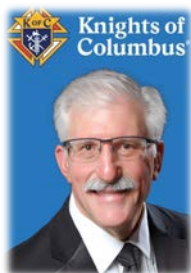




The Shield

Grand Knight's Message



Tom Krivchenia, PFN
Grand Knight
GrandKnight7109@gmail.com

Worthy Brother Knights & Ladies,

February is here, and I hope you are all enjoying our winter in Florida and surviving this blast of cold weather. BRRR! This month is going to be one of the busiest months of the year. We start the month with selling tickets for our Valentines Day Dinner Dance on Saturday, February 14. Please come and enjoy Fr. Eric Peters and the True Blues Band as they perform music for our dinner dance. Next, we will be having our second Tootsie Roll Drive of the year. Our holy season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 18 this year. This is a beautiful time for us to reflect on Christ's amazing love and His sacrifice for us. Let us be with him during His Passion in contrition, love and gratitude. Also, the Lenten season ushers in our biggest fundraiser of the year - our Friday Fish Fry Dinners – attended and enjoyed by hundreds of people each year. All hands-on deck are needed to make each Fish Fry Friday a memorable success.

I would like to welcome our newest Knights, Garrett Phoebe and Gerard Lobo to our Council. I hope you both will find the great camaraderie and sense of community this Council has to offer.

On Sunday, January 11th we had our first Coffee & Donuts of the new year in the St John Bosco Center after all the morning Masses. I would like to thank all the

Issue 02, February 2026

Next Council Meeting
Thursday, February 12 @ 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

Brother Knights & Ladies who helped with this community event.

Gene Jajuga	Karen Jajuga	Margaret Krivchenia
Matt Sunski	Betty D'Amelio	Joe D'Amelio
JJ Coyne	Ed Amador	Irving Hernandez
Tom Wozniak	Frank McEwen	Tom Krivchenia

We also had the Basketball Free Throw Challenge for both Boys and Girls age 9 through 14 years old at the school after the Religious Ed Classes. Thank you to all the children who participated in this event. I would like to recognize the winners for each age group.

Girls

10 yrs Sophie Burnett
14 yrs Emma Manzi

Boys

9 yrs Romon Bussowski
11 yrs Liam Wisnowski
13 yrs John Vu

I would also congratulate Liam Wisnowski who competed in the District Competition, winning his age group. Liam will compete in the Regional's competition later this month. Good Luck Liam!!

I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with this event. Without your help, we couldn't have put this event on.

Ken Seguin	Tom Stanko	Jacob Burnett
Matt Sunski	Tom Wozniak	Bill Krajieski
JJ Coyne	Micheal King	Mark Feldman
Margaret Krivchenia	Tom Krivchenia	

To close out the month, Sue Sferra asked us to cook hamburgers and hot dogs for the Confirmation candidates and their sponsors after the Noon Mass. We cooked for 190 people who were very grateful to us for providing food for them.

Thank you to all of you who helped us make this event very successful.

Gene Jajuga Matt Sunski Richard LeClerc
Karen Jajuga Joe D'Amelio Betty D'Amelio
Margaret Krivchenia Tom Krivchenia

If I have missed anyone who has spent time helping in any of these events, I apologize for not recognizing you.

Upcoming Events

- Selling Dinner Dance Tickets – Sunday, February 1st after all Masses in the Pavillion
- Council Officers Meeting – Thursday, February 5th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Tootsie Roll Drive – Saturday, February 7th after all Masses in the Courtyard
- Tootsie Roll Drive- Sunday, February 8th after all Masses in the Courtyard
- Selling Dinner Dance Tickets – Saturday, February 7th after all Masses in the Pavillion
- Selling Dinner Dance Tickets – Sunday, February 8th after all Masses in Pavillion
- KofC District Meeting – Sunday February 8th at 1:30 PM in the Gathering Room
- Rosary – Thursday, February 12th at 6:15 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Council Business Meeting – Thursday, February 12th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting – Thursday, February 12th at 7:00 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Valentines Day Dinner Dance Set Up – Saturday, February 14th at 9:00 AM in the Parish Center
- Valentines Day Dinner Dance – Saturday, February 14th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, February 18th
- Pinellas Hope Food Prep – Thursday, February 19th at 9:00 AM in the Parish Center Kitchen
- Unified Degree Ceremony – Thursday, February 19th at 7:30 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Fish Fry #1 – Friday, February 20th at 4:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Kimberly Home Workday – Saturday, February 21st at 8:00 AM at the Kimberly Home in Clearwater

- Assembly 2474 Coffee & Donuts – Sunday, February 22nd after Morning Masses in the St. John Bosco Center
- Assembly 2474 Meeting -Thursday February 26th at 7:00 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Fish Fry #2 - Friday, February 27th at 4:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Council 7109 Officers Meeting – Thursday, March 5th At 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Fish Fry #3 – Friday, March 6th at 4:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Rosary – Thursday, March 12th at 6:15 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Council Business Meeting – Thursday, March 12th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting – Thursday, March 12th at 7:00 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Fish Fry #4 – Friday, March 13th at 4:00 PM in the Parish Center

We start the month with a Tootsie Roll Drive after every Mass on the weekend of February 7th and 8th. Please meet Mike Engelman after Communion by the benches in the Courtyard. The Tootsie Roll Drive is how we raise money for the three schools that we support with children with learning challenges.

Valentines Day Dinner Dance

What a better way to celebrate this celebration of love and caring for the people we hold dear and who enrich our lives. We are hosting our one and only Dinner Dance of the year on Saturday February 14th. We are blessed to have Fr. Eric Peters and the True Blues Band performing for us. He will provide great entertainment and music for dancing. We will start selling tickets the weekend of January 31st and February 1st after all Masse in the Pavillion for the next two weeks. We will be setting up the Parish Center at 9:00 AM on the 14th. I know a lot of our regulars who help will be on a cruise getting back that day. So, I'm asking for help from those of you who might be new members or haven't helped in the past. We will be sending out a sign-up sheet for volunteers in the next few days. We will be having pork roast with mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetable medley, salad and rolls with chocolate and vanilla cake for dessert. As always we will have gift baskets to raffle off and a lotto tree plus a 50 / 50 raffle. This will be a great time for everyone, this would be the only place you can come and have dinner for two with dancing for only \$50.00 per couple.

