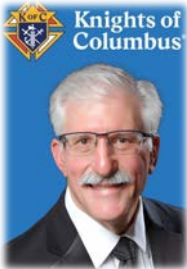




# The Shield

## Grand Knight's Message



Tom Krivchenia, PFN  
Grand Knight  
GrandKnight7109@gmail.com

Dear Brother Knights and Ladies,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. Let me be the first to wish everyone a blessed Advent season and a very Merry Christmas to come as we anticipate the coming of our Savior.

November was a very busy month for us. We started with Assembly Coffee & Donuts. Thank you to everyone who helped with this very successful event.

Next was our Unified Degree Ceremony where we had four new members join our Council. I would like to welcome Jacob Bandy, William Dan Brandon, Thomas Myers, Carlos Salazar.

We then had our Annual Memorial Mass. Thank you Fr. Michael for the wonderful Mass. It was truly a great tribute to our lost brothers. Thank you to everyone who helped with this Mass. A big thank you to SK Wally Vasquez for organizing the Mass and our Deputy Grand Knight, Mark Feldman, for organizing and setting up the reception afterwards. Thank you, Gene Jajuga, for picking up the food for the reception.

The week before Thanksgiving, we delivered Thanksgiving Day Meals for St Vincent de Paul to families in the Safety Harbor area. Thank you everyone who participated in this worthwhile mission.

Rob Pickard    Vickie Pickard    Tom Fitzpatrick  
Mike Furman    Mario Zaccaria    Judy Zaccaria

Issue 12, December 2024

Next Council Meeting  
Thursday, December 12 @ **7:00 pm**  
in the Parish Center

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)

Dave Behrle	John Malone	George Inderwies
Jim Montali	Phyllis Montali	Claire Inderwies
Ed Amador	Violet Amador	Delpha Nammour
Mark Feldman	Chris Mazzone	Adel Nammour

We had our biggest Assembly fundraiser of the year, our Annual Assembly 2474 | Gary Sinise Golf tournament. The weather was simply phenomenal, as we had 106 golfers and 30 volunteers to make this an amazing day. Fun was had by all in support of this very remarkable foundation.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team with a score of -15 is Grandjacquet, Harroun, Harroun, Wilson

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team with a score of -11 is Ramos, Dang, Pritchett, Namburi

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team with a score of -10 is Guarino, Potridge, Mogelgaard, Peterman

The winners of the Putting Contest are Matthew Smith & Bob Bender

The winners of the Longest Drive:

Men – Evan Conrad  
Seniors – Mark Kapinos  
Women – Gail Liberty

The winners of the Closest To The Pin

Men – Craig Brown  
Women – Gail Liberty

The Winner of the Pot 'O Gold – Taylor Harroun

Closest To The Pin (17 Hole \$\$ Competition) – Tony Harroun

Winners of the 50/50

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Chris Coyne

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Terry Drake

This event would not have been so successful if not for the months of hard work of the Golf Committee. Thank you to Mark Peterman, Gene Jajuga, JJ Coyne, John Gohman, Ed Amador, Frank McEwen, Frank DiMattei, Tom Harkins.

Thank you to the many volunteers who spent most of their day working at this event:

Terry Drake	Santo Loparo	Claire Inderwies
Shirley Drake	Bob Justiana	George Inderwies
Carol deWolf	Rita Wolanin	Violet Amador
Doug deWolf	Rich Roberto	Edward Amador
Don Reed	John Gohman	Ramona Vazquez
Phil Farney	Gary Showers	Wally Vazquez
Mike Furman	Betty D'Amelio	Jean Wozniak
John Ruckart	Joe D'Amelio	Tom Wozniak
Tom Harkins	Frank McEwe	Vince Cristiano
Anne Harkins	Frank DiMattei	Amaro Lionheart
Karen Jajuga	Tom Fitzpatrick.	Chris Mazzone
Michael Gutknecht		

The Auction would not have been possible without the work of Frank DiMattei and Tom Harkins.

### Up Coming Events

Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales – Sun, Dec 01 after all Masses under the Pavilion

Council Officers Meeting – Tue, Dec 03 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room

Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales - Sat, Dec 07 after the Masses under the Pavilion

Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales – Sun, Dec 08 after all Masses under the Pavilion.

Coffee & Donuts – Sun, Dec 08 from 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM in the St. John Bosco Center

Rosary Prayer Service – Thu, Dec 12 6:15 PM in the St. John Bosco Center

Council Business Meeting – Thu, Dec 12 7:00 PM in the Parish Center

Ladies Auxiliary Business Meeting – Thu, Dec 12 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room

Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales – Sat, Dec 14 after the Masses under the Pavilion.

Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales – Sun, Dec 15 after all the Masses under the Pavilion.

Full Family Breakfast with Santa – Sun, Dec 15 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM in the Parish Center

Pinellas Hope Food Prep – Thu, Dec 19 9:00 AM – 12:00PM in the Parish Kitchen

Council & Assembly Christmas Party Fri, Dec 20 7:00 PM in the Parish Center

Council Officers Meeting – Thu Jan 02 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room

Rosary Prayer Service – Thu, Jan 09 6:15 PM in the St. John Bosco Center

Council Business Meeting – Thu, Jan 09 7:00 PM in the Parish Center

Ladies Auxiliary Business Meeting – Thu, Jan 09 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room

Coffee & Donuts – Sun, Jan 12 7:30 PM in the St. John Bosco Center

### Breakfast with Santa

We are having our annual breakfast with Santa Clause on Sunday, Dec 15 starting at 8:00 AM. We will be giving free pictures to everyone who sits with Santa. We will be serving scrambled eggs, sausage links, potatoes, assorted pancakes, juices and chocolate and white milk and coffee. This is a great time to have a family picture or one with friends. We will be sending out a sign-up sheet for set up and kitchen, servers volunteers. Let's make this a special event for our parish community.

### Christmas Party

We will be having a joint Christmas party with the Light of Christ Council and Assembly and Our Lady of Lourdes Assembly. We will have the party on Friday, Dec 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00 pm. Felice will be catering our event. We will also have a DJ playing danceable music. Our menu consists of Eggplant Parmesan, Chicken Marsala, Pork, Baked Ziti, salad, roll and dessert. We will have gift baskets to raffle off and a 50/50 drawing, and a Lotto Tree for raffle. We will have donations for beer, wine and soda. We had a great turnout last year. Let's make this year even better. John Ruckart will be providing pictures with a great winter scene for everyone. The photos will make great Christmas cards to send out to family and friends. This is a great time to catch up with friends that you haven't seen in a while and the opportunity to make new friends. Come join us for a great time.

Vivat Jesus,

Tom





SK Edward Amador  
Membership Director  
Edamador00@gmail.com

# Council 7109

## Holy Moments

### A Season of Gratitude and Renewal

Dear Brothers,

As we close out this calendar year and enter the joyous season of Advent, I am excited to share an update on our membership efforts. We are currently at **7 new members**, or **47% of our goal of 15**, for the fraternal year. This is an incredible testament to your hard work and dedication to strengthening our council. I want to thank each of you for your efforts, your prayers, and your willingness to invite others to join our brotherhood. Let us also extend a warm welcome to our newest Brother Knights: **Thomas Myers, Carlos Salazar, Jacob Bandy, and William Dan Brandon**. These men have answered the call to serve, and we are grateful to have them join our mission of faith, charity, and fraternity.

