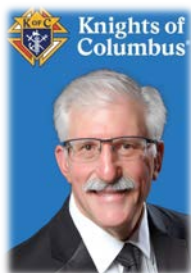




The Shield

Grand Knight's Message



Tom Krivchenia, PFN
Grand Knight
GrandKnight7109@gmail.com

Worthy Brother Knights & Ladies,

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over with our children and grandchildren going back to school in a few days. I hope that everyone has had a chance to get away from this amazingly hot summer, hopefully to a much cooler climate or, at least, an exciting trip away from Florida. August will soon be upon us, and with it, the beginning of a much busier time for all of us.

I was notified by Supreme that we made Star Council again this past fraternal year. I would like to thank everyone who helped us to achieve this award. It is such an honor, and it reflects the exemplary Council that we are blessed to be a part of.

I, personally, want to thank our outstanding District Deputy, Alan Gauzens and his wife, Joanne, for attending the Installation Ceremony for our Officers. I am always so grateful for his advice and support at our Council events. Thank you to everyone who came and supported all the officers at the Installation Ceremony on July 10 and enjoyed fellowship with friends, food and delicious cake. Before we held our Officers' Installation Ceremony, we gave out year-end awards.

Service Award: Frank Di Mattei

Frank has spent the last 10 years building the Fish Fry from its beginning to the record-breaking attendance this year. Frank has spent countless hours organizing

and prepping the food and the volunteers. Our heartfelt thanks to you! Frank became a Knight in April 2009, joining our Council. He is a Past Grand Knight, Past Faithful Navigator and a former Color Corp member. Frank also runs the auction web site for the Assembly's Golf Tournament.

Knight of the Year: Matt Sunski.

Matt was always the first person to sign up to help with any functions that we were having or programs that were taking place. Matt volunteered his time with 90% of our activities this past year. Matt joined the Knights in October 1982. Since moving to Florida, Matt helped as much as he was able to within the demands of a full-time job. When he was finally able to retire and have more free time, he gave abundantly to our Council. Matt will be taking over the Family Director's position for this upcoming year.

Family of the Year: Jack & Kay Strehle

Jack and Kay are faithful attendees for the Saturday, 6:00 PM Mass, where they are Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. They both serve at the 6:00PM or the 7:00pm Mass on Holy Days of Obligation. Kay is a faithful member of the Ladies Auxiliary and of WES. She participates in decorating and creating the baskets for our dinner dances and she is involved with many of the activities that WES offers throughout the year. Jack joined the Knights in March 2020. Since joining, Jack

Issue 08, August 2025

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

View the Newsletter online at:
www.safetyharborkofc.org

Visit the State Website at:
www.floridakofc.org
Visit the Supreme Website at:
www.kofc.org

has become active in the Color Corp and helps at our events and programs. Jack will be taking over the Life Director's position for this upcoming year.

The Rosary will be held on Thursday, August 14th at 6:15 in the St. John Bosco Center. Wally Vasquez and Jerry Custin will lead. This is open to all parishioners. Please ask someone you know to come to this spiritual event, honoring Our Blessed Mother.

WOW!!! What a busy day Sunday, August 17th is for us as a council. First, we begin bright and early in the morning with Coffee, Donuts & More at 7:00 AM for set-up. Then, before the end of coffee and donuts, we will reorganize and start cooking for the RE children and family members, starting at 11:30 AM. Two events will be held in the Parish Center. While we are cooking for the gathering of the RE children and their families, the church will be having a Ministry Fair which we can use as a membership drive. This is an all-hands-on-deck kind of day. We will need many volunteers to make this a successful day in serving the needs of our parish. Be looking for the sign-up sheets that will be coming out for all these events.

We have an Open House scheduled for Tuesday August 19th. Please invite someone you know or meet that is not a Knight and invite them to learn more about what an amazing organization we are. With the Open House and Ministry Fair, let's begin to reach our goal for this fraternal year and possibly become a Double Star Council by next June!

The Kimberly Home workday is August 16th at 7:00 AM at their Clearwater location. Please bring any yard work and paint equipment that you might have. We never know what we might be doing to help them out.

I look forward to working with our Program Directors in completing this year's programs. I also hope to plan and implement additional programs.

Upcoming Events

- Program Directors' Meeting – Tuesday, August 5th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Council 7109 Officers' Meeting – Thursday, August 7th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Rosary – Thursday, August 14th at 6:15 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Council 7109 Business Meeting – Thursday, August 14th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Kimberly Home workday – Saturday, August 16th at 7:00 AM at The Kimberly Home 1189 NE Cleveland St. Clearwater

- Coffee, Donuts & More – Sunday, August 17th at 7:00 AM in the St. John Bosco Center
- RE Reception & Lunch – Sunday, August 17th at 12:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Membership Drive – Sunday, August 17th at 1:00 PM in the Parish Center.
- Golf Tournament Committee Meeting – Monday, August 18th at 6:30 PM in the Gathering Room
- KofC Informational Open House – Tuesday, August 19th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Pinellas Hope Food Prep – Thursday, August 21st at 9:00 AM in the Parish Center Kitchen
- KofC Unified Degree Exemplification – Thursday, August 21st at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Assembly 2474 Meeting – Thursday, August 28th at 7:00 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Golf Tournament Committee Meeting – Monday September 1st at 6:30 PM in the Gathering Room
- Council 7109 Officers Meeting – Thursday, September 4th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Coffee Donuts & More – Sunday, September 7th at 7:00 AM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Membership Drive Ice Cream w/ Ice Cream Treats – Sunday, September 7th at 11:30 AM in the Parish Center Pavillion.
- Rosary – Thursday, September 11th at 6:15 PM in the St. John Bosco Center.
- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting – Thursday September 11th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Council 7109 Business Meeting – Thursday, September 11th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center.



