



**Knights of Columbus
St. Paul the First Hermit
Council 14222 – January 2026**

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Grand Knight Message

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We are off to a fantastic New Year!

After a busy and successful December, we are not slowing down and February will be just as busy.*

Please keep an eye out for SignUpGenius for Diaper Drive volunteer opportunities February 14,15,16. Sean O' Connell will need a lot of hands on deck. Also, Ash Wednesday marks the kick off of the Lenten food drive so again watch for volunteer opportunities there. We all can

help! One hour can make a difference! We have a busy spring ahead too, so get excited! We are going to grow!

Vivat Jesu
Jim Schafer
Grand Knight

The District Deputy and District Warden were in attendance at our Membership Meeting on the 21st, and awarded our Council the Columbian Award and Founders Award.

Columbian Award

This is given to the Council that annually conducts and reports at least four major involvement activities in each of the program categories (Church, Community, Council, Culture of Life, Family, Youth).

Founders Award

Council must achieve an insurance membership quota of 2.5 percent net increase in insurance membership as of July 1 for the fraternal year. The minimum quota is 3 and the maximum of 18.

*The weekend of March 28th and 29th (Palm Sunday) is going to be busy also. We have the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, Donut Sunday, Lenten Food Drive and the Rosary.



Message from Dcn. John Rumplach

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Bishop's Letter: Gift of Life

Jan 22, 2026

Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Every January 22, the Catholic Church remembers the gift of life from conception through natural death. It is called the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children and on this day, we pray that God forgive our communal participation through the ages of the Supreme Court of the United States decisions of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decriminalizing abortion in 1973. We pray for one another as we struggle to make sense out of our belief in life and our lack of courage to speak against the culture of death. We pray for those who suffer because of an abortion and ask that they be healed with God's everlasting peace. We pray for ourselves that we grasp how God asks us to bring life to light through the Gospel.

Some will say that these times are the worst of times; however, in every generation, these words have been spoken. The worst of times comes about because we turn away from God; our desire for 'things of the flesh' overcome our desire for God. Most people will not experience a killing personally, or the murder of a person by another's hand. Yet, in many ways, we choose to participate in these acts of sinfulness, when we deny the dignity and sacredness of any one person. "The fruit of justice is a tree of life, and one who takes lives is a sage" (Proverbs 11:30).

The meaning of this is that divine judgment is exercised on all human action, even the best. It is a reminder that each one is to lovingly care for one another as God cares for each one.

Evangelium Vitae, The Gospel of Life, was written more than thirty years ago to all the people, clergy, religious and lay faithful, and speaks to the value and inviolability of human life. It begins with "The Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus' message. Lovingly received day after day by the Church, it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as "good news" to the people of every age and culture" (EV 1).

We first understand the holiness of life as we acknowledge the Gift of Jesus born to our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph through the breath of the Holy Spirit. God is given to us, to live with us. Jesus presents the heart of His redemptive mission as he explains, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (Jn 10:10). In this "new" and "eternal" life all the aspects and stages of human life achieve their full significance. We are then called to a fullness of life which far exceeds the dimensions of our earthly living, because each one of us shares in the very life of God. How beautiful is this matchless love!

Through, with and in all time, through all ages, we bequeath this gift of life to one another by offering ourselves as the face of Jesus; for by doing so this gift marvelously fulfills all the heart's expectations while infinitely surpasses them (EV 2). The sacred value of human life from its very beginning until its end is affirmed by God's gift of life, and we receive the grace of this life through the Sacraments, continually being nourished by Jesus the Eucharist.

The document echoes the courageous and clear Church teaching spoken in the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World *Gaudium et Spes*, 27; “Whatever is opposed to life itself, such as any type of murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia, or willful self-destruction, whatever violates the integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself; whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where people are treated as mere instruments of gain rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others like them are infamies indeed. They poison human society, and they do more harm to those who practice them than to those who suffer from the injury. Moreover, they are a supreme dishonor to the Creator”.

