



# The Shield

## Grand Knight's Message



Tom Krivchenia, PFN  
Grand Knight  
GrandKnight7109@gmail.com

Worthy Brothers Knights and Ladies,

As I'm writing this newsletter, we are starting the third week of the Easter season. I hope that everyone had a wonderful Easter spent with friends and family celebrating the Risen Lord. We congratulate our young people who were recently confirmed with the blessed and life-changing Sacrament of Confirmation. May the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit inspire them to proclaim and to live the words of Jesus Christ fearlessly in their daily lives. May they be role models to all who cross their paths as they journey through life. Now, we are just a few weeks away from Mother's Day where we will honor those dear women in our life who have done so much for us – our beautiful wives, our moms, grandmothers and any other women who have nurtured and loved us. Many of these blessed ladies are now smiling down on us from heaven. I would like to wish all the Mothers, Godmothers, Grandmothers, Mothers-in-law, Stepmothers, Adopted Mothers and, the greatest mother of all time, our Blessed Mother, a Happy Mother's Day. May is such a busy month filled with First Communions, which have already started and graduations. Congratulations to everyone! May concludes with our celebration of Memorial Day where we honor and praise the men and women who died while serving in the US military so that all of us would remain free.

Issue 05, May 2025

Next Council Meeting  
Thursday, May 08 @ **7:00 pm**  
in the Parish Center

View the Newsletter online at:  
[www.safetyharborkofc.org](http://www.safetyharborkofc.org)

Visit the State Website at:  
[www.floridakofc.org](http://www.floridakofc.org)  
Visit the Supreme Website at:  
[www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org)

### May Up Coming Events

- Council Officers Meeting – Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Bishop's Appreciation Party – Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM in Padua Hall
- Rosary – Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:15 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Council 7109 Business Meeting – Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting – Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Pinellas Hope Food Prep – Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM in the Parish Center Kitchen
- Kimberly Home Workday – Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM to 10:00AM
- Coffee & Donuts – Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Assembly 2474 Meeting – Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Memorial Day Mass & Flag Retirement Ceremony – Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, Church and Courtyard
- Corporate Communion Breakfast and Mass – Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 AM Mass

We finished a very successful fish fry season. We had a record-breaking season in both meals served 3,169, that's an increase of 23.5% from last year. Our revenue increased by 29% over last year and our profit was up

74.1% from last year. Keep in mind that last year was a record year for us. I want to thank everyone who volunteered many hours of their time to make this season another successful record-breaking year. Thank you to the Ladies Auxiliary for supplying the wonderful desserts and cannolis.

Anne Harkins	John Clarke	Pat Nocerino
Tom Harkins	Betsy Clarke	Sue Engelmann
Karen Jajuga	Rob Pickard	John Gohman
Gene Jajuga	Santo Loparo	Peggy Gohman
Jack Strehle	Peter Demzak	Adel Nammour
Kay Strehle	Phil Farney	Jean Wozniak
Jim Montali	Tom Stanko	Tom Wozniak
Don Reed	Bill Gallant	Fr. Michael Cooper
Chris Kearns	Terry Drake	George Inderwies
Brian Kearns	Shirley Drake	Mario Zaccaria
Jacob Burnett	Roe Resler	Frank McEwen
Doug de Wolf	Richie Resler	Rebecca Manetta
John Papa	Ann LeClerc	Richard LeClerc
JJ Coyne	Ed Amador	Cathy Schaefer
Paul Harvey	Bill Krajieski	Margaret Krivchenia
Matt Sunski	Dan Brandon	Tom Krivchenia
Ken Seguin	Mark Feldman	Betty D'Amelio
Paul Cooper	Jerry Custin	Joe D'Amelio
Dennis Lentz	Mike Furman	Angela DiMattei
Bob Bonvicino	Irving Hernandez	Frank DiMattei
Tom Fitzpatrick	Kevin McCullagh	Robin LaChance

Thank you to all the student volunteers:

Max Hall	Ethan Saunier	Filip Karbowski
Julia Rover	Grifyn Hogan	Arthur Karbowski
Leia Williams	Zackary Reed	Dominick Papparida
Easton Gieses	Mathew Mendez	
Kaitlyn Gardina	Daphne Hensel	
Katelyn Mongelluzzi	Dominica Reed	Certified Parent

If I have missed anybody who helped, I truly apologize.

Every year St. Vincent de Paul makes Easter food baskets for the families in need. Each year they ask us to help deliver these baskets of food in our community. Thank you for the teams that delivered the baskets on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Adel & Delpha Nammour  
Edward Amador & Amaro Lionheart  
Frank Laffey Mark Feldman

If I have missed anybody who might have helped out delivering these Easter baskets I truly apologize.

I would like to welcome Ryan Burriesci and Brent Basich to our Council. They both became Knights of Columbus on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We look forward to seeing you both at our next meeting and being active in the council.

As we come into the month of May we begin to anticipate the end of the fraternal year. We have one big event left. This Sunday, we are hosting the Bishop's Appreciation Party from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM for this part of the diocese. We will be holding it in Padua Hall where we will be cooking and serving hamburgers and hot dogs. Spirit FM will be in attendance. There will be games for the kids on the playground next to the hall. I have sent out a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help set up and to serve the food and to help with the clean-up.

Now that the fish fries are finished, we will resume having Coffee & Donuts on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> in the St. John Bosco Center after all the Morning Masses.

Once again, the KofC State Convention will be over the Memorial Day weekend May 23<sup>rd</sup> through May 25<sup>th</sup>. This year the convention will be held in Jacksonville, Florida. Representing our Barney Gonyea Council 7109 and elected by Council procedure as delegates to the State Convention will be Grand Knight Tom Krivchenia and Trustee Gene Jajuga.

We will have our corporate communion breakfast and Mass on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at the 9:00 AM Mass. More details to follow

May you have a Blessed Month!!!

Vivat Jesus!

Tom





SK Edward Amador  
Membership Director  
Edamador00@gmail.com

# Council 7109 Holy Moments

## Just 4 Away from Goal – Let's Finish Strong!

Brother Knights,

As we move into the final months of our fraternal year, we have so much to be proud of - and still a bit more work to do.

## Welcome Our Newest Brother Knights!

Please join me in welcoming our two newest members, Ryan Burriesci and Brent Basich, who joined us at the last exemplification. Congratulations, brothers, and welcome to a fraternity of faithful men striving to create Holy Moments in all we do. Your presence strengthens our council, and we're honored to have you on this journey with us.

## Where We Stand

We now have 11 new members for the year - 73.33% of our 15-member goal. This is a great milestone, but we are just 4 away from reaching that goal and qualifying once again for STAR Council - a rare and honorable achievement that recognizes excellence in growth, programming, and service.

## Call to Action – It Starts with YOU

At this moment, we have no new prospects. That means we need your help more than ever. Ask yourself:

- Do I have a **brother, son, or grandson** who is a practicing Catholic and over 18?
- Do I know someone at my **parish**, in my **ministry**, or **social circle** who could benefit from belonging to something greater than themselves?

Sometimes all it takes is a simple invitation.