### Holy Moments and Our Mission

As we continue on this journey together, I encourage you to reflect on the principles of *Holy Moments* from Matthew Kelly. Holy Moments are small, intentional acts of love, faith, and kindness that can transform not just ourselves but the lives of those around us.

When we invite someone to join the Knights of Columbus, we create a Holy Moment—not just for the man being invited but also for his family, our council, and our parish community. Each new member strengthens the body of Christ and amplifies our ability to serve those in need. Let's make it our mission this season to create more Holy Moments by extending the invitation of brotherhood to Catholic men in our lives.

### A Call to Action

Brothers, I urge you to continue seeking out eligible Catholic men who would benefit from being part of our order. Whether it's a friend, a neighbor, or a fellow parishioner, your personal invitation could be the spark that leads them to a life of greater purpose and service. Share your own experiences with the Knights and how this brotherhood has helped you grow in faith and fellowship.

### A Christmas Message

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, I want to wish each of you and your families a very **Merry Christmas** and a blessed New Year. May this season bring you peace, joy, and countless opportunities to experience the love of Christ.

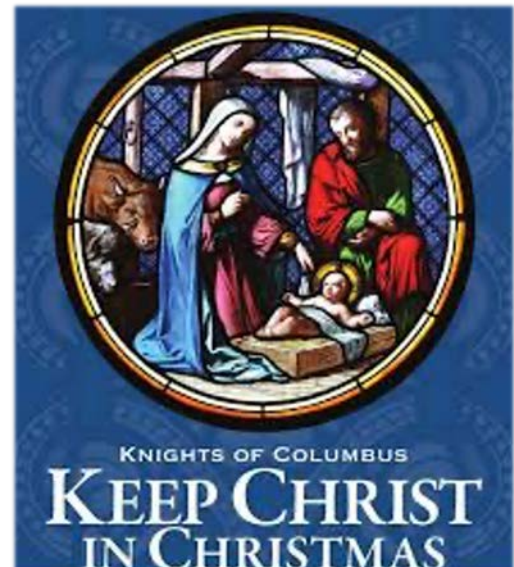
Let's carry the spirit of this holy season into the new year, renewing our commitment to our mission, to one another, and to our parish community. Together, we can continue to make a profound impact and reach new heights in faith and service.

May God bless you and your families abundantly during this sacred time of year.

Fraternally yours,

**Edward J. Amador**

Chancellor, Pilot, Director of Membership  
Barney Gonyea Council #7109  
Assembly 2474



# Unity - Strength in Numbers

## Informational Open House Schedule

2025

Feb 18 | Apr 15 | Jun 17

## Unified Degree Ceremony Schedule

2025

Feb 20 | Apr 17 | Jun 19

*Look for more information from our Grand Knight*



## Council Membership Report

Total Membership	337
Insurance Membership	135
Honorary Life Members	67
Honorary Members	08
2023-2024 Membership Growth vs Goal	07/15
2023-2024 Insurance	00/02

## Assembly Membership Report

Total Membership	132
Honorary Life Members	14
Honorary Members	01
2023-2024 Membership Growth vs Goal	00/06



## Council Officers 2024-2025

Grand Knight	Tom Krivchenia, PFN	727.366.5422
Chaplain	Fr Michael W. Cooper, SJ	727.644.5544
Deputy Grand Knight	Mark Feldman	727.366.5959
Chancellor	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Recorder	Bill Krajewski	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	Jim Lankford	813.455.2292
Inside Guard	Paul Cooper	727.736.6837
Outside Guard	Mark Peterman, PFN	727.403.5993
Guard Alternate	Brian Annis	727.204.7490
Trustee Three Year	Gene Jajuga, PGK, PFN, FFA	727.403.3261
Trustee Two Year	JJ Coyne, PGK	901.832.7332
Trustee One Year	Ken Seguin, PGK, PFN	727.331.7278
Regional Administrator	John Papa, PGK, PFN	727.482.3734
District Deputy	Alan Gauzens, PGK	727.483.8250
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!

Patrick Clarke, Anthony Crevello, Jonathan DiMattei, Richard Ducheny, Kenneth Ensley, Arnold Grohskopf, Kenneth Grubba, Michael Gutknecht, Thomas Harkins, James Hart, Kenton Heuertz, Brian Jennings, Brian Kearns, Robert Kenny, James Kleinsorge, Richard LeClerc, Stanley Lipiarz, Christian Lyon, Charles McEwen, William McFadden, Stuart Miller, Francis O'Dea, Thomas O'Rourke, Robert Pickard, Jeffrey Rogers, Timothy Rush, John Strehle, Jugdesh Sujjanani, Sean Swauger, Dennis Thelen, Mario Zaccaria

### Prayers for the Sick

Don & Marie Bishop, Tim & Barbara Rush, Ken Seguin, Ward Griffin, Elizabeth Inderwies, Bob Justiana, Mac Sinise (d), Stanley Gdula (d), J. Nick Martin (d), Linda Cooper (d), Edward Mandichak (d), Mary Clare Rose (d), Bob Ehrman, Felipe Hernandez (d), Tony McClure (d), Maria Palazzo (d), Burke Taylor (d), Harry Hill (d), Antonia Rosin (d), Frances Hamacher (d), Jacqueline Barry (d), Mary Branham (d), Mary Williams (d), Theresa Kier, Frank Schuster II (d), Kathy Papa-Zinko, Sal Mazzara, Kennedie McFadden, Sal Burriesci, George Smith (d), Bill Kasak, Pauline Sager (d), Vicki Nolan (d), Margaret Bruggeman, Barbara Papa, Bill Gallant, Maggie Kraf, Claire Inderwies, Steve Gorey (d), Papa Felice D'Elia (d), Stanley Kwiatowski (d), Ethan Griswold (d), Alex Griswold, Paul Annis, Maggie Cappabianca, Paul Cooper, Michael Kistel, Dick LaLuzerne, Fr Rich Rosin (d), Mary Dulek (d)

Please pray for all our sick and deceased Brothers, Ladies, and family members. Please report illnesses and deaths to Sir Knight Paul Harvey, Lecturer, at 727.286.7171 or [pharvey10@verizon.net](mailto: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 & vocations, but it will take everyone's help. Thank You!

