Now, despite our collective goal of 15 new members, we are stuck at 11, and recent events have highlighted a troubling trend. Not a single potential candidate attended the Open House, and no new members joined us for the exemplification ceremony.

Call to Action

This stagnation in our membership growth challenges us to reassess our commitment and dedication to our cause. It is crucial that we **all step up** and take **ownership** of our collective goal. Each of us plays a vital role in the success of our council and the fulfillment of our mission.

Reigniting Enthusiasm

Let us reignite our enthusiasm and redouble our efforts to reach out to potential members. The upcoming events offer fresh opportunities to extend our invitation and share the profound sense of purpose and fulfillment that being a Knight of Columbus entails.

Embodying Our Values

As we continue our journey, let us remember that each interaction is a chance to create a "Holy

Moment," to inspire others and ourselves. Let us strive to be the catalyst for positive change in our community, embodying the values of charity, unity, and fraternity.

Deep-Rooted Gratitude

I want to express my gratitude to Sir Knight Bill Gallant who assisted with membership efforts at our first fish fry and had at least one meaningful conversation with one of the patrons of the fish fry. Thank you, Bill Gallant!

In unity and service,

Edward J. Amador
Membership Director
Barney Gonyea Council 7109



Remember...
Every Member A Recruiter!

Unity - Strength in Numbers

Informational Open House Schedule

2024: April 16 | June 18

Unified Degree Ceremony Schedule

2024: April 18 | June 20

Look for more information from our Grand Knight



Council Membership Report

Total Membership	329
Insurance Membership	134
Honorary Life Members	65
Honorary Members	07
2023-2024 Membership Growth vs Goal	11/15
2023-2024 Insurance	00/02

Assembly Membership Report

Total Membership	132
Honorary Life Members	16
Honorary Members	01
2023-2024 Membership Growth vs Goal	03/06



Council Officers 2023-2024

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 Krajieski	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	727.472.1651
Warden	Mark Peterman, PFN	727.403.5993
Inside Guard	Paul Cooper	727.736.6837
Outside Guard	Jim Lankford	813.455.2292
Guard Alternate	Brian Annis	727.204.7490
Trustee Three Year	JJ Coyne, PGK	901.832.7332
Trustee Two Year	Ken Seguin, PGK, PFN	727.331.7278
Trustee One Year	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687
Regional Administrator	John Papa, PGK, PFN	727.482.3734
District Deputy	Alan Gauzens, PGK	727.483.8250
District Warden	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	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!

John Berg, Tim Bruggeman, Francis Cayer, Joseph Celic, John Clarke, Joseph Cortese, James Daniels, Terry Drake, Philip Farney, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Eric Flores, Robert Gwinner, Timothy Hartle, David Heezen, Michael Heider, Gregory Juedes, Jared Kirsten, William Krajieski, James Kurzdorfer, Brian Lapointe, Milton Levine, Mark Lewalski, Amaro Lionheart, Kevin McCullagh, Christopher Merrit, George Paradise, Timothy Patterson, Miguel Perez, Joseph Pernice, Mark Peterman, John Sager, Kenneth Seguin, Robert Shafer, James Stanley

Prayers for the Sick

Don & Marie Bishop, Marie Burke (d), Tim & Barbara Rush, Ken Seguin, Susanne Papa (d), Andrea Coe (d), Maggie Cappabianca, Lillian Custin (d), David Flori (d), Kathy Kukulski (d), Jim Watson, Jim Jessup (d), Elizabeth Inderwies, Kennedie McFadden, Leonard Gogola, Bob Justiana, Dorothy Alogozzina (d), Jewel Allen (d), Ed Mandichak, David deWolfe (d), Joseph Raponi (d), Mac Sinise (d), Deborah Laffy, Stanley Gdula (d), J. Nick Martin (d), Kenneth Bryan Martinez, Linda Cooper (d), Morgan Pettersen, Edward Mandichak (d), Kenneth DiPasquale, Katherine Krajewski, Frank Pensebene, Mary Clare Rose (d), Bob Erhman, Joseph Ganalo, Feliepe Hernandez (d), Max Kostioukovski

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



John Paul Grabowski

Thank you for your continued support of the Vocations Fund. As most of you know we are making annual donations to three seminarians. All three of our seminarians are located at St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, Louisiana. Austin Smith, junior year who is from Nativity parish in Brandon. Benjamin Harris, junior year from St. Anthony the Abbot, Brooksville. John Paul Grabowski, in his sophomore year, is from Catholic Student Center, USF – Tampa.