WGK Tom Krivchenia recognizes SK Matt Sunski as Knight of the Year for 2024-2025 fraternal year



SK Edward Amador
Membership Director
Edamador00@gmail.com

Council 7109

Holy Moments

Holy Moments: The Heart of Recruitment in This New Fraternal Year

Brother Knights of Council 7109,
As we enter August 2025, we find ourselves in the early days of a brand-new fraternal year. With it comes a renewed call to live our faith boldly and bring others along the journey men searching for meaning, purpose, and brotherhood in a world that so often feels disconnected.

What better way to begin than with the gift of a Holy Moment? As Matthew Kelly reminds us: ***"A Holy Moment is a moment when you open yourself to God. You make yourself available to Him. You set aside personal preference and self-interest, and for one moment you do what you prayerfully believe God is calling you to do."*** This is what we offer when we invite men to join the Knights of Columbus the opportunity to say "yes" to a life filled with meaningful service, fraternity, and faith in action.

A New Goal, A Familiar Mission

We begin this fraternal year with a membership goal of 15 new Brother Knights. Last year, we met this exact goal because of your prayers, conversations, and commitment to outreach. Let us do it again with purpose and unity!

As of now, we stand at zero new members for the new fraternal year, but that just means the opportunity is wide open. One invitation. One "yes." One Holy Moment at a time.

Real Examples — Holy Moments that Lead to Recruitment

- A Brother who invites his adult son to attend a Fish Fry and introduces him to fellow Knights leading to his exemplification a month later.
- A member who carries a spare KofC flyer in his car and gives it to a coworker curious about volunteering.
- A parishioner who stops by our table at the Ministry Fair and says, "I've been looking for something more" and we tell him, "You've found it."

These are all real-life examples of how small, faith-filled acts can lead men into a life-changing brotherhood.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITY: Ministry Fair at Espiritu Santo Catholic Church

August 17, 2025 After All Masses: Our council will have a strong presence at the ESCC Parish Ministry Fair, and we need **YOU** there. This is one of the most impactful chances of the year to share who we are, what we do, and most importantly, why we do it.

We encourage you to:

- Wear your KOC gear
- Bring a story to share
- Be open to meaningful conversations

The best recruiters are not salesmen they are witnesses to what the Knights have done for their lives.

Simple Ways You Can Help Recruit:

- Invite men in your family: sons, brothers, nephews, grandsons. If they are 18+ and Catholic, they are eligible.
- Share your story Talk about why **YOU** joined and what keeps you here.
- Be visible wear your council shirt or name badge proudly at Mass, Fish Fry, or parish events.
- Bring a friend to a Fish Fry, dinner, or even a meeting. No pressure, just presence.

SAVE THE DATES

Ministry Fair – August 17 @ all Masses

Council Open House – August 19 @ 7:30 PM EDT

Next Exemplification – August 21 @ 7:00 PM EDT

Let's Launch This Fraternal Year with Faith and Fire

Brothers, our mission is not only to grow in numbers but to grow in holiness, together. Every new member brings fresh energy, ideas, and faith into our council. Let's give other men the same opportunity we were given — to serve, to belong, and to build something eternal.

Let us make every day a Holy Moment. Let us make this fraternal year our strongest yet.

SK Edward J. Amador

Unity – Strength in Numbers

Informational Open House Schedule

2025-2206

Aug 19 | Oct 14 | Dec 16 | Feb 17 | Apr 14 | Jun 16

Unified Degree Ceremony Schedule

2025-2026

Aug 21 | Oct 16 | Dec 18 | Feb 19 | Apr 16 | Jun 18

Look for more information from our Grand Knight



Council Membership Report

Total Membership	333
Insurance Membership	128
Honorary Life Members	63
Honorary Members	08
2024-2025 Membership Growth vs Goal	00/15
2024-2025 Insurance	00/02

Assembly Membership Report

Total Membership	128
Honorary Life Members	14
Honorary Members	01
2024-2025 Membership Growth vs Goal	00/06



Council Officers 2025-2026

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!

Jacob Bandy, Thomas Bergevin, John Bruns, Sal Burriesci, Daniel Capozzelli, Michael Cooper, Aldred Fares, Charles Friesema, Lawrence Harkins, Shawn Jajuga, Richard Kembell-Cook, Matthew Killeen, Dan Kistel, Christian Kuczej, John Kurpinski, John Liu, Joseph Magaddino, Albert Masselli, Frank McEwen, John Morgan, Thomas Myers, Robert Papariella, Daniel Peterson, Frank Piro, Edward Riley, Christopher Russell, Joseph Ruyonga, Jason Seguin, Gregory Sohn, Lawrence Steinhardt

Prayers for the Sick

Don & Marie Bishop, Sean Michael Cook (d), Tim & Barbara Rush, Ken Seguin, Susanne Papa (d), Ward Griffin, Elizabeth Inderwies, Linda Cooper (d), Bob Ehrman, Antonia Rosin (d), Frances Hamacher (d), Jacqueline Barry (d), Mary Branham (d), Mary Williams (d), Frank Schuster II (d), Kennedie McFadden, Sal Burriesci, George Smith (d), Pauline Sager (d), Vicki Nolan (d), Steve Gorey (d), Felice D'Elia (d), Stanley Kwiatowski (d), Ethan Griswold (d), Alex Griswold, Dick LaLuzerne, Fr Rich Rosin (d), Mary Duell (d), Tony Doyle (d), Mary Frances Lowe, Dwight Rochester, Jim & Pat Nolf, Frank Diaz (d), Nancy Pagnott, Ed Warticki (d), Joann Finney, Joseph Genalo Jr, John Clarke, Jack Mills (d), John Cathcart, Ed Sleyzak, Thomas O'Rourke, Karen Jajuga, Bob Justiana, Wally Vazquez, Edward Amador, Santo Loparo, Sue Engelmann, Madison Lentz, Helen Lentz, Kathleen Griffin, Karen Loparo, Taylor Dumke, Richard Roberto, Peter Saleses, Peggy Gohman, Barbara Papa, Kathy King, Richard Roberto, Joe LaGuardia, Michael D'Amelio, Steve Wozniak, Evelyn Harvey (d), Skylar Ruckart, Krish Sujjanani, Jack Greenwald