Mark Barrett, Donald & Linda Borbath, Jonathan & Marianne Boyce, Sal Burriesci, Mario & Katie Camario, Patrick Carroll, John Coyne, Joseph & Betty D'Amelio, Douglas & Carol De Wolfe, Jerome Dewberry, Francisco & Mildred Diaz Estrella, Sean Donahoo, Robert & Zoe Dufour, Philip & Jane Farney, Walter Feble, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Charles & Raquel Friesema, Michael & Lisa Furman, John & Peggy Gohman, Robert & Catherine Gwinner, Paul & Rose Marie Harvey, James Hayes, David & Donna Heezen, Irving Hernandez, Joseph & Sandra Hoehrl, George & Claire Inderwies, Eugene & Karen Jajuga, Shawn & Pattie Jajuga, Gregory & Kim Juedes, William & Elizabeth Kasak, Timothy Kielich, Matthew Killeen, Michael & Katherine King, Dan & Donna Kistel, William & Katherine Krajeski, Jack Kuczej, Frank & Deborah Laffey, Stephen & Ellen Leger, Mark Lewalski, Patrick Mackin, Michael McCarthy, Frank & Cindy McEwen, Charles McEwen, Stuart Miller, John & Morgan, Adel Nammour, Chris Nesci, Donald Palacheck, John Papa, Gerald & Holly Pappa, Paul & Virginia Pappas, Daniel Peterson, Glen Pettersen, Robert & Vickie Pickard, Richard Roberto, Juan & Rosemary Romero, John & Kathleen Ruckart, Peter & Susan Salesses, Jason Seguin, Morgan Sheaffer, Massimo & Valeria Simeoni, James & Karin Smith, Thomas & J. L. Stanko, John & Kay Strehle, Jugdesh & Sucheta Sujanani, Steven & Jaclyn Verba, Mario & Judy Zaccaria, Edward & Violet Amador, Brian & Carolyn Annis, Dennis & Joyce Ayril, Patrick & Beatrice Boland, Robert & Ann Marie Bonvicino, James & Jean Burris, John & Betsy Clarke, Gerald & Cynthia Custin, Peter Demzak, Frank & Angela Di Mattei, Jonathan Di Mattei, Frederick & Suzanne Di Masi, Terry & Shirley Drake, Joseph Favia, Mark & Elaine Feldman, Dominic & Vickie Friscia, Michael Gutknecht, Lawrence & Nancy Harkins, Thomas & Anne Harkins, Thomas Hart, James & Janetze Hart, Timothy & Ann Hartle, Jarret & Lesley Ann Honahan, Steven Ippolito, Robert & M. A. Justiana, Brian & Christine Kearns, Robert Kelly, Tom & Margaret Krivchenia, Thomas Kukulski, James & Maria Lankford, Milton Levine, Amaro Lionheart, Stanley Lipiarz, Kevin McMullen, Anthony Metty, James & Patricia Nolf, Brian & Lisa O'Connor, Thomas & Carolyn O'Rourke, Miguel Perez, Brian & Erin Riley, William & Mary Scott, Kenneth & Gabriella Seguin, Kenneth Seguin, Jim & Nancy Shirer, Gregory & Carolina Sohn, Chuck & Elizabeth Sullivan, Matthew & Julie Sunski, Sean Swauger, Walberto & Ramona Vazquez, Peggy Watson, David & Patricia Behrle, Herman & Mary Jo Brames, Tim & Stacey Bruggeman, Jacob & Mary Burnett, Mark Busing, Kevin Cordaro, Joseph Cortese, Anthony Crevello, William Cullen, Richard & Melissa Ducheny, Frederick & Christi Elflein, Zach Faraone, Eric & Maria Flores, Joseph & Megan Gajewski, Ward & Kathleen Griffin, Gerald & Lorraine Grubba, Mark Gurley, David & Paula Harvey, Kevin & Gidget Hernandez, Kenton & Sue Heuertz, Christopher & Celise Jones, Derek Jones, Mark Kapinos, Richard & Cecilia Kembal-Cook, Jared Kirsten, James Kleinsorge, Raymond Kraker, Anthony Kuczej, Christian Kuczej, Brian & Christina Lapointe, Brian & Angela Lawandus, Gerald & Renee Lubig, Francis & Carol Mahoney, Jerry Maratea, Frank & Juliann Marsalek, William Mc Fadden, Clifford & Michelle Merz, Darryl & Mary Miller, James & Phyllis Montali, Michael O'Neill, Todd & Margaret Owers, Edmund & Diane Pagnott, Thomas Penders, Mark & Christine Peterman, Frank & Patricia Piro, Christopher & Carol Purcell, Donald & Alexis Reed, Edward & Sandra Riley, James & Dreama Servoss Rooney, Timothy & Barbara Rush, Robert Shafer, Michael & Melissa Short, Hugh & Katie Siegel, Thomas Smith, Bryan & Krista Snyder, Roy & Linda Vanderveer, Alvah Vankleeck, Paul & Josefina Vilchez, Edward & Patricia Warticki, Patrick & Joan Alix, Fred & Caroline Bennett, Victor & Susanne Berggren, Benjamin & Molly Bergin, Terrell & Victoria Clampitt, Timothy & Marcy Dolan, Mark & Renee Beth Kraf, Edward Martinenko, Christopher Mazzone, Kenneth (Ken) Miller, Javier & Xiomara Ortega, Robert Papariella, Kurt & Mary Lynn Salac, James & Darlene Stanley, Albert Masselli, Thomas & Cynthia Bergevin

**Total Collected to Date: \$2008.73**



Father Michael W. Cooper, SJ  
Chaplain

# Chaplain's Corner

## God Cared Enough To Send the Very Best

Thanksgiving is over and the Christmas Parties have already started - including ones tied to Church. Whatever happened to Advent? Waiting for Christmas seems empty. Christ has already come. I never turn down an invitation to a party. It is always good to have community celebrations at this time of year. However, at the same time as we journey through the Advent Season, it remains very appropriate spiritually and theologically to meditate and celebrate the **Incarnation** - God choosing to become a full human being like us.

Incarnation comes from the Latin words "becoming flesh," that is a human being. Our God chooses then and now to manifest the Godself in human form. God wants to be close to each of us and to us as God's family in time. God in Jesus wants to experience what we experience/live as human beings - friendship joy, suffering, pain, death, betrayal but ending in Resurrection - New Life, New Hope, new Beginnings.

What a number of us have not been told growing up: God Incarnate in Jesus was not play acting these experiences and emotions. Like us, he was truly human - for our sake. There is no reason to stay away from opening our life to our God. God wants to share our lives and all that we are going through.

Because God chose to become a human being, God's choice blessed poor humanity as holy and good. The previous negative preaching has no biblical background. God does not make junk, but some of our

preaching and teaching took that negative approach. Where is the evidence of that negativity. "God made them male and female and saw they were very good." [Genesis 1] "See I am wondrously made." [Psalm 132]

Because of the Incarnation, Human History is also God's History. Our God cares about what is happening to each of us as well as what is happening in Ukraine, Gaza, Israel, Lebanon, and the other nations besieged by war and destruction. Because of the Incarnation, all life is sacred, good versus evil or whatever. An Incarnational vision/spirituality reminds us that very normal things like raising a family, serving in our parish or at Pinellas Hope are very graceful events and the Lord needs our labors and blesses us. Because of the Incarnational vision, we celebrate that marriage, including sexual intimacy, are holy!

Thus, during Advent let us pray and meditate the graceful reality of each of us and of our everyday lives.

Michael. Cooper, S.J.  
Chaplain

P.S. I will miss our general meeting in December because of my Jesuit High School in Cincinnati's Mass and Luncheon. I look forward to celebrating with all of you at our Christmas Party on Friday, December 20, and at our parish Christmas Eve Mass in Philippe Park at 4:15pm on December 24.

## Service Program Directors 2024-2025

Program Director	Mark Feldman	727.366.5959
Membership Director	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Faith Director	Wally Vazquez	727.542.5376
Community Director	Mike King	727.453.8843
Family Director	Vacant	
Public Relations Director	Amaro Lionheart	305.761.3419
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



Mark Feldman  
Deputy Grand Knight  
dgk7109@gmail.com

# Deputy Grand Knight's Report

Now that Thanksgiving is behind us, we get to look forward to Christmas and the celebration of Christ's birth. The golf outing was a huge success. Thanks to all who helped make it so.