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, Donald and Linda Motika Borbath, James Burris, John and Sharon Cathcart, John and Betsy Clarke, JJ Coyne, William Cullen, Joseph and Betty D'Amelio, Douglas and Carol De Wolfe, Frank and Angela Di Mattei, Jonathan Di Mattei, Francisco and Mildred Diaz Estrella, Robert and Zoe Dufour, Philip and Jane Farney, Robert Faw, Thomas Fitzpatrick, John and Peggy Gohman, Thomas and Anne Harkins, Thomas and Jean Hart, Timothy and Ann Hartle, Paul and Rose Marie Harvey, James and Angy Hayes, David and Donna Heezen.,Kevin and Gidget Hernandez, Joseph and Sandra Hoherl, Steven and Anne Marie Ippolito, Eugene and Karen Jajuga, Shawn and Pattie Jajuga, Gregory and Kim Juedes, Timothy Kielich, William and Katherine Krajewski, Frank and Deborah Laffey, Milton Levine, Santo and Karen Loparo, Patrick Mackin, Francis and Carol Mahoney, Frank and Juliann Marsalek, Frank and Cindy McEwen, Charles McEwen, Kevin McMullen, Stuart Miller, John Morgan, Thomas and Carolyn O'Rourke, Donald Palacheck, John and Susanne Papa, Paul and Virginia Pappas, George and Tracy Paradise, Thomas Penders, Daniel Peterson, Robert and Vickie Pickard, Richard Roberto, James and Drema Servoss Rooney, Daniel and Paula Saracki, William and Mary Scott, Jason Seguin, Morgan Sheaffer, Bryan and Krista Snyder, Thomas and TP Stanko, Matthew and Julie Sunski, Steven Verba, Eugene and Rita Wolanin, Mario Zaccaria, Patrick and Joan Alix, Edward and Violet Amador, Victor and Susanne Berggren, Jonathan and Marianne Boyce, Herman and Mary Jo Brames, Kevin Cordaro, Robert and Patricia Ehrman, Frederick and Christi Elflein, Zach Faraone, Charles and Raquel Friesema, Michael and Lisa Furman, Ward and Kathleen Griffin, Mark and Patricia Gurley, Kenton and Sue Heuertz, Jarret Honahan, George and Claire Inderwies, Brian and Christine Kearns, Matthew Killeen, Tom and Margaret Krivchenia, James and Karen Kurzdorfer, Stephen and Ellen Leger, John Lenehan, Stanley Lipiarz, Clifford and Michelle Merz, James and Phyllis Montali, Adel Nammour, William Nies, James and Patricia Nolf, Gerald and Holly Pappa, Donald and Alexis Reed, Juan and Rosemary Romero, Kurt Salac, Jim and Nancy Shirer, James and Karin Smith, Gregory and Carolina Sohn, Chuck and Elizabeth Sullivan, Roy and Linda Motika Vanderveer, Walberto and Ramona Vazquez, Brian and Carolyn Annis, Dennis and Joyce Ayril, Vincent Baldwin, Fred and Caroline Bennett, Thomas Bergevin, Patrick and Beatrice Boland, Tim and Stacey Bruggeman, Patrick Carroll, Joseph and Ellen Cortese, Gerald Custin, Austin Davis, Peter Demzak, Terry and Shirley Drake, Mark and Elaine Feldman, Gerald and Lorraine Grubba, Joseph Guazzerotti, Lawrence and Nancy Harkins, James and Janetze Hart, David and Paula Harvey, Irving Hernandez, James Jessup, Christopher Jones, Mark and Maryann Kapinos, William and Elizabeth Kasak, Richard and Cecilia Kembal-Cook, Dan and Donna Kistel, James and Patricia Kleinsorge, Thomas and Kathy Kukulski, James and Maria Lankford, Brian and Christina Lapointe, Brian Lawandus, Mark Lewalski, Viktor Lewalski, Christian Lyon, Edward Martinenko, Christopher Mazzone, Michael McCarthy, Darryl Miller, Kenneth (Ken) Miller, David Neal, Chris Nesci, Todd and Margaret Owers, Edmund and Diane Pagnott, Robert Papariella, Frank Pensabene, Miguel Perez, Mark and Christine Peterman, James and Suzanne Preston, Christopher and Carol Purcell, Richard and Rosalie Resler, Edward and Sandra Riley, Brian Riley, Jeffrey and Roxann Rogers, Kenneth Ruckart, John and Kathleen Ruckart, Kenneth and Gabriella Seguin, Massimo Simeoni, James and Darlene Stanley, Lawrence and Corinne Rose Steinhardt, Jugdesh and Sucheta Sujanani, Keith and Griselda Taylor, Robert and Ann Marie Bonvicino, Jacob and Mary Burnett, Joseph Celic, Jerome Dewberry, Timothy and Marcy Dolan, Eric and Bernadette Flores, Jared Kirsten, Michael Lyons, Javier and Xiomara Ortega, Christopher and Teresanne Russell, Mario Russica, Hugh and Katie Siegel, Thomas Smith, Francis Cayer, Frank and Patricia Piro, Robert Shafer, Margaret Watson, Derek Jones, Robert and M.A. Justiana, John J Liu, John T Liu, Peter & Susan Salesses

Total Collected to Date: \$2,141.27



Father Michael W. Cooper, SJ
Chaplain

Chaplain's Corner

How is your experience of God these days?

We are half-way through our Lenten Journey. How is the Lord speaking to you? History often focuses on our sins and our being great sinners. How is the Lord looking upon us? Our Church preaching in the past has often focused univocally on sin and negativity. Yet I would suggest that our Lord is focused more on our goodness and generosity. The Lord rejoices in our generous labors at the fish fries, our cooking and serving at Pinellas Hope and at Kimberly Home, our bringing communion to the sick and homebound among the many good things we do and are.

