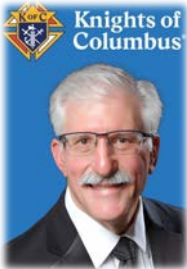




The Shield

Grand Knight's Message



Tom Krivchenia, PFN
Grand Knight
GrandKnight7109@gmail.com

Worthy Brothers Knights & Ladies!

Happy New Year 2025!

From our home to yours, wishing everyone a very happy, healthy, prosperous new year. I hope everyone had a blessed and wonderful Christmas Season with family and friends. There is so much to be grateful for the positive changes in the country, community and parish.

As the year 2024 reaches its final hours and becomes part of our history, we reflect and remember the goodness, mercy and faithfulness of God in all the events of our lives in this past year. He laughed with us in our joys, danced with us in our jubilation and held us in his loving arms in our sorrows and sometimes, unbearable grief. Always, he has been faithful and gentle as he walked with us down the twisting paths our lives. He never leaves us. Pope Francis has designated the year 2025 as a Year of Hope. So, we are a Resurrection People who wait in Hope, knowing that our companion on our journey is Jesus Christ. I would like to share with you one of Margaret's favorite scriptures from Habakkuk Chapter 2: 2-3. She tells me that this sustains her in difficult times and always gives her hope.

"Then the Lord answered me and said: Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets, so that one can read it readily. For the vision still has its time, presses on to

Issue 01, January 2025

Next Council Meeting
Thursday, January 09 @ **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

fulfillment, and will not disappoint. If it delays, wait for it. It will surely come. It will not be late."

So, we wait in patience and most of all Hope for what God will reveal to us in the coming year of 2025. May God shower you and your families with his bountiful blessings and his unconditional love.

We had a very busy month of December with all kinds of fun activities. We started the month with Keep Christ in Christmas card sales for the first three weekends. Thank you to Mike Ingleman, Gene Wolanin, Tom Harkins and JJ Coyne for spending your weekends after every Mass selling these cards. We sold more cards this year than last. Thank you to everyone who bought the cards.

Next, we decorated the courtyard. Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the courtyard. The courtyard looked beautiful this year. Thank you, also, to the Saturday 6PM Vigil Choir who brought joy to the festivities with the many Christmas carols they sang while we enjoyed refreshments.

Then we set up the trees and garlands in the main church. Thank you, Tom Wozniak, Gene Jajuga, Bill Krajieski, Rob Pickard and Matt Sunski for making our church beautiful. If I have forgotten anyone, I'm truly sorry.

We had Coffee & Donuts on Sunday the 8th which was a little slower than normal due to the RE Class handing

out free donuts in the Parish Center. Thank you to Betty & Joe D'Amelio, John Clarke, Anne Harkins, Mat Sunski, Jack & Kay Strehle, Susan Salesses and Terry Drake. If I left anyone off my apologies.

Also, on Sunday December 15th we had our Parish Breakfast with Santa! What an amazing turnout for this event. From our dedicated setup team to our amazing cooks and food runners and replenishers, the day couldn't have gone any smoother! Thank you all for making this a great success. Of course, we had our own Santa (Richie Resler) and Mrs. Clause (Rosalie Resler) and the best Elf ever (Robin LaChance) you all put such smiles on the children's faces. Thank you to my wife for dressing up in her Elf PJ's. So much fun was had by all! A big thank you to SK John Ruckart and his wife and daughter Kathleen and Allison for taking pictures for Santa and giving them to everyone. Fr. Len made an appearance and had his picture taken with Santa and enjoyed breakfast.

We couldn't have done this without the help of these wonderful people:

Kay Strehle	Jim Montali	Betty D'Amelio
Jack Strehle	John Clarke	Joe D'Amelio
Tom Stanko	Mark Feldman	Margaret Krivchenia
Anne Harkins	Karen Jajuga	Tom Krivchenia
Tom Harkins	Gene Jajuga	Irving Hernandez
JJ Coyne	Chris Coyne	Mayette Coyne
Matt Sunski	John Gohman	Michael Gutknecht
Paul Cooper	Pat Nocerino	George Inderwies
Tom Wozniak	Peter Demzak	Frank McEwen
Wally Vazquez		

If I left anyone out, I do apologize.

Council Christmas Party

Our Council had its annual Christmas Party on Friday December 20th in the Parish Center. Just like past years, we had Felice Italian Deli cater the party so everyone could come and enjoy the festive party. I heard a lot of comments about how much they enjoyed the food. They said it was the best in years. This year there was a little twist to the party. With the Dunedin Country Club under renovation, Light of Christ Council and Assembly asked if we could have a joint Christmas Party. One of the members is a professional DJ and he offered to play music for the party. Ben did a great job of providing Christmas music and music for dancing. It was wonderful to see so many people dancing till the end. Putting on a big production like this takes assistance from many people. I would like to acknowledge all those who helped make this party a success.