Unified Degree Ceremony

We have a Unified Degree Ceremony on Thursday February 19th at 7:30 PM in the St. John Bosco Center. We need only a couple more to reach our goal of 15 new members to attain Star Council. If you know of anyone who might want to join the Knights of Columbus, please invite them to the Degree Ceremony

Fish Fry FryDays

Our annual Fish Fry FryDays begins on Friday, February 20th at 4:00 PM in the Parish Center. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and our biggest opportunity for our church community to join for some social interaction. It's a perfect way to meet some of your friends that you haven't seen in a long time and an opportunity to meet new friends. Since our Fish Fry is open to the public, this is a great opportunity for us to show what our Parish is like and what the Knights of Columbus are all about. We will be doing the Fish Fry for the six weeks of Lent and we will need many volunteers to help make this event a great success. A sign-up sheet will be coming out soon for you to volunteer. Let's make this another great year.

The Assembly will be hosting Coffee & Donuts following Presidents Day, Sunday, February 22nd after all morning Masses in the St. John Bosco Center. A sign-up sheet will be coming out soon.

May everyone have a meaningful and blessed Lenten season this year.

Lenten Prayer for Ash Wednesday

This simple Ash Wednesday prayer will invite you to make yourself more fully available to God and all the wonderful ways he wants to collaborate with you during the Lenten Season:

God of goodness and mercy,

Hear my prayer as I begin this Lenten journey with you. Let me be honest with myself as I look into my heart and soul, noticing the times I turn away from you. Guide me as I humbly seek to repent and return to your love. May humility guide my efforts to be reconciled with you and live forever in your abundant grace. Transform me this Lent, heavenly Father. Give me the strength to make myself 100% available to you every day as I prepare for Easter.

Amen.

Lenten Prayer for Sundays

4,160. That's how many Sundays most people get in a lifetime. And, so often, we waste them. Why? Because we're busy or unintentional or more concerned with what the culture says than what God says. But Sundays, especially Sundays during Lent, are too good to be wasted. Take just a few moments in prayer each Sunday of Lent, and you'll be one step closer to who God is calling you to be:

Heavenly Father,

As I enter another week of my Lenten journey, guide me to the path that leads to you. Fill my heart with gratitude, patience, strength, and peace as I strive to become the-best-version-of-myself. Let me hear your voice in the deepest reaches of my heart. Give me rest in you. Help me to accept others, showing them your great love instead of casting judgment. Stay with me through the busy days this week and remind me that when I need comfort, solitude, wisdom, or guidance, I can always turn to you.

Amen





SK Edward Amador
Membership Director
Edamador00@gmail.com

Council 7109

Holy Moments

Brother Knights,

February continues to remind us that when we choose faith over hesitation, God meets us there. I am pleased to share that we have now reached **12 new members toward our goal of 15**, with **one additional candidate expected to join at the next exemplification later this month**. That puts us within striking distance of achieving our membership goal, but only if **every Brother Knight answers the call**.

Please join me in welcoming **Brothers Garrett Phoebe, and Gerard Lobo** who have completed all steps online and officially joined our Order. When you see Brothers Garrett and Gerard, take a moment to introduce yourself, welcome them personally, and invite them into the life of the Council. Those first connections often become Holy Moments that define a man's experience in the Knights of Columbus.

Holy Moments Begin with an Invitation

Matthew Kelly reminds us that a Holy Moment occurs when we choose to do the right thing, even when it is uncomfortable. Recruitment is one of those moments.

Men do not join the Knights because of flyers or announcements alone; they join because **another Catholic man took the time to invite them**. Every exemplification, every new Brother, and every success this fraternal year began with a simple conversation: *"Have you ever considered becoming a Knight?"*

There are Catholic men in our parish right now who are waiting not for a program, but for an **invitation**.

12 of 15 — We Are Close, But Not Finished

We are currently **12 of 15 toward our membership goal**. That means we are **three men away**. This is not the responsibility of one officer or one committee **this is the work of the entire council**.

If each active Brother Knight prayerfully considered **one man**, a friend, neighbor, fellow parishioner, coworker,

son, or grandson, we would not only reach our goal, we would exceed it.

Ask yourself:

- Who in my life would benefit from fraternity?
- Who is looking for a place to serve?
- Who might be waiting for me to ask?

That question alone can become a Holy Moment.

Upcoming Opportunity: In-Person Exemplification

Our next **in-person Exemplification** will take place on: **February 19, 2026 @ 7:30 PM**

This is a powerful opportunity not just to welcome new Brothers, but to invite potential candidates to witness what our Order truly stands for: **faith, fraternity, and charity in action**. If you have someone in mind, now is the time to reach out and walk with him through the process.

A Call to Every Brother Knight

Brother Knights, the work we do matters. The communities we serve depend on us. The parish relies on our presence. And the men God is calling into our Order are waiting for someone to invite them.

Let us choose courage over comfort. Let us create Holy Moments by extending the invitation. Let us finish this fraternal year strong, **together**.

May God bless our efforts, our council, and every man who feels the call to put his faith into action through the Knights of Columbus.

Vivat Jesus!