In the Act of Contrition we say, "I am heartily sorry for having offended you." How do we offend God? Do we slap God in the face? Or does our God rather want us to be growing and to be at Peace with ourselves and what we do and how we feel? Sometimes are some of us afraid to trust our own goodness and let go of the overly sin consciousness? If there are negative areas in our life that take away our God-given Peace, then we need to deal with them. But sometimes our preoccupation with our sins and limitations smoothers our sense of goodness and our awareness of God acting in our lives? Our God looks upon us with goodness and love and is not out trying to catch us in sin and death-dealing attitudes and actions. If we do have hateful attitudes and actions toward others and maybe even towards ourselves, we need to work on getting rid of them. But we also need to focus on the centrality of grace and of God's actions and

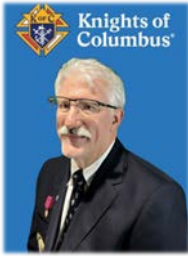
inspirations in our lives. "See that we are all made in God's image and likeness [Genesis 1] and wondrously made." {Psalm 139} A concentration on sin and negativity do not get us very far. Look at your own experience? Are you at Peace when sin and negativity have the upper hand? Or when you concentrate on grace and blessing, do you feel the gifts of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, and hope? [Galatians 5]

Finally, who and what killed Jesus? If you listen to the Gospels of the Passion, you do not hear mention of minor things like having a bad thought. Not that even little things are not important, but have we minimized Redemption? What killed Jesus was hate, jealousy, self-serving leadership, greed for power and money, refusal to change and embrace a more compassionate and caring vision of God by the scribes and Pharisees. These are **social sins!** Jesus' way was and is a bother and a threat to egotistical and "safe" ways of living. So, do we need to take these kinds of social sin seriously, including care for the Earth? We are called to reach out beyond our "comfort zones," as many of us do. Let us celebrate and continue to put our faith into action. The Lord says, "thank you" and not "go to hell"! As my ninety-seven-year-old Jesuit brother Albert Bishoff said, "Two things that our God cannot not do: our God cannot not Love. God cannot not forgive."

Michael Cooper, SJ
Chaplain
727.644.5544

Service Program Directors 2023-2024

Program Director	Tom Krivchenia, PFN	727.366.5422
Membership Director	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
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		
Life Director	David Behrle, PGK, PFN	727.723.1169
Vocations	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687
Retention Coordinator	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687



Tom Krivchenia, PFN
Deputy Grand Knight
dgk7109@gmail.com

Deputy Grand Knight's Report

Worthy Brother Knights!

As we are wandering through the desert on our Lenten journey, have we taken the time to spend some moments talking to the Lord? Have we spent time helping others or have we done the Stations of the Cross? I hope your journey has been meaningful and has helped you grow in faith. Let me be the first to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and may the luck of the Irish be with you. The last week of the month will be Holy week. The Knights will be doing Holy Thursday and Good Friday services. May everyone have a wonderful Easter as we celebrate the extraordinary Solemnity of the Resurrection.

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped make our Friday Fish Fry's a huge success. They would not have happened without your help and support. We have four more weeks left to spend time with friends and provide a great community atmosphere for our parish and community.

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Hockey Shoot out.

Faith In Action



FAITH

COMMUNITY

FAMILY

LIFE

From the Faith Director's Desk

We will have our monthly Rosary on Thursday March 14th in the JBC at 6:15. Invite all your friends as this is open to the parish and the public. The K of C retreat will be in May. We are planning on having two speakers to speak on Faith Improvement subjects. The first has been confirmed and will speak on the History of The House of Prayer and its positive effects on her faith. The second speaker has been

asked personally by me several months ago but no response. We are currently looking for a second speaker. Our corporate communion will be held on June 2nd at the 9am Mass.

From the Community Director's Desk

Brothers, as we continue our fraternal year and our Lenten journey, please consider joining us on an upcoming community outreach project. March 2nd will be our quarterly road cleanup day along Enterprise Road. We will meet at 8 AM and we should finish by 9:30 AM.

From the Family Director's Desk

We are in the middle of our Lenten Season looking forward to the celebration of Easter. We Knights are to lead our families into a more robust practice and better understanding of our Catholic faith and the Triduum. Despite Good Friday's central role in the heart of Christianity, attendance at services remains low. In an effort to change this, we are encouraged to participation in Good Friday services. Setting an example for their community, Knights are to attend Good Friday services with their families and have increased involvement at these liturgies. As leaders of our family, our only goal should be to lead them to heaven through our Catholic faith.

St Patrick - Feast Day, March 17

Saint Patrick was a fifth-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Known as "the Apostle of Ireland", he is the primary patron saint of Ireland, the other patron saints being Brigid of Kildare and Columba. Patrick was never formally canonized, having lived before the current laws of the Catholic Church in these matters. Nevertheless, he is venerated as a saint in the Catholic Church, the Lutheran church, the Church of Ireland (part of the Anglican Communion), and in the Eastern Orthodox Church, where he is regarded as equal-to-the-apostles and Enlightener of Ireland. His major shrines are in Armagh, Northern Ireland and Glastonbury Abbey, England.

The dates of St. Patrick's life cannot be fixed with certainty, but there is general agreement that he was active as a missionary in Ireland during the fifth century. According to tradition dating from the early Middle Ages, Patrick was the first bishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland, and is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland, converting a pagan society.

According to Patrick's autobiography, he was captured by Irish pirates from his home in Britain when he was sixteen and taken as a slave to Ireland. He writes that he lived there for six years as an animal herder before escaping and returning to his family. After becoming a cleric, he returned to spread Christianity in northern and western Ireland. In later years, he served as a bishop. His feast day is observed on March 17, the supposed date of his death. In the dioceses of Ireland, his feast day is both a solemnity and a holy day of obligation.

