

# KNIGHTS NEWSLINE



Knights of Columbus  
Council #13639

Surely your goodness and love will  
follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house  
of the LORD forever.

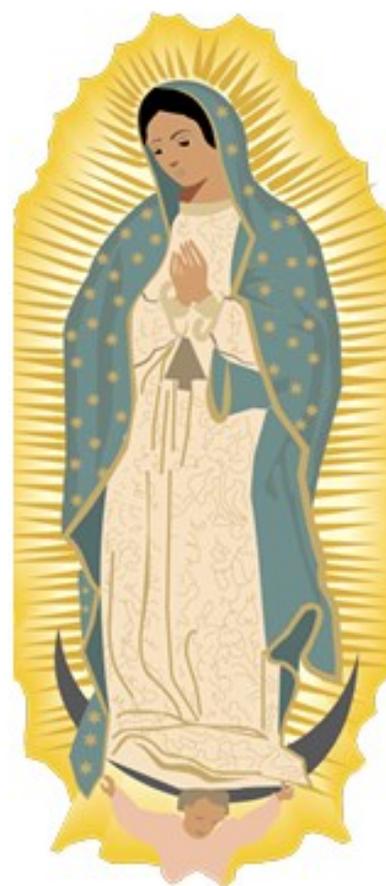
Psalm 23:6

# 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR

# KNIGHTS NEWSLINE

Knights of Columbus  
 Our Lady Queen of Martyrs  
 Council #13639  
 833 Magellan Dr.  
 Sarasota, FL 34243



January						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 2025	2	3 FIRST FRIDAY	4
5	6 ✠	7 🏆	8	9 🏆	10	11
12	13 ✠	14	15	16	17	18 🍝
19	20 ✠	21	22	23 🏆	24	25 🍬
26 🍬	27 ✠	28	29	30	31	

## January Happenings

Wednesday	1	Happy New Year!
Friday	3	First Friday Fish Fry (Flynn Hall 4-7pm)
Mondays		Adoration Every Monday at 6pm
Tuesday	7	Officer's Meeting (rm 10, 7pm)
Thursday	9	Business / Council Meeting (Flynn Hall 6:30pm)
Saturday	11	Trivia w/ host Larry Jessen (5:45pm start time)
Saturday	18	Spaghetti Dinner! (Flynn Hall 5pm - 8pm)
Saturday	25	Tootsie Roll Drive (Publix Univ 8am-4pm)
Sunday	26	Tootsie Roll Drive (Publix Univ 8am-4pm)

### In This Issue

OLQM Happenings	2
Trivia Night!	3
Christmas at OLQM	4
Veterans Day Mass	5-6
Pro-Life Across Borders	7-8
A Message When Needed	9
Good of the Order	10
Birthdays	10

# Trivia Night! ( Ugly Sweater Contest)

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs hosts Trivia Night, once a month with Trivia Quest host, Larry Jessen. December's Trivia Night also included an Ugly Sweater contest! Players were prompted to wear an ugly sweater, which would be judged by the staff at the end of the night.

Larry hosts trivia night once a month at OLQM. Dates are advertised in the bulletin ahead of time. Please come join us for a fun night of comradery! (and win some prizes!!)



Photo Credits: Don Daly

# Christmas at OLQM

Christmas at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs was as expected. Church was beautifully decorated, with help from the CCW, Knights of Columbus and others assisting to transform the church and altar with trees, wreaths and other beautiful decorations!

Masses were packed with parishioners and visitors attending five masses! Three vigil masses, on Christmas Eve (4pm, 6pm and 10pm). The 6:00pm mass was the children's mass where the parish children put on a play. Everyone applauded when the play was complete as the children did a wonderful job!

There were two masses on Christmas Day (8am and 10am), which were also very well attended!

The church and altar will remain decorated until the Epiphany or our Lord which will be on Sunday, January 5th.

**Right:** Altar prior to Christmas day with trees, wreaths and advent wreath



**Left:** Christmas day with the nativity beautifully displayed

# Catholic Mass honors veterans at National Cemetery

**SARASOTA** | The 15th annual Catholic Mass on Veterans Day at Sarasota National Cemetery was celebrated to thank God for all who serve or have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including those who are on active duty, as well as those who have died, and their families.

More than 800 people attended the Mass, which takes place in Patriots Plaza at the National Cemetery in Sarasota Nov. 11 each year. Bishop Frank J. Dewane initiated the Catholic Mass in 2010, just a few years after the cemetery opened. The main celebrant and homilist for the Mass was Father Bob Kantor, Pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Naples, state Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, and a retired U.S. Navy Chaplain. In addition, 18 priests concelebrated.