Let's continue the momentum. Let's **PUSH** and **PROMOTE** our council, our values, and our faith by creating Holy Moments with every invitation we

extend. Let's finish **strong** and bring **4 more Catholic men** into this incredible brotherhood **before June 30<sup>th</sup>**.

Together, we can do this.

Vivat Jesus!



SK Edward J. Amador  
Director of Membership  
Barney Gonyea Council 7109

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

BARNEY GONYEA COUNCIL 7109

## JOIN US OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, JUNE 17  
GATHERING ROOM  
7:30 PM

## BE A MAN OF PURPOSE

LEAD. SERVE. PROTECT.

[HTTPS://SAFETYHARBORKOFC.ORG](https://safetyharborkofc.org)

## SCAN TO JOIN

CHARITY • UNITY • FRATERNITY

COLOSSIANS 3:23

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP PLEASE CONTACT:  
 GRAND KNIGHT TOM KRIVCHENIA | 727.366.5422 | GRANDKNIGHT7109@GMAIL.COM  
 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR EDWARD AMADOR | 305.606.8632 | EDAMADOR00@GMAIL.COM

# Unity – Strength in Numbers

## Informational Open House Schedule

**2025**  
Jun 17

## Unified Degree Ceremony Schedule

**2025**  
Jun 19

*Look for more information from our Grand Knight*



## Council Membership Report

Total Membership	332
Insurance Membership	129
Honorary Life Members	63
Honorary Members	08
2024-2025 Membership Growth vs Goal	11/15
2024-2025 Insurance	02/02

## Assembly Membership Report

Total Membership	131
Honorary Life Members	14
Honorary Members	01
2024-2025 Membership Growth vs Goal	05/06





## Council Officers 2024-2025

Grand Knight	Tom Krivchenia, PFN	727.366.5422
Chaplain	Fr Michael W. Cooper, SJ	727.644.5544
Deputy Grand Knight	Mark Feldman	727.366.5959
Chancellor	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Recorder	Bill Krajewski	727.784.2817
Financial Secretary	Tom Harkins	727.772.0607
Treasurer	Jerry Custin, PGK, PFN	727.244.6464
Lecturer	Paul Harvey, PFN	727.286.7171
Advocate	Richard Resler	727.472.1651
Warden	Jim Lankford	813.455.2292
Inside Guard	Paul Cooper	727.736.6837
Outside Guard	Mark Peterman, PFN	727.403.5993
Guard Alternate	Brian Annis	727.204.7490
Trustee Three Year	Gene Jajuga, PGK, PFN, FFA	727.403.3261
Trustee Two Year	JJ Coyne, PGK	901.832.7332
Trustee One Year	Ken Seguin, PGK, PFN	727.331.7278
Regional Administrator	John Papa, PGK, PFN	727.482.3734
District Deputy	Alan Gauzens, PGK	727.483.8250
Fraternal Benefits Advisor	John Ruckart	813.855.5111
Special Assistant to the Council	Vincent Cristiano	
Special Assistant to the Council	Gary Murphy	

### Happy Birthday Brothers! Many Happy Returns!

Donald Bishop, Robert Bonvicino, Sean Casey, Kenneth Chmara, Terrell Clampitt, Frank Colucci, Vincent Cristiano, Jerry Custin, Francisco Diaz Estrella, Joseph Favia, Mark Feldman, Jim Gencur, Ben Ghazali, Mark Gurley, Robert Gwinner, Robert Justiana, Thomas Kelly, Raymond Kraker, Stephen Leger, Kevin McMullen, Michael O'Neil, Brian O'Connor, Salvatore Piscitello, Richard Resler, Walter Rybowiak, Christoph Schutze, Kenneth Seguin, Robert Shepherd

### 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

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](mailto: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!

Mark Barrett, Donald & Linda Borbath, Jonathan & Marianne Boyce, Sal Burriesci, Mario & Katie Camario, Patrick Carroll, John Coyne, Joseph & Betty D'Amelio, Douglas & Carol De Wolfe, Jerome Dewberry, Francisco & Mildred Diaz Estrella, Sean Donahoo, Robert & Zoe Dufour, Philip & Jane Farney, Walter Feble, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Charles & Raquel Friesema, Michael & Lisa Furman, John & Peggy Gohman, Robert & Catherine Gwinner, Paul & Rose Marie Harvey, James Hayes, David & Donna Heezen, Irving Hernandez, Joseph & Sandra Hoehrl, George & Claire Inderwies, Eugene & Karen Jajuga, Shawn & Pattie Jajuga, Gregory & Kim Juedes, William & Elizabeth Kasak, Timothy Kielich, Matthew Killeen, Michael & Katherine King, Dan & Donna Kistel, William & Katherine Krajewski, Jack Kuczej, Frank & Deborah Laffey, Stephen & Ellen Leger, Mark Lewalski, Patrick Mackin, Michael McCarthy, Frank & Cindy McEwen, Charles McEwen, Stuart Miller, John & Morgan, Adel Nammour, Chris Nesci, Donald Palacheck, John Papa, Gerald & Holly Pappa, Paul & Virginia Pappas, Daniel Peterson, Glen Pettersen, Robert & Vickie Pickard, Richard Roberto, Juan & Rosemary Romero, John & Kathleen Ruckart, Peter & Susan Saleses, Jason Seguin, Morgan Sheaffer, Massimo & Valeria Simeoni, James & Karin Smith, Thomas & J. L. Stanko, John & Kay Strehle, Jugdesh & Sucheta Sujani, Steven & Jaclyn Verba, Mario & Judy Zaccaria, Edward & Violet Amador, Brian & Carolyn Annis, Dennis & Joyce Ayril, Patrick & Beatrice Boland, Robert & Ann Marie Bonvicino, James & Jean Burris, John & Betsy Clarke, Gerald & Cynthia Custin, Peter Demzak, Frank & Angela Di Mattei, Jonathan Di Mattei, Frederick & Suzanne Di Masi, Terry & Shirley Drake, Joseph Favia, Mark & Elaine Feldman, Dominic & Vickie Friscia, Michael Gutknecht, Lawrence & Nancy Harkins, Thomas & Anne Harkins, Thomas Hart, James & Janetze Hart, Timothy & Ann Hartle, Jarret & Lesley Ann Honahan, Steven Ippolito, Robert & M. A. Justiana, Brian & Christine Kearns, Robert Kelly, Tom & Margaret Krivchenia, Thomas Kukulski, James & Maria Lankford, Milton Levine, Amaro Lionheart, Stanley Lipiarz, Kevin McMullen, Anthony Metty, James & Patricia Nolf, Brian & Lisa O'Connor, Thomas & Carolyn O'Rourke, Miguel Perez, Brian & Erin Riley, William & Mary Scott, Kenneth & Andrew Rodnite Gabriella Seguin, Kenneth Seguin, Jim & Nancy Shirer, Gregory & Carolina Sohn, Chuck & Elizabeth Sullivan, Matthew & Julie Sunski, Sean Swauger, Walberto & Ramona Vazquez, Peggy Watson, David & Patricia Behrle, Herman & Mary Jo Brames, Tim & Stacey Bruggeman, Jacob & Mary Burnett, Mark Busing, Kevin Cordaro, Joseph Cortese, Anthony Crevello, William Cullen, Richard & Melissa Ducheny, Frederick & Christi Elflein, Zach Faraone, Eric & Maria Flores, Joseph & Megan Gajewski, Ward & Kathleen Griffin, Gerald & Lorraine Grubba, Mark Gurley, David & Paula Harvey, Kevin & Gidget Hernandez, Kenton & Sue Heuertz, Christopher & Celise Jones, Derek Jones, Mark Kapinos, Richard & Cecilia Kembell-Cook, Jared Kirsten, James Kleinsorge, Raymond Kraker, Anthony Kuczej, Christian Kuczej, Brian & Christina Lapointe, Brian & Angela Lawandus, Gerald & Renee Lubig, Francis & Carol Mahoney, Jerry Maratea, Frank & Juliann Marsalek, William Mc Fadden, Clifford & Michelle Merz, Darryl & Mary Miller, James & Phyllis Montali, Michael O'Neill, Todd & Margaret Owers, Edmund & Diane Pagnott, Thomas Penders, Mark & Christine Peterman, Frank & Patricia Piro, Christopher & Carol Purcell, Donald & Alexis Reed, Edward & Sandra Riley, James & Dreema Servoss Rooney, Timothy & Barbara Rush, Robert Shafer, Michael & Melissa Short, Hugh & Katie Siegel, Thomas Smith, Bryan & Krista Snyder, Roy & Linda Vanderveer, Alvah Vankleeck, Paul & Josefina Vilchez, Edward & Patricia Warticki, Patrick & Joan Alix, Fred & Caroline Bennett, Victor & Susanne Berggren, Benjamin & Molly Bergin, Terrell & Victoria Clappitt, Timothy & Marcy Dolan, Mark & Renee Beth Kraf, Edward Martinenko, Christopher Mazzone, Kenneth (Ken) Miller, Javier & Xiomara Ortega, Robert Papariella, Kurt & Mary Lynn Salac, James & Darlene Stanley, Albert Masselli, Thomas & Cynthia Bergevin, Francis Cayer, Brian & Anita Jennings, John Liu, John Liu, Andrew Rodnite