SK Edward J. Amador

Chancellor, Captain, Director of Membership
Barney Gonyea Council 7109
Assembly 2474
Knights of Columbus

Unity – Strength in Numbers

Informational Open House Schedule

2026

Apr 15 | Jun 16

Unified Degree Ceremony Schedule

2026

Feb 19 | Apr 16 | Jun 18

Look for more information from our Grand Knight



Council Membership Report

Total Membership	338
Insurance Membership	126
Honorary Life Members	63
Honorary Members	08
2025-2026 Membership Growth vs Goal	12/15
2025-2026 Insurance	00/02

Assembly Membership Report

Total Membership	124
Honorary Life Members	14
Honorary Members	01
2025-2026 Membership Growth vs Goal	03/06



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 Krajieski	727.784.2817
Financial Secretary	Tom Harkins	727.772.0607
Treasurer	Jerry Custin, PGK, PFN	727.244.6464
Lecturer	Paul Harvey, PFN	727.286.7171
Advocate	Richard Resler	727.472.1651
Warden	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!

Paul Cooper, Michael Engelmann, Robert Essex, Anthony Ferrer, Joseph Gajewski, Christopher Jones, Viktor Lewalski, Donald Lomurno, Andre Milot, Roman Parys, David Brian Phillips, Donald Puchalski, John Ruckart, Robert Scheriff, Bryan Snyder, Paul Vilchez, Eugene Wolanin, Thomas Wozniak

Prayers for the Sick

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, George Smith (d), Pauline Sager (d), Vicki Nolan (d), Steve Gorey (d), Felice D'Elia (d), Stanley Kwiatowski (d), Ethan Griswold (d), Dick LaLuzerne (d), Fr Rich Rosin (d), Mary Duell (d), Tony Doyle (d), Mary Frances Lowe, Dwight Rochester, Jim & Pat Nolf, Frank Diaz (d), Ed Warticki (d), Jack Mills (d), Bob Justiana, Kathleen Griffin, Evelyn Harvey (d), Jack Greenwald (d), Don Bishop (d), Frank Nunziata (d), Dave Weber (d), Nicholas Burriesci (d), Anthony Burriesci (d), Tania Carnet, Thomas Ziegler (d), Thomas Barrett, Chuck Friesema, Jerry Custin, Nicholas Neubauer, Paul Harvey, Lilian Lenehan, Don Borbath, Tammy Harrison, Sal Burriesci (d), John Salesses (d), Ed Pagnott, Zoe dufour (d), Gobind Sujanani, Maurice Chin, Betty D'Amelio, Jim Slattery, Kenny p-SIL, Pushpa Sujanani, Margie Waters, John Papa, Don Pulchalski

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 Hoherl, 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 Ayrall, Jonathan & Marianne Boyce, Sean Casey, John 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 Kembell-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 Saleses, 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, Patrick & Joan Alix, Patrick & Beatrice Boland, Sal & Ingrid Burriesci, Ryan Burriesci, Patrick Carroll, Joseph Celic III, Terrell & Victoria Clampitt, Joseph Cortese, Joseph Culmone, Hoyt Decker, Frank & Angela Di Mattei, Jonathan Di Mattei, Terry & Shirley Drake, Richard & Joan Ducheny, Frederick & Christi Elflein, Zach Faraone, Joseph & Megan Gajewski, Ward & Kathleen Griffin, Mark Gurley, Irving Hernandez, Kenton & Sue Heuertz, Jarret & Lesley Ann Honahan, Mark & Maryann Kapinos, William & Elizabeth Kasak, Brian & Christine Kearns, Robert Kenny, Raymond Kraker, Dennis Lentz, Francis & Carol Mahoney, Frank & Juliann Marsalek, Edward Martinenko, Kevin McMullen, Clifford & Michelle Merz, Anthony Metty, Darryl & Mary Miller, Thomas Myers, Javier & Xiomara Ortega, Todd & Margaret Owers, Edmund & Diane Pagnott, Donald & Carol Palacheck, Robert Papariella, Thomas Penders, Glen Pettersen, James & Suzanne Preston Jr, Christopher Purcell, Edward & Sandra Riley, James & Drema Servoss Rooney, John Ruckart, Kurt & Mary Lynn Salac, Julius & Minnie Silva, Thomas Smith, Bryan & Krista Snyder, Gregory & Carolina Sohn, James & Darlene Stanley, Jugdesh & Sucheta Sujanani, Alvah & Margaret Vankleeck, Walberto & Ramona Vazquez, Margaret Watson, Vincent Baldwin, Fred & Caroline Bennett, Thomas Bergevin, Victor Berggren, Jacob & Mary Burnett, Mark & Janet Busing, Jerome Dewberry, Timothy & Marcy Dolan, Eric & Maria Flores, Gerald & Lorraine Grubba, Lawrence & Nancy Harkins, Robert Kelly, James Kleinsorge, Stanley Lipiarz, Gerald & Renee Lubig Jr, John Malone, Will & Jennifer Maxwell Jr, Christopher Mazzone, James & Phyllis Montali, Michael O'Neill, Miguel & Sammantha Perez I, Guillermo Romero, John J Liu, John T Liu, Albert Masselli, Peter & Susan Saleses

Total Collected to Date: \$3363.13



Father Michael W. Cooper, SJ
Chaplain

Chaplain's Corner

That Joyful Season - Lent 2026

Brothers and Sisters,

In an earlier Preface for Lent (the Opening Prayer before the "Holy, Holy" and the Eucharistic Prayer), it proclaimed, "You have given us this **Joyful Season to celebrate the Paschal Mystery with hearts and minds renewed.**" Previously Lent was understood as a time of sadness and doing difficult things - mainly because they were difficult and "hard." Yet, Easter celebrates the center of our Christian faith, the Paschal Mystery.

The Paschal Mystery celebrates that death in all its firms and difficulties is not the last word. In the face of difficulties Our God comes to our assistance to open up New Life, New Hope, New Beginnings in amazing and unexpected ways. The difficult situation may still be there, but we are empowered to deal with it. We may be stressed but we are no longer powerless. The spirituality of the Paschal Mystery invites us to do things that are "life-giving" and that bring joy and satisfaction, like loving and serving in Jesus' name.