Father Kantor expressed how he was blessed and honored to celebrate the Catholic Veterans Day Mass at the National Cemetery, having served during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

“We are on ground that is hallowed by the bodies of those who have served our nation so honorably and to those of you here present who are still alive to bear witness to Jesus Christ,” Father Kantor said. “We join our prayers to yours, praying to the souls of those departed and those living we celebrate this Veterans Day. May it be a day of joy and strength and recognition for what a blessing you are to our nation.”

“Whenever our nation has gone to war, brave men and women have answered the call — sometimes those in the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine gave their lives,” Father Kantor said. “Today we remember those who returned, some who suffered physically or mentally, all who sacrificed heroically.”

Reflecting upon his service in Afghanistan and Iraq, Father Kantor described bringing the sacraments to sailors, soldiers, and airmen on ships, oil platforms and at forward operating bases. He remembered those who, despite enduring active combat zone conditions, held close to and even grew in their faith. These men and women gathered on short notice in a mess tent that served as a temporary Chapel, with dirty faces and little rest were sacrificing to draw closer to the Lord.



“Many of us who served can remember comrades who did not make it home,” Father Kantor said. “We remember those people who helped us get through; those who showed us what it was to serve honorably. We hold lessons deep in our hearts. Everyone has his or her memories. Some that are an open book — some locked away to be revealed to no one, but God. We gather to pray for all who had these experiences and for us veterans to entrust ourselves to God, knowing we did our best.”



Priests and deacons of the Diocese of Venice, along with the Knights of Columbus Color Corps are joined by others in praying before the graves at Sarasota National Cemetery following a Catholic Mass on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2024, in Sarasota.  
BOB REDDY | FC

# KNIGHTS NEWSLINE

Continued from pg. 5



The Knights of Columbus Color Corps line up during opening procession of the Catholic Mass celebrated Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2024, at Sarasota National Cemetery.  
BOB REDDY / FC

Veterans Day prophetically falls on the Feast of St. Martin of Tours, a Bishop who was a soldier who then dedicated his life to God. Father Kantor noted that the saint's life represented a transition from a time of war to a condition of peace. The holiday was established following World War I as a recognition of the end to that terrible conflict on Nov. 11, 1918. Established as Armistice Day by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919, the day similarly marked a transition from war to peace. The recognition was broadened to honor and thank all who have served in the U.S. Armed Services, becoming Veterans Day under President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Prior to the opening of the Mass, all veterans — active and retired — were asked to stand and be recognized and were honored with resounding applause. This was followed by the presentation of the Colors by the Knights of Columbus Color Corps and then the singing of the National Anthem.

The Sarasota National Cemetery celebration concluded with a procession, escorted by the Knights of Columbus Color Corps to the nearby graves as those in attendance sang "God Bless America."

Father Kantor, priests, Deacons, the Knights of Columbus Color Corps, and all present, then gathered in silent prayer before "Taps" was played on a bugle.

John Robinson, a parishioner at St. Thomas More Parish in Sarasota and a combat-wounded U.S. Marine who served during the Korean War, has attended every Catholic Mass on Veterans Day because he feels it is his duty to honor the memory of his comrades in arms.

"I found my faith during the war," Robinson said. "I was proud to serve my country and it is wonderful that the Catholic Church recognizes the sacrifice made by our veterans by having this Mass every year."

There are now more than 25,000 veterans and eligible family members currently interred in the National Cemetery and some 18.5 million military veterans in the United States

The Diocese of Venice coordinates the Catholic Mass at the National Cemetery with the backing of the Knights of Columbus and is grateful for the help and support of Sarasota National Cemetery.

During the Mass, the gifts were brought forward by Steve and Kathy Jendrysik, of Incarnation Parish in Sarasota. Both are U.S. Navy Veterans.



## Editor's note:

*The previous article was posted in the Florida Catholic. A publication of the Venice Diocese. The picture to the left is from the Veterans Day Mass. Council #13639 was prominent during the mass with members assisting as Ushers, Color Corp and other aspects. The mass was a great event. Hope to see more attendees in 2025.*

## Pro-Life Across Borders

Annual transfer of Knights of Columbus Silver Rose at U.S.-Mexico border symbolizes devotion to Our Lady, unity and a pro-life culture

By Elisha Valladares-Cormier

12/27/2024

As drums beat and cries of “*Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe*” rang out, Knights of Columbus from the United States delivered two Knights of Columbus Silver Roses to brother Knights from Mexico during a Dec. 10 ceremony at the midway point of the Gateway to the Americas International Bridge in Laredo, Texas.

