

Knights of Columbus
Bishop Thomas J. Grady Council 5618
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The
Pinta Log
February, 2026

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Bishop Thomas J. Grady Council 5618, Altamonte Springs FL

The Pinta Log



**Knights of
Columbus®**

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Important Dates - Looking Ahead:

- **Tue Feb 3** – Officer's Planning Meeting 7:00 pm
- **Tue Feb 4** – Clean the World 1:00 pm
- **Fri Feb 6** – Movie Night: Mother - No Greater Love
- **Tue Feb 10** – Council Meeting 6:30 pm
- **Sat Feb 14** – Sharing Saturday 9:00 am
- **Wed Feb 18** – Ash Wednesday
- **Sat Feb 14** – Monthly Rosary4Life 8:45 am
- **Sun Feb 22** – Corporate Communion Mass 8:00 am
- **Fri Feb 20** – Fish Fry Dinner 5:00 pm
- **Fri Feb 27** – Fish Fry Dinner 5:00 pm
- **Sat Feb 28** – Pinta Log Content Deadline

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The Pinta Log

Grand Knight's Message to the Council

By Grand Knight, George Meyer



Worthy Brother Knights,

It was a huge blessing to spend time and serve with you all during the Winter Festival late January. The weather couldn't have been better and I personally experienced and observed serendipitous moments where the Holy Spirit moved us with opportunities to witness to our Catholic Faith with those attending! It's inspiring to see examples of your volunteerism with these events. I think we all need encouragement with regard to evangelization and inviting men of the parish to join our ranks as Knights. I'm no different with the struggle to better live out our calling to Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. God is so capable of equipping us in our day-to-day faith. We also have the Communion of Saints (particularly Our Lady and Saint Joseph) to assist us when we ask. Don't forget our Guardian Angels as well.

Continued next page

Our Chaplain's Message

By Fr. Duberney Rodas



Dear brothers,

As we stand on the threshold of Lent—beginning this year on Ash Wednesday, February 18—let us embrace this sacred season as a profound opportunity for spiritual renewal and deeper union with Christ. The Church invites us to prepare for Easter through intensified prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, recalling our Baptism and committing to penance that disposes us to celebrate the Paschal

"This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

(John 13:35)

Mystery. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI, Lent is a "strong liturgical time that challenges us to impress a more decisive impetus upon our Christian existence, rediscovering the gift of faith and seeking Reconciliation under the banner of divine mercy".

Brother Knights, this is our call to fraternity in action. Drawing from our Order's noble heritage of charity and mutual support praised by Popes as an "immense force for good" that brings hope to families and the vulnerable, let us prepare together, let us renew our baptismal promises, rooting our identity in Christ through prayer and communal solidarity. Commit to daily examine, acts of mercy, and supporting one another, just as Blessed Michael McGivney founded our Order to aid suffering families. In this spirit of brotherhood, I wish to express my gratitude for the opportunity to pray for our brothers, or for their sick family members. Every time we receive a message requesting prayers or expressing gratitude for the support received our fraternity is strengthened. This perfectly echoes the message of Pope Leo XIV:

The true remedy for humanity's wounds is a style of life based on fraternal love, which has its root in love of God. I genuinely hope that our Christian lifestyle will always reflect this fraternal, "Samaritan" spirit – one that is welcoming, courageous, committed and supportive, rooted in our union with God and our faith in Jesus Christ. Enkindled by this divine love, we will surely be able to give of ourselves for the good of all who suffer, especially our brothers and sisters who are sick, elderly or afflicted. Let us prepare for the Lenten season by intentionally scheduling time for our communal service. These acts are the living proof of our sacred vows to love God and serve our brothers and sisters.

In Christ,

**Fr. Duberney Rodas G,
Chaplain**

- 1 Benedict XVI, General Audience, Ash Wednesday, 6 February 2008
- 2 Message of Pope Leo XIV for the 34th World Day of the Sick 2026



Our Lady and Saint Joseph) to assist us when we ask. Don't forget our Guardian Angels as well. If we watch the news, we see the world in increasing darkness; but as sin abounds, so Grace abounds all the more. We have great reason to share the Good News: Jesus is the Way the Truth and the Life and our shared Catholic faith is the established means of peace, joy, and salvation, through His body, the Church. Ask God to guide your steps in witnessing to unbelievers or those who have fallen away. Also, ask for inspiration to invite men of the parish to join our Council!



George Meyer, Grand Knight

Clean the World - Feb 4 & Serve Saturday at the Sharing Center - Feb 14



pm. **The next event will occur on Wednesday, February 4.** You will be sorting out the soap bars and plastic bottle amenities that Clean the World collects from the hospitality industry and recycles. You may also pack the recycled soap into boxes that are then distributed via global NGOs, such as The WASH Foundation.