Too often Lent is often seen as a time for "giving up," like liquor or sweets. I would suggest that this Lent we give up giving up and focus more on what brings joy and happiness to you and to others. May we rejoice in serving at the Fish Fries, at Kimberly Home, or Pinellas Hope. These activities bring joy to others and often to

my life. Is there anything that needs change or is missing? Lent is the grace-full time to work on that.

Love can be understood as "appreciative delight." Another Lenten practice could be taking appreciative delight in our Faith and its many Blessings, appreciative delight in our Council of Knights, appreciative delight in our spouses and relatives, and maybe especially taking appreciative delight in ourselves and dropping any negativity towards myself.

Love and Joy,

Michael Cooper, SJ
Chaplain

Republished from March 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
dgk7109@gmail.com

Deputy Grand Knight's Report

Get ready for a busy February. We start the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday the 18th. Lent is when we engage in various traditional rituals and practices as a way of preparing spiritually for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. Fasting is common during Lent and involves giving up certain foods, activities or habits as a form of self-discipline and spiritual reflection.

It also is the time when we start our annual Friday Fish Fry. Our 1st of 6 Fish Fry dinners will be held on Friday the 20th. As always, we will need many volunteers to make this a successful event. Sign-up sheets will be coming out soon. We will be serving Coffee & Donuts on Sunday the 22nd from 7am to 1pm. The Tootsie Roll Drive will be held on Saturday the 7th from 4 to 7 pm and Sunday the 8th from 8am to 1pm. Again, with your help we can make these events successful.

We will have an Unified Degree Exemplification on Thursday the 19th at 7pm in the Gathering Room. This is an excellent time to get friends to join the Order.

From the Faith Directors Desk

We will have our monthly Rosary before our membership meeting in the JBC at 6:15p.

From the Community Directors Desk

We held our Free Throw Championship on Sunday the 11th. I want to thank all the Knights that came out to help. All Knights that want to volunteer at Parish events with youth present need to complete the diocesan Level 2 and Safe Environment Program training.

From the Family Directors Desk

We will be having our 1st All you can eat Fish Fry on Friday the 20th. This is a great opportunity for the family to relax and enjoy some good eating. Have friends come and join you.

From the Life Directors Desk

We will have our monthly work day at the Kimberly Home on Saturday the 21st from 8 to 10 am. If you have the time please volunteer.

February Liturgical Calendar

- Feb 02 – Presentation of the Lord, Feast
- Feb 03 – St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr and St Ansgar, Bishop, optional memorials
- Feb 05 – St Agatha, Virgin and Martyr, Memorial
- Feb 06 – St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs, Memorial
- Feb 10 – St Scholastica, Virgin, Memorial
- Feb 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes, optional memorial
- Feb 14 – Sts. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop, Memorial
- Feb 17 - Seven Holy Founders of the Order of Servites, Religious, optional memorial
- Feb 18 – Ash Wednesday
- Feb 21 – St Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, optional memorial
- Feb 23 – St Polycarp, bishop and martyr, optional memorial
- Feb 27 – St Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church, optional memorial

St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr, Memorial

St Agatha of Sicily was born in 231 AD. 15-year-old Agatha, from a rich and noble family, made a vow of virginity for Christ's sake and rejected the amorous advances of the Roman prefect Quintianus, who thought he could force her to turn away from her vows and marry him. His persistent proposals were constantly spurned by Agatha. Quintianus expected Agatha to give in to his demands when faced with torture and possible death, but Agatha simply reaffirmed her belief in God by praying: "Jesus Christ, Lord of all, you see my heart, you know my desires. Possess all that I am. I am your sheep: make me worthy to overcome the devil." Agatha was sentenced to be burnt at the stake; however, an earthquake prevented this from happening, and she was instead sent to a prison, where St. Peter the Apostle appeared to her and healed her wounds. St. Agatha died in that prison in the year 251 AD. She is the patron saint of Sicily, breast cancer patients, nurses, rape victims, and against fire.



John Ruckart
Field Agent
John.Ruckart@kofc.org



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

Fraternal Benefits Advisor Report

Do you have goals in mind for this year?

It may be February, but the year is still fresh. Instead of new year's resolutions, I like to think in terms of setting concrete, actionable goals. I recommend that at least once a year, you make it a goal to take inventory of your financial health.

You can start by asking yourself if you've experienced any major life events in the last year that may call for an update to your insurance plan or to acquire a policy for the first time. If you've gotten married, welcomed or are expecting a baby, changed careers or purchased a home, these are good reasons to evaluate your life insurance coverage.

Don't forget that if your life insurance policy is dependent on your current employer, you could be underinsured and only protected while you are still working.

It's also important to consider whether you're on track to maintain the lifestyle you want in retirement. Do you know how much money you'll need to retire comfortably?

Finally, consider if you're missing an opportunity to grow your assets. With faith-based investment options through our Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, you can pursue your financial goals with products that adhere to Catholic investment guidelines.

It's not too late to set goals for 2026.

I'd love to sit down with you and conduct a complimentary needs analysis.
Vivat Jesus!

John D Ruckart, FICF,
813.855.5111

Book an appt with me here:

<https://bookRuckart.flkofc.com/>

Learn about our investments:

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



TGWIF - Thank God We're In Florida! I'm sure many of us are praying for our families up North. What historical cold!

This month our Ladies Auxiliary will become quite busy assisting our Knights with the Valentines Dinner Dance on Saturday, February 14, Ash Wednesday Masses, and the start of the Lenten Fish Fries. As always for the dinner dance, we will be helping decorate and making up the raffle baskets with themes of love, springtime, and Easter. Many of us will be serving at the Ash Wednesday Masses in some capacity. And for our 11th season, we assist our Knights with the Fish Fries starting Friday, February 20th. What a busy week this will be. Rest up ladies, our marathon is just ahead. God Bless.