**Total Collected to Date: \$3030.25**



Father Michael W. Cooper, SJ  
Chaplain

## Chaplain's Corner

### **"Who Will Replace Father? There is No One!"**

In the past half-year, we have lost two priests - Monsignor Cummings to emotional burnout and Father Richard Rosin to cancer. The presumption is that there is a good number of priests available. Not true. Celibate American priests are getting older and not being replaced by young seminarians. Bishop Parkes ordained one priest two years ago and the next ordination of one priest is in 3-4 years. Some dioceses either assign the parish of the priest who died as an additional assignment to a nearby pastor who is already overworked, or the parish is closed or amalgamated with another local parish. Some dioceses go looking for foreign priests whose English cannot be understood and/or their sense of American culture and the American Catholic Church are very different, if not incompatible. For example, the very active presence of women in active ministry in American parishes, including our own.

This ongoing reduction of healthy and dynamic potential ministers/clergy has to stop or Catholicism in the States will surely die. Who will hear Confessions or anoint the sick? We have several Permanent Deacons, but they cannot take over because they are married! The model of church has to change. Ideology of protecting the past has to give way to pastoral needs of our American Church. In the past celibacy was the ideal and the holiness of marriage was highly discounted.

Vatican II encourages us to "read the signs of the times." Today many qualified and spiritual women and men are around. Church leadership as well as ordinary Catholic laity need to call for change now and not "wait" for church leadership to finally listen to the Spirit and respond to the "signs of the times." The past is over.

Why did I write this very provocative piece? I am trying to articulate the current situation in our Church and to suggest that the past is past. We need to understand and move forward together. Both Vatican II and the recent two sessions of the Synod remind us that we are in this together and the Church is no longer in the hands of those at the top. We are Church! We need not resist or fear change and perhaps begin to recognize the work of the Holy Spirit and the new Pentecost 2025.

Michael Cooper, S.J., Chaplain

P.S. I am grateful and deeply moved by the goodness and generosity of our Knights and Ladies at the Fish Frys and during Holy Week Services and at the Easter Resurrection Celebrations in Philippe Park.

## Service Program Directors 2024-2025

Program Director	Mark Feldman	727.366.5959
Membership Director	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Faith Director	Wally Vazquez	727.542.5376
Community Director	Mike King	727.453.8843
Family Director	Vacant	
Public Relations Director	Amaro Lionheart	305.761.3419
Life Director	Vacant	
Vocations	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687
Retention Coordinator	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687



Mark Feldman  
Deputy Grand Knight  
dkg7109@gmail.com

# Deputy Grand Knight's Report

Worthy Brother Knights,

I hope that everyone had a fantastic Easter Sunday with family and friends. It was wonderful celebrating the Holy Week with everyone. On May 11<sup>th</sup> we will get to celebrate Mother's Day. We will think back on all the wonderful memories of our mothers, especially to those whose mothers are looking down on us from heaven above.

We do have a few events this May as we begin to wind down on this fraternal year. We have our Officers Meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup>, Membership Meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Pinellas Hope Food Prep on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the Kimberly Home Work Day on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and Coffee & Donuts on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Please volunteer where you can. We are still looking for a new Family Director for next year. Please contact me if you are interested.

## From the Family Directors Desk

It is coming to the end of another school year, which means many summer activities, vacationing with family and family gatherings. Please take the time to take part in your children and grandchildren's activities.

## From the Life Directors Desk

We are continuing our collection of food. We are a little over halfway complete. Please bring what you can to our Membership meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

## From the Faith Directors Desk

Our monthly Rosary get together will be Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. In the JBC. Wally Vazquez will be leading the Rosary. Please invite your friends to join as this is open. The Pinellas Emmaus Men's Retreat will be held May 2<sup>nd</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup>. Any questions contact Chuck Warrington, Retreat Administrator, 727.224.7055 [chuck@warringtonadvisors.com](mailto:chuck@warringtonadvisors.com).

## From the Community Directors Desk

I want to thank everyone who volunteered to deliver Easter Baskets in conjunction with the St Vincint de Paul Center. It was a nice success. Also, a big shout out to those who helped decorate the church during the Easter season. We are not done yet. I will give a shout out when we need to take the palm trees off the alter.

## St Matthias, Apostle, May 14

St Matthias was not one of the original 12 Apostles but was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot after his betrayal of Jesus. He is recognized as one of the twelve apostles and is believed to have been with Jesus from his Baptism to the Ascension. The name Matthias means "gift of Yahweh" and he is considered the patron saint of alcoholics and those with addictions. According to tradition, Mattias was selected by the apostles through prayer and casting lots. All information concerning the ministry and death of Matthias is vague and contradictory. It is stated that he preached in different cities in Italy, while others say that he preached in different cities in Greece. Some documents state that he was stoned to death, while others stated that he died of old age.