December is going to be a busy month so please help where you can. On the 5<sup>th</sup> we will be decorating the church. Coffee & Donuts will be held from 7am to 1pm in the JBC on the 8<sup>th</sup>. On the 15<sup>th</sup> we will have a Full Family Breakfast with Santa Clause from 6:30am to 1pm in the Parrish Center. The Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales will run thru the 14<sup>th</sup>. Cards will be sold after all Masses. Kimberly Home Work Day on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

## St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Lucy was one of the earliest Christian Saints to achieve popularity. Born in Syracuse, Sicily in 283 AD St Lucy was from a wealthy family. Like many early martyrs, Lucy had consecrated her virginity to God. She hoped to distribute her dowry to the poor. Her mother, not knowing this, arranged Lucy's marriage to a young man from a wealthy pagan family. When Lucy would not marry the man, he had her executed in 304 AD during the Diocletian Persecutions.

## December Liturgical Calendar

Dec 3 – St Francis Xavier, Priest, Memorial  
Dec 4 – St John of Damascus, Priest, Religious Doctor of the Church, optional memorial  
Dec 6 – St Nicholas, Bishop, optional memorial  
Dec 7 – St Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, Memorial  
Dec 9 – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity & Holy Day of Obligation  
Dec 10 – Our Lady of Loreto, optional memorial  
Dec 11 – St Damasus I, Pope, optional memorial  
Dec 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe, Feast  
Dec 13 – St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr, Memorial  
Dec 14 – St John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church, Memorial  
Dec 21 – St Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church, optional memorial  
Dec 23 – St John of Kanty, Priest optional memorial

Dec 25 – Nativity of the Lord Solemnity & Holy Day of Obligation

Dec 26 – St Stephen, the First Martyr, Feast

Dec 27 – St John, Apostle and Evangelist, Feast

Dec 29 – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Feast

Dec 31 – St Sylvester I, Pope, optional memorial

## Barney Gonyea Council 7109 Christmas Party



Friday December 20, 2024

7:00pm

ESCC Parish Center





John Ruckart  
Field Agent  
John.Ruckart@kofc.org



# Fraternal Benefits Advisor Report

Brothers,

As Knights, we emphasize the importance of keeping Christ in Christmas. In fact, keeping Christ at the center of everything we do is a year-round mission. Whenever we serve our parish or community, we serve Christ. I also see my service to families as a way to honor him. When I sit down with a family and help them ensure their financial protection, I am serving his Church. I think about this often, and as I look back on the year – reminiscing on all of the relationships I have made with Knights and the security I have helped provide them and their families, I am incredibly grateful.

Now, I ask you – as we close out 2024 and as you spend additional time with your family, consider how any changes from the past year might affect your life insurance portfolio. Even joyous occasions like buying a new house or sending a kid to college this fall can impact your insurance needs. Are you certain your current coverage is adequate and up to date? What would your family's financial situation be this time next year if the unimaginable happened to you or your spouse?

If your answers to these questions are not certain, I encourage you to set up time to meet with me. Let's work together to create a plan that would not only help protect your family but give you the peace of mind and security you all deserve.

Meanwhile, may you each have a holy and peaceful Christmas season with your loved ones. Let's continue to focus on Jesus through the end of this year. And let's pray for one another — especially for those who may be struggling in any way during the holidays.

If there is any way I can offer help, please reach out to me.

Thank you. Merry Christmas!

Vivat Jesus!

John D Ruckart, FICF  
813-855-5111

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

Learn about our investments:  
<https://info.kofcassetadvisors.org/meet-john-ruckart>



Happy holidays to all! They are fast approaching, and may God guide us in keeping the real spirit of Christmas alive during all the preparations. Count to ten, pray, and exhale slowly.

The last Ladies Auxiliary meeting for 2024 will be Thursday, Dec.12th @ 7:00 pm. The tradition for the meeting is to bring unwrapped toy(s) for our Toys for Toys drive. Also, we share treats, sweets, and spirits and have a brief meeting before the festivities begin. If anyone would like to share a word search or other Christmas themed game, that would be great! Also, sweet songs of Christmas can be sung. We do have great vocalists.

We, in conjunction with WES, will be contributing more toys to the drive through gift card shopping. Please contact me of your interest at our upcoming meeting. We will have a tight schedule to get toys bought and delivered to the Oldsmar Fire Station by midnight, December 16.

We Ladies will be decorating for the KofC Annual Christmas dinner the morning of Friday Dec. 20th. If anyone would like to contribute any items for a basket or two to raffle, that would be great.

As always, may God's blessings the past year be extra special in your hearts. So many are in need this year and may our love and His light shine upon them through our words, prayers, and actions. Jean W.



John Gohman  
Faithful Navigator  
john.gohman2@gmail.com

# Faithful Navigator's Log

## Praying When It Seems Useless

In the face of so many problems we can get the feeling that praying about them is useless. For example, in the face of the discouragement and helplessness we feel before some of the mega problems in our world, it is easy to feel that praying about them is useless. What will my prayer do vis-à-vis the wars raging in different parts of the world? What's the value of my prayer in the face of injustice, famine, racism, and sexism? What will my prayer do vis-à-vis the divisions and hatred now dividing our communities? It is easy to feel that praying about these situations is useless.

The same holds true about how we often feel about the value of prayer when serious illnesses beset us. Will prayer bring about a cure for someone with terminal cancer? Do we really expect a miraculous cure? Mostly, we don't, but we continue to pray despite the feeling that our prayer won't in fact change the situation. Why?

Why pray when it seems useless to do so? Theologians and spiritual writers have given us various perspectives on this which are helpful, though not adequate. Prayer, they say, is not meant to change the mind of God, but to change the mind of the person who is praying. We don't pray to put God on our side; we pray to put ourselves on God's side. As well, we have been taught that the reason it might seem that God doesn't answer our prayers is that God, like a loving parent, knows what is good for us and answers our prayers by giving us what we really need rather than what we naively want. C.S. Lewis once said that we will spend a lot of time in eternity thanking God for those prayers that God didn't answer.

All of this is true and important. God's ways are not our ways. Faith asks us to give God the space and time to be God, without having to conform to our very limited expectations and habitual impatience. We can indeed be grateful that God doesn't answer many of our prayers according to our expectations.

But still, still ... when Jesus invited us to pray, he didn't do so with a caveat: *but you need to ask for the right things if you expect me to answer your prayer*. No, he simply said: *Ask and you will receive*. He also said that *some demons are only cast out by prayer and fasting*.

So, how might the demons of violence, division, hatred, war, hunger, global warming, famine, racism, sexism, cancer, heart disease, and the like be cast out by prayer? How is prayer useful in any practical way in the face of these issues?

In brief, prayer doesn't just change the person who is praying, *it also changes the situation*. When you pray you are in fact part of the situation about which you are praying. *Sincere prayer helps you become the change you are praying to bring about*. For example, praying for peace helps you to calm your own heart and bring a more peaceful heart into the world.

While this is true, there is also a deeper reality at play. More deeply, when we pray there is something happening that goes beyond how we normally imagine the simple interplay between cause and effect. By changing ourselves we are changing the situation; yes, but in a deeper way than we normally imagine.

As Christians, we believe that we are part of a body, the Body of Christ, and that our union there with each other is more than some idealized corporate community. Rather, we are part of a living organism in which every part affects every other part, just as in a physical body. Because of this, for us, there is no such a thing as a private act – good or bad. I hesitate to suggest that this is analogous to the immune system inside the human body because this is more than an analogy. It's real, organic. Just as in a human body there is an immune system which protects the health of the overall body by killing off cells and viruses that are endangering its health, so too inside the Body of Christ. At all times, we are either healthy cells bringing strength to the immune system inside the Body of Christ, or we are a virus or cancerous cell threatening its health. Praying about an issue makes a difference because it helps strengthen the immune system inside the Body of Christ – precisely as it is dealing with the issue about which we are praying. While on the surface prayer can sometimes feel useless, it is doing something vital underneath – something most needed precisely when we feel that our prayer is useless.