None of us, if asked, would admit to dishonor God! On this day of prayer, let us also pray that we respond well to each gift of life, cherishing one another, as God cherishes us, His beloved. Let us affirm the sacredness of everyone whom we encounter, that the bond of heaven sweeps away the darkness of earth with God’s everlasting light.

Due to health issues, Deacon John forwarded this important letter from the Bishop in lieu of his monthly reflection. Please pray for his complete recovery.

Things That You May Not Know about the Knights of Columbus

The Vatican Film Library at Saint Louis University is a research collection for medieval and Renaissance manuscript studies that provides access to textual and visual resources of the pre-modern world.

Established in 1953 with funding from the Knights of Columbus, the collection housed at SLU holds over 40,000 manuscripts from the 4th to the 17th centuries reproduced in microfilm and digital formats from the *Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana* and other libraries. It offers rich collections for study in history, literature, religion, philosophy, Canon and civil law, classics, science, medicine and many other subjects. Languages and cultural traditions represented include Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, Coptic, Ethiopic and Western European vernaculars.

An extensive reference collection of more than 8,000 volumes on paleography, codicology, illumination, text editing and transmission, library history, manuscript catalogs, and other areas, supports research in pre-modern manuscripts and the texts they contain.

The library also holds more than 12,000 Jesuit historical documents reproduced in microfilm relating to Jesuit activities from the 16th to the 19th centuries in the Western Hemisphere from the *Archivum Romanum Societatis Iesu*, the *Collegium Romanum*, the national archives of Spain, and archives in South, Central, and North America, as well as the Philippines.

The library possesses a collection of original medieval and Renaissance manuscript leaves and codices, as well as manuscript facsimiles, that is available for teaching and research.

Respectfully submitted by John Olsen

Awards

Knight of the Month - December

Dan Rule for his work in the Coats for Kids Program, Food for Kids Program and his generous contribution. (No photo available)

Family of the Month - January

Bob & Rebecca Larson - for Council activities, especially in December, for their work on the Dinner/Dance, for cleaning up and decorating the Knights of Columbus Memorial to the Unborn mini-grotto in front of the Social Hall, their Respect Life Ministry activities, including attending and participating in the March for Life in Tampa and the Rosary at the Grotto on January 24th, and to Bob, for helping in his role as Deputy Grand Knight.

Bob Larson reported at the Membership Meeting that the March for Life in Tampa on January 17th, was bigger than the one in 2025 and as large as the crowd was, they kept all the areas as clean as they were before they got there.



Knight of the Month - January

Mike Colvin - for all that he did in the month of December.

First, by creating a fantastic Dinner/Dance for the Parish, and all the behind the scenes work and the headaches that went along with it. Second, Selling magnets and Christmas ornaments and his own decorated pine cones. In doing so, supplying a generous amount of income for the Council.

Knights of Columbus - Council 14222 - Room Bookings for 2026

Officers Meetings

All Officers are required to attend - All members are invited - Doors of Enrichment Center should be open by 5:30. Officers Meetings start at 6:00 p.m. sharp.

Officer Meeting	Feb 9	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	Mar 9	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	Apr 13	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	May 11	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	Jun 8	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	Jul 13	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	Aug 10	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	Sep 14	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	Oct 12	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	Nov 9	EC Rm C	6:00 PM
Officer Meeting	Dec 7	EC Rm C	6:00 PM

Council Business Meetings **Note: New Location - Enrichment Center**

All members are encouraged to attend. Doors should be open by 5:15.

Rosary at 5:50. Dinner at 6:15-ish (food service could be limited due to electrical outlets, etc.)