## May Liturgical Calendar

- May 01 - St. Joseph the Worker, optional
- May 02 - St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the church, Memorial
- May 03 - Sts. Philip and James, Apostles, Feast
- May 10 - St. Damien de Veuster, Priest; St. John of Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church, optional memorial
- May 11 - Good Sheperd Sunday
- May 12 - Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs, St. Pancras, Martyr, optional memorials
- May 13 - Our Lady of Fatima, optional memorial
- May 14 - St. Matthias, Apostle, Feast
- May 15 - St. Isidore, optional memorial
- May 20 - St. Bernadine of Siena, Priest, optional
- May 21 - St. Christopher Magallanes, priest, and companions, Martyrs, optional memorial
- May 22 - St. Rita of Cascia, Religious, optional
- May 26 - St Phillip Neri, Priest, Memorial
- May 27 - St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop, optional memorial
- May 29 - (in some areas) Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord
- May 31 - Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Feast





John Ruckart  
Field Agent  
John.Ruckart@kofc.org



Knights of Columbus  
**INSURANCE**  
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

# Fraternal Benefits Advisor Report

Brothers,

Each of us is in a different phase of life. Some of us are younger, some of us are older. Perhaps you've spent a considerable amount of time planning for your financial future. Or, if you're like many people, you're not quite sure where to start.

Knights of Columbus, along with its wholly owned investment subsidiary, Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, can help you navigate life's financial journey with insurance solutions to protect what matters most and investment options to help you plan for your future.

Let's start with a few basics.

You'll first want to ensure you're protected in case of the unexpected. Knights of Columbus life insurance can help give you peace of mind whether you have a growing family or simply want protection for years to come. It's important not to assume that coverage through a current employer is sufficient — what happens if you can no longer work, switch jobs, or retire? Make sure to have a life insurance plan in place to meet your future needs.

As you start to lay your financial foundation, it is essential to start preparing for retirement. The Knights of Columbus can offer you reliable annuity options to provide guaranteed retirement income.

Additionally, through our affiliate Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, you can start your personalized investment journey — in alignment with Catholic guidelines — to help you reach your retirement goals.

Last but certainly not least — it is essential to ensure you and your loved ones have the living benefits you need in place. Have you considered disability income insurance or long-term care insurance from Knights of Columbus?

Starting the process of exploring your insurance and financial security goals may feel daunting. But as your agent, I'm here to help. Let's set up time to talk to ensure you are on the right path to protecting your

family, preparing for retirement, and ultimately ensuring your financial well-being.

Thank you and God Bless!  
Vivat Jesus!

John D Ruckart, FICF  
813.855.5111

Book an appt with me here:  
[johnruckart.10to8.com](mailto:johnruckart.10to8.com)

Learn about our investments:  
<https://info.kofcassetadvisors.org/meet-john-ruckart>



Welcome spring and the Easter season! The Lenten season came and went with the Ladies Auxiliary receiving over \$2000 in donations for the desserts offered during the KofC fish fries. Thanks again to all of you ladies who devoted your time and talents to make our 10th annual Lenten fish fry's once again, a success! Our Cannoli Queen finished up this year making her 3000th stuffed cannoli! Kudos to you Angela DiMattei.

The Ladies continue our charitable events with the Mother's Day Tree of Love. Paper flowers with names of women to be honored by parish family members will be displayed in the Narthex the month of May. Sign up donation available weekend of May 03 & 04.

Of course we can't forget to honor our men on Father's Day, the Tree of Love will also be available, the weekends to donate will be May 31 & June 1 and June 07 & 08 look for the table under the portico of Parish Hall.

The Ladies Auxiliary's May meeting on the 8th will complete our 2024-2025 year supporting our KofC 7109 Council. We will reconvene in September, since so many of our members travel during the summer months. Prayers for safe travels and making blessed memories. God Bless.



John Gohman  
Faithful Navigator  
john.gohman2@gmail.com

# Faithful Navigator's Log

## An invitation To Something Higher

What is a sin? Is it a sin to not go to church on Sunday? Is it a sin to cheat on your taxes? Is it a sin to get drunk? Is holding a grudge a sin? Is masturbation a sin? Is infidelity in marriage a sin?

For too long preachers, catechists, Sunday school teachers, church hierarchy, and moral theologians have been too focused on sin. Well, indeed there is sin around, but that should hardly be our focus in terms of understanding what it means to live a moral Christian life. Here we should take our cue from Jesus.

In his *Sermon on the Mount* (Matthew 5-7) Jesus says, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law and the prophets; I have come to fulfill them." What he is saying here is basically this: *I have not come to do away with the Ten Commandments; I have come to invite you to something higher.*

Unfortunately, we tend to think of living a moral life mostly in terms of keeping the Commandments and avoiding sin. What we call "moral theology" has classically been focused on ethical issues, what's right and what's wrong? But that's not what we hear from Jesus as a moral teacher. His *Sermon on the Mount* (perhaps the greatest moral code ever written) focuses instead on an invitation to do what's higher. It assumes we are already living the elementary essentials of morality, the Ten Commandments, and instead invites us to something beyond those essentials, namely, to be the adult in the room who helps the world carry its tension.

Jesus doesn't offer us moral theology in its classical or popular form. Rather he invites us into an ever-deepening discipleship (which is what moral theology, proper catechesis, and Sunday school are meant to do).

Here's an example of an invitation that lies at the very heart of the *Sermon on the Mount*. At one point, Jesus invites us to a "virtue that goes deeper than that of the scribes and the Pharisees." It's easy to miss the point here because, almost without exception, we tend to think that Jesus is referring to the hypocrisy of some of the scribes and Pharisees. He isn't. Most of the scribes and Pharisees were good, honest, sincere people who practiced a high virtue. For them, living a good moral and religious life meant keeping the Ten Commandments (all

of them!) and being a man or woman who was scrupulously fair to everyone. It meant being a just person.

So, what's lacking here? If I am a person who keeps all the Commandments and am fair and just in all my dealings with others, what is lacking in me morally? Why isn't that enough?

Jesus' answer to that takes us further than the Ten Commandments and the demands of justice. He invites us to something beyond.

He points out that the demands of justice still permit us to hate our enemies, to curse those who curse us, and to execute murderers (*an eye for an eye*). He invites us to something beyond that, namely, to love those who hate us, to bless those who curse us, and to forgive those who kill us. That is the essence of moral theology. And note that it comes to us as an invitation, inviting us always to something higher. It's not concerned about what's a sin and what isn't (*thou shalt not*). Rather, it's a positive invitation beckoning us to reach higher, to transcend our natural impulses, to be more than someone who just keeps the commandments and avoids sin.

Imagine a mother coaxing a toddler to walk.

Squatting on the floor in front of the child, an arm's length away, her fingertips just inches away from the fingertips of the child, she gently coaxes the child to risk taking a step forward; then when the child takes that step, she moves her fingertips back a few inches, and again gently tries to coax the child into risking another step. And so, all the way across the floor.

That's the image we need for Christian discipleship and moral theology. Our first concern should not be, is this a sin or not? Is it a sin to not go to church on Sunday? Is it a sin to entertain lustful thoughts? Is it sin to hold a grudge?