Mike Peno	Tom Wozniak	Jean Wozniak
Anne Harkins	Kay Strehle	Paulette Novakovich
Tom Harkins	Jack Strehle	Nick Novakovich
Addy Coyne	Karen Jajuga	Margaret Krivchenia
JJ Coyne	Gene Jajuga	Tom Krivchenia
Tom Stanko	Matt Sunski	Ronald B Galvagni, Sr
John Sierra	Rita Wolanin	Betty D'Amelio
Romana Vazquez		Joe D'Amelio

If I left anyone out, I do apologize.

Upcoming Events

- ~ Thursday, January 2nd 7:00p - Council 7109 Officers Meeting - Gathering Room
- ~ Monday, January 6th 7:00p - Dance Committee Meeting for the Mardi Gras Dance - Gathering Room
- *We will need many volunteers to make this a huge success! Please come!*
- ~ Thursday January 9th 6:15p - Rosary - St. John Bosco Center
- ~ Thursday, January 9th 7:00p - Council Business Meeting - Parish Center
- ~ Thursday, January 9th 7:00p - Ladies Auxiliary Meeting - Gathering Room
- ~ Sunday, January 12th 7:00a - Coffee & Donuts - St. John Bosco Center
- ~ Monday, January 13th 7:00p - Fish Fry Meeting - Gathering Room
- ~ Tuesday, January 14th 7:00p - Program Directors Meeting - Gathering Room
- ~ Thursday, January 16th 9:00a - Pinellas Food Prep - Parish Kitchen
- ~ Saturday, January 18th 8:00a - Kimberly Home Workday
- ~ TBD - Basketball Free Throw Contest
- ~ Thursday, January 23rd 7:00p - Assembly 2474 Business Meeting - St. John Bosco Center
- ~ Thursday, February 6th 7:00p - Council 7109 Officer's Meeting - Gathering Room
- ~ Thursday, February 13th 6:15p - Rosary - St. John Bosco Center
- ~ Thursday, February 13th 7:00p - Council 7109 Business Meeting - Parish Center
- ~ Thursday, February 13th 7:00p - Ladies Auxiliary Meeting - Gathering Room

Tom

Tom Krivchenia, PFN
Grand Knight 7109
727.366.5422



SK Edward Amador
Membership Director
Edamador00@gmail.com

Council 7109 Holy Moments

Membership Update

Happy New Year, Brother Knights! As we embark on a new year filled with opportunities to serve God and one another, I want to provide an update on our membership progress. While we have no new confirmed candidates this month, we do have three strong prospects who we will be working with throughout January to guide them through the membership process. This is an encouraging start to the year, and I ask for your continued prayers, support, and invitations as we strive to grow our council and strengthen our brotherhood.

Holy Moments and the Power of Invitation

As we reflect on Matthew Kelly's Holy Moments, let us remember that recruiting new members is an act of faith and love. Every time we invite a Catholic man to join our order, we are creating a Holy Moment—a small but meaningful act that has the power to transform lives. Holy Moments are not about grand gestures, but about intentional actions inspired by God's grace. When we extend an invitation to another man to become a Knight, we are planting a seed for spiritual growth, service, and brotherhood. Let's take this opportunity to be mindful in our conversations, to share how the Knights have impacted our lives, and to inspire others to join us in our mission.

Remember, every invitation is a step closer to fulfilling our purpose of doing God's work here on Earth. Together, we can bring more Catholic men into our order and empower them to live lives of faith and service.

Words of Encouragement for Our Brotherhood

To all our new Brother Knights and those who have been part of this council for many years, I offer this heartfelt encouragement: do not let negativity or discouragement deter you from the good work you are doing or the reason you joined the Knights of Columbus.

As brothers, we strive for unity, but we are human, and misunderstandings and unkind words can unfortunately arise. I know firsthand how challenging this can be. At the recent Christmas party, I experienced a difficult moment when a fellow Knight approached me with words and actions that were hurtful and unnecessary. This interaction, in a place where we were celebrating Christmas and our brotherhood, left me shocked and deeply disheartened.

In that moment, I questioned my role in the council and even whether this brotherhood was what I believed it to be. But as I prayed and reflected, I realized that this, too, was a test—a challenge to persevere and live out the values of our faith.

I want to remind all of us: if you have faced a similar situation, pray for that brother. Pray that he may find clarity and compassion. If you find yourself being unkind to another, reflect deeply and consider the impact of your words and actions. Let us all strive to live as examples of Christ's love.

The Bible reminds us in Ephesians 4:32:

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

As Knights, we are called to rise above negativity, to forgive, and to continue with God's work. The mission we have been entrusted with is far greater than any single moment of disappointment. Let us focus on what brought us here: our love for Christ, our desire to serve others, and our commitment to building a community rooted in faith.

Moving Forward Together

Brothers, as we begin this new year, let us renew our commitment to one another and to the principles of charity, unity, and fraternity. Let us pray for those who struggle to act with kindness, for those who feel hurt or discouraged, and for ourselves, that we may always find the strength to persevere.

We are a brotherhood bound by faith, and together, we can overcome any obstacle. Keep inviting, keep serving, and keep living out the mission God has placed before us.