Business Meetings officially start at 7:00 P.M. sharp

Business Meeting	Feb 18	EC Rm C	7:00 PM
Business Meeting	Mar 18	EC Rm C	7:00 PM
Business Meeting	Apr 22	EC Rm C	7:00 PM
Business Meeting	May 20	EC Rm C	7:00 PM
Business Meeting	Jun 17	EC Rm C	7:00 PM
Business Meeting	Jul 22	EC Rm C	7:00 PM
Business Meeting	Aug 19	EC Rm C	7:00 PM
Business Meeting	Sep 23	EC Rm C	7:00 PM
Business Meeting	Oct 21	EC Rm C	7:00 PM
Business Meeting	Nov 18	EC Rm C	7:00 PM
Business Meeting	Dec 16	EC Rm C	7:00 PM

Knights of Columbus Booked Events at St. Mark's for 2026

Volunteers will be needed for ALL these events.

See "SignupGenius" email for Volunteering for any event.

Diaper Drive	Feb 14 & 15 Feb 16	Outside Church All Masses Deliver Diapers, etc. to Alpha House
Lenten Food Drive Lenten Food Drive (w/Pulpit Talk) Lenten Food Drive	Feb 18 - Ash Wed Feb 21 & 22 Feb 28 & Mar 1	Outside Church All Masses Scheduled Outside Church All Masses Outside Church All Masses
Lenten Food Drive	Mar 7 & 8	Outside Church All Masses
Lenten Food Drive	Mar 14 & 15	Outside Church All Masses
Lenten Food Drive	Mar 21 & 22	Outside Church All Masses
Lenten Food Drive	Mar 28 & 29	Outside Church All Masses
Donut Sunday 1 st	Mar. 29	Social Hall After 8:00 and 10:00 Masses
1 st Membership Drive (w/Pulpit Talk)	Apr 11 & 12	Outside Church All Masses
1 st Tootsie Roll Drive	May 2 & 3	Outside Church All Masses
Knight At The Races	May 2	Social Hall 7:00 PM
Installation of Officers TBD		
Christmas Dinner/Dance Ticket Sales	Oct 10 & 11	Outside Church All Masses
Christmas Dinner/Dance Ticket Sales	Oct 17 & 18	Outside Church All Masses
Christmas Dinner/Dance Ticket Sales	Oct 24 & 25	Outside Church All Masses
2 nd Membership Drive (w/Pulpit Talk)	Oct 31 & Nov 1	Outside Church All Masses
2 nd Tootsie Roll Drive	Oct 31 & Nov 1	Outside Church All Masses
Memorial Mass	Wed., Nov 11	Church 8:00 AM
Memorial Mass Breakfast	Wed., Nov 11	Social Hall 9:00 AM
Christmas Magnet Sales	Nov 28 & 29	Outside Church All Masses
Christmas Magnet Sales	Dec 5 & 6	Outside Church All Masses
Christmas Magnet Sales	Dec 12 & 13	Outside Church All Masses
Christmas Dinner/Dance	Sat., Dec 12	Social Hall 6:00 PM
Breakfast With Santa	Sat., Dec 19	Social Hall 9:00 AM

Other Knights of Columbus Events in 2026

We pray the **Rosary** on the fifth Sunday of any given month. Volunteers (5) will meet at 11:00 a.m. in the Ministry Room and we process down the aisle at 11:15. This year those dates will be March 29, May 31, August 30 and November 29. Please consider volunteering.

Tootsie Roll Drives at Publix (Mulberry Shopping Center-Route 42)

Saturday, May 9 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Saturday, October 3 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Tootsie Roll Drives at Publix (Southern Trace Shopping Center-Route 466)

Friday, June 26 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

2nd date TBD

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 28th [Look out for more information on this new event.](#)

Silver Rose Icon will be at our Church/Council in the Spring of 2026

Newsworthy Items:

† We're planning on creating "Rides for Knights," a list of Knights willing to help their Brothers with a ride to a doctor, or to the grocery store or pharmacy, etc. Due to legal complications, we can only do this in an informal way. We will be more attuned to Knights in need, and if at all possible, help out if you get a phone call for assistance. I.e., Brother/Past Grand Knight, Bud Stegmeyer and his wife live in the Village of Piedmont, phone #1-630-781-3380. His doctor instructed him not to drive for haircuts, grocery trips, etc.