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



Mark Wegener



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. Austin and Mark are located at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, while John Paul is located at St. Joseph Seminary College. Austin Smith is from Nativity parish in Brandon. Mark Wegener is from St. Anthony the Abbot, Brooksville. John Paul Grabowski is from Catholic Student Center, USF – Tampa.

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

Edward & Violet Amador, Mark Barrett, Donald Borbath, James & Jean Burris, William Cullen Jr, Joseph & Betty D'Amelio, Douglas & Carol De Wolfe, Peter Demzak, Frederick & Suzanne Di Masi, Sean Donahoo, Robert & Zoe Dufour, Michael & Sue Engelmann, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Michael & Lisa Furman, Joel & Karen Gray, Robert & Catherine Gwinner IV, James & Anna Haitz, Thomas & Anne Harkins, Timothy & Ann Hartle, James Hayes, David & Donna Heezen, Joseph & Sandra Hoehrl, George & Claire Inderwies, Steven & Anne Ippolito, Robert & M. A. Justiana Sr, Michael & Katherine King, Dan & Donna Kistel, Mark & Renee Kraf, William & Katherine Krajewski, Frank Laffey, Stephen & Ellen Leger, Milton Levine, Amaro Lionheart, Jerry Maratea, Frank & Cindy McEwen, Charles McEwen Sr, Kenneth (Ken) Miller, John Morgan, Adel Nammour, Chris & Leah Nesci, Thomas & Carolyn O'Rourke, John & Susanne Papa, Paul & Virginia Pappas, Mark & Christine Peterman, Robert & Vickie Pickard, Richard Roberto Jr, Kenneth & Gabriella Seguin Sr, Jason Seguin, Morgan Sheaffer Sr, James & Karin Smith, Thomas Stanko, John & Kay Strehle III, Matthew Sunski, Roy & Linda Vanderveer, Steven & Jaclyn Verba, Paul & Josefina Vilchez, Mario & Judy Zaccaria, Dennis & Joyce Ayril, Jonathan & Marianne Boyce, Sean Casey, JJ Coyne, Gerald Custin Jr, James & Sylvia O'Neill, Michael & Mary Kathleen Dixon, Philip & Jane Farney, Mark & Elaine Feldman, Charles & Raquel Friesema, John & Peggy Gohman II, Michael Gutknecht, Thomas Hart Jr, Paul & Rose Marie Harvey, Eugene & Karen Jajuga, Shawn & Pattie Jajuga, Christopher & Celise Jones, Gregory & Kim Juedes, Richard Kemball-Cook Jr, Timothy Kielich, Matthew Killeen, Tom & Margaret Krivchenia, Jack Kuczej, Christian Kuczej, Thomas Kukulski, James & Maria Lankford, Brian & Christina Lapointe, Brian & Angela Lawandus, Santo Loparo Jr, Patrick Mackin, Michael & Maria McCarthy, James & Patricia Nolf, Brian & Lisa O'Connor, Gerald & Holly Pappa, Frank Pensabene, Daniel & T Peterson, Donald & Alexis Reed, Andrew Rodnite, Juan & Rosemary Romero, Peter & Susan Salesses, Daniel & Paula Saracki, William & Mary Scott, Jim & Nancy Shirer, Michael & Melissa Short, Massimo & Valeria Simeoni, Chuck & Elizabeth Sullivan, Keith & Griselda Taylor Sr, Thomas & Jean Wozniak

Total Collected to Date: \$2191.08



Father Michael W. Cooper, SJ
Chaplain

Chaplain's Corner

What's Happening?

Dear Brother Knights and Ladies,

The first thing I want to do this month is to suggest we - me included - listen to TV programs different from our own point of view. If you are a committed viewer of FOX, try to occasionally watch CNN or MSNBC. If you watch MSNBC or CNN, try FOX. I do not expect you to agree with the different perspective, but maybe we will realize that "our" station does not have all the news as it stands.

Some other "news" to know: The *Miami Herald* has interviewed men released from Alligator Alcatraz who talk of beatings with baseball bats, rotten food, lack of AC, inadequate bathroom facilities, and other degrading situations. Last week Archbishop Wenski of Miami went down to Alligator Alcatraz with fellow Knights on motorcycles including the archbishop, aka "Knights on Bikes." He went to try to say Mass for those incarcerated. He and Bishop Frank Dewayne of Venice were not allowed in!

I have also heard that persons whose only "crime" is that they came in illegally - even those who have done nothing else wrong and have worked and paid taxes, et cetera - are afraid they could be arrested by ICE without any recourse to a judge or to a hearing. As a result, in parishes like nearby Light of Christ, people of color or of Spanish surnames have stopped going to

church out of fear of being arrested by ICE. They do not send their kids to school for the same reason. Fear of being deported without cause basically keeps them as prisoners of their homes. Real News.

Don't forget to try a different news channel and see what you get!