The U.S. delegation, which included Supreme Master Michael McCusker, Supreme Director Alfredo Vela and Texas State Deputy Ron Alonzo, was met on the bridge by about 150 Knights and family members from Mexico, led by Mexico Northeast State Deputy Luis Gaston Manriquez Moya.

This year, the annual exchange also included the transfer of thousands of prayer intentions collected by Knights in 2024 at the National Eucharistic Congress, Life Fest and local pro-life prayer services organized along the roses’ routes, which began in Canada earlier this year. The roses and prayer intentions were later brought by Knights in Mexico to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City and placed near the altar on Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

“Roses were the emblem that Our Lady of Guadalupe used to help build the Church in the New World,” Supreme Master McCusker said after the ceremony. “And the rose was a symbol used by early pro-life advocates when lobbying their elected officials because it’s a sign of life. For the two purposes to come together in one program that honors our patroness and shows our dedication to life is simply remarkable.”

Grand Knight Julian Luna of Laredo Council 2304, who helped organize the event and coordinate the Silver Rose tour in Laredo, further explained, “The Silver Rose is a reminder that silver loses its brightness and luster if not tended to. We need to tend to our faith and our commitment to life, to strengthen it, because without faith, there is no hope.”

About 250 Knights and family members from throughout Texas gathered at San Agustín Cathedral in Laredo before the ceremony for Mass celebrated by Father Iden Bello, rector of the cathedral and a member of Nuestra Señora del Rosario Council 13838.



Supreme Master Michael McCusker (right) greets Father Jesus Alberto Tijerina Bernal of the Diocese of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, before handing over a Knights of Columbus Silver Rose during the annual silver rose exchange ceremony between Knights from the United States and Mexico at the Gateway to the Americas International Bridge in Laredo, Texas. Standing center, wearing vestments, is Father Iden Bello, rector of San Agustín Cathedral in Laredo. (Photo by Scott Ball)

## Pro-Life Across Borders

Continued from pg. 7

After the liturgy, Knights followed behind the colorful sights and sounds of a local *matachines* dance troupe and made the short, six-block journey from the cathedral to the international bridge — a major port of entry between the two countries that shuts down entirely for the ceremony each year.

“The Laredo Bridge System has to close the bridge and stop all traffic and pedestrians so we can do the ceremony at mid-bridge,” said Luna. “It’s a special occasion, and the city of Laredo has always prided itself on supporting this event each year.”

It was the supreme master’s first visit to the U.S.-Mexico border, but participating in the ceremony is something he had hoped to do since first helping coordinate the Silver Rose program in Tennessee in 2009.

“It was a visible sign of how international we are as Knights of Columbus,” Supreme Master McCusker said. “And to have these roses traveling from Canada and across the United States, culminating at the border between the United States and Mexico — where there is such a need at this time for healing and grace — it speaks to God’s plan in all our lives.”

The exchange at the border has been part of the Knights of Columbus Silver Rose program since it began in 1960, at which time Columbian Squires literally ran with the first rose — a real rose, not one made of silver — from the border to the Basilica of Guadalupe in Monterrey.

The program has since grown to feature eight roses traveling along different routes through Canada, the United States and Mexico from March through mid-December. Councils hosting a Silver Rose hold prayer services promoting the dignity of life and honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Order. At each stop, prayer requests are collected to ask Our Lady’s intercession.

“These people have resounding faith in *la Virgen de Guadalupe*,” Luna said. “And I don’t want them to lose that, [because] she’s still here with us.”



A Knights of Columbus color guard leads the procession from San Agustín Cathedral to the midway point of the Gateway to the Americas International Bridge. (Photo by Scott Ball)

# A Message When Needed

A True story

by Mario Gallo

Often, things occur that make us ask 'WHY?', or we go through a situation where we are seeking an explanation for what has happened. Recently, I went through an event as such and I am currently stuck asking myself 'Why?'

Christmas Evening, my family was all gathered over my cousin's house for Christmas supper. When we arrived, my mother was not feeling well, she was shaking, felt sick to her stomach and was extremely tired. We called 911 and she was taken to the hospital emergency room. We found out that the pneumonia she was diagnosed with a month prior, had not been cured so she was admitted.

The following day, I arrive and sit in my mother's room while she lay sleeping wondering 'why?'. Mom is 84 and in fairly good health, minus a few minor issues. Later, around noon, I went to my favorite diner to meet a friend for lunch. The diner is within walking distance from the hospital, so it gave me a chance to get a little exercise and clear my head.