Vivat Jesu,  
John Gohman, FN



Dave Behrle  
PGK, PFN  
727.723.1169



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! Thank you, Brothers, Ladies of the Auxiliary, and all who get this newsletter, for praying and voting to defeat FL Amendment 4! While it garnered some 57% votes in favor, it failed to pass the 60% threshold. Thank you, God. Please continue to Pray for Life. I think the pro-abortion side will try again in 2 years, and they will come again with millions of dollars to fund more TV ads full of lies about this. The FL Bishops' Prayer to Defeat FL's abortion amendment is a good prayer, and it concludes with these appeals: Our Lady, Mother of the Family, pray for us! St. Joseph, Protector of the Unborn, pray for us!

Kudos to our fellow Sir Knight, and KofC Benefits Advisor - John Ruckart, for being recognized in the October, 2024 issue of the Columbia magazine as a Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) member! Our Council and Assembly are blessed to have John as a member. John serves our Council 7109 along with 11 other Councils. He is tireless and willing to help all with his multiple skills and expertise, ranging from Financial Planning & Life Insurance products with the Knights to photography, Information Technology (IT), as well as plumbing, drywall and other handy-man skills. He is a true Brother and is always willing to lend a hand to multiple projects. He and his wife, Kathleen, have four children, and three grandkids. They married on Valentines Day in 1997. So, this February 2025, will be their 28th wedding anniversary. Congratulations, John, you are a lucky man! The MDRT recognition is well-deserved as John is a successful Benefits Advisor. I have benefitted from his expertise on Annuity distribution plans, and highly recommend him to you for all your insurance & financial investment options. Thank you, John, and congrats on MDRT!

It is nice to conclude my 12-year run as Culture of Life Director with ProLife wins here in FL and the opportunity to publicly recognize John for his MDRT achievement. Yes, this is my last newsletter article. Earlier, in late October, I tendered my resignation to GK Tom Krivchenia. Some 12 years ago, GK Ken Seguin tagged me to replace Jack Baralt. Now it is

time, for me to pass the baton to another. May God continue to bless the Knights of Columbus, all of you, and the prolife effort.



### Prayer to Defeat Florida's Abortion Amendment

Ever-living God, you give life and desire a future for all your children. Take hold of our nation, state, and community and awaken in every heart awe for the gift of life. Send your Spirit to strengthen us with wisdom and fortitude as we defend mothers and children in Florida from laws that disregard their health and safety.

Mary and Joseph trusted in you and welcomed Jesus into our broken world. God Almighty, we ask their intercession to protect the preborn and their mothers, and to guide all parents in raising their children. May they help us build a civilization of love by upholding the sacredness of life and accompanying pregnant women in need. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady, Mother of the Family, pray for us!

St. Joseph, protector of the unborn, pray for us!

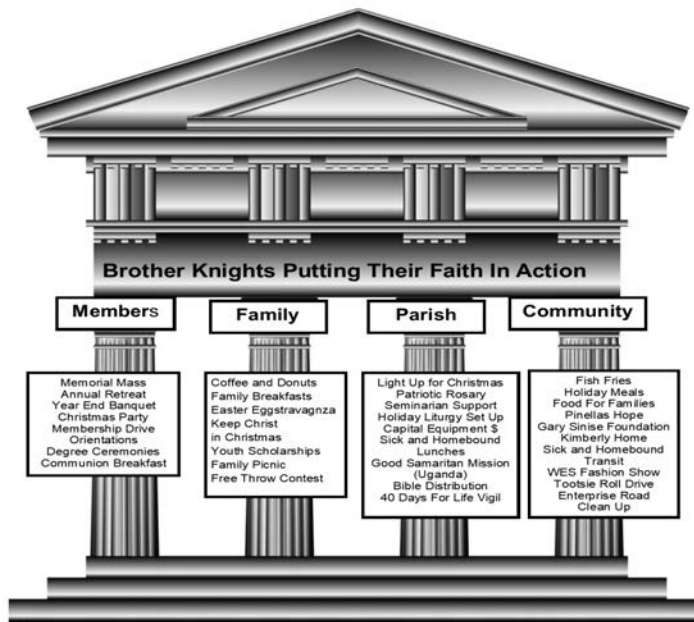


Jerry Custin  
 PGK, PFN  
 jcustin@gmail.com



Right off the top the Psalms cry out for the advent of Jesus - *My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the LORD. My heart and flesh cry out for the living God.* – and rejoice in all that is associated with His house. It is full of blessings and praise. What a great Psalm for the Advent season and a call to us the witness, celebrate and have gratitude for our lives and families. Nothing will be held from us if remain faithful. This is our call as Brother Knights as meet, plan and engage our parish community.

Christ is coming to save us! ***O LORD of hosts, blessed the man who trusts in you!***



**Psalm 84**

How lovely your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the LORD. My heart and flesh cry out for the living God. As the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest to settle her young, My home is by your altars, LORD of hosts, my king and my God! Blessed are those who dwell in your house! They never cease to praise you. Blessed the man who finds refuge in you, in their hearts are pilgrim roads. As they pass through the Baca valley, they find spring water to drink. The early rain covers it with blessings. They will go from strength to strength and see the God of gods on Zion. LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; listen, God of Jacob. O God, watch over our shield; look upon the face of your anointed. Better one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere. Better the threshold of the house of my God than a home in the tents of the wicked. For a sun and shield is the LORD God, bestowing all grace and glory. The LORD withholds no good thing from those who walk without reproach. O LORD of hosts, blessed the man who trusts in you!

# Special Announcement

**ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT**  
**PARISH BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

**\$7**  
ADULTS  
\$3 CHILDREN  
AGES 6-12

**AGES 5 & UNDER EAT FREE!**

**SUNDAY 15**  
DECEMBER

**AFTER MORNING MASS COME EAT! SCRAMBLED EGGS, SAUSAGE LINKS AND PANCAKES**

**FREE**  
PHOTO WITH SANTA

CHOOSE FROM ONE OR ALL MILK, OJ, OR OUR FAMOUS BOTTOMLESS CUP OF COFFEE.

HOSTED BY YOUR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
[www.safetyharborkofc.org](http://www.safetyharborkofc.org)

*Espiritu Santo*  
Catholic Church

# Photo Gallery



WGK Tom Krivchenia recognizes SKs Matt Sunski and Mark Peterman as Knights of the Month for October and November respectively



WGK Tom Krivchenia recognizes Shirlly & Terry Drake and Ramona & Wally Vazquez as October and November Family of the Month

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Espiritu Santo Assembly 2474 – Gary Sinise Foundation Golf Tournament was postponed from October 20 to November 24 due to Hurricanes Helene and Milton. It was another tremendous success. Tune in next month for many more pictures from the golf course!