May this year bring blessings, growth, and countless Holy Moments for each of you and your families.

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	333
Insurance Membership	133
Honorary Life Members	64
Honorary Members	08
2023-2024 Membership Growth vs Goal	07/15
2023-2024 Insurance	01/02

Assembly Membership Report

Total Membership	131
Honorary Life Members	15
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!

Maroun Aoun, Paul Barry, David Behrle, Richard Ciardullo, Ricardo Colina, Hoyt Decker, Robert Ehrman, Ward Griffin, William Griffin, Gerald Grubba, James Hayes, Derek Jones, Phil Lafreniere, Brian Lawandus, Gerald Lubig, Francis Mahoney, Daniel Manella, James Montali, Francis Mutesaasira, Javier Ortega, Gerald Pappa, Christopher Purcell, Donald Reed, Kenneth Ruckart, Keith Taylor, Steven Verba

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 Delk (d), Tony Doyle (d), Mary Frances Lowe, Dwight Rochester, Jim & Pat Nolf, Frank Diaz, Nancy Pagnott, Ed Warticki (d), Joann Finney, Joseph Genalo Jr

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 & 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 Efllein, 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 Kemball-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

A Very Happy New Year!

I have a few words at the beginning of this New Year. I hope we are all very happy and grateful for the goodness and enthusiasm of our Council. We make a significant contribution to the life of our parish—more than any other group, especially as ministers of hospitality. In addition, we cook and serve Pinellas Hope and Kimberley Home. In addition, we distributed the food baskets for Saint Vincent DePaul at Thanksgiving and decorated the Church with Christmas trees and lights. We had a very joyful celebration at our Christmas Party shared with another council. One thing to plan better for next year is our Memorial Mass in November, which was sparsely attended.

As we move into a New Year 2025, we might remember that song from the musical *Spamalot*, "**Always look on the bright side.**"

Michael Cooper, S.J.,
Chaplain



May this coming Year bring in lots of love, good health and many Blessings for you.
~ WGK Tom Krivchenia ~

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	Vacant	
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

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year! I pray that this next year will be better than last year. I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends and that Santa Claus was extra nice to you. I also hope that you didn't gain 5 lbs like I did.

We had an excellent Christmas party. I want to thank all the people that both helped set up and tear down. There were so many of you that helped serving the food, making the gift baskets. Thanks to all who donated to the Kimberly Home. A shout out to John Ruckart and family for setting up and taking pictures of everyone that wanted one. Thanks John.

Thank you to all who helped with the decorations and setting up the Christmas Trees in the church and the lights outside. It really looked fantastic.

Our Officers meeting will be held on January 2nd and on January 9th will hold the Rosery at 6:15pm in the JBC followed by the Membership and Ladies Auxiliary Meetings at 7:00pm. Coffee & Donuts will be offered Jan 12th from 7:30a to noon. The Program Directors meeting will be on the 13th at 7:00pm in the Gathering room. We will be having a basketball Free Throw Contest this month; the date has not been set as we are planning on doing it during the school day. This should increase the number of students that will participate. We are planning on having an Alter Server Party on the 19th at 1:00pm.

The Knights provide Faith Literature, at no cost, in the Parish Center.

Liturgical Calendar

Jan 01 Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Solemnity
Jan 02 St. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church, Memorial
Jan 03 Most Holy Name of Jesus, optional memorial
Jan 04 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Memorial
Jan 05 Epiphany of the Lord, Solemnity
Jan 06 St. Andre Besette, Religious, Memorial
Jan 07 St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest, optional

memorial

Jan 12 Baptism of the Lord, Feast
Jan 13 St Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church,
Jan 17 St Anthony, Abbott, Memorial
Jan 20 St Fabian, Pope and Martyr, St Sebastian Martyr, optional memorial
Jan 21 St Agnes, Virgin and Martyr, Memorial
Jan 22 Day of Prayer for the legal protection of the unborn
Jan 23 St Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St Marianne Cope, Virgin, optional memorial
Jan 24 St Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the church, Memorial
Jan 25 Conversion of St Paul the Apostle, Feast
Jan 27 St Angela Merici, Virgin, optional memorial
Jan 28 St Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church, Memorial
Jan 31 St John Bosco, Priest, Memorial

St Anthony, Abbott, Memorial

St Anthony the Abbott, also known as Anthony of Egypt, lived during the 3rd and 4th centuries. Born in the year 251 AD and passed away on Jan 17, 356 AD. He spent much of his life in the deserts of Egypt around the Red Sea. He is considered one of the pioneers of Christian Monasticism. Christian Monasticism is a religious lifestyle where Christians dedicate themselves to worshipping God and Jesus Christ through a lifestyle of solitude and asceticism (a lifestyle of self-denial and abstinence from worldly pleasures to achieve spiritual goals).

He was born to noble and wealthy parents in Egypt. When he was approximately 20 years old his parents died. Anthony began to practice ascetic life at that age. He was moved by the Gospel message, "Go sell what you have, and give to the poor." He gave away all the money and possessions he had inherited from his parents. He died in solitude at the age of 105 at Mt. Colizm.