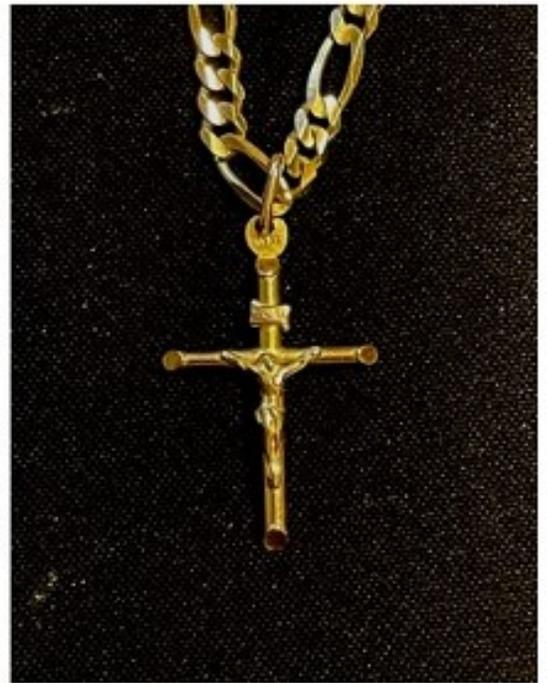
Lunch was pretty uneventful, old friends catching up and talking about families, work, etc. There was an older couple seated in the booth across the aisle from us getting ready to leave. They were approximately my mother's age, give or take a few years. The older gentleman comes over to me and out of the blue says this to me, "May I say something to you?" and before I could answer, he started in on this statement; It went as such: "Anyone that has that guts and fortitude to wear THAT in public, deserves two things" At this I remembered I had the gold Crucifix on that I always wear. With that, he reached out his hand and said "Thank you. Thank you for being the type of person who is not afraid to show their faith and wear it proudly."

The man went on to tell me a story of how on Christmas Eve, he and his wife went to dinner with their children and grandchildren. When he got home, he realized he did not have his wallet with him. He called the restaurant and it was closed for the evening. He went on to tell me how he prayed for God's grace that nothing be touched. In the wallet was all of his identification, credit cards and \$5,000 in cash.

He received a call this morning, the day after Christmas, that his wallet was there, so he rushed up there to retrieve it, not knowing it's condition. When he arrived, the manager came out and handed him the wallet. He inspected it carefully and to his joy and amazement, there was nothing missing. All of his identification, all four credit cards and all of the cash was still in place. He blessed himself, thanked the manager and took his wife to lunch and sat across the aisle from my friend and me.

Before he left, he said this "As long as you have faith, you don't need anything else. Remember, God is there and he's watching over you."

I asked myself, what are the chances of some stranger speaking to me out of the blue? In both cases, I believe I received my answer and the message I needed.



*Pictured above is the gold crucifix I wear, displayed on the black shirt I was wearing at the time this occurred.*

**Good of the Order**

Mark Shaw	Levi Vingelli
Joe DeStefano	Terry Fusco
Bob Petrelli	Pat Thielen
Steve Dardinski	Dolly Gallo
Julia Barker	John Marabella

**January Birthdays**

Max Fullmer	7	Steve Dardinski	16
John Ricottilli	8	Joseph Couevas	20
Joe Mihalak	12	Fr. John Hoang	20
Dr. James Bovienzo	12	Christopher Graser	21
Charles Stryker	14	Paul Wyzgowski	27

**COUNCIL OFFICERS**

**2024-2025**

**Grand Knight**

*Pat Thielen*

**Deputy Grand Knight**

*Sal Antonicelli*

**Financial Secretary**

*Open*

**Chancellor**

*Steve Dardinski, PGK*

**Warden**

*Bob Petrelli*

**Recorder**

*Joe DeStefano, PGK, PGN, FDD*

**Treasurer**

*Mario Gallo*

**Advocate**

*Jack McNeeley, PGK*

**Inside Guard**

*Franco Gagliardi*

**Outside Guard**

*Frank Grosso*

**Lecturer #1**

*Don Daly*

**Lecturer #2**

*Eddy Zappacosta*

**Trustee (One Year):**

*Keith Kehoe*

**Trustee (Two Year):**

*Chris Maffettone, PGK, PFN*

**Trustee (Three Year):**

*Vince Fusco*

**District Deputy**

*Kirk Brown, PGK, PFN*

**Chaplain:**

*Fr. John Hoang*

**Benefits Advisor:**

*Ron Moliterno*

If you have a story, article, event or other notes of interest that you think would be good for our council newsletter, please contact:

**Mario Gallo**

[mariogallojr1965@gmail.com](mailto:mariogallojr1965@gmail.com)

610.766.2426