The question with which we need to challenge ourselves is rather, what am I being invited into? Where do I need to stretch myself toward something higher? Am I loving beyond my natural impulses? And more specifically: Am I loving those who hate me? Am I blessing those who curse me? Am I forgiving murderers?

# Photo Gallery



WGK Tom Krivchenia presents Family of the Month to Terry & Shirley Drake (Oct 2024), Knight of the Month to Mark Peterman (Nov 2024), and Family of the Month to Richie & Roe Resler (Dec 2024)



Lady Gabe Seguin, Sir Knights JJ Coyne, Mike King, Ken Seguin, and Bill Gallant manned the KofC Assembly 2474 table at the 2025 Homeless Veterans Stand Down at Bay Pines



Faithful Navigator John Gohman is flanked by Assembly 2474's newest Sir Knights – Fred DiMasi, Jack Strehle, Scott Rineer, Tim Bruggeman, and Frank Laffey. The Fourth Degree Exemplification was held April 26 at Our Lady of Angles in Lakewood Ranch, FL.

# Proposed 2025-26 Officers Slates

## Council 7109

Grand Knight	Tom Krivchenia, PFN
*Chaplain	Fr Michael W. Cooper, SJ
Deputy Grand Knight	Mark Feldman
Chancellor	Edward Amador
Recorder	Bill Krajeski
*Financial Secretary	Tom Harkins
Treasurer	Jerry Custin, PGK, PFN
*Lecturer	Paul Harvey, PFN
Advocate	Richard Resler
Warden	Jim Lankford
Inside Guard	Paul Cooper
Outside Guard	Mark Peterman, PFN
Guard Alternate	Brian Annis
Trustee Three Year	Gene Jajuga, PGK, PFN, FFA
Trustee Two Year	JJ Coyne, PGK
Trustee One Year	Ken Seguin, PGK, PFN
*Fraternal Benefits Advisor	John Ruckart
*Special Assistant to the Council	Vincent Cristiano
*Special Assistant to the Council	Gary Murphy
<i>*Appointed</i>	

## Assembly 2474

Faithful Navigator	JJ Coyne, PGK
Faithful Friar	Fr Michael W. Cooper, SJ
Faithful Captain	Edward Amador
Faithful Admiral	John Gohman, PFN
Faithful Pilot	Amaro Lionheart
Faithful Scribe	David Heezen
Faithful Comptroller	Tom Harkins
Faithful Purser	Jerry Custin, PGK, PFN
Inside Sentinel	Vincent Cristiano
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Trustee Three Year	Wally Vazquez, PFN
Trustee Two Year	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN
Trustee One Year	Frank DiMattei, PGK, PFN
Color Corps Commander	Tom Wozniak, PGK, PFN, FDD
Veterans Liaison	Bill Gallant





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### Crown of Roses, Crown of Thorns

There is something about the month of May that calls the heart to attention. The earth, fresh from the long silence of winter, seems to rise in solemn procession—dressed again in green vestments, crowned in blossoms, robed in light. The fields sway like altars, the flowers open like hands in prayer. There is life here. There is hope here. And yet, beneath the gentle warmth of spring beats the steady, aching drum of remembrance.

For May, in the life of the Church, belongs to the Blessed Virgin Mary—the pure and humble handmaid of the Lord, crowned with roses by the love and prayers of the faithful. It is the month of mothers. The month of devotion. The month of yes. And at the same time, in the life of this nation, May becomes something more. It becomes the month of sacrifice. The month of honor. The month of the cross.

It is no coincidence. No accident of the calendar. Providence weaves these threads together.

Because no one understands sacrifice - no one understands what it means to give everything, to hold nothing back - more than the Mother who once cradled the body of her crucified Son. No one knows the weight of duty more than the woman who whispered her fiat into the silence of Nazareth, unaware that it would one day lead her to the foot of the Cross.

*“Be it done unto me according to thy word”* (Luke 1:38). These words—quiet, obedient, unwavering—are the heartbeat of all true service. They are the soldier’s creed before the first step marches forward. They are the sailor’s prayer beneath the waves. They are the Marine’s resolve amid the smoke and the gunfire. They are the airman’s oath soaring into the unknown. They are the echo of every defender who has stood watch while others slept.

Because to serve is to say yes.

Yes – to the burden of the uniform, stitched with sacrifice, lined with courage.

Yes – to standing between danger and the defenseless.

Yes – to holding the line, even when it breaks.

Yes – to loving a people, a nation, an ideal, enough to die for it.

Yes – to being the offering demanded on the altar of freedom.

It is the yes of Isaiah: *“Here am I, send me”* (Isaiah 6:8). And it is the yes of Mary, spoken in the language of the heart.

This is the mystery of May: it is a month of crowns. Crowns of roses, crowns of thorns.

The Crown of Roses, braided in beauty, placed upon the brow of the Queen of Heaven, offered with devotion by the hands of her children. And the Crown of Thorns, driven into the flesh of the Son she bore, the thorns of betrayal, of agony, of sacrifice.

Two crowns. One love.

The love that gives. The love that suffers. The love that endures.

And here, in this convergence of glory and grief, of motherhood and mourning, we begin to see what Memorial Day truly means.

It is not a day for shallow speeches. Not a day for empty gestures. It is not the opening of summer - it is the closing of ranks around the memory of the fallen.

It is not simply a holiday. It is a holy day - a consecration of grief into gratitude, of death into dignity.

It is the day we remember.

We remember the ones who fell not for conquest, but for conviction. Not for empire, but for the hope that children might play in safety beneath skies free of fear. We remember those who stepped forward so that others could stand free.

We remember the battlefield’s silence after the gunfire stops, the lonely tapping of rain on helmets, the prayers (...continued on page 13...)

(...continued from page 12...)

whispered into the dirt, the last words gasped between bloodied lips - not curses, but calls for mother, for home, for God.

We remember the empty boots standing where a man once stood. The dog tags hanging still in the morning breeze. The rifles planted into the earth like crosses on Calvary's hill.

We remember the child who will never again feel his father's embrace. The widow who stands at the grave, her fingers tracing the engraved name as though her touch might call him back.

We remember the mother - always the mother - who holds the picture in shaking hands, whose prayers rise like incense from the foot of another cross.

Because sacrifice does not come from faceless heroes. Sacrifice has a face. A name. A story. A smile once bright and warm, now etched forever into memory. Sacrifice has fingerprints, laughter, dreams unfinished.

Sacrifice is not theoretical. It is flesh and bone and spirit and soul.

It is real.  
It is holy.

*"No greater love hath any man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends"* (John 15:13). These words are not metaphor. They are blood and truth. They are the theology of Memorial Day.

The soldier who falls does not fall alone. He falls into the arms of history. Into the prayers of the faithful. Into the hands of the Mother who understands.

And yet the world will tempt us to forget. To move on. To numb ourselves with distraction and comfort, with cynicism and ease. To trade the solemnity of sacrifice for the cheap price of convenience.

But we are not a people who forget.  
We are a people who remember.

Because memory is a sacred act. Memory is the defense against indifference. Memory is the covenant we keep with those who cannot speak for themselves.

*"The memory of the righteous is a blessing"* (Proverbs 10:7).