Michael Cooper, SJ
Chaplain



WGK Tom Krivchenia recognizes SK Ken and Gabe Seguin as Family of the Month for June 2025

Service Program Directors 2025-2026

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	Matt Sunski	
Public Relations Director	Amaro Lionheart	305.761.3419
Life Director	Jack Strehle	
Vocations	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687
Retention Coordinator	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687



Mark Feldman
Deputy Grand Knight
dkg7109@gmail.com

Deputy Grand Knight's Report

Worthy Brother Knights,

Gentlemen, the summer is almost over and that means your children and grandchildren will be heading back to school. I want to thank all who came to the Officer's Installation Ceremony. It was a very nice turnout. Thank you to Alan Gauzens, District Deputy, and his wife Joanne for performing the Installation Ceremony.

Events happening this month will be the Program Directors meeting on the 5th in the Gathering Room at 7pm. Our Coffee & Donuts will be on Sunday the 17th from 7am to noon. Our Golf Tournament Committee will be held Monday the 18th at 6:30pm in the Gathering Room. If you have not been a part of our golf tournament, this would be an excellent time to get involved. We will have our KofC informational Open House on Tuesday the 19th at 7:30pm in the Gathering Room. If you have any friends or know of someone that is interested in the Knights, please bring them on Thursday the 21st when we will have a Unified Degree Exemplification in the Parrish Center at 7pm.

Faith In Action



From our Faith Director's Desk

Our director is Wally Vazquez. Nothing to report other than the Rosary will be said before our Membership Meeting on August 14th in the JBC at 6:45pm.

From our Community Director's Desk

Our director is Mike King. With school back in session we will be setting up for our soccer, hockey and basketball free throw challenges. Actual dates TBD.

From our Family Director's Desk

Our director is Matt Sunski. We will be continuing the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest and the Christmas card sales this year again.

From our Life Director's Desk

Our director is Jack Strehle. The Sacred Heart Icon will be coming in September. More information to follow.

St Clare, Virgin, Memorial

St Clare was born in Assisi in Jul 1193. Her father was very wealthy with a castle on the slope of Mt Subasio. Her mother, Ortelena, was very pious and a devout Christian. St Clare was very prayerful and one day she met St Francis of Assisi in the church of San Giorgio and requested that he help her live as the Gospel Teacher. At the age of 18, on the evening of Palm Sunday, Clare secretly left her home in the company of her aunt and went to St Francis at Portiuncula Chapel. She was accepted by the Benedictine nuns of San Paulo and began living with them. Since her father had different motivations for her, he arranged marriage and therefore tried to force her to leave the convent and go back home to be married. Clare resisted those attempts and declared that Jesus Christ is her only husband. To spare Clare of the constant disruptions from her father, St Francis relocated her to another Benedictine Nuns monastery of Saint Angelo in Parzu.

Her sister Catarina joined her, and they moved to another small dwelling near San Damiano Church. Other women joined them, including her mother and people christened them the name "Poor Ladies of San Damiano." This was because they lived a life of seclusion, poverty and austerity as per the rule that St Francis had given them. It became the "Order of Poor Ladies of San Damiano," and she became their leader. In 1263, it took the name "Order of Saint Clare." Saint Clare's sisters did not go off and preach but remained enclosed in prayer and doing manual labor. During St Francis' last days before death, St Clare took care of him. She embraced Francis as her spiritual father.

On August 9, 1253, two days before her death, Pope Innocent IV approved the rule that St Clare had written, and it became the governing rule for Clare's Order of Poor Ladies. This marked the first time in history that a woman wrote a rule for religious life that was formally approved.

August Liturgical Calendar

- Aug 01 - St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, Memorial
- Aug 02 – St Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop; St Peter Julian Eymard, Priest, optional memorials
- Aug 04 – St John Vianney, Priest, Memorial
- Aug 05 – The dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major, optional memorial
- Aug 06 – The Transfiguration of the Lord, Feast
- Aug 07 – St Sixtus II, Pope and Companions, Martyrs; St Cajetan, Priest, optional memorial
- Aug 08 – St Dominic, Priest, Memorial
- Aug 09 – St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr, optional memorial
- Aug 11 – St Clare, Virgin, Memorial
- Aug 12 – St Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious, optional memorial
- Aug 13 – St Pontian, pope and Martyr, St Hippolytus, Priest and Martyr, optional memorials
- Aug 14 – St Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, Memorial
- Aug 15 - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity
- Aug 16 – St Stephen of Hungary, optional memorial
- Aug 19 – St John Eudes, Priest, optional memorial
- Aug 20 – St Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church, Memorial
- Aug 21 – The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Memorial
- Aug 23 – St Rose of Lima, Virgin, optional memorial
- Aug 25 – St Louis and St Joseph Calasanz, Priests, optional memorial
- Aug 27 – St Monica, Memorial
- Aug 28 – St Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, Memorial
- Aug 29 – Passion of St John the Baptist, Memorial



WGK Tom Krivchenia recognizes SK Jack & Kay Strehle as Family of the Year for 2024-2025 fraternal year



WGK Tom Krivchenia presents SK Frank DiMattei with the KofC Service Award for his tenure as Cod Father



Newly installed Council 7109 Officers



John Ruckart
Field Agent
John.Ruckart@kofc.org



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

Fraternal Benefits Advisor Report

Will you have enough income in retirement? The last thing any of us wants to worry about is running out of money to cover our needs, especially in our golden years.

An annuity from the Knights of Columbus can help give you peace of mind with a guaranteed income stream. How does it work? Simply put, an annuity is a retirement savings product. You make contributions, and, after a specified amount of time, the annuity pays you regular income.

Unlike other ways you may be saving for retirement, annuities remain stable during volatile market conditions. In fact, each Knights of Columbus annuity comes with a guaranteed minimum interest rate. No matter the market fluctuations, your annuity is guaranteed to never earn less than the contractually stated amount, on an annual basis.