March Liturgical Calendar

Mar 4 St Casimir
 Mar 7 Sts Perpetua and Felicity
 Mar 8 St John of God
 Mar 9 St Frances of Rome
 Mar 17 St Patrick (Feast)
 Mar 18 St Cyril of Jerusalem
 Mar 19 St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)
 Mar 23 St Turibius of Mogrovejo
 Mar 24 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
 Mar 25 Monday of Holy Week
 Mar 26 Tuesday of Holy Week
 Mar 27 Wednesday of Holy Week
 Mar 28 Thursday of Holy Week
 (Holy Thursday) Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and Adoration Vigil
 Mar 29 Friday of the Passion of the Lord, The Way of the Cross (Good Friday)
 Mar 30 Holy Saturday (Vigil)
 Mar 31 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (Solemnity)

Vivat Jesus,
 Tom Krivchenia PFN
Dgk7109@gmail.com



WGK Gene Jajuga recognizes SK Ed Amador as January 2024 Knight of the Month



WGK Gene Jajuga recognizes Betty & Joe D'Amelio as January 2024 Family of the Month



WGK Gene Jajuga recognizes Roe & Richie Resler as December 2023 Family of the Month



John Ruckart
Field Agent
John.Ruckart@kofc.org



Fraternal Benefits Advisor Report

Happy Easter! Easter is the very end of March, the 31st, so I will take this time to hope you conclude your Lenten observances with a celebration of the Resurrection!

March is Ethics Awareness Month for the insurance industry. *Oxford Languages* defines ethics as “moral principles that govern a person’s behavior or the conducting of an activity” In many professions there is an ethical code that practitioners are to observe. In medicine, we’ve boiled down the Hippocratic oath to, “First, do no harm.” Attorneys have the American Bar Association’s “Model Rules of Professional Conduct.” In psychology there are codes of conduct for both treatment and for research.

The insurance industry is no different. Here at the Knights of Columbus I think all members are familiar with our founding principles: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. These have been ingrained in us. However, there are also four Core Values that all who represent the Knights subscribe to. By “represent the Knights” we include Supreme Officers, employees, agents like myself, and other vendors and contractors who are expected to live up to our four Core Values.

From our Code of Ethics and Conduct handbook the Core Values are these:

- Integrity: Firm adherence to ethics, honesty, and a moral code.
- Professionalism: Promoting the highest standards in all we do.
- Excellence: Leading by example and constantly striving to be the best.
- Respect: Treating each other with the highest regard.

I consider it an honor to be assigned to serve your council and I take seriously my responsibility to care for each of you members. Furthering Blessed Michael McGivney’s vision of caring for the widow and orphan is my goal.

I hope to always live up these Core Values in all my work with the council and with each and every one of you.

Vivat Jesus!
John D Ruckart, FICF
813-855-5111

Book an appt with me here:
johnruckart.10to8.com

Learn about our investments:

<https://info.kofcassetadvisors.org/meet-john-ruckart>

Founder’s Day is March 29





Wally Vazquez
Faithful Navigator
travelwally@msn.com

Faithful Navigator's Log

The Assembly has Reserved Beef O' Grady restaurant for 6:00pm on April 25, 2024, Dinner with the Ladies; same place we had our Assembly Dinner.

There are several Exemplifications scheduled for 2024, as follows:

- February 17, 2024 – Spanish Virtual Degree
- March 9, 2024 – St. Francis X Cabrini Catholic Church Parrish, Florida
- May 11, 2024 – Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church Naples, Florida
- June 15, 2024- Church of the Little Flower Coral Gables, Florida
- August 25, 2024 – San Juan del Rio Catholic Church Saint John, Florida

Pass this information to any Knight that wishes to advance to the 4th Degree. Refer all interested to me and I will start the process for them.

We are having an election for our Assembly at the May 23, 2024 meeting. Please attend and vote. This will serve as the second announcement of the election. The Candidates Slate follows:

Faithful Navigator	John Gohman
Faithful Friar	Fr Michael Cooper, SJ
Faithful Captain	JJ Coyne, PGK
Faithful Admiral	Wally Vazquez, PFN
Faithful Pilot	Edward Amador
Faithful Scribe	David Heezen
Faithful Comptroller	Tom Harkins
Faithful Purser	Jerry Custin, PGK, PFN
Inside Sentinel	Vince Cristiano
Outside Sentinel	Richie Resler
Trustee Year Three	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN
Trustee Year Two	Frank DiMattei, PGK, PFN
Trustee Year One	Gene Jajuga, PFN, FFA
Veterans Liaison	Bill Gallant

The District Master has called for a biennial meeting of all FNs and/or alternates for March 23, 2024. Two alternate delegates were voted on by the Assembly at the February 22 meeting.

Assemblies wishing to submit resolutions for consideration and submission to the Supreme Assembly must submit such resolution to the Master by March 9, 2024. All resolutions must be signed by the Faithful Navigator and the Faithful Scribe and have the Assembly Seal affixed. Submission of three (3) copies is required.

Resolution may be for changes to existing articles of the By-Laws, Supreme or District policies, new policies or procedures. Any Sir Knight seeking consideration for the position of District Master must submit an Assembly's resolution of endorsement. Endorsement resolution is submitted in the same manner as described above.