We remember by teaching our children not only the names of the fallen, but the meaning of their lives. We remember by lifting high the flag not as ornament, but as testament. We remember by standing, unashamed, against the tide of those who mock patriotism as naïve, who scorn sacrifice as waste, who would dare to call gratitude outdated.

We remember by living lives worthy of the price that was paid.

And in this Month of Mary, we place these memories where they belong - into the hands of the Mother who once watched her Son breathe His last, who knows the tears of every Gold Star mother, who holds the sorrow of every grieving wife, who catches the whispered prayers of every orphaned child.

We lay these memories at her feet, beneath her crown of roses, beside her Son's crown of thorns.

And we pray.

We pray because we believe this is not the end.

*"I am the resurrection and the life,"* said the Lord. *"He who believes in Me, though he may die, yet shall he live"* (John 11:25).

This is the promise that redeems the pain. This is the hope that steadies the trembling heart. This is the truth that gives meaning to Memorial Day.

The fallen are not forgotten.

The fallen are not lost.

The fallen live - before the throne of the Almighty, beneath the gaze of the Mother who intercedes for them, within the heart of a grateful nation.

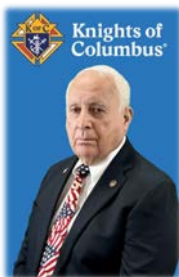
And so we say their names. We bow our heads. We lift our eyes. We honor their memory.

And we vow this:

We will remember.  
We will honor.  
We will pray.  
We will live lives worthy of their sacrifice.

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

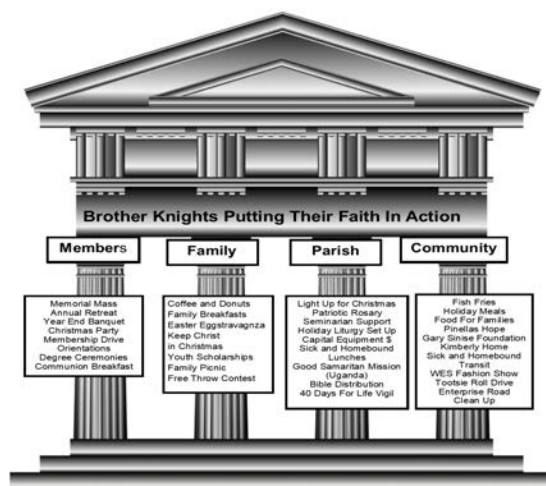


Jerry Custin  
PGK, PFN  
jcustin@gmail.com



### Parish Spring Cleaning

Wow! This Psalm says it all about the cycle of prayer, David's journey and our mission as Knights. You can almost sense David's thanks and praise of the Lord for all the God does for him in the face of conflict. This Psalm is rife with petitions, the major one being the ONE thing David asks – to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life. It was David who made Jerusalem the capitol city of Judah and brought the Ark of the Covenant there and laid the preparations for the building of the Temple. However, because of his transgressions God did not allow David to build the temple but entrusted that role to David's son, Solomon. Our job is to seek the Lord in all we do, seek to live in His house all the days of our lives and keep it clean.



### Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The LORD is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid? When evildoers come at me to devour my flesh, these my enemies and foes themselves stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart does not fear; Though war be waged against me, even then I trust. One thing I ask of the LORD; this I seek: To dwell in the LORD's house all the days of my life, To gaze on the LORD's beauty, to visit his temple. For God will hide me in his shelter in time of trouble, He will conceal me in the cover of his tent; and set me high upon a rock. Even now my head is held high above my enemies on every side! I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and chant praise to the LORD. Hear my voice, LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me. "Come," says my heart, "seek his face"; your face, LORD, do I seek! Do not hide your face from me; do not repel your servant in anger. You are my salvation; do not cast me off; do not forsake me, God my savior! Even if my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in. LORD, show me your way; lead me on a level path because of my enemies. Do not abandon me to the desire of my foes; malicious and lying witnesses have risen against me. I believe I shall see the LORD's goodness in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD, take courage; be stouthearted, wait for the LORD!

# The End of an Era

## The Cod Father & The Cannoli Queen Frank & Angela DiMattei Friday Fish Fry Seasons 2016 – 2025

After **TEN** Seasons the **Cod Father & Cannoli Queen** are hanging up their aprons.

In 2015 It was simply an idea that the Franks (GK DiMattei & DGK McEwen) came up with. Today it has grown from **556** meals served in the inaugural season to **3169** meals served in 2025! The Cod Father has navigated fryer rentals, fryer purchases, menu changes, supplier changes, Covid-19, drive-thru only, cod shortages, deliveries, pick-ups, hours of thawing and massaging fish, and a myriad of curve balls through the years.

It has been an incredible run...some highlights from his decade at the helm:

**18,391** meals served!

**10,260** pounds – over **5 tons** – of cod served!

**5165** pounds of French fries! **2975** pounds of coleslaw! **5595** pounds of baked beans!  
**1916** pounds of hush puppies! **3235** pounds of mac n cheese! **1150** gallons of canola oil!

And the Cannoli Queen spearheaded the stuffing of  
**3252** cannoli shells with **468** pounds of cannoli cream!



**Thank you** both for all of your dedication, time and hard work you put into the Friday Fish Fry.

There is a poem called **The Watch** that is recited at Navy retirements, and it closes with:  
*Shipmate...the watch stands relieved | Relieved by those that you have trained, guided and led |  
Shipmate you stand relieved...we have the watch...*



# Food For Families

**WE NEED YOUR  
HELP NOW!**



**URGENT  
FOOD DRIVE**

**Help Us Reach Our Goal!**

Please bring your canned goods donation to the next meeting. We're aiming for 1,000 pounds, and every can counts. Together, we can make a powerful difference for families in need.



For additional information, please contact our Worthy Grand Knight, Tom Krivchenia, at [grandknight7109@gmail.com](mailto:grandknight7109@gmail.com).

# In Memoriam

## Pope Francis

(born Jorge Mario Bergoglio)  
December 17, 1936 – April 21, 2025



The first Jesuit pope and the first non-European pope in over a millennium. He was elected after Pope Benedict XVI resigned. Known for his humility, his focus on the poor, and his commitment to dialogue. He chose the name Francis to honor St Francis of Assisi, a patron saint of the poor. He made several statements that suggested an openness to different perspectives on Catholic doctrine, particularly regarding social issues. He spoke sympathetically about women's rights and some LGBTQ rights. He called for action on climate change and economic inequality. He was known for his simple lifestyle and his willingness to break some traditional papal practices. His pontificate was marked by a focus on social justice, environmentalism and dialogue with those outside the church.