# Annual Memorial Mass

Carl F Algozzina  
 Frank Aloï  
 Charles Bachteller  
 William J Baines  
 Jack L Baralt  
 William G Bartel  
 Tom J Beck  
 John P Berres  
 Kenneth Bonadies  
 August R Bortolus  
 Louis A Bosco  
 Howard E Brennan  
 Henry Putnam Briggs  
 Clarence W Brown  
 Raymond E Burke  
 Donald Caissie  
 Alfred A Campanile  
 Albert J Cappabianca  
 James Caravella  
 Robert Carman  
 William T Carney  
 Albert Catineau  
 Christopher V Cecere  
 Nunzy Chipoletti  
 Rev Paul L Clougherty  
 Charles E Collins  
 Allen R Connell  
 Edward A Conrad  
 Sean M Cook  
 Pual F Coon  
 W M Cooper  
 Devin Cote  
 James H Coughler  
 Patrick Counihan  
 K Paul Curley  
 Robert S Davis  
 Joseph J De Rose  
 Jeremiah De Voursney  
 Andrew A Dean  
 Roger Della Motta  
 Sebastian Digregorio  
 Robert E Doering  
 William P Dompier  
 James P Donnelly  
 William J Donohue  
 Richard R Doxstader  
 Gaylon J Dubois  
 James L Dunn  
 James H Edwards  
 Frederick R Elflein  
 Frank J Eoviero  
 David L Erickson

**Stephen J Gorey**  
**Harry J Hill**

Edward A Eschen  
 Ernest J Falzon  
 Vincen Felletter  
 Roger A Foley  
 Bob L Fontana  
 Edward Fontana  
 Thomas G Forcier  
 Robert A Forczek  
 Michael J Frascella  
 Carl W Fruechtemeyer  
 John F Furst  
 Ernest J Gallant  
 Gustavo Gares  
 Herman Gassenschmidt  
 Donald F Glunz  
 Bernard Gonyea  
 John A Gracia  
 Edward P Grew  
 Bryce L Griffin  
 Frank J Griffin  
 John J Griffin  
 Robert E. Griswold  
 Robert C Groening  
 Eric K Groteke  
 Joseph G Haines Sr.  
 James J Hartley  
 Rev John J Hempel  
 Robert L Hiatt  
 Peter R Hickey  
 Joseph Howard Hoch  
 Peter A Hoek  
 Ronald M Holzwarth  
 Edward J Hopkins  
 Michael H Hritz  
 William Hudge  
 Peter Iaffaldano  
 Thomas C Irvin  
 Eugene W Jennings  
 Leo F Junkersfeld  
 James Jessup  
 Peter Jula  
 Ramutis F Kaminskas  
 Robert Kane  
 Robert W Kearney  
 Michael J Keegan  
 Peter A Kelly  
 Robert L Kelly  
 William L Kennedy  
 Brian E Kenny  
 Donald F Knapik  
 Richard O Knisley  
 Joseph T Kwiatkowski

**Stanley Kwiatkowski**  
**Edward G Mandichak**

Earl La Borie  
 Albert E Lang  
 Thomas J Laramee  
 Paul F Lebrun  
 Francis W Leddy  
 Thomas M Livingston  
 Philip N Lombardi  
 Gerard E Longnecker  
 Andrew J Lopreato  
 John J Lubanovich  
 William J Lynch  
 Francis J Lyons  
 Raymond P Mack  
 Anthony G Madonna  
 Dennis J Magee  
 John T Maguire  
 John Mandula  
 Jim Manetta  
 Thaddeus Marcinkowski  
 Robert W Marek  
 Arthur F Marmillion  
 Joseph McCale  
 James J. McCarthey  
 E J McCormack  
 John D McDonald  
 Bryan M McGuire  
 Kevin McQuade  
 Stan M McQuain  
 Don McElroy  
 Richard B McEntee  
 Emmett J McMahan  
 Rev Arthur L Meloche  
 Joseph C Morreale  
 Ted S Motyl  
 David B Munns  
 Donald P Murphy  
 William F Mutschler  
 Robert L Niehoff  
 Anthony C Nitti  
 John R O'Hare  
 George J O'Leary  
 Thomas R O'Neill  
 Daniel W O'Connell  
 Andrew R Oberfell  
 Frank P Parker  
 Ralph E Pease  
 Edward G Pendleton  
 Ronald F Pereira  
 Augusto V Perotta  
 Nicholas E Petarca  
 Robert R Pictor  
 Danny P Pocchiari

**John N Martin**  
**Gerard Picard**  
**Rev Richard F Rosin**

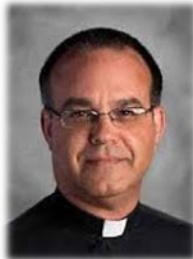
William J Powell  
 Joseph A Quagliana  
 Walter G Ragan  
 Nelson F. Rivera-Marquinez  
 Scott C Robinson  
 Peter Adam Rojek  
 Charles R Rose  
 Cecil R Ruckart  
 William F Rupp  
 Patrick L Russo  
 Joseph F Rybak  
 Joseph M Sacco  
 Arthur G Salvione  
 Franz P. Schmid  
 Dewey T Schultz  
 Russell J Sciandra  
 Floyd George Seal  
 Louis R Sepe  
 David W Seymour  
 Sylvester E Shaddock  
 John H Shepherd  
 Ernest A Sica  
 Richard T Sloane  
 Melvin R Spence  
 Ernest J Spicola  
 Edward J Stacy  
 William F Stage  
 Thomas J Sullivan  
 Andrew Szeltner  
 Matthew A Szykiewicz  
 Leslie J Tentis  
 Arthur R Thuerk  
 Dennis A Thureson  
 Robert J Tompas  
 Alfonso Tufano  
 Henry J Udouj  
 Phillip W Unti  
 Paul Utsch  
 Joseph T Vollaro  
 William J Vollenweider  
 William J Waller  
 Richard W Ward  
 Joseph W Watson  
 Roland Gene Watson  
 Leonard J Weaver  
 William B Weaver  
 Barry Irvin Wexler  
 Robert F White  
 Malcolm L Wilson  
 Paul F Wilson  
 George E Winnegar  
 Walter A Young

**Frank Schuster**  
**George K Smith**

# In Memoriam

## Fr. Richard Frank Rosin

August 19, 1962 – December 01, 2024



Reverend Richard Frank Rosin, 62, Pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Palm Harbor, passed away in the Lord on Sunday, December 1, 2024, at Oak Manor Hospice Center, Largo, following a recent diagnosis of pancreatic cancer and a rapid decline in health.

Father Rosin was born in Astoria, New York on August 19, 1962 to Richard and Nina Rosin. He made his first profession with the Salesians of Don Bosco in 1988 and was ordained to the priesthood for the Salesian community on May 28, 1995. His early years of priestly ministry were spent in Catholic schools. Father Rosin taught at Salesian High School, in New Rochelle, New York from 1994 to 1998. He served as principal of Archbishop Shaw High School, in Marrero, Louisiana, from 1998 to 2001, after which he was assigned as Parochial Vicar of St. Benedict Parish, in Toronto, Ontario from 2001 to 2003. He returned to the classroom, teaching at Don Bosco Preparatory High School, in Ramsey, New Jersey, from 2003 to 2010. During that time, he received an M.S. degree in Psychology from the College of New Rochelle in 2008.

In 2010, Father Rosin first came to the Diocese of St. Petersburg, joining the Salesian community at St. Petersburg Catholic High School, where he was a teacher and guidance counselor until 2015, when he was promoted to President of the school. In 2017, when the Salesians left St. Petersburg Catholic, he returned to New Rochelle, where he spent one year as principal of Salesian High School. From 2018 to 2020, Father Rosin served as Parochial Vicar of St. John Bosco-St. James Parish, in Chicago, Illinois, after which he was granted a leave of absence from the Salesian community to discern the possibility of incardination into the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

Upon returning to Florida in 2020, Father Rosin was appointed Parochial Vicar of St. John Vianney Parish, St. Pete Beach (2020-2022), and later as Parochial Vicar of Espiritu Santo Parish, Safety

Harbor (2022-2024). He was accepted as a priest of the Diocese of St. Petersburg on September 15, 2023. On July 1, 2024, Father Rosin began his appointment as Pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Palm Harbor, an office he held for only five months before his death.