John Ruckart
Field Agent
John.Ruckart@kofc.org



Fraternal Benefits Advisor Report

Brothers,

Happy New Year! The Knights of Columbus has very exciting news to share as we jump into 2025.

Beginning January 1, 2025, a dividend increase took effect for eligible participating insurance policies. This is in addition to the increased fraternal benefits announced last year. Inspired by our founder Blessed Michael McGivney, we continue to seek opportunities to help provide our members with financial security.

What does an increased dividend rate mean?

Dividends are amounts that may be paid annually from the surplus funds of the Knights of Columbus and are paid on an equitable basis by class as determined by the Board of Directors.

These dividends can be used in various ways, including to:

- Purchase paid up additions, which is the default option.
- Place the dividends on deposit and earn additional interest.
- Receive the dividends in cash.
- Reduce billed premium.
- Reduce an existing loan.

Over the past 30 years, Knights of Columbus has paid more than \$22 billion in dividends and insurance benefits.

I would love to sit down with you in the coming year to discuss how this dividend increase may help you achieve your financial security goals. If you have any questions about this, or any of the benefits of having a Knights of Columbus insurance policy, please come chat with me, and we'll schedule a time to meet.

Thank 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>



PGK Gene Jajuga recognizes WGK Tom Krivchenia with Star Council plaque and lapel pin



John Gohman
Faithful Navigator
john.gohman2@gmail.com

Faithful Navigator's Log

Resolutions That Last

Most of us, I suspect, have our own long history of broken New Year's resolutions.

How many times have we begun a new year with the sincere intention of ending some bad habit and of finally setting ourselves to living life as we should have been living it all along and, after a very short time, have found ourselves again solidly embedded in our old habits and ruts?

What becomes more apparent each time this happens is how true is Aristotle's dictum that "habits are our second nature." As we grow older, many of us, in a real way, despair of real change, of genuine novelty, in our lives.

Much of our life is in defeat, many of our dreams have long been crucified and even we don't like much about ourselves anymore, but we feel helpless, after having failed so many times in trying to change ourselves and our situation, of ever really making things any better.

Hence, most of us live lives not so much of quiet desperation as of quiet resignation... "This is the way I am! This is the way my life has always been! This is the way I will always be!"

How to change? How to, as the Psalms put it, "sing a new song"?

Real change, as opposed to the simple desire for change and newness, is not easy. Our dissatisfactions with ourselves notwithstanding, there are too many things within us and around us that conspire to keep us static, in our old ways.

But the belief that things can be different, and for the better, is a crucial part of our Christian faith. To believe that there can be "a new heaven and a new earth" (and that we can be paragons of virtue and delight within it) is not something that takes its ground in natural optimism (for example, "I always see the positive in things.") but is something that is rooted in the belief that "nothing is impossible with God."

Real change is not easy, but it is possible. Our faith prescribes that possibility –and it prescribes it according to a certain pattern. To "sing a new song," in the sense that our Christian faith intends those words, we must follow a certain paschal pattern for new birth. That pattern includes four movements:

From realism to faith . . . George Orwell once said that if you want an image by which to picture the future, imagine a human boot stepping on a face forever! That's what a hard realism would, arguably, suggest.

Faith suggests something radically different. In faith we see that the deepest facts are, in reality, different and that, at the heart of death, there lie stunning surprises, namely, that death itself is not final, that dead bodies ultimately rise, that sterile bodies can give birth, and that defeated and crucified life rises from its defeat.

The beginning of true transformation begins in believing this.

From wishing to hope . . . Faith turns wishes to hopes. Dissatisfaction marks our lives and pushes us constantly to wish for things. We wish that we could be brighter, healthier, better looking, younger, richer, more talented, more respected, more loved, in a better job, in a better marriage, in another country, and so on.

Our daydreams are endless. But that is wishing, a desire not grounded in anything and which, consequently, most of the time, cannot go anywhere.

Hope is different. Unlike wishing, hope is grounded in a promise. We hope that life could be different, that we could live forever, that we could experience perfect love, that we could be known fully even as we know fully.

We hope these things not because it would be nice if they came true but because they have been promised us.

From dead waiting to gestation . . . We are, generally, powerless to bring about the things we wish. We wish for things but live in a certain dead waiting, powerless to actually affect them. Hope, however, does not leave us powerless. Every hope is a real impregnation that we can, in our own flesh, gestate to some kind of reality.

From the short road of instant results to the long road of fidelity . . . Hope promises us that mountains will move, but it doesn't promise that they will move quickly! Hope is tied to a gestation process and gestation itself is slow and can never be rushed.

What hope promises us will come to pass, real change will take place, but only if we are patient and faithful enough to persevere. All things, we are assured by faith, come to those who believe enough and who are faithful enough.