As you prepare for retirement, you can also consider the tax advantages, income flexibility, and estate planning benefits that permanent life insurance offers. It's a potentially valuable, and often underutilized, tool for families when it comes to preparing for retirement.

You're hopefully maximizing your contributions to savings plans like a 401(k) at work or Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Consider exploring additional investment solutions that align with your targeted retirement date and risk tolerance. Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, a fully owned subsidiary of Knights of Columbus, offers comprehensive resources to guide your understanding of these options. As a registered advisor with Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, I am equipped to present and explain these tailored investment opportunities to you.

Let's look at your finances together to see what plans you already have in place, and what gaps you may have to ensure you don't run out of income in retirement. Safeguard your future today — set up time to meet with me in the coming weeks!

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>



Ladies Auxiliary Meetings resume Thursday,
September 11. Hope to see you then!



JJ Coyne
Faithful Navigator
johnjjcoyne@gmail.com
901.832.7332 (m)

Faithful Navigator's Log

Greetings Brother Knights,

As we enter the heart of summer, I hope this message finds you and your families enjoying a season of rest, renewal, and blessings. While August may often be a quieter time in our various calendars, it holds a deep spiritual significance for us as Catholics and Knights.

On August 15th, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a powerful reminder of our Blessed Mother's singular role in salvation history. Her Assumption - body and soul into heavenly glory – is not only a sign of her holiness, but also a promise of hope for all the faithful. In Mary, we see our own calling: to live lives of virtue, to say "yes" to God's will, and to strive for eternal union with Him. This profound mystery reminds us of God's boundless love for His mother and, through her, for all of humanity.

For us in the Knights of Columbus, devotion to Mary is not merely a tradition - it is foundational to who we are. The Rosary, that beautiful and powerful chain of prayer, holds a central place in both our personal and fraternal lives. As we meditate on its mysteries, we walk alongside Mary through the life of Christ, drawing ever closer to Him through her loving example.

As Fourth Degree Knights, our mission calls us to patriotism grounded in faith and service. Let us take inspiration from Mary's unwavering obedience and bring that same spirit to our own commitments – as family men, as parishioners, and as citizens. Mary's unwavering "yes" to God's will continues to inspire us to live lives marked by faith, charity, unity, and patriotism. She is our intercessor, our guide, and our spiritual mother - constantly leading us closer to her Son. Her Assumption is more than a historical moment; it is a beacon of hope, a promise of the glory that awaits all who faithfully follow Christ.

As we reflect on this great feast, let us renew our dedication to the Rosary, to our Blessed Mother, and

to living out the principles of our Order with even greater devotion and purpose.

This is also a great time to begin planning and preparing for our fall activities - be it the annual golf tournament, honor guards, civic events, charitable drives, or Assembly and Council meetings. Attend a KofC Informational Open House and a Unified Degree Exemplification to welcome new brothers. I encourage each of you to stay active and engaged in our wonderful parish; let's show what it means to be a Catholic gentleman.

Let us continue to hold each other in prayer and, especially during this month, ask for the intercession of Our Lady, Patroness of the Fourth Degree. May she guide us, protect us, and lead us ever closer to her Son.

God's Peace be with you!

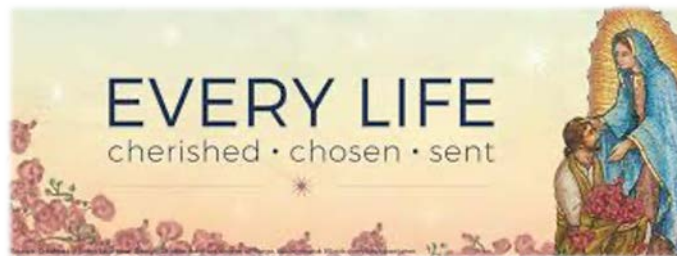
SK JJ Coyne
Faithful Navigator
Espiritu Santo Assembly 2474



Incoming FN JJ Coyne presents Outgoing FN John Gohman with his Past FN plaque and medal



Amaro Lionheart
 realamarolionheart@gmail.com
 305.761.3419



The Heart That Remembers: The Immaculate Flame

There is a heart so pure, so luminous, so filled with sorrow and glory, that heaven itself chose to dwell within it. It does not throb with the noise of pride or ambition, but with the eternal rhythm of surrender. It is not encased in armor or stone but wrapped in silence and crowned with fire. It is the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and in the Church's wisdom, the month of August is set aside to contemplate its mystery and its power.

This is no sentimental devotion. This is a summons. A call to consecration. A call to reparation. A call to become living flames within the darkened landscape of this fallen world. In August, we do not simply remember Mary. We run to her. We do not simply admire her heart. We entrust our own into its keeping. And through her heart, we are led back to Christ, the furnace of divine love that never ceases to burn.

The Church has long associated August with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, even though the feast is traditionally celebrated on the Saturday after the Sacred Heart in June. Yet since the days of Fatima, Catholics around the world have embraced August as a month-long pilgrimage of the heart, a sacred season of remembrance, repentance, and renewal under the mantle of the Queen of Heaven. This is not liturgical inertia. It is the wisdom of the faithful. It is the cry of the soul longing for a mother in the storm.

In 1917, on a remote hillside in Portugal, the heavens opened, and a woman clothed in light appeared to three children. She did not speak in riddles. She spoke plainly. The world was racing toward destruction, and only through prayer, penance, and consecration to her Immaculate Heart could it be saved. She did not come to warn. She came to prepare. For peace would not descend like dew. It would come through fire, through sacrifice, through surrender, through love.