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

Faithful Navigator's Log

Sir Knights,

As we begin the month of February, I would like to thank each of you for your continued commitment to our Assembly and to the principles of Patriotism, Faith, and Fraternity.

On January 22, our Assembly held a Renewal of Obligations Ceremony, providing our Sir Knights the opportunity to reaffirm the solemn promises we made as Fourth Degree Knights. This meaningful ceremony served as a powerful reminder of our shared dedication to God, Country, and the Knights of Columbus. Thank you to all who participated and helped make the evening a dignified and reflective event.

Just a few days later, on January 31, we were proud to take part in a Patriotic Exemplification, during which we welcomed three new Sir Knights into our Assembly. We congratulate our members and thank them for answering the call to patriotic service: Welcome Jacob Bandy, Justin Appel, and Mark Feldman! We look forward to their active participation in our Assembly and are grateful to all who supported the exemplification through their planning, preparation, and attendance.

As we now enter the Lenten season, I encourage all Sir Knights to reflect on this sacred time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Lent offers us a renewed opportunity to grow in faith and to serve others more intentionally.

On Valentines Day, the Espiritu Santo KofC will be hosting a parish dinner dance; see the event flyer in this newsletter and please consider attending and or assisting. A day later, just prior to the start of Lent, the Assembly will host our second Coffee & Donuts of the fraternal year on February 15th. Please be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet.

In that spirit of service, I ask for your continued support of our Council Lenten Fish Fries, which begin this

month on February 20th and run for six Fridays. These events are not only an important fundraiser but also a visible and welcoming outreach to our parish community. Your participation - whether through volunteering your time or simply attending - is greatly appreciated.

During our recent and very successful Golf Tournament, we had one special auction item that did not receive any bids: a private wine class, generously donated by Total Wine & More. If this has not already been completed by the time this newsletter is published, I will be sending out a sign-up sheet with additional details. The class allows us to select both a date and a theme, such as *Wine 101*, *Bienvenido Spain*, *So Many Ways Chardonnay*, *Italy: From Tip to Toe*, *Vive la France*, *California Uncorked*, or *Cabernet Sauvignon: The King of Grapes*. The class can accommodate up to 20 participants (spouses welcome). We will ask for a \$20 donation per person, with 100% of the proceeds added to our Golf Tournament contribution benefiting the Gary Sinise Foundation.

Thank you again for your dedication to our Assembly. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings and events as we continue to serve with unity and purpose.

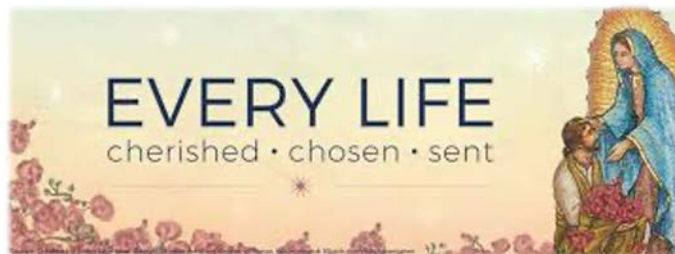
Vivat Jesus,
JJ Coyne
Faithful Navigator

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The Light Offered, The Sword Foretold, The Promise Fulfilled

February enters quietly, like a soft glow behind frost-covered windows, and yet it holds within it one of the most radiant feasts of the liturgical year. On February 2, the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also called Candlemas, when Christ is brought to the Temple forty days after His birth. It is the moment when Mary, the Immaculate Mother, and Joseph, the silent guardian of the mystery, carry the Light of the world into the house of prayer, and the shadows flee before Him. Candlemas is the feast where flame becomes symbol, where candles are blessed and held high as a sign that Christ is the light who pierces every darkness and reveals the path of salvation. In this sacred offering, we watch the Holy Family ascend the Temple steps not simply in obedience to the Law, but as participants in the unfolding revelation of God's eternal plan. The Child is lifted. The Light is shown. The Promise enters His own dwelling as both Lord and Lamb.

As Christ is presented, heaven opens the mouth of Simeon, the righteous elder who had waited his entire life for this single hour. With trembling hands, he takes the Eternal Word into his aging arms and proclaims the Nunc Dimittis, the great canticle of fulfillment. Here, prophecy becomes flesh. Here, longing becomes sight. Yet nestled within this joy is the shadow of the Cross, for Simeon turns to Mary and speaks words that pierce the ages: "A sword shall pierce your own soul." February is therefore not a month of light alone, but of light that knows its cost.

Candlemas reveals that the brightness of Christ cannot be separated from the suffering He will endure, and the glory of Mary cannot be separated from the sorrow she will bear. The Presentation is Bethlehem meeting Calvary. The blessed candles

that glow in our hands are both gentle and fierce, symbols of warmth and warning. They teach us that divine light is never sentimental but always salvific, illuminating not only joy but truth, judgment, and the path that leads to Golgotha.

To live February well is to walk with Mary and Joseph into the Temple of our own lives, offering Christ in every thought, word, and deed. It is to lift Him high as the center of our days, to let His light scatter our darkness, and to accept, with humility, the swords that come with discipleship. And to my brother Knights, this month calls us to carry our candles beyond the sanctuary, becoming torches in a world that often prefers twilight to truth. Let us be men who hold fast to the light of Christ when others strain to extinguish it, men who imitate Simeon's fidelity, Anna's perseverance, Joseph's obedience, and Mary's unwavering surrender. Let us recommit ourselves to the mission of guarding the flame of faith in our families, councils, and parishes.

February is the month when light is offered, prophecy spoken, and destiny revealed. Let us rise to meet it with courage. Let us lift our candles high. Let us become, through grace, men whose lives shine with the radiance of Christ Himself.

Ad Jesum per Mariam.