Remember to invite a friend, a fellow parishioner or member of your family to our KofC Open House. We would like to welcome all future Knights interested.



Happy Spring Ladies! Other than dealing with pollen allergies and such, I'm sure everyone is enjoying our beautiful weather. Here we are halfway through the Lenten season, with great donations for our dessert offerings at the Lenten Fish Fries. Thank you all for your dedicated help in making these functions so extraordinary. Our next meeting will be March 14 with final plans for this month's dessert offerings. Looking forward to a great turnout. Remember meeting now starts at 7p in the gathering room.



Dave Behrle
PGK, PFN
727.723.1169



Lent is underway, the season of Spring starts Mar 19, and Easter is on Mar 31. Baseball spring training is underway. Parents and grand-parents are enjoying seeing our kids and grand-kids play sports. Life is good!

Please continue to pray for Life! The pro-aborts are back and active at the abortion site on US 19 where we do our 40 Days for Life and year-round witness for life. They were there Tuesday, Feb 27. Beth said she'd see me next Tuesday too. I think they are promoting abortion and attempting to intimidate pro-life people in anticipation of their upcoming FL constitutional amendment vote in November to enshrine abortion here in Florida. You are invited to come any day, especially Tue, Thur and Sat mornings, to pray and stand for life. The FL Supreme Court decision on whether to allow this amendment on the ballot is still pending. I am hopeful that it will not be approved. Please continue to pray for a favorable outcome.

Do you have any broken rosaries? Bring them to a future meeting and give them to SK Tom Wozniak. Tom has an advertisement at the end of each newsletter, promoting his wonderful service – repairing rosaries. In doing so, Tom continues his Dad's legacy. Tom's father, Ted Wozniak, was recognized in our Columbia magazine with a great article, two full pages (May 2011). The following highlights are taken from that article in Tom's copy of that magazine. Ask Tom to see this magazine at future Council & Assembly meetings. But be sure to return to Tom, for it's a "keeper" for sure!

- Ted started making rosaries, while in the Army, stationed at Camp Hulen, TX in 1944.
- His first rosary was made using piano wire and took some four hours to make.
- Word spread, and Ted had about 100 other soldiers requesting rosaries.
- Ted was transferred to Camp Hood, TX and stopped making rosaries.

- In 1995, Ted returned to rosary making.
- During the next 15 years, Ted estimates he made and gave away some 10,000 rosaries to various charities, foreign missions, and first Communicants in local parishes. His total count after publication of this Columbia article is 16,782 before his eyes and hands gave out.
- In 2010, our Tom was involved in a parish mission trip to Honduras. In response to Tom's request for rosaries, Ted sent him 320 rosaries. [Yes, Tom is also mentioned by name in the article, along with Barney Gonyea Council 7109 in Safety Harbor, FL.]
- Ted was not just a rosary maker. He first thinks of himself as a rosary pray-er. [Even today, that is certainly a great example for all of us!]

SK Ted Wozniak passed away in 2017; he was 93. He was 4th Degree member in St. Joseph, MI. May his soul and those of all our departed family members and friends rest in peace in the heavenly kingdom of God. Ted's tools and rosary supplies were handed down to Tom. Thank you, Tom, for continuing to honor your Dad in this way.

Easter Triduum





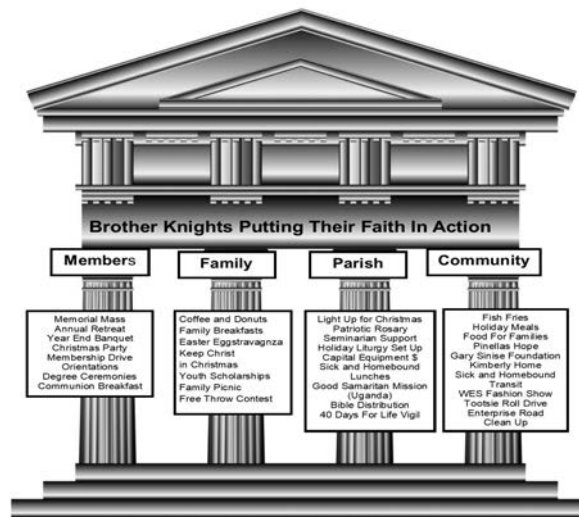
Jerry Custin
 PGK, PFN
 jcustin@gmail.com



Teach The Art of Living

The theme this month is to teach our children the art of living. This, of course, is a critically important function. Psalm 78 reflects on the difficulty of this task and the repeated failures of the Israelites to get it right – generation after generation. The verse, **“They were not to be like their ancestors, a rebellious and defiant generation”**, is especially key and, to some extent, a sad and challenging reflection on where we stand in our society today. We are indeed in a rebellious and defiant time marked by secular humanism (our intellect is supreme) and moral relativity (there is no real right or wrong, it depends on what I feel). The chorus of a great 1970 song says it all, “Teach your children well Your father's hell did slowly go by And feed them on your dreams The one they pick's the one you'll know by.”

Brothers, we have a challenge in teaching our children the TRUE art of living as Christians.