Culture of Life

Since its inception, the Knights of Columbus has promoted a culture of life. The Order's very founding reflected a need to protect the widows and orphans of New Haven's Catholic community, while its charter members and their families regularly came to the aid of their neighbors.

Today, the Knights of Columbus supports and promotes international programs like Special Olympics, as well as our own Coats for Kids and Food for Families initiatives, which are built on recognizing the dignity of the poor, the disadvantaged, and those with special needs. Additionally, our Ultrasound Initiative and support of marches for life recognize and promote the dignity of unborn human life.

Our call to be Knights of charity also informs our belief that laws should reflect this God-given dignity. To that end, the Knights of Columbus seeks to promote a culture of life in our nations' laws as well as in the hearts and minds of our fellow citizens. This includes the Order's decades of support for laws prohibiting the practices of abortion and euthanasia as well as its ongoing efforts to promote civility and unity in our culture. In this way we can answer the call of St. John Paul II who reminded us, "Society as a whole must respect, defend, and promote the dignity of every human person, at every moment and in every condition of that person's life. To be truly a people at the service of life we must propose these truths constantly and courageously..." (*Evangelium Vitae*, Nos. 81, 82).

"Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 2258)

Knights of Columbus - Faith In Action



Life Programs

Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) – Support pregnant women, mothers and their babies by serving pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes.

Novena for Life – Lead your community in the spiritual fight to establish a culture of life.

March for Life – Show public support for the right to life.

Special Olympics – Celebrate the intrinsic worth and dignity of every single human being.

Ultrasound – Save lives by empowering women to see their unborn children with ultrasound technology.

Christian Refugee Program – Help save persecuted and at-risk Christians facing genocide all over the world, particularly in the Middle East.

Mass for People with Special Needs – Welcome individuals or families who might not normally feel comfortable participating in a regularly scheduled Mass.

Pregnancy Center Support – Provide much-needed spiritual and material support for mothers, fathers and their children before and after birth.

Silver Rose – Share the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and promote respect for life through this pilgrimage.

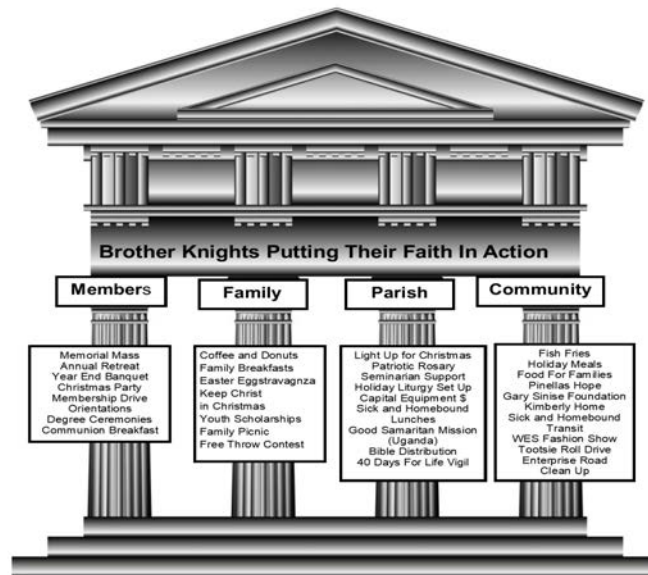


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Heal Family Wounds

We know we live in trying times – economically, socially and often spiritually. Psalm 51 reminds us of God’s infinite and unconditional forgiveness and love as well as reflects on the point that we, in turn, need to take some accountability in this process. We ask, **A clean heart create for me, God; renew within me a steadfast spirit. Restore to me the gladness of your salvation.** In essence we are asking God to sustain us with hope and infuse with courage to take on the wounds that are part of lives.



Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, God, in accord with your merciful love; in your abundant compassion blot out my transgressions. Thoroughly wash away my guilt; and from my sin cleanse me. For I know my transgressions; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your eyes. So that you are just in your word, and without reproach in your judgment. Behold, I was born in guilt, in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, you desire true sincerity; and secretly you teach me wisdom. Cleanse me with hyssop,* that I may be pure; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. You will let me hear gladness and joy; the bones you have crushed will rejoice. Turn away your face from my sins; blot out all my iniquities. A clean heart create for me, God; renew within me a steadfast spirit. Do not drive me from before your face, nor take from me your holy spirit. Restore to me the gladness of your salvation; uphold me with a willing spirit. I will teach the wicked your ways, that sinners may return to you. Rescue me from violent bloodshed, God, my saving God, and my tongue will sing joyfully of your justice. Lord, you will open my lips; and my mouth will proclaim your praise. For you do not desire sacrifice -or I would give it; a burnt offering you would not accept. My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a contrite, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn.