† Roger Mott has been approved for membership. Welcome, Roger!

† Brother Norm Nelson has informed us that the Coats for Kids/Back Packs has good inventory and funds for this winter season.

† **The Knights of Columbus Florida State Deputy will be at Queen of Peace Parish in Ocala on Route 200 on Wednesday, January 28th at 6:00 PM for a Meet and Greet and talk. All members are invited to attend.**

FYI:

I received information from Bill Delaney about **Bob Smelas, PGK** and Faithful Navigator passing. Information can be found at the website of the Heritage Funeral Home in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Also, since his death, his wife, Pat has moved. Her new address is: 6653 Palms Court, Apt. A432, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421. This information is for Brother Knights who remember Bob and want to send correspondence to the family.



Pray for the souls in Purgatory who need our help to reach perfection.

Also, please remember all of those in our Council Family who are ill, hospitalized and in need of our prayers.

Especially:

Gino & Joan Aultta
Ron Bellonio
Jean Brett
Yvette Carter
Hank Casey
Lorilee Cinella
Rick Cinella
Jean Clark
Grace Colvin
Roger & Jerry Cyr
Bill Delaney
Chuck Demino, D.D.
Nancy Ellison
Kathleen Feenaghty
Maria Felten

Jack Fennell & his wife
Tony Frank
Vern Garske
Steven Gillian
Kathleen Gross
Jean Henneke
Chris Joss
Betty Kloske
Henryk & Barbara Kulesza
Tom & Roberta Lane
Rebecca Larson
Patrick McCarty
Ron Moxey
Paul Murphy
Sean & Rita O'Connell
Greg Ochalek

Paul Pitonzo
Jim Rose
Tom Rueck
Pat Schafer
Chet & Harriett Sedke
Bruce & Judy Schladen
John Sloman
Pat Smelas
Bud & Sophie Stegmeyer
Jolene Sutherland & Family
Fred Targos
Bob Thomas
Lourdes Thomas
George & Pam White
Louis Wilkinson

- † **Steve Gilkeson** fell and broke his shoulder and arm.
- † **Jean Henneke**, has new serious heart issues and is under a new heart specialist's care.
- † As per our D.D., asking for prayers for **D.D. Mike** and kids.
- † **Rebecca Larson** is going through a rough time. Please keep her in your prayers.
- † **Deacon John** is still recovering from hip replacement surgery and other medical issues. Please keep him and his wife, Michelle, in your prayers. They are both doing well.
- † Our Past District Deputy, **Chuck Demino** has had major health issues recently. Please pray for his quick recovery. We wish him continued recovery and healing.
- † **Tom Rueck** has had some recent medical setbacks. Please keep him in your prayers.
- † **Jack Fennell** recently had eye surgery & his wife is completing cancer treatment.
- † Sadly, we report the passing of two of our Brother Knights. **Joe Donlon**, whose funeral will be on Jan 5th with a light repast in the social hall and **Francis (Froggy) Trainque**. Francis was on the first maintenance team at St. Mark's. He was said to be a happy, quiet, unassuming gentleman, who served St. Mark's with distinction.

Birthdays for February Happy Birthday, Guys, and Many More!

S Reed Finley	Feb 1
Joseph Markiewicz	Feb 7
Norman Nelson	Feb 7
Guy Cadorette	Feb 11
Robert Larson	Feb 11
William Whelan	Feb 14
Michael Colvin	Feb 20



Karl E Joss	Feb 22
Gerald Goeden	Feb 24
Rev Joseph Hanks	Feb 24
Joseph Folker	Feb 25
Martin Hughes	Feb 28
David Smith	Feb 28