Psalm 78

Attend, my people, to my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable,*- unfold the puzzling events of the past. What we have heard and know; things our ancestors have recounted to us. We do not keep them from our children; we recount them to the next generation, The praiseworthy deeds of the LORD and his strength, the wonders that he performed. God made a decree in Jacob, established a law in Israel: Which he commanded our ancestors, they were to teach their children; That the next generation might come to know, children yet to be born. In turn they were to recount them to their children, that they too might put their confidence in God, And not forget God’s deeds, but keep his commandments. They were not to be like their ancestors, a rebellious and defiant generation, A generation whose heart was not constant, and whose spirit was not faithful to God. The ranks of Ephraimite archers, retreated on the day of battle. They did not keep God’s covenant; they refused to walk according to his law. They forgot his deeds, the wonders that he had shown them.

Fish Fry Fridays



In Memoriam

Sir Knight Edward "Ed" George Mandichak

April 04, 1951 - January 18, 2024



Edward "Ed" George Mandichak 72 of Safety Harbor, FL, passed away at his home on January 18, 2024 with his wife and daughters by his side. Born in Johnstown, PA to George Mandichak and Eleanor (Donahue) Mandichak of Johnstown, PA. Preceded in death by his parents, brother Michael Mandichak, sister Patricia Mandichak, sister-in-law Debbie (Salem) Mandichak, in-laws Merle & Roger Patterson, daughter Shaun Rose, and granddaughter Nema Rose. Edward is survived by his wife of 43 years, Margo (Patterson) Mandichak, daughters Michaela Flanagan (Kyle) and Leah Mandichak (Juan), son-in-law Lobsang Topgyal "Topjee" (Shaun), grandchildren Tenzin Rose, Finn and Reid Flanagan, and Emma Talledo, brother Jim Mandichak (Mary Lou), nephews Chad Mandichak (Chris) and Ian Mandichak (Sheena), sister-in-law's Kim Benford (Roger) and Diane Patterson (David), brother-in-law Todd Patterson (Ann), cousin George Donahue (Gloria), and many more cousins, nieces, nephews, and dear friends

Ed graduated from Bishop McCort High School in Johnstown, PA in 1969. He went to college at the University of Pittsburgh graduating with a political science and history degree. He joined the Delta Sigma Chi fraternity forming lifelong friendships. He worked in the food industry where he bartended and trained staff at Steak and Ale restaurants. He managed food service for a local school district. His lunch ladies adored him. He also served as a personal chef starting his own "Chef to You" business cooking for professional athletes and families. Ed had a knack for cooking, loved to entertain, and shared his love through his culinary gift by cooking meals for friends and families on many occasions.

Ed met Margo at the Haven Bar and Lounge in Johnstown in 1977, and they married in June of 1980 with over 350 guests in attendance. They settled in Safety Harbor, FL, where they raised their three girls. He had a successful career as an IT recruiter for 30 plus years. Prior to officially retiring in 2022, he took a part time job at a golf club, ubered for the conversation, and worked for his good friend, Ted. In his spare time, Ed enjoyed golfing with his buddies. He cherished watching golf on Sundays, rooted for the Pittsburgh Steelers and had a passion for history.

Ed truly was an incredible and kind person who loved people. Every friend he had was his best friend. Most of all, he loved his family - his girls, grandchildren, and his hometown peeps. He was social, funny, and an amazing storyteller. He had the biggest heart and was an exceptional party planner. In true Ed fashion, he requested a celebration of life, which will be held in Johnstown at a later date. In lieu of flowers, Ed has requested donations be made to his oncologist, Dr. Jose Alemar (Florida Oncology & Hematology | 727.223.7485 | FloridaOnc.com).

Letter to the Editor

Using Our Talents

We had a great family event last month, the Confirmation of our youngest granddaughter. The CCD teacher chose the Parable of the Talents as the reading. This parable is Matthew 25 and contains three major lessons. It also includes the Parable of the Virgins and The Judgement of the Nation.

The Parable of the Virgins relates the story of ten virgins chosen to meet the bridegroom. Five of them took oil for their lamps as it was late afternoon. The others did not. The bridegroom was late, and they all fell asleep. They awoke when hearing the bridegroom. The five without oil asked for assistance but the ones that were prepared did not have excess oil to spare. The lesson? ***“Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”***

The Parable of the Talents continues, ***““It will be as when a man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately.”***

We all know what happens, the servant given five talents doubles them as does the servant given two talents. But the servant given one talent buried it to keep it safe. When the master returned the first two servants were praised for their diligence. However, the third related, ***Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.’ His master said to him in reply, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return?’***

To a degree that set me back and caused me to reflect on the core lesson(s) of this passage. On the one hand, the rewards of industriousness were praised and

rewarded. On the other, the third servant did nothing wrong and was cast ***“into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.”***

That seemed a little harsh and, for some odd reason, I reflected on my own service as a husband, father, grandfather, and Knight. I continued to think about this after our first Fish Fry of the Lenten Season where we served about 350 meals and that would not have been possible without the literal scores of volunteers frying fish, making Mac and Cheese and Beans, serving food, cleaning dishes, setting tables and all the additional set up, tear down and clean up that goes unseen but fully appreciated by the Master.

So, my conclusion? In essence, the Parable of the Talents emphasizes the need to respond to grace by making a genuine effort throughout life. All the gifts—both natural and spiritual—that God has bestowed upon us should yield a profit, regardless of their quantity. It's not about how many talents we receive; what matters is our **generosity** in putting them to good use. I think we do that pretty well as a Council, Assembly and Ladies Auxiliary. Thanks for using your talents!