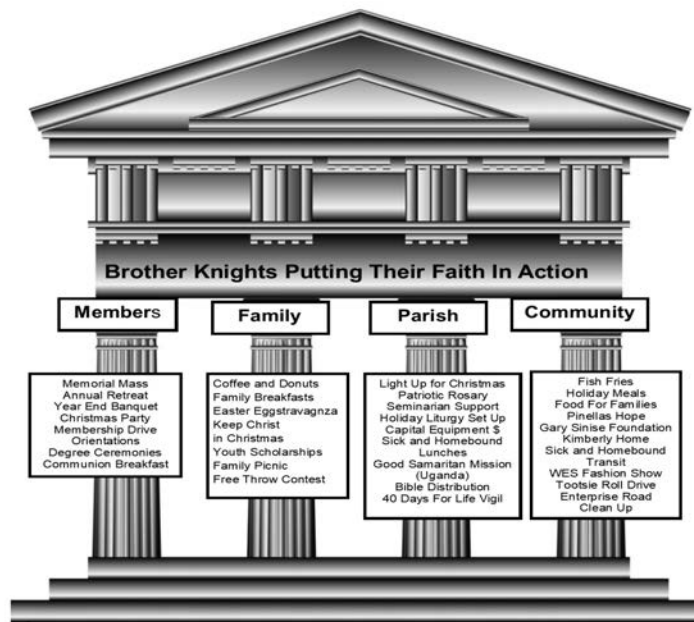


Jerry Custin
PGK, PFN
jcustin@gmail.com



Promote Family Life

Our February mission is to promote family life. Interesting, this hits at the time of our Fish Fries and numerous youth activities, including the annual free-throw contest. I think we check that box big time. Psalm 139 clearly ties this mission to God. He knows where we sit and stand. He doesn't need words: He knows us by our actions. Even better, He's always there to support us.



Psalm 139

LORD, you have probed me, you know me: you know when I sit and stand; you understand my thoughts from afar. You sift through my travels and my rest; with all my ways you are familiar. Even before a word is on my tongue, LORD, you know it all. Behind and before you encircle me and rest your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, far too lofty for me to reach. Where can I go from your spirit? From your presence, where can I flee? If I ascend to the heavens, you are there; if I lie down in Sheol, there you are. If I take the wings of dawn and dwell beyond the sea, even there your hand guides me, your right hand holds me fast. If I say, "Surely darkness shall hide me, and night shall be my light"—Darkness is not dark for you, and night shines as the day. Darkness and light are but one. You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb

Lenten Fish Fry FryDays



Join us EVERY Friday during Lent at the Parish Hall from 4PM - 730PM

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Photo Gallery

KNIGHT & FAMILY OF THE MONTH

WGK Tom Krivchenia presents awards to:



SK Fred DiMassi
December Knight of the Month



SK Bill & Marie Gallant
October Family of the Month



SK Richie & Roe Resler
December Family of the Month



WGK Tom Krivchenia recognizes
Patrick Flynn as a new
3rd Degree of our Council



Sir Knights of Assembly 2474
participate in the annual Renewal
of Obligations Ceremony

Letter to the Editor

Pope Leo XIV Speaks Out On Language

We live in increasingly complex and divisive times. Communication means and supporting technologies permit us to share thoughts instantly and globally. Clarity of message is critical to the transfer of real intent. But not everyone's motive for communicating is necessarily directed at the common good. Sadly, we have experienced this in far too many ways in today's society.

In his first major State of the World address to ambassadors, Pope Leo XIV zoomed in on vocabulary. Yes, he spoke about war, multilateralism, and human rights. But one passage landed with particular force in the age of AI and social media: The Pope warned that "the meaning of words is becoming ever more fluid," increasingly ambiguous, and even "a weapon" used to deceive or punish opponents.

He cautioned that "a new Orwellian-style language is developing," which, while claiming to be inclusive, ends up excluding those who do not conform. Orwell dramatized the same idea in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* with the concept of "Newspeak," a controlled vocabulary designed to shrink what people can say — and, therefore, what they can even manage to think. The aim is not persuasion but limitation: **If a society lacks the words for moral truth, dissent, or conscience, those realities become harder to articulate aloud, then harder to defend.**

Pope Leo's point is that, when key terms lose stable meaning, public debate becomes a contest of power. The Pope told diplomats that "freedom of speech and expression is guaranteed precisely by the certainty of language and the fact that every term is anchored in the truth."

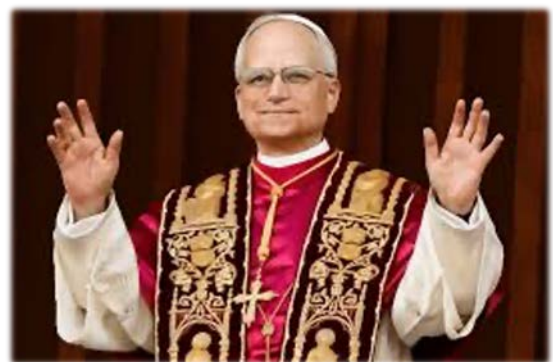
Weak language is not a question of bad style: It's a **moral problem**. Catholic tradition is blunt about the stakes. The Catechism (§2486) teaches that

misrepresenting the truth "undermine[s] the foundations" of our shared life. It also describes Christian witness as a "transmission of the faith in words and deeds," **insisting that speech is never morally neutral.**

That frames Pope Leo's "Orwellian" warning as more than cultural commentary. If language becomes mushy — if words are endlessly redefined **until no one can say what is true** — then conscience and freedom are easier to pressure, and the weak are easier to discard. In 2026, when AI can generate flawless prose in seconds, the spiritual test is simpler and harder: **Will we choose words that tell the truth, or words that help us evade it?**

This is a bold and very timely statement by the Pope. As Catholic men, we have chosen to join an organization based on the principles of unity, charity, fraternity, and patriotism. Communications at our meetings, in our community activities, and in our published materials must not be fluid, ambiguous, or worse.