- 1936 | December 17: Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Italian immigrant parents.
- 1957 | At age 21, falls gravely ill; eventually severe pneumonia is diagnosed, right lung partially removed.
- 1958 | March 11: Enters novitiate of the Society of Jesus.
- 1960 | March 12: Takes first vows as Jesuit.
- 1961 | Begins studying philosophy at San Miguel Seminary, Buenos Aires.
- 1964-1965 | Teaches high school literature and psychology at Jesuit secondary school in Santa Fe.
- 1966 | Teaches at prestigious Colegio del Salvador secondary school in Buenos Aires.
- 1967-1970 | Studies theology at San Miguel seminary.
- 1969 | December 13: Ordained a priest.
- 1970-1971 | Spends "tertianship," or Third Probation period of Jesuit formation, in Spain.
- 1971-1973 | Serves as master of novices and vice chancellor, San Miguel seminary.
- 1973 | Takes perpetual profession as Jesuit.
- 1973-1979 | Serves as superior of Jesuit province of Argentina and Uruguay.
- 1979-1985 | Serves as rector of Colegio Maximo and theology teacher.
- 1986 | Goes to Germany to finish doctoral thesis.
- 1992 | June 27: Ordained auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires.
- 1997 | June 03: named coadjutor archbishop of Buenos Aires.
- 1998 | February 28: Installed as archbishop of Buenos Aires.
- 2001 | Co-presides over Synod of Bishops.
- 2001 | February 21: Elevated to the College of Cardinals.
- 2005-2011 | Serves as president of the Argentine Bishops Conference.
- 2013 | March 13: Elected in conclave to be 265th successor to Saint Peter.
- 2015 | September 22-27: Apostolic Journey to the United States.
- 2025 | April 21: Died at the age of 88, in Vatican City on Monday of the Octave of Easter.

## Letter to the Editor

### The Prayer Cycle

As we give thanks for our salvation and await the coming of the Holy Spirit, it's a good time to reflect on our prayer life. First, a plug for the phone app Hallow. This app has numerous great options both free and by subscription in some cases. You can pray the rosary with several leaders including Bishop Robert Barron who gives excellent insight into each of the 20 mysteries we pray. You can pray the Stations of the Cross, tune into various reflections and meditations and even follow the Bible In A Year or Catechism In A Year with Father Mike Schmitz who provides outstanding insight into both topics. Highly recommended!

In this case, Father Schmitz mentioned what he described the four elements of our prayer life based primarily on the life of David. David, although one of Israel's greatest Kings and very dedicated to God also had his issues. His story is well captured in various Scriptures, and he was a prolific author of Psalms writing between 73 and 88 of the 150 chapters in the Book of Psalms. It is from these Psalms which Father Schmitz derives what he describes as the four pillars of prayer: petition, thanks, praise and repentance.

When asked for the "perfect" prayer, Jesus revealed to us the Our Father. Let's take a quick peek into that. *Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name* reflects both our recognition of God as well as our praise. He is hallowed. *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*, here we petition God to bring His kingdom to us while recognizing His supremacy over all the universe. *Give us this day our daily bread* is a direct petition to God. *Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us* speaks to our recognition of our brokenness as sinners, takes accountability for our transgressions and offers our forgiveness and compassion to others. *Lead us not into temptation*

*but deliver us from evil* is another petition to strengthen us in our journey while recognizing that the existence of evil is a constant in our lives. **AMEN!** The ultimate expression of our thanks and praise.

Now you know why the Our Father is the perfect prayer. Let's conclude with a Scriptural perspective of these four elements.

**Petition.** Psalm 55:22 Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

**Thanks.** Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Praise.** Psalm 100:1-5 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

**Repentance.** Matthew 11:28:30 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

# From the Desk of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly...

## Our Patriotic Duty

*As Catholics and Knights, we have a responsibility to foster love of country in a spirit of gratitude to God and in service to all*

The recent celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Fourth Degree on Feb. 22 gave us an opportunity to reflect upon what patriotism really means to us as Catholics and as Knights. For us, it's a question as old as the Order itself.

When Father Michael J. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in the late 19th century, many Americans questioned whether a Catholic could be a good citizen. Yet, from the beginning, Knights knew there was no conflict between our faith and commitment to one's country. And over the years, we've proven that, time and again, by serving proudly in uniform — fighting and dying alongside Protestants, Jews and nonbelievers.

Knights have also distinguished themselves in public service, serving loyally at every level of government, promoting human dignity and the common good. And throughout society, we have transformed entire institutions for the better — from schools to charitable organizations to hospitals.

In our own day and age, many question whether anyone *should* be a patriot. Cultural elites tell us that patriotism means the same thing as blind nationalism — and that it tends toward arrogance, aggression and advancing one country's interest at the expense of others. They insist that patriotism is an outdated ideal that should be put aside for the sake of so-called progress. And they tell us that our love of country is misplaced because our country is not worthy of our love.

The Church teaches us that patriotism is not and never has been about national supremacy. Nor is it an excuse to exclude or vilify the foreigner or the immigrant. It's not a weapon to be used against other nations or people. Rather, patriotism is a duty that flows from a sense of gratitude.

St. John Paul II saw gratitude as the starting point for faith and hope. In his apostolic letter [\*Novo Millennio Ineunte\*](#) at the close of the Jubilee Year 2000, he urged us "to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm and to look forward to the future with confidence."

Twenty-five years later, his words remain wise and timely counsel, and they reflect the spirit of true patriotism. Gratitude and hope lead to love of country and service to neighbor, and they are an antidote to the nihilism and meaninglessness that have a stranglehold on so many people today.

Patriotism is not only a virtue, but also an obligation for us all — especially Knights. And just as patriotism calls us to defend our country, we have a duty to remind our fellow citizens that our nation isn't defined by its failures, past or present. Nations, just like people, are so much more than the sum of their mistakes. We have inherited something precious, which we must treasure, even if our nation will always be a work in progress. And we must teach future generations to do the same.

Pope Benedict XVI observed that each successive generation faces anew the challenge to build a just and virtuous society — a perennial yet ever urgent task.

"Freedom," he wrote, "must constantly be won over for the cause of good" ([\*Spe Salvi\*](#), 24). During the welcoming ceremony for his visit to the United States several months later, in April 2008, he further reflected, "Freedom is not only a gift, but also a summons to personal responsibility. ... The preservation of freedom calls for the cultivation of virtue, self-discipline, and sacrificing for the common good and a sense of responsibility towards the less fortunate. It also demands courage to engage in civic life and to bring one's deepest beliefs and values to reasoned public debate."

Patriotism matters — and it's our duty, a duty of gratitude to God that we must instill in our children and our grandchildren.

*Vivat Jesus!*





## *From the Florida State Council Chamber...*

### **Shooting For the Stars**

*By State Deputy Richard Hughes*

As I write this, we have entered Holy Catholic faith. I hope and pray that your journey this week, and throughout the Easter season, brings you joy and spiritual renewal, particularly in this Jubilee Year of Hope.

The last quarter of the Fraternal Year is upon us. This is the time to finish your Council's Star Council requirements - membership, fraternal benefits events, programs, safe environment compliance, and critical forms. The good news is that as of April 11, 208 Councils have met over 50% of their membership goals, and all of those have a really good chance to meeting those goals by June 30.

The not-so-good news is that many of those Councils are behind in achieving other requirements for Star Council recognition. For example, of the 112 Councils that have already recruited at least 100% of their membership goal for the Fraternal Year, half of those still have not completed their FBE requirements; about 25% have not completed Safe Environment compliance requirements; and a few still have not completed their Forms 365 and 1728.