Golf Tourney Photo Gallery



Golf Tourney Photo Gallery



In Memoriam

Anthony M Doyle

September 8, 1948 – December 3, 2024



Anthony Michael Doyle, 76 passed away on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at Life Care Center in New Port Richey surrounded by his children; Aileen, Sean, and Meghan. Anthony (Tony) was born on September 8, 1948 in Bridgeport, CT. He was the 5th youngest child of Anthony Patrick and Vivian Doyle. He is a proud Veteran of the US Navy having served time on the USS Claude V. Ricketts. He married Nancy Woods on October 26, 1974 and had three children. The family relocated to Clearwater, FL in 1989. Tony worked until retirement for Acosta Sales. He was a 4th degree Knight, of the Barney Gonyea Council 7109 at Espiritu Santo Catholic Church. After retirement, he volunteered with Hospice, spending his time interviewing Veterans. In 2021 he moved to Trinity Place Assisted Living, he was active and President of the Resident Council, was a staple at happy hour on Fridays singing and enjoying the music while enjoying a beer, he enjoyed children's visits, special holiday events, and of course trivia! He had many great friends there and was loved by everyone there we are very thankful and blessed by the 3 years he spent there.

Tony is survived by his daughter Aileen Carlson (Matthew), son Sean Doyle, daughter Meghan Maxey (Richard); 4 grandkids: Tessa Carlson, Brendan Carlson, Aaron Maxey, and Samuel Maxey; 4 siblings: Julie Gluhanich, Colleen Doyle, RSM, Msgr. Jerald Doyle and Dennis Doyle.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 31 years, Nancy Doyle (Woods), parents Anthony P. Doyle, Vivian Doyle (Towle), and sister Patricia Curran.

Tony was a deeply beloved father, grandpa, uncle, brother, cousin and friend. Tony will be remembered for his sense of humor; always ready with a joke or a quick-witted comment. He never met a stranger; he loved talking to everyone. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A wake for Anthony was held Sunday, December 8, 2024 at Sylvan Abbey Funeral Home, 2853 Sunset Point Rd, Clearwater, FL 33759. A funeral mass was conducted on Monday, December 9, 2024 at Espiritu Santo Catholic Church, 2405 Philippe Pkwy, Safety Harbor, FL 34695. A graveside service occurred Monday, December 9, 2024 at Sylvan Abbey Memorial Park, 2860 Sunset Point Rd, Clearwater, FL 33759.

in loving memory

In Memoriam

Edward John Warticki

November 15, 1942 – December 25, 2024



Edward John Warticki, 82, of Dunedin Florida passed away December 25, 2024. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Ed was a proud Army Veteran and a member of Espiritu Santo Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus, in Safety Harbor Florida. Ed worked as a Financial Advisor for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney in St. Petersburg Florida. He is survived by his wife Patricia of 20 years; two Sons, Chris Warticki of Melbourne, FL and Matthew Warticki of Clearwater, FL; daughter, Terri Paczynski of Arizona; five Grandchildren - Nathan, Sarah, Abigail, Oliva and Ava. Visitation will be at the Hubbell Funeral Home Chapel, 499 N. Indian Rocks Road, Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770, Thursday January 2, 2025 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Funeral Mass at Espiritu Santo Catholic Church, 2405 Philippe Parkway, Safety Harbor, FL 34695 Friday January 3, 2025 at 10:30 AM.



Letter to the Editor

And, Unto Us A Savior Is Born

I heard an interesting homily during Advent about hope. The readings of the first three Sundays in Advent focus on how dark the world is without God and lacking a Savior as it prepares for the miraculous birth of Christ.

The quote was from Elie Wiesel a holocaust survivor. **“Just as man cannot live without dreams, he cannot live without hope”**. Wiesel believed that hope is a verb, and that it's a Jewish act to hold onto hope even when faced with uncertainty, loss, or anguish. He also said that hope summons the future, while dreams reflect the past.

Hope can motivate people to learn and grow and can help them believe that there's always a better way in the future. It can also help people plan, work, and implement ideas for a better tomorrow.

Fyodor Dostoevsky also expressed a similar sentiment: **“To live without hope is to cease to live”**. **Hope gives us the strength to face challenges and the motivation to strive for a better future.”**

This is a good thought for us as we enter a new year. Christ's birth not only opens the gates of Heaven for us but, as Wiesel observed, it also opens our dreams. How will we direct our hopes and dreams into our Council, Assembly, Parish and community? How will we translate this great gift of salvation into action?

We know we have a well-conceived and aggressive plan of action. We have a good history of performance and delivery. But, with this new life, are there ways we can assist in bringing the love of Christ to those we serve at an even higher level? Does this new hope give us the strength and motivation to serve God and His people at an even greater level?

This idea of dreams, hope, strength and motivation ties perfectly into our January Domestic Church theme of healing family wounds. We know that many of our brothers and sisters have recently faced or are currently dealing with family tragedies. Let us listen to Psalm 51 and the infinite love and forgiveness of God. **My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a contrite, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn.**

Let's make 2025 a Happy New Year! Let's fill it with Hope!