In the end, life is about the relationships we build with our brothers and sisters in our council, assembly, church, and broader community. Ultimately, these relationships are based on trust and integrity. Pope Leo XIV is telling us that to **walk the walk**, we must also be very clear in how we **talk the talk**. Truth and morality depend on it!



From the Desk of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly...

Hardwired for Communion

*Young men won't find fulfillment in digital distraction,
but in a life shaped by faith, fraternity and self-gift*

Last November, I participated in the inaugural Symposium on Young American Men in Washington, D.C. Convened to address the growing crisis of isolation and disconnectedness among young men, it brought together experts and scholars to discuss the reasons behind the crisis - and to offer solutions.

Polling data presented at the symposium by the research firm Cygnal was startling. Nearly 70% of Gen Z men (born between 1997 and 2012) spend one to six hours a day online, and 27% spend six hours or more - browsing, gaming or scrolling through their social media feeds. More than 44% spend between three and six hours per day on YouTube alone, and 11% spend even more time on the site than that. Internet gaming - which researchers link to increased exposure to pornography - is rampant among Gen Z. More than half play video games daily, and nearly 36% play for more than two hours a day.

The data shows that heavy digital usage has a clear link with poor levels of happiness and mental health among young men. Brad Wilcox, a professor of sociology at the University of Virginia, says the addictive nature of gaming, social media and pornography is causing men "to lose their drive and ability to socialize, learn, date, work and form a family." He notes that many of his college-age female students lament that they have never been asked out on a date.

Amid the discouraging findings, there were some rays of hope. The polling showed that other behaviors correlate with positive outcomes. Young men who practice their faith, exercise regularly, have male mentors, and spend minimal time online report significantly higher levels of happiness and better mental health.

Isolation and disconnectedness are nothing new. What is new is the way today's technologies are designed to be immersive and addictive, which makes it so easy to fall into isolating patterns. The men of Blessed Michael McGivney's time were not drowning in internet addiction, but they were struggling with a host of other challenges: low wages, domestic hardship, alcoholism and rejection by mainstream society. These realities shaped Father McGivney's response - and our current realities must shape our own.

The Knights of Columbus can make a real difference in the lives of young men by showing them a path to greater fulfillment and connection. Young men need to know that there is a Christian vision for their purpose and destiny. They need brother Knights to serve as mentors and friends - men who can inspire them to get offline and connect with that vision. They need to understand that they are hardwired for connection and communion - with one another and with God. And they need to know that the Church respects their inherent dignity as men and offers them a compelling vision of authentic masculinity. It's a vision that calls them to make a gift of themselves to others - and through that sacrifice, they find authentic flourishing.

Men deserve better than a life of mediocrity spent online and without a Christian vision of their purpose. St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, canonized this past September, put it this way a century ago in a letter to a friend: "To live without Faith, without a patrimony to defend, without steady struggle for Truth, that is not living but existing."

At their core, all men have a deep desire to be challenged with a vision of life that calls them to sacrifice for a higher purpose. And in today's society, there is no greater challenge for any man than to fully embrace a Christian life. This is a life of real heroism. It is a life of consequence that our times demand. Is it easy? No. Is it worth it? Yes. And it is a life that will make all the difference - in this world and the next.

Vivat Jesus!



From the Florida State Council Chamber...

This Is Our Time

My brother Knights of Columbus, now January and stand at the midpoint of our fraternal year, we are presented with a powerful and grace-filled opportunity. Six months remain—six months not to slow down, not to look back, but to move forward with renewed purpose and deeper conviction. This moment is not accidental. It is providential. It is a call from Christ Himself inviting us to labor once more in His vineyard and to bring souls closer to Him.

We know, from our own lived experience, what the Knights of Columbus has done for us. We know how it has shaped our faith, strengthened our families, deepened our commitment to service, and anchored us more firmly in Christ and His Church. But the gift we have received was never meant to be kept to ourselves. It was meant to be shared. The Knights of Columbus is not merely an organization; it is a journey of faith. It is a brotherhood rooted in the Gospel, sustained by charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism, and directed always toward Christ.

When a man becomes a Knight, the transformation does not stop with him. It radiates outward. It touches his wife, his children, and his entire family. It strengthens marriages. It forms fathers. It raises children who see faith lived, not just spoken. The impact of one man saying “yes” to Christ through the Knights of Columbus can echo through generations. That is why our mission matters so deeply. That is why our work is so urgent.

Our task is simple in its meaning, though profound in its execution: to bring our brothers to Christ through the Knights of Columbus. We do this not through pressure, but through invitation; not through words alone, but through witness. We do it by living our faith openly in our parishes, by serving faithfully in our communities, and by loving one another as Christ has loved us. There are hungry souls all around us - men searching for purpose, families longing for stability, hearts yearning for truth. Christ is the answer, and the Knights of Columbus is one of the instruments He uses to reach them.

I am asking for your help. Not because the task is too great for one man, but because it is perfectly suited for many men united in Christ. Together, as we have done in the past, we can accomplish extraordinary things. Through our parishes, through our councils, and through our communities, we can extend an open hand and a welcoming heart. We can walk alongside those who are just beginning their journey, remembering that once, not so long ago, someone did the same for us.

As we reflect on the first six months of this fraternal year, we should do so with gratitude and humility. Together, we have already accomplished so much. Our charitable givings have made a real difference in the lives of those in need. Our programs have strengthened parishes, supported clergy, aided families, and served the vulnerable. Our commitment to membership has brought new brothers into our ranks, each one a blessing to the Order and to the Church. None of this happened by accident. It happened because you said yes - yes to service, yes to faith, yes to fraternity.