By the way, the final lesson in the Judgement of the Nation section of Matthew 25, the King separated the sheep and the goats on His left and His right. The question was how did He judge? The King said when I was naked you clothed me, hungry you fed me, thirsty you gave me to drink. Again, they asked, when did we see you in this condition. He replied, ***“Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.”***

Our lesson? Keep on keeping on and doing the next right thing. Multiple those talents and grow in the Grace of the Lord.

From the Desk of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly...

Blind Spots

*To truly know ourselves, replacing hypocrisy with humility,
our hearts must be open to Christ's light and grace*

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

I recently traded in a car. It was reliable and only 8 years old, but it had a significant problem: blind spots. Form did not follow function in that car's design. Its sight lines were terrible. Pulling out into traffic and changing lanes were dangerous. My priest secretaries compared driving the car to driving a Sherman tank.

My old car wasn't alone in having blind spots. We all have them - personal traits or tendencies that are obvious to family, friends and colleagues but not to ourselves. Some are harmless, like gestures or ways of speaking; others are more serious. One of the worst, and most common, blind spots is hypocrisy. It is all too easy to put oneself on a high moral plane, above everyone else, without taking account of one's own moral failings. We may even criticize others for the very things we are prone to do.

There are various ways to discover one's blind spots. Some seek feedback from colleagues by submitting to a "360-degree assessment." Others seek professional counseling. Helpful as such things can be, they provide an incomplete picture. We're left wanting more.

Where can we turn to truly know ourselves? Scripture is a good place to start. The Psalms, for example, warn against presuming we are better than we are and flattering ourselves so that we no longer perceive our guilt (Ps 36). In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us to take the plank out of our own eye before removing a splinter from a neighbor's eye (Mt 7:5).

We find, too, that Jesus knows what is in the human heart. Conversing with the Samaritan woman at the well, he knew both her history and her capacity for discipleship (Jn 4:4-29). Healing the man with the withered hand, he knew the venom of his adversaries even when they didn't voice it (Lk 6:6-8). As John says, "Jesus ... did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well" (Jn 2:24-25).

The ancient Delphic oracle said, "Know thyself," but the Church says to us, "Know Jesus Christ." The Son of God who assumed our human nature reveals us to ourselves and shows us who we really are - that is, who we are in the eyes of God. Moreover, Jesus' revealing light is not the harsh glare of a human exposé, but rather the gentle gaze of divine mercy by which we are encouraged to make steady progress in virtue.

As we begin a new year, we might resolve to try to become more aware of our blind spots - not merely those things that amuse or irritate others, but those moral failings that are out of focus. Let us submit ourselves anew to the one who knows us better than we know ourselves and who, thankfully, loves us more than we could ever love ourselves.

How can we tap into Christ's revealing light? First is a daily examination of conscience, a prayerful look at our conduct through the lens of the commandments and beatitudes. This daily exercise helps us discern not only our blatant faults but also those failings that are harder for us to see. Second is regular reception of the sacrament of reconciliation. Confessing our sins and receiving God's grace requires us to be honest with ourselves, so that we can be honest before God and others. Such honesty ensures that we will never take God's mercy for granted. Third is intimacy with the Eucharistic Lord. When we participate worthily and actively in Mass and spend time in adoration, the Lord's heart speaks to our hearts. In his light, we see light! (Ps 36:10).

One final thought: The more we eliminate our blind spots, the better equipped we will be to live our commitment as Knights of Columbus - to be true Knights of charity, unity, and fraternity.



From the Florida State Council Chamber...

A 40-Day Season of Prayer

State Deputy Richard Hughes

As begin our Lenten journey, it is useful to recall what the Church teaches about Lent. As the US Conference of Catholic Bishops says:

“Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It’s a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord’s Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ’s will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ’s death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.”

As Bishop Robert Barron has pointed out, the practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are things that we do, involving the exterior of our lives as much as the interior and spiritual part of our lives. And by doing these practices, we draw closer to the Lord as the center of our lives.

As we assist our pastors and parishes with various parish activities during the Lenten and Easter seasons, we should also not forget to offer the gift of membership in our Order. Men join the Knights of Columbus for many varied reasons, but one of the most important is because they see the work that we do in service to our parishes and communities.

As mentioned in November’s column, we did not mail out individual appeals for our State Charities Funds this year, due to rising costs. We asked all Councils to publicize this year’s appeal through their Council communications for our Charities funds in Vocations, Helping Life, and Special Olympics. Unfortunately, it does not appear that very many Councils have published our appeal, and the individual response has been minimal, far below what we had received in our past mailing campaign. We are especially in need of donations for our Holy Angels Vocations Fund, which supports our seminaries and Diocesan Vocations programs.