The Florida State Council succeeds only when the local Councils succeed, and my goal has been, since the beginning of the Fraternal Year, to see 200 Councils achieve the Star Council requirements.

I encourage all of you to bring a renewed energy to your Council and meet these goals! And don't forget to submit your Form SP7 to document your programs – although it is not due until June 30, it is MUCH better to submit this as early as possible, in case Supreme rejects the form and you must resubmit. Our State Convention is almost upon us. This will be a time, I hope, of fraternity between Knights from different parts of the State and a celebration of your council's achievements. It is also an important time to elect new State Officers and Delegates to the Supreme Convention. But time is running out for registration and booking hotel rooms.

I hope to see you in Jacksonville at the end of May!

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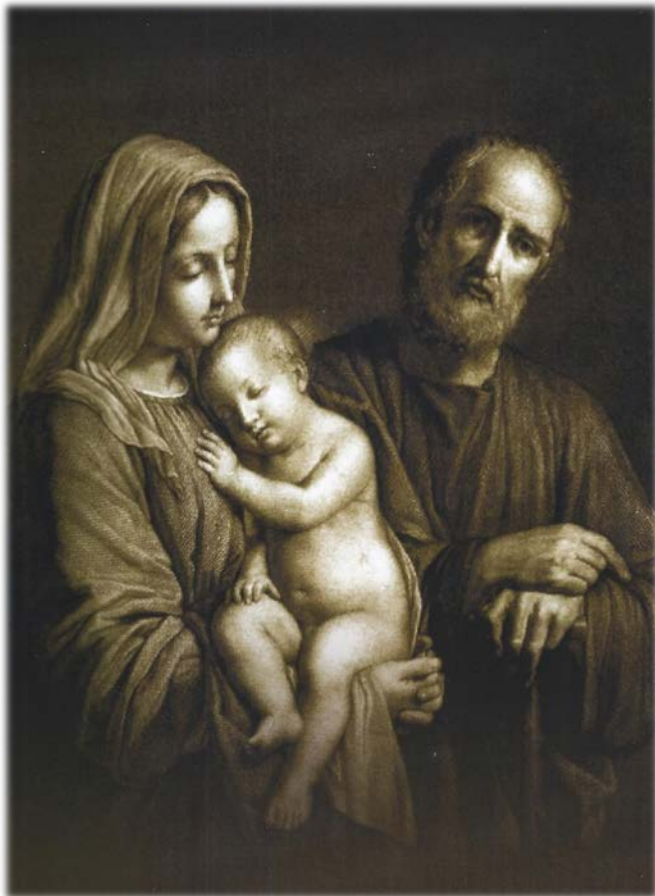
Did you know that the State of Florida Council has a YouTube Channel? Well, we do! This is a place where we can put in videos of the all the great things that we do as Knights in the State of Florida.

During the State Convention we took video interviews of some of the Dignitaries that honored us with their presence. You can see the videos at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0aref73b\\_rOdtGJXLgf4TQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0aref73b_rOdtGJXLgf4TQ).

Please be sure to subscribe to the channel so you will be notified when new videos are added. If you have any videos that you would like to add that shows your Council doing good works please email Jim Clark, Broadcast Media Relations and Production Director at [jclark1@gmail.com](mailto:jclark1@gmail.com).

## Assembly Officers 2024-2025

|                       |                            |              |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Faithful Navigator    | John Gohman                | 813.810.3735 |
| Faithful Friar        | Fr Michael W. Cooper, SJ   | 727.644.5544 |
| Faithful Captain      | JJ Coyne, PGK              | 901.832.7332 |
| Faithful Admiral      | Wally Vazquez, PFN         | 727.542.5376 |
| Faithful Pilot        | Edward Amador              | 305.606.8632 |
| Faithful Scribe       | David Heezen               | 727.792.4471 |
| Faithful Comptroller  | Tom Harkins                | 727.772.0607 |
| Faithful Purser       | Jerry Custin, PGK, PFN     | 727.244.6464 |
| Inside Sentinel       | Vincent Cristiano          | 727.725.5647 |
| Outside Sentinel      | Richard Resler             | 727.472.1651 |
| Trustee Three Year    | Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN     | 727.239.2687 |
| Trustee Two Year      | Frank DiMattei, PGK, PFN   | 727.871.6506 |
| Trustee One Year      | Gene Jajuga, PGK, PFN, FFA | 727.403.3261 |
| Color Corps Commander | Tom Wozniak, PGK, PFN, FDD | 727.214.8377 |
| Veterans Liaison      | Bill Gallant               | 727.251.6300 |



## A Family Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of our family. Enlighten our hearts and minds that we may live more fully this vocation to love.

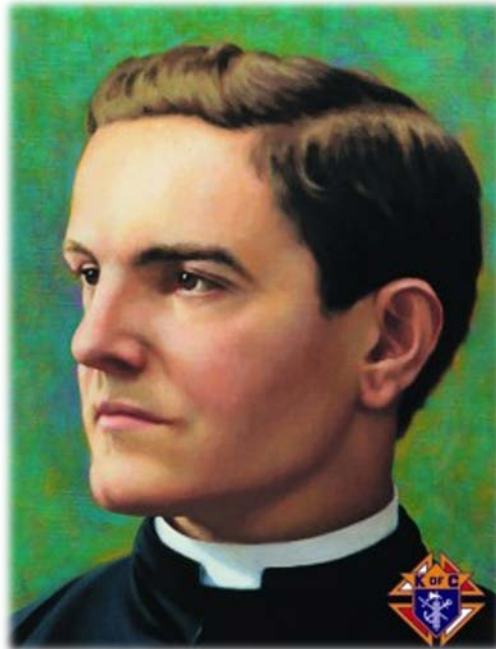
In our daily life and work,  
May we reflect the self-giving love which you,  
O Father, eternally show with your Son  
and the Holy Spirit.

Let your love be evident in the peace that reigns in our home and in the faith, we profess and live. May our family always be a place of generosity, understanding, forgiveness and joy.

Kindly give us the wisdom and courage to be witnesses to your eternal design for the family; and grant that the Holy Family of Nazareth may always guide our path to holiness as a family.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.



## *Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney*

*Founder of the Knights of Columbus*

*God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request).*

*Through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

## *What's Happening?*



### *Council Calendar of Events...*

#### **May 2025**

- 05/04 | Sun 2:00p Bishop's Appreciation Party
- 05/08 | Thu 6:15p Rosary
- 05/08 | Thu 7:00p Council Membership & Ladies Auxiliary Meetings
- 05/15 | Thu 8:00a Pinellas Hope Food Prep & Delivery
- 05/17 | Sat 8:00a Kimberly Home Work Day
- 05/18 | Sun 7:00a Coffee & Donuts
- 06/01 | Sun 9:00a Corporate Communion Mass



### *Assembly Calendar of Events...*

#### **May 2025**

- 05/19 | Mon 6:00p Color Corps ESCS Graduation
- 05/22 | Thu 7:00p Assembly Membership Meeting
- 05/26 | Mon 9:00a Memorial Day Mass & Flag Retirement



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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.