The Fatima message is the great prophecy of our age. The Rosary was given as our weapon. Consecration

as our defense. Reparation as our plea for mercy. In 1942, as the world burned in war, Pope Pius XII consecrated all humanity to her Immaculate Heart. Two years later, he extended the feast across the earth. These were not ceremonial gestures. These were acts of battle, declared from the heights of faith.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary is not a passive devotion. It is a burning command. It demands that we lay down our pride, our noise, our compromise, and take up the weapons of the spirit. The heart of Mary is the heart of the Church, the hearth of purity, the throne of intercession. And in August, her heart opens wider than ever before.

To honor her is not to decorate her. It is to imitate her. It is to give God our yes, even when the sword of sorrow hangs overhead. It is to live the Rosary. It is to wear the Miraculous Medal not as jewelry, but as a banner. It is to walk the path of penance, not out of guilt, but out of love. It is to make our homes temples of grace and our hands extensions of mercy.

To truly honor the Immaculate Heart in August is to awaken. To act. To kneel, to weep, to pray, to fast, to forgive, to hope. It is to consecrate our children, our work, our country, and our future to the Woman whose heart knew no sin. It is to read again the words of Sister Lucia and take them not as relic, but as roadmap. It is to believe that Mary's triumph is not a myth. It is a promise.

Let August be a furnace. Let it refine us. Let it burn away the apathy. Let it remind us that holiness is not for the few, but for the brave. Let us become her apostles. Let our lives become her litany. Let our homes carry her peace. Let our prayers hasten her triumph.

For in her heart, the Church is reborn. In her tears, the world is washed clean. And in her love, we see the face of Christ.

Ad Jesum per Mariam.

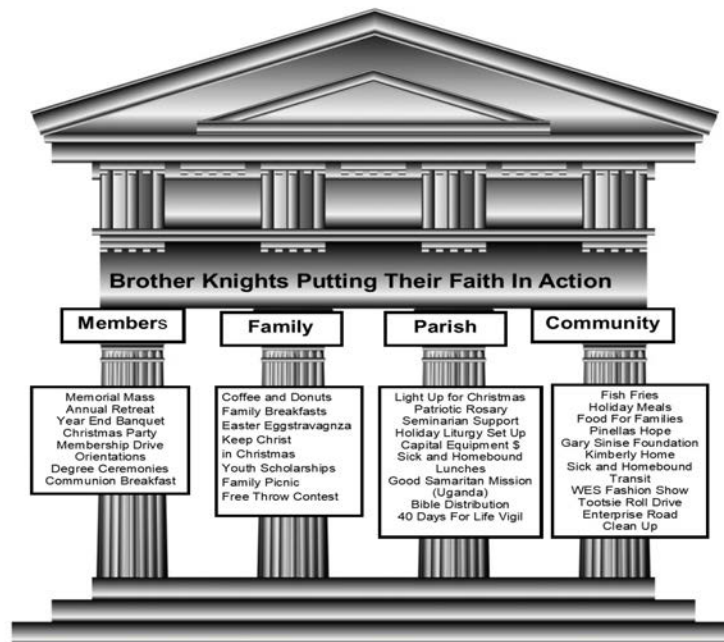


Jerry Custin
PGK, PFN
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Bring Families Together

This Psalm of David reflects on the love that God has for mankind. It is a Psalm of gratitude and praise. It also recognizes the infinite power of God as Creator of the universe. With those great gifts God gives us, including the rule over all the works of His hand on earth, it causes us to wonder what is man that God is so mindful of us? How do we respond to these blessings? By singing of His majesty above the heavens with the mouths of babes and infants. This Psalm calls us to have an attitude of gratitude towards God and to love our families and each other as He has loved us.



Psalm 8

O LORD, our Lord, how awesome is your name through all the earth! I will sing of your majesty above the heavens with the mouths of babes and infants. You have established a bulwark against your foes, to silence enemy and avenger. When I see your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars that you set in place, What is man that you are mindful of him, and a son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him little less than a god, crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him rule over the works of your hands, put all things at his feet: All sheep and oxen, even the beasts of the field, The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever swims the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how awesome is your name through all the earth!

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Letter to the Editor

The Mysteries of Our Faith

Our Catholic faith is based on many mysteries, which come from three sources: Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the interpretation of the Holy See. I pray the rosary using Bishop Barron on the Hallow App. He has wonderful explanations of each mystery, which are insightful and inspiring. I was taken by his explanation on the Assumption, probably because that Feast is in August. Not only is the Assumption a mystery, it's a Glorious Mystery; and not only is it a Feast Day, it is also a Holy Day.

The Glorious Mysteries include the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus, the Descent of the Holy Spirit, and the Assumption and Coronation of Mary. That's quite a string of our faith in its own right and reminds me of a discussion I had with a Baptist friend over 60 years ago while going through OTS. He asked me why Catholics worshipped Mary and the Saints seemingly as much as God Himself. I explained that we do not hold either Mary or the Saints as divine. I used the Litany of Saints as an example. Any request we make of God (Father, Son or Holy Spirit) follows with the petition Have mercy on us. While any request of Mary or any Saint our petition changes to Pray for us. I followed by saying that we were becoming friends and I knew him well enough to ask him to pray for me, and I hoped that he would feel comfortable in asking me to pray for him. We became lifelong friends, and unfortunately, I attended his funeral a few years ago.

We see this same theological difference in the Glorious Mysteries. Christ's Resurrection and Ascension are based on His Divine power. The Descent of the Holy Spirit is also made possible by Divine Power. But Mary's Assumption and Coronation are not based on her holiness or authority; these actions require divine intervention.