Father Rosin was preceded in death by his mother, Nina, earlier this year. He is survived by his Father, Richard, his brother, Frank, extended family members, and dear friends from the Salesian community.

All funeral services will be held at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 2757 Alderman Road, Palm Harbor and are as follows:

Visitation: Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 5:00-7:00 p.m.; Evening Prayer will follow at 7:00 p.m.

Funeral Mass: Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 11:00 a.m.

Burial will take place at Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Clearwater, at a later date.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family of Rev. Richard Rosin, in care of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Office of the Chancellor, P.O. Box 40200, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0200.

Please keep Father Rosin's family members and loved ones in your kind thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, [for] the old order has passed away." – Revelation 21:4



## Letter to the Editor

### Welcome To Advent

The word Advent has a couple meanings but generally refers to the arrival of a notable person, thing or event. For Catholics, it has a very specific meaning as we await both a notable person and event – the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It is a major season on our liturgical calendar and the end of the previous Church year.

As a result, some of the readings at the end of the liturgical year can be a little dark as we get further from the birth of Christ in “Ordinary Time”. For example, in I Kings:17, Elijah went to the city of Zarephath and asked a widow gathering sticks to bring him a cup of water and bit of bread. *She answered, "As the LORD, your God, lives, I have nothing baked; there is only a handful of flour in my jar and a little oil in my jug. Just now I was collecting a couple of sticks, to go in and prepare something for myself and my son; when we have eaten it, we shall die." Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid. Go and do as you propose. But first make me a little cake and bring it to me. Then you can prepare something for yourself and your son. For the LORD, the God of Israel, says, 'The jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, until the day when the LORD sends rain upon the earth.'*" Elijah reminds us of the power of God when He is present in our lives and the danger in His absence.

Similarly, Paul reminds the Hebrews of our mortality and Christ's singular sacrifice for us as we eagerly await Him. *"But now once for all he has appeared at the end of the ages to take away sin by his sacrifice. Just as it is appointed that human beings die once, and after this the judgment, so also Christ, offered once to take away the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to take away sin but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await him."*

We eagerly await him. His Advent. Our Advent, every year.

As Knights, we are also patriotic. We live in a nation with a belief that all men were created equal with certain inalienable rights and among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. So, we recently faced a different kind of advent in our secular world after, arguably, the most histrionic election in our lifetimes. Over the last few decades our nation has become divided, and our society has seemingly drifted away from not only the belief in a Creator but also the rights provided to us by our Creator. Some don't seem to believe that God created us male and female but rather we choose what form or variety of gender(s) is suitable for us and change that, as needed, through plastic surgery. More importantly, many do not seem to accept the miracle of conception and say that the creation of new life is their choice and have worked to pass legislation to “validate” that choice. We seem to have made a significantly different choice in the manner of government that has evolved and are turning back to the concept that our true rights are endowed by the Creator not the transient rules of men. This is not a time to “celebrate” but rather an opportunity and challenge to witness His role in both our spiritual and daily lives.

We eagerly anticipate the advent of Jesus into our lives, our church and our nation.



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

### **The Anchor of Hope**

*A jubilee year is a grace-filled time in which we are invited to place our unreserved trust in God*

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica to mark the official start of the Jubilee 2025. In the Catholic tradition, a jubilee year, also called a holy year, is celebrated every 25 years. It's an ancient practice, dating back to 1300. The Church teaches that a jubilee year is a special time of reconciliation and conversion — an opportunity to look back on our lives, to ask the Lord for forgiveness and to seek his help as we strive to lead lives of greater holiness. Pilgrimage is also a fundamental aspect of a holy year. Most especially, it's a year to encounter Christ through the grace of the sacraments — particularly, the Eucharist and reconciliation.

The opening of the Holy Door is also an ancient practice that is rich in symbolism. It recalls the words of Christ: "I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture" (Jn 10:9). By walking through the Holy Door, pilgrims affirm that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, the gatekeeper, and make an intentional decision to be guided by Christ.

Pope Francis has made hope the central theme of the Jubilee 2025. An estimated 35 million "pilgrims of hope" will travel to Rome during the holy year. As they pass through the Holy Door and enter St. Peter's Basilica, they will see two 17th-century masterpieces of sacred art — both by Gian Lorenzo Bernini and recently restored to their original splendor with the support of the Knights of Columbus: the baldacchino above the main altar and the Chair of St. Peter monument in the apse of the basilica. The baldacchino is the nearly 10-story canopy that rises over the papal altar and the tomb of St. Peter. The Chair of St. Peter monument contains the ancient wooden throne held by tradition to be the cathedra, or seat, of St. Peter, the first pope.

By sponsoring these restorations, the Order is doing more than assisting in the preservation of historic works of art. We are helping to inspire millions of pilgrims whose faith and hope will be renewed by their journey to the Eternal City. And with those pilgrims, we will once again renew our profession of faith in Christ and in his promise to entrust the keys of the kingdom to St. Peter and his successors.

Writing about the jubilee year, the Holy Father reminds us that hope is the virtue that gives our lives "inward direction and purpose" (*Spes Non Confundit*, 18).

The Christian symbol of hope is the anchor, Pope Francis explains, because it "helps us to recognize the stability and security that is ours amid the troubled waters of this life." He then adds, "The storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear and death. This hope ... makes us rise above our trials and difficulties, and inspires us to keep pressing forward, never losing sight of the grandeur of the heavenly goal to which we have been called" (25).

Hope is an essential virtue, but it can be elusive in our day-to-day lives. The Scriptures remind us that, as Christians, hope is our inheritance. The author of the Letter to Hebrews tells us that God has made us a promise so that "we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm, which reaches into the interior behind the veil, where Jesus has entered on our behalf as forerunner" (6:18-20).

Let's take these words to heart. And in this coming Jubilee Year of Hope, let's pray to have greater confidence in the hope that is truly ours through Jesus Christ.

*Vivat Jesus!*



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

### **Prepare The Way**

*By State Deputy Richard Hughes*

Advent is a time to “prepare for the way of the Lord, make straight his paths”. December tends to busy with end-of-year celebrations, setting up decorations, and finding those special gifts to give at Christmas. But it is also a time of reflection, on getting our own spiritual house in order. I hope and pray that each of you takes the time for prayer and reflection and not let the business of the season make you forget what Christmas is all about.

As I considered my message to you this month, I remembered an article that I wrote some years ago in the Invocation that provided a reflection on what it means to be a Knight of Columbus, and in particular, why Order’s founders chose to be called Knights. I believe it is just as fitting today as it was then.

In the Middle Ages, a Knight was more than just a pious soldier who defended Church and country. A true Knight lived according to a set of ideals and defended those who could not defend themselves by performing works of mercy. This concept is explained in an excellent article in the June 2016 issue of the Columbia magazine entitled “Knights, The Servants of Mercy.” The author, D.C. Schindler, who is an associate professor at The Catholic University of America, states that “...the knight served an ideal as he strove to conform himself to the perennial values of justice, truth, and honor. This entailed, above all, a willingness to sacrifice himself in order to protect the defenseless, the weak, the poor, and the innocent . . . the knight understands himself as serving something higher and more important than his particular self-interest. He is not just an individual, but part of a greater whole.”