You, my brother Knights, are the heartbeat of Florida when it comes to the Knights of Columbus. The Florida State Council is alive and strong because of your dedication, your sacrifice, and your willingness to act. You have proven time and again that great things can happen when faithful men come together with a shared mission. And great things have already happened. Lives have been changed. Families have been strengthened. Christ has been glorified.

But this is not the time to rest. This is the time to press forward. This is our time. This is your time. And most importantly, this is Jesus Christ's time.

Christ is calling us now - calling us to go out once more, to cast our nets again, trusting not in our own strength but in His grace. He is asking us to be bold in our faith, generous in our charity, and unwavering in our commitment. He is asking us to see each man not as a number, but as a soul; not as a task, but as a brother yet to be welcomed home.

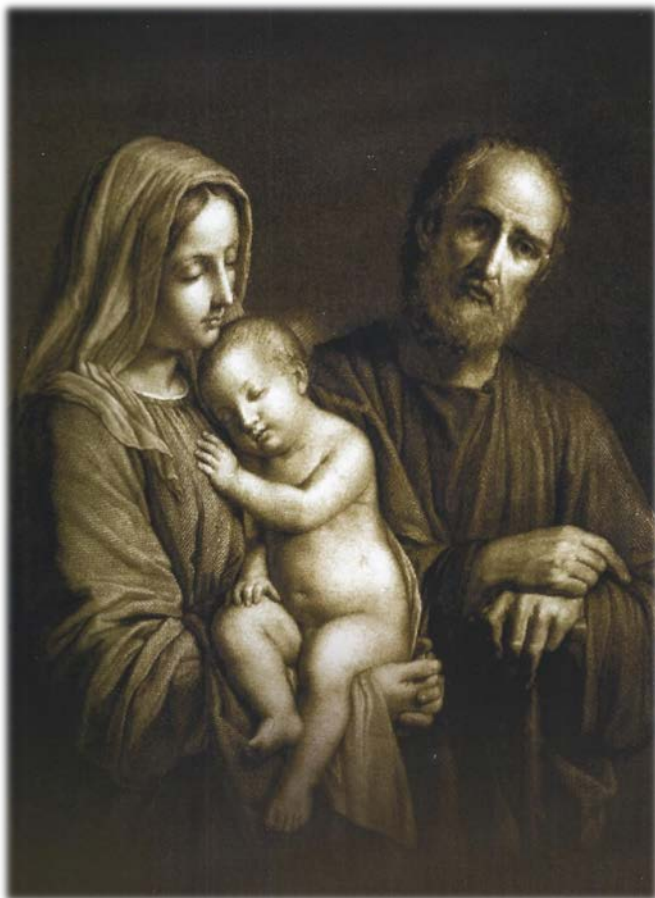
With your help, we can do this. With your faith, your leadership, and your willingness to invite, we can bring new brother Knights into the Order this month and help them begin the same journey we began many years ago. A journey that has shaped who we are as men, as husbands, as fathers, and as disciples of Christ.

Let us move forward together, grounded in prayer and united in purpose. Let us trust that the Holy Spirit will guide our efforts and multiply our work. And let us never forget that everything we do is for the greater glory of God.

This is our mission. This is our moment. And with Christ at the center, there is nothing we cannot accomplish together.

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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.

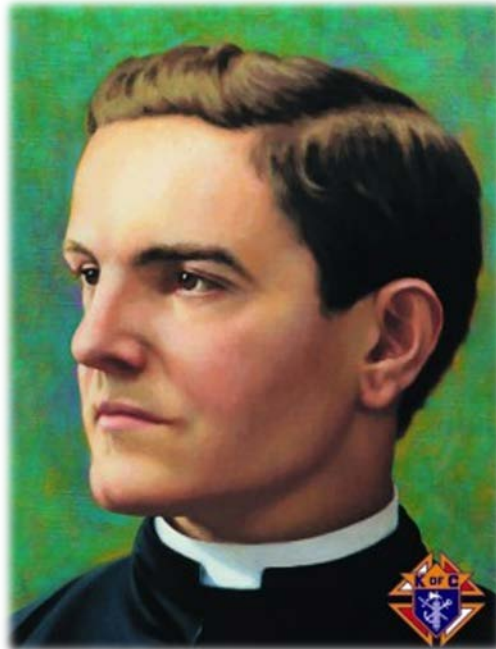
In our daily life and work,
May we reflect the self-giving love which you,
O Father, eternally show with your Son
and the Holy Spirit.

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...

February 2026

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| • 02/01 Sun 8:00a | Valentines Day Dinner Dance Ticket Sales |
| • 02/07 Sat 5:00p | Tootsie Roll Drive |
| • 02/07 Sat 5:00p | Valentines Day Dinner Dance Ticket Sales |
| • 02/08 Sun 8:00a | Tootsie Roll Drive |
| • 02/08 Sun 8:00a | Valentines Day Dinner Dance Ticket Sales |
| • 02/12 Thu 6:15p | Rosary |
| • 02/12 Thu 7:00p | Council 7109 & Ladies Auxiliary Monthly Meetings |
| • 02/14 Sat 9:00a | Valentines Day Dinner Dance Set-Up |
| • 02/14 Sat 7:00p | Valentines Day Dinner Dance |
| • 02/19 Thu 8:00a | Pinellas Hope Meal Prep & Delivery |
| • 02/19 Thu 7:00p | Unified Degree Exemplification |
| • 02/20 Fri 4:00p | Fish Fry DryDay #1 |
| • 02/21 Sat 8:00a | Kimberly Home WorkDay |
| • 02/27 Fri 4:00p | Fish Fry FryDay #2 |

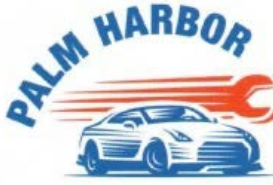


Assembly Calendar of Events...

February 2026

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| • 02/22 Sun 8:00a | Assembly 2474 Coffee & Donuts |
| • 02/26 Thu 7:00p | Monthly 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.