The placement of the Assumption in the middle of August is interesting. Most of our "big" events come

between All Saints Day in November and Pentecost in late May. Why? Tradition. Mary's death and Assumption are not specifically mentioned in Scripture. We are not certain where Mary died or where she was interred. Roman Catholic tradition believes Mary traveled with John after Christ's death and died near Ephesus in western Turkey. I have visited that site and could sense the holiness. The Eastern Orthodox Church believes Mary remained in Jerusalem and is interred in a tomb near the Mount of Olives. The Roman and Orthodox churches recognize the tradition of the Assumption of Mary. Its importance is that Mary was the first human to benefit from the gift of eternal life, which was purchased for us by the life and death of her son.

Although there is no specific mention of Mary's death or Assumption in Scripture, numerous passages have been used through tradition and interpretation to explain this mystery as well as Mary's Coronation as Queen of Heaven. Revelations 12:1-6 is one of these. "A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth. She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God, that there she might be taken care of for twelve hundred and sixty days."

Don't you just love a good mystery? Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and Queen of Heaven, pray for us.

From the Desk of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly...

Walking Together in Charity

The spirituality of St. Augustine, taught and lived by Pope Leo, is echoed in the principles and mission of the Knights

Pope Leo XIV is the first member of the Order of St. Augustine to be elected pope, and his commitment to the religious order and its charism was evident from the start of his pontificate. After his election on May 8, the Holy Father stepped onto the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica and told the world: "I am an Augustinian, a son of St. Augustine."

What does this mean for the Knights of Columbus? The short answer is that we have much in common with this son of St. Augustine.

Pope Leo's entire life has been shaped by the thought of St. Augustine (354-430) and the order named after him. He attended an Augustinian high school and then Villanova, the only Augustinian university in the United States, before entering the novitiate in 1977. From 2002 to 2013, he served as prior general of the worldwide Order of St. Augustine.

The Augustinians' core values are often described as unity, community and friendship — themes that Blessed Michael McGivney also infused into the Knights of Columbus. And like the Knights, the Augustinians are known for building strong fraternal bonds, so they can then dedicate themselves to works of charity and sacrifice for others, especially the poor and the outcast.

Reflecting on the centrality of unity in Augustine's thought, then-Cardinal Robert Prevost said in a 2023 interview that "you cannot say you are a follower of Christ without being part of the Church." Unity and communion, he added, are fundamental to "understanding what the Church is and what it means to be in it."

For St. Augustine, the Christian life is a team sport. It means never going it alone. We see this in Pope Leo's choice of an episcopal motto: "*In Illo uno unum*" — a phrase from St. Augustine's *Exposition on the Psalms*: "Although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one."

Another theme that the Knights of Columbus shares with the Augustinian tradition is the role of friendship — or fraternity — in following Christ. Augustine's conversion came about, in part, through the influence of his friends. He came to believe that living a Christian life required the daily support of others who could strengthen him in faith. When asked to serve as a bishop, he agreed on the condition that he would live with a community of priests.

St. Augustine is also known for reflecting on the longings of the human heart — especially our desire to love and be loved. In his spiritual autobiography, the *Confessions*, he writes: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in thee."

Last month, Pope Leo brought many of these themes home — quite literally to his hometown of Chicago. In a video message to tens of thousands gathered at the White Sox stadium and others watching online, he said we should pay attention to the "restlessness" of our hearts, because it can help lead us to "do something with our own lives to serve others."

That is how we will find true meaning, he said. "So many people who suffer from different experiences of depression or sadness — they can discover that the love of God is truly healing, that it brings hope," he added. "Coming together as friends, as brothers and sisters, in community, in a parish, in an experience of living our faith together, we can find that the Lord's grace, that the love of God can truly heal us, can give us the strength we need, can be the source of hope that we all need in our lives."

May we, the Knights of Columbus, walk together with Pope Leo and our fellow members of the Body of Christ in the bonds of charity, unity and fraternity — so that we might all follow Christ more closely through lives of humble service.

Vivat Jesus!



From the Florida State Council Chamber...

Open the Doors for Christ and He Will Enter

By State Deputy Michael P. Gizewski

As the Florida State Council of the fraternal year, there is no greater foundation for success than to center every plan, every action, and every heart on spirituality and Christ. This new year is not just a continuation of past efforts—it is a sacred opportunity to renew our commitment to the mission given to us by Blessed Michael McGivney and to recommit our lives and our brotherhood to Jesus Christ, the true source of strength, wisdom, and unity.

Success in the Knights of Columbus is not measured merely by numbers, events, or awards. True success is measured by how faithfully we embody the principles of our Order: charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism, all of which are only fully realized when they are rooted in Christ.

If we strive only for external achievements without grounding them in a living relationship with God, we may build a structure—but not a brotherhood. We may organize activities—but miss the transformation of hearts. This year must be different. It must be spiritual. It must be Christ-centered.

At the heart of every Council, and especially the State Council, must be a deep devotion to prayer. The most successful fraternal years begin with men on their knees, asking God to guide them, bless them, and work through them. Let every meeting, every initiative, and every decision be covered in prayer—not just as a formality, but as the true engine of our work. Invite the Holy Spirit into every planning session. Place the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Queen and the patroness of our Order, at the center of every endeavor. If we do this, we will not only succeed—we will be transformed.

The spiritual health of a Council begins with its leaders. The State Deputy, officers, and directors must lead not just with skill and organization, but with hearts that are visibly committed to Christ. Their witness must inspire others not just to act, but to believe. A Knight who is spiritually alive will become an unstoppable force of good in his family, his parish, and his community.

A Council that prays together, serves together, and grows in holiness together will thrive in every sense of the word. This fraternal year is a call to return to the source. Jesus Christ must be at the center of every Faith in Action program. He must be the reason we serve. He must be the purpose of our fraternity. Programs like the Rosary, Holy Hours, Eucharistic processions, and spiritual reflections should not be seen as optional or secondary—they are the soul of our mission. They connect our works to heaven. Without them, we risk becoming just another organization. With them, we become a brotherhood on fire for God.