As 2024 ends, our faith that 2025 will be a better year for all will carry us through. The Ladies Auxiliary ended our charitable endeavors in conjunction with WES with the Toys for Tots drive and our three raffle baskets at the KofC Christmas Party. With \$1055.00 of gift cards and the toys donated by us ladies and parishioners, we were able to purchase and drop off over \$1200.00 worth of toys to Oldsmar Fire Department! I'm sure that this helped make a lot of children's Christmases brighter. Thank you, Santa elf shoppers, for your time spent shopping at Target and Walmart. Our beautiful raffle baskets also had donations of over \$400. We enjoyed the company of KofC Knights and Ladies from Light of Christ and their DJ Ben! May 2025 be a year of jubilation for all.

From the Desk of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly...

Lost and Found

*God is always searching for us, and the light of Christ shines
even amid the darkness of loneliness and isolation*

Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

Ask anyone who works with me. I'm always losing things like umbrellas, keys and cellphones. A misplaced umbrella means I'll get wet. Lost keys mean I'm locked out. A misplaced cellphone means I'm cut off from civilization — or so they say.

Losing possessions is one thing. Being lost or feeling lost is another. And sometimes the sense of loss runs deep. We may feel we've lost our friends or have been forgotten by them. We may even feel we've lost God's friendship or that God has forgotten us.

Sins, weaknesses and spiritual and emotional wounds are part of every life. But when these get the better of us, we may think that God and other people have given up on us. This is, of course, a lie, planted in our hearts by Satan, the father of lies. Yet, the sense of being lost to God and lost to our friends can seem very real. Indeed, one of the traits of contemporary culture is a sense of isolation, of being alone in the world. Many people don't have a relationship with God, nor do they have close friends. There is an absence of love in their lives. Yet, without love, life makes no sense. When love is lacking, so is hope. And when hope is lacking, it is all the more difficult to deal with those sins, weaknesses and wounds that bedevil us.

Recently, someone said to me, "How I dread this time of year. Daylight is short. The hours of darkness are long. That's how I feel." My heart went out to her, and I shared with her a short sentence from the beginning of John's Gospel: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (1:5).

In the darkness of Advent, the light of God's love shines all the more brightly if, in the grace of the Holy Spirit, we believe and understand that the Lord has come in search of us. God does not want any of us to be lost. The Father loves us so much that he sent his only begotten Son into the world to find us, to save us, to gather us into the family of the redeemed. To do this, the second person of the Trinity forever assumed our humanity — not just our flesh, but a human mind, heart and will. The Son of God who preached the good news and went about healing, forgiving and raising from the dead experienced hunger, thirst, pain and sorrow. And ultimately, he laid down his life for us on the cross. This is the length to which God went to find us. Moreover, he continues searching for you and me at this very moment.

Let us then prepare our hearts for Christmas, the feast of the Incarnation, the great reason for our hope. We do this by allowing the Lord to find us. Often, when we feel the absence of God's love, it is because we have hidden ourselves from it. There may be painful realities in our lives that we don't want to face, so instead we blame, we deflect, we hide, we self-isolate. During these days of Advent, let us allow the Lord to break through these self-imposed barriers that prevent us from receiving God's love and loving others. This happens when we make an unburdening confession of our sins. Or when we reach out in love to someone else in need. Or have an honest conversation with a trusted friend or spiritual director.

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome to inaugurate a Holy Year, a Jubilee of Hope. The theme of this special year of grace is "Hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (Rom 5:5). May the celebration of Christmas and this Jubilee fill your hearts with joy and hope!



From the Florida State Council Chamber...

Become Fishers of Men ***By State Deputy Richard Hughes***

Brothers all, I hope and pray that all of you had a Blessed Thanksgiving and that you were able to take some well- deserved time off with your families. It has been a rather intense few months, especially with two hurricanes that severely impacted our state. I am proud of the way our Councils responded with charity to their members, their parishes, and their communities to these disasters. I want to thank you for all that you and your Councils did in responding to these needs, while continuing your other charitable works.

These past few months were also filled with a rather toxic political climate leading up to a presidential election. Whatever your political stances and opinions were on the candidates, I hope that each of you remembers that the principle of the secrecy and integrity of the ballot, fundamental in our exemplification of the Patriotic Degree, includes every person's right to vote without the fear of retribution. As Catholics and as Knights, we should not shun or belittle those who have different political beliefs than our own. We believe in the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, and that includes those on the "other side". In this Advent season leading up to Christmas, let us truly commit ourselves to "peace on earth, good will to all."