The author goes on to connect knighthood with the gift of mercy:

“[The Christian chivalric orders] were orders of knights, many of whom took vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience, like monks. But unlike monks, they lived those vows through direct service to people in the world, carrying out what came to be called the ‘works of mercy’ . . . Mercy is ultimately the expression of a love that is poured out beyond measure: not ‘tit-for-tat’, but grace unbidden . . . Knighthood and mercy go together because they are both expressions of sacrificial generosity. The knight is someone given a special honor, lifted beyond his natural status, and he lives that honor by lifting up those around him.”

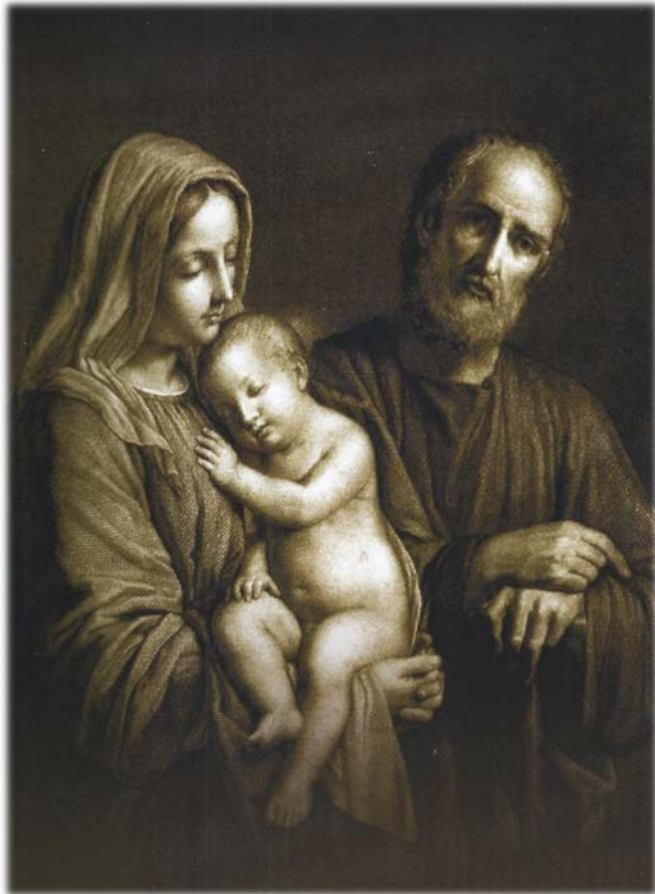
It is this concept of knighthood that Father McGivney and the founders of our Order adopted, and one that all of us should understand and embrace.

So, when a good Catholic man asks why he should be a Knight of Columbus, the answer is because of who we are and what we stand for. And who are we? We are a group of Catholic men, founded by a parish priest in 1882, devoted to serving our Church and our country, dedicated to living the Principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism, and united in serving Jesus Christ and the people to whom He came to save, out of gratitude for the charity and mercy we ourselves have received.

Melodee and I wish each of you and your families a blessed and joyous Christmas season!

## Assembly Officers 2024-2025

Faithful Navigator	John Gohman	813.810.3735
Faithful Friar	Fr Michael W. Cooper, SJ	727.644.5544
Faithful Captain	JJ Coyne, PGK	901.832.7332
Faithful Admiral	Wally Vazquez, PFN	727.542.5376
Faithful Pilot	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Faithful Scribe	David Heezen	727.792.4471
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	727.472.1651
Trustee Three Year	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687
Trustee Two Year	Frank DiMattei, PGK, PFN	727.871.6506
Trustee One Year	Gene Jajuga, PGK, PFN, FFA	727.403.3261
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.

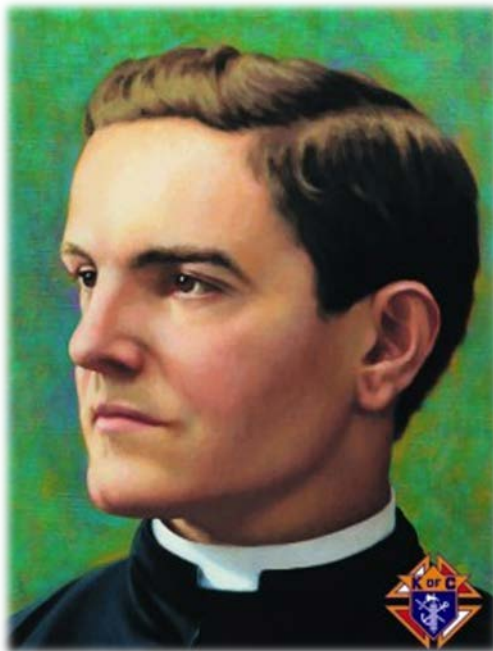
In our daily life and work,  
 May we reflect the self-giving love which you,  
 O Father, eternally show with your Son  
 and the Holy Spirit.

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...

### December 2024

- 12/07 | Sat 4:00p      Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales
- 12/08 | Sun 8:00a      Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales
- 12/08 | Sun 8:00a      Coffee & Donuts
- 12/12 | Thu 6:15p      Rosary
- 12/12 | Thu 7:00p      Council Membership & Ladies Auxiliary Meetings
- 12/14 | Sat 4:00p      Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales
- 12/15 | Sun 8:00a      Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales
- 12/15 | Sun 8:00a      Breakfast with Santa
- 12/19 | Thu 8:00a      Pinellas Hope Meal Prep & Delivery
- 12/20 | Fri 7:00p      KofC Christmas Party
- 12/21 | Sat 8:00a      Kimberly Home Yard Work Day



## Assembly Calendar of Events...

### December 2024

- 12/05 | Thu 7:00p      Assembly Social @ 611 Outpost

# ~ Thanks to Our Sponsors ~



**Bill Gallant**

1003 Florida Avenue • Palm Harbor, FL 34683  
727-787-5588 • [www.BillsMobil.com](http://www.BillsMobil.com)




**John Ruckart**  
Advisor  
Lawandus Agency  
M: 813-855-5111  
203 Shore Dr E, Oldsmar, FL 34677  
[john.ruckart@kofc.org](mailto:john.ruckart@kofc.org)  
<https://info.kofcassetadvisors.org/Meet-John-Ruckart.html>



**Bill Gallant**  
32505 US 19 • Palm Harbor, FL  
[www.BillsMobil.com](http://www.BillsMobil.com) 727-787-8472  
Twice Awarded Business of the Year




**Kevin Jajuga**  
Owner  
P.O. Box 1016  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688  
Phone: 727-475-7204  
[northpinellas@asppoolco.com](mailto:northpinellas@asppoolco.com)

[ASPNorthPinellas.com](http://ASPNorthPinellas.com)

**Veterans Crisis Line**



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

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

© 11/11 VHA



**Sean Swauger, PA**  
Market President

[sswauger@bhhsflpg.net](mailto:sswauger@bhhsflpg.net)  
O: 727.331.8264 | C: 727.415.6220  
301 Woodlands Parkway, Ste. 1  
Oldsmar, FL 34677  
[forever-agents.com](http://forever-agents.com)

© A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC.



**FREE ROSARY REPAIR**

Is your rosary in need of repair? Broken beads, connecting wires, chains? Need a new center piece or crucifix?

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

FREE to any Knight, family members, friends and neighbors

Contact Tom Wozniak | 727.214.8377 | [tjwozniak@verizon.net](mailto:tjwozniak@verizon.net)

## 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.