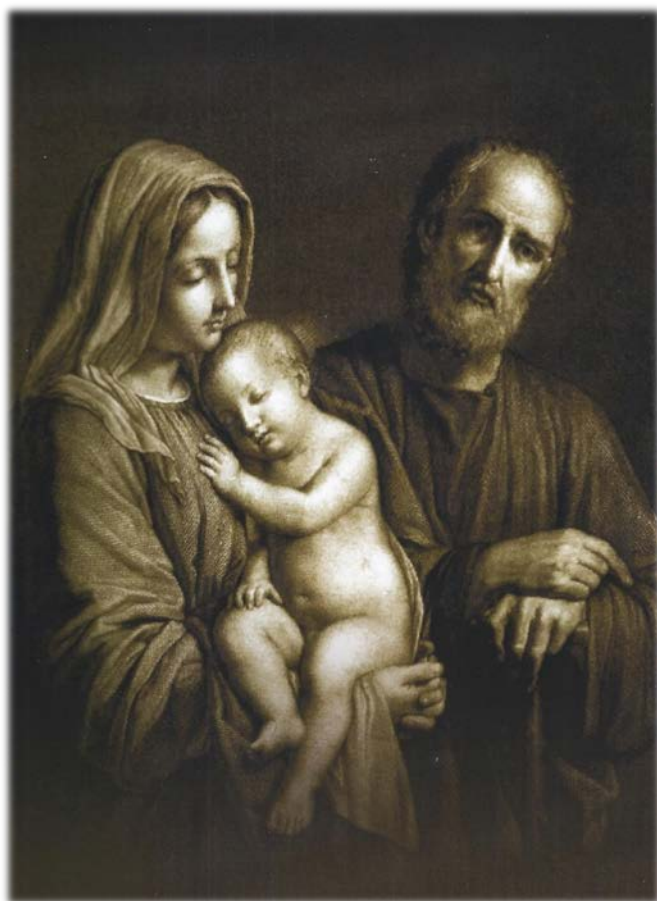
We must also remember that our spirituality cannot be confined to meetings or formal events. Christ calls us to be his Knights in our daily lives—in our marriages, in our fatherhood, in our friendships, and in our parishes. This year, the Florida State Council has the chance to inspire a spiritual renewal across the state by calling every man to greater holiness. It begins with personal commitment, but it blossoms in brotherhood. Together, with our chaplains and spiritual advisors, we can foster a culture where holiness is not only encouraged but expected.

Let this be the year when Christ is not only invited into our work but enthroned in it. Let this be the year when Knights in Florida are known not just for what we do—but for who we follow. And let us move forward with the confidence that comes from faith, knowing that if we place Christ at the center, our efforts will not be in vain.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus guide our every step and may Our Lady of Guadalupe protect us. As I always close, I close with “Open wide the door for Christ.”

Assembly Officers 2025-2026

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Faithful Friar	Fr Michael W. Cooper, SJ	727.644.5544
Faithful Captain	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Faithful Admiral	John Gohman	813.810.3735
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Trustee Three Year	Wally Vazquez, PFN	727.542.5376
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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.

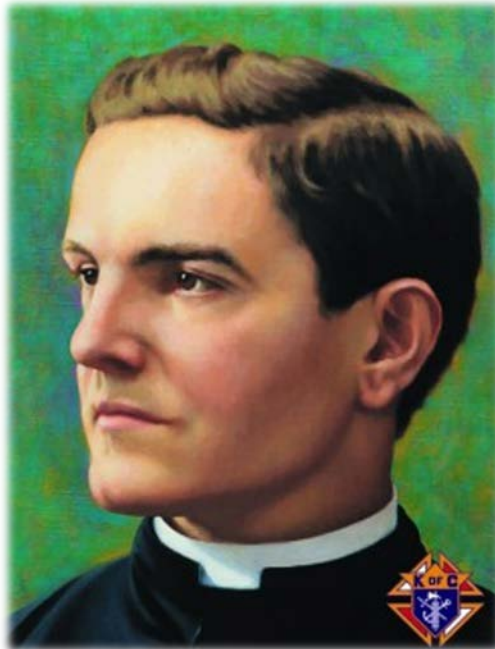
In our daily life and work,
May we reflect the self-giving love which you,
O Father, eternally show with your Son
and the Holy Spirit.

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...

August 2025

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| • 08/05 Thu 7:00p | Programs Directors' Meeting |
| • 08/07 Thu 7:00p | Staff Officers Meeting |
| • 08/14 Thu 6:15p | Rosary |
| • 08/14 Thu 7:00p | Council Membership Meeting |
| • 08/16 Sat 7:00a | Kimberly Home Work Day |
| • 08/17 Sun 7:00a | Coffee & Donuts |
| • 08/17 Thu 12:00n | RE Reception & Lunch |
| • 08/17 Sun 1:00p | Membership Drive |
| • 08/19 Tue 7:00p | KofC Informational Open House |
| • 08/21 Thu 9:00a | Pinellas Hope Food Prep & Delivery |
| • 08/21 Thu 7:00p | Unified Degree Exemplification |



Assembly Calendar of Events...

August 2025

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • 08/18 Mon 6:30p | Golf Tournament Committee Meeting |
| • 08/28 Thu 7:00p | Assembly Membership Meeting |
| • 09/01 Mon 6:30p | Golf Tournament Committee Meeting |

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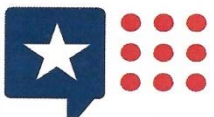
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God our Father, Giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to
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You are the rock on which this nation was founded.

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.