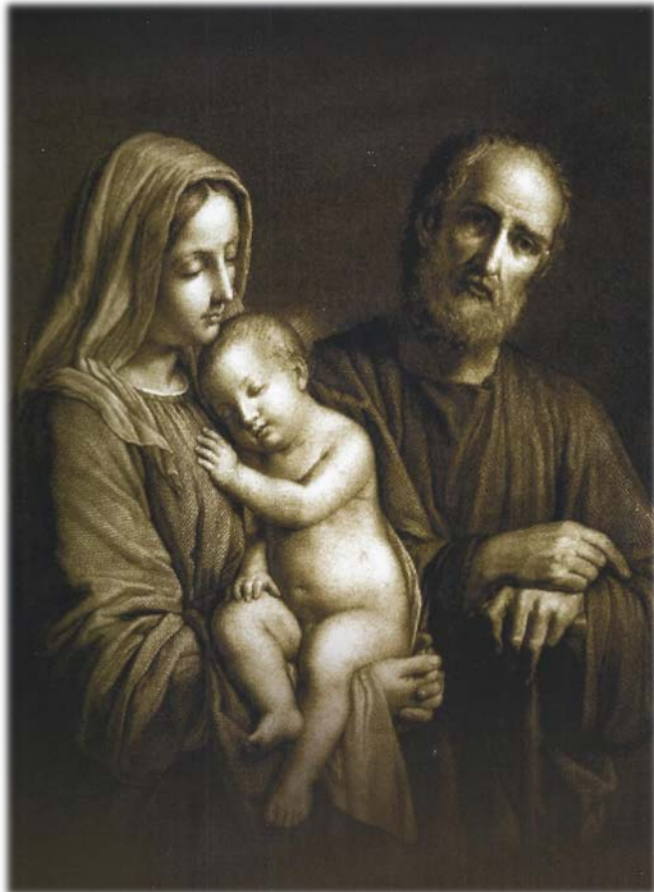
The Bishops of Florida have expressed their sincere thanks to the Florida State Council for the efforts of Knights across Florida in supporting the opposition to Amendment 4. But the credit belongs to you and your Councils for the myriad of ways that you supported your parishes and Dioceses. We must also remember that, although the defeat of Amendment 4 was a victory for life, much work remains to be done in evangelizing secular society in the culture of life. We must not only work to protect the unborn—we must work to support and protect those vulnerable women who may rightly fear the health, economic, or emotional consequences of bearing children. It is an enormous task, but one that, as Knights, we must take on if we are to help bring about a culture of life in our society.

Finally, I want to make some frank comments on growing our Order. From the time that I was elected State Deputy, I have emphasized that the success of the Order is rooted in the success of each and every local Council. Concretely, that means that each Council strives to achieve its Star Council goals in programs, fraternal benefits, and membership, and engages in some kind of faith formation like Cor. But the Supreme Council also sets overall membership goals for the Florida State Council, and as of December 3, Florida is 307 members short of meeting its 50% goal by the end of December. So, in this month of preparation for our Lord's Birth, and all of the Council activities that entails, I am asking each of you to place a special emphasis on becoming Fishers of Men with an Advent and Christmas recruiting effort. Even if your Council does not have a Degree Ceremonial planned for December, you can help us enormously by bringing in new members by having them join online in December and following up with a Degree at a later date.

Thank you for all that you do for the Order. May you and your families have a most blessed Advent and Christmas season!

Assembly Officers 2024-2025

Faithful Navigator	John Gohman	813.810.3735
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Faithful Captain	JJ Coyne, PGK	901.832.7332
Faithful Admiral	Wally Vazquez, PFN	727.542.5376
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Faithful Purser	Jerry Custin, PGK, PFN	727.244.6464
Inside Sentinel	Vincent Cristiano	727.725.5647
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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.

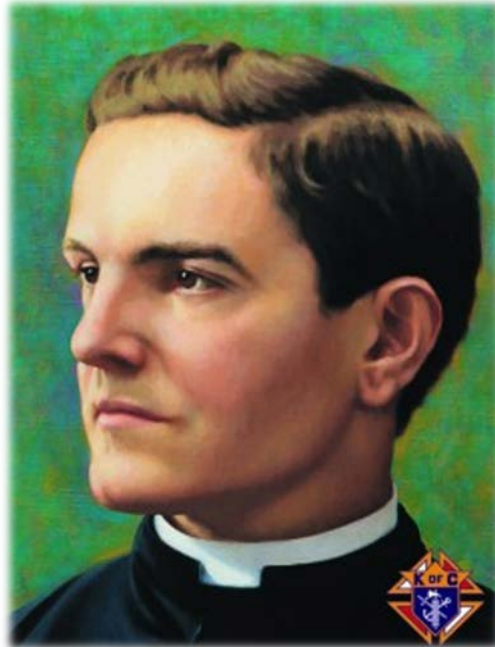
In our daily life and work,
May we reflect the self-giving love which you,
O Father, eternally show with your Son
and the Holy Spirit.

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...

January 2025

- 01/06 | Mon 7:00p Mardi Gras Dance Party Committee Meeting
- 01/09 | Thu 6:15p Rosary
- 01/09 | Thu 7:00p Council Membership & Ladies Auxiliary Meetings
- 01/12 | Sun 8:00a Coffee & Donuts
- 01/13 | Mon 7:00p Fish Fry Committee Meeting
- 01/14 | Tue 7:00p Program Directors Meeting
- 01/16 | Thu 8:00a Pinellas Hope Meal Prep & Delivery
- 01/18 | Sat 8:00a Kimberly Home WorkDay
- TBD Basketball Free Throw Contest



Assembly Calendar of Events...

January 2025

- 01/23 | Thu 7:00p Assembly Business Meeting

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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.