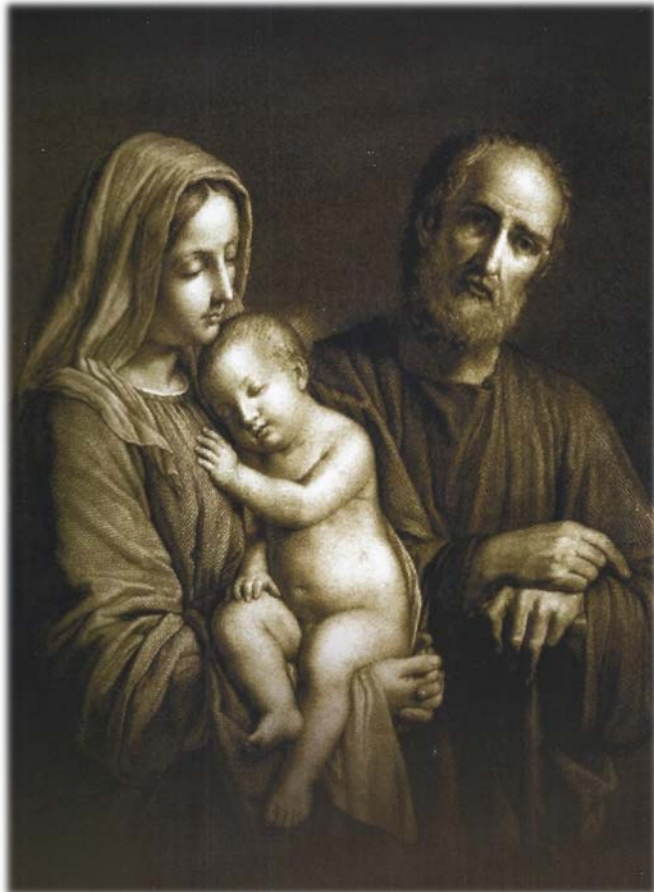
Our collective support of the seminaries and our Bishops is an expression of the Spirit of Unity here in Florida. Once again, we are asking you to publish an appeal to your members to at least consider making a donation online for our state Charitable Funds.

Individual donors that list their Council in their donation will receive credit towards their charitable fundraising goal for the Fraternal Year. All Council that meet their Council fundraising goal by April 1 will be recognized at the State Convention. Individual donations can be made online at <https://donate.floridakofccharities.org/> or by clicking the red Donate button on the State website (www.floridakofc.org).

Once again, I want to thank each and every Knight here in Florida for their prayers and their service to their parishes and communities, and for exemplifying the Principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism in everything that they do. And remember that Star Council + Faith Formation = a Successful Council!

Assembly Officers 2023-2024

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Faithful Captain	John Gohman	813.810.3735
Faithful Admiral	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687
Faithful Pilot	JJ Coyne, PGK	901.832.7332
Faithful Scribe	David Heezen	727.792.4471
Faithful Comptroller	Tom Harkins	727.772.0607
Faithful Purser	Jerry Custin, PGK, PFN	727.244.6464
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Trustee Three Year	Frank DiMattei, PGK, PFN	727.871.6506
Trustee Two Year	Gene Jajuga, PFN, FFA	727.403.3261
Trustee One Year	Mark Peterman, PFN	727.403.5993
Color Corps Commander	Tom Wozniak, PGK, PFN, FDD	727.214.8377
Veterans Liaison	Bill Gallant	727.251.6300



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.

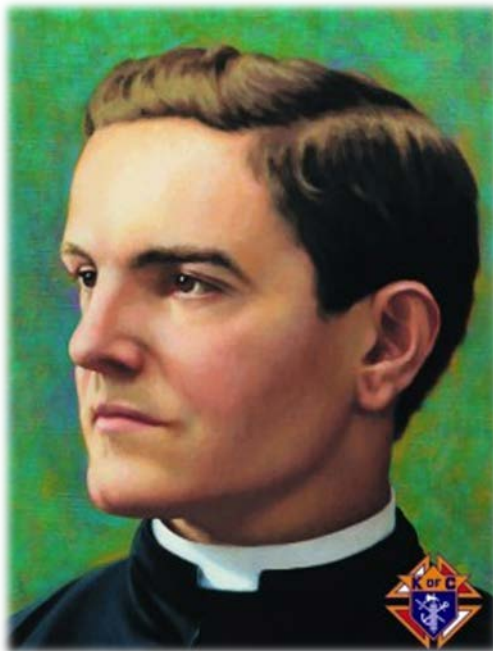
In our daily life and work,
May we reflect the self-giving love which you,
O Father, eternally show with your Son
and the Holy Spirit.

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...

March 2024

- 03/01 | Fri 4:00p Fish Fry #3
- 03/07 | Thu 7:00p Council Officers Meeting
- 03/08 | Fri 4:00p Fish Fry #4
- 03/10 | Sun 8:00a Coffee & Donuts
- 03/14 | Thu **6:15p** Rosary
- 03/14 | Thu **7:00p** Council Membership & Ladies Auxiliary Meetings
- 03/15 | Fri 4:00p Fish Fry #5
- 03/16 | Sat 8:00a Kimberly Home WorkDay
- 03/21 | Thu 8:00a Pinellas Hope Lunch Prep & Delivery
- 03/22 | Fri 4:00p Fish Fry #6
- 03/23 | Sat 9:30a St Vincent DePaul Easter Food Basket Delivery



Assembly Calendar of Events...

March 2024

- 03/24 | Sun Palm Sunday
- 03/28 | Thu Holy Thursday (**No Assembly Meeting**)
- 03/29 | Fri Good Friday
- 03/30 | Sat Holy Saturday
- 03/31 | Sun Easter
- 04/25 | Thu Dinner Social (Beef O' Bradys Oldsmar)

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I have most parts needed and the tools to repair and spruce up your rosary.

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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.