Bring your family, especially teenagers who need service hours. Clean the World is located near the Orlando International Airport at: [2544 E Landstreet Rd Ste 600, Orlando, FL 32824](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2544+E+Landstreet+Rd+Ste+600,+Orlando,+FL+32824/@28.5385,-81.3085,15z) (click to open a map). For more information: <https://cleanttheworld.org/doing-good/#volunteer>

Our Council participates with a volunteer event at Clean the World every 1st Wednesday of the month, from 1 pm – 3



Serve Saturday

Join us for a Saturday of service helping our community in need!

Our Council participates with **Serve Saturday** at the Sharing center every 2nd Saturday of the month, serving from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Noon. **Our next event will occur on February 14.** If you can attend, please email Tom Przybyla at tomprzybyla3@gmail.com. There were 6 volunteers at the December's event. Bring your family, especially teenagers who need service hours. The Sharing center is located at: [600 North Highway 17-92, Suite 130 Longwood, FL 32750](https://www.google.com/maps/place/600+North+Highway+17-92,+Suite+130+Longwood,+FL+32750/@28.5385,-81.3085,15z) (click to open a map)

Council Meeting - Tuesday February 10



Our Council's next Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 10** at 6:30 pm in the Cafeteria. A Rosary will be recited starting at 6:00 pm in the Cafeteria. Our Lecturer Lou Elrose will be providing a delicious meal after the meeting and there will be time to socialize and get to know each other. If you are relatively new in the Council and haven't quite found a part to play, this is a fine time to figure that out. Please attend this meeting and support and participate in our many activities.



Events that are coming. Check your email for further communications regarding these or any upcoming events.

2025 - 2026 Annual Calendar Schedule of Events: [Annual Calendar](#)

Upcoming Council Events: Click on the link to view more details: [Upcoming Events](#)



February 2026

The Pinta Log Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2  HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY!	3  Virtual Officer's Planning Meeting	4  Clean the World	5	6  Movie Night	7
8  SUPER BOWL LX Super Bowl LX	9	10  Council Meeting	11	12	13	14  Serve Saturday Sharing Center Serve Sat Valentine's Day 
15	16  President's Day	17	18  Ash Wednesday	19	20  Fish Fry Dinner	21  Monthly Rosary 4 Life
22  Corporate Communion Mass/breakfast	23	24	25	26	27  Fish Fry Dinner	28  Pinta Log Content Deadline

- Check our Council's website for up-to-the-minute information on new events or changes to scheduled events. Add the site to your browser's 'Favorites' for quick access.
- If you have a story you would like to be considered for inclusion in *The Pinta Log*, please submit the article by email to: nick.a.leon96@gmail.com The content deadline for the **March** edition is **Saturday February 28**. Submission does not guarantee your article will be published.

Movie Night: Mother— No Greater Love - Friday Feb 6

Twenty-five years have passed since the death of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, sparking a renewed interest in this spiritual giant of the 20th century. Filmed on 5 continents and featuring unprecedented access to both institutional archives and the apostolates of the Missionaries of Charity, this film reveals not just who Mother Teresa was, but how her singular vision to serve Christ in the poor continues to be realized through the Missionaries of Charity today. This is far more than a documentary film. It is at once a soaring tribute to a spiritual icon, a powerful witness of authentic Christian charity, and a guidepost for all who seek hope in our turbulent times. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, join us in community to watch this featured film on **Friday, February 6th in the Parish Life center**. Refreshments provided. Watch the trailer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9YbBzWaHvk>

Corporate Communion Mass and Breakfast – Sunday Feb 22

Our Council's next Corporate Communion Mass will be held on Sunday, February 22 at 8 am. Every Knight of our Council, along with their wife or significant other and family members are invited to attend this Mass. As we sit together and the congregation sees a large group of Knights and their family members attending Mass, they take notice!

Attending Mass with your Brothers as a fraternal group is an extra blessing to the Sunday experience. The more we Knights are visible in this parish, the more effective we become at serving our parishioners. If you know of a Catholic gentleman who is interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, invite that man and his family to this event. We will choose a restaurant for the breakfast after Mass since both SMM kitchen facilities are booked for that day. Worthy Grand Knight George Meyer will provide an update as to where the venue will be.

Brothers Celebrating February Birthdays



Feb 4	Renzo H Vargas	Feb 17	Andrew M Downing	Feb 25	Donald L Holzemer
Feb 6	Heinrich Moers	Feb 19	William D Benner	Feb 28	Stephen T Barry
Feb 7	Louis R Elrose	Feb 20	Lawrence A Mancini		
Feb 16	Patrick R Aland	Feb 23	John Paul S Philip		



From our Faith Director

By Tom Przybyla



My Brothers in Faith,

Whenever I'm driving, I listen to a daily Rosary podcast by <https://brucedownes.org> ministry. They started doing 21 days of Prayer and Expectation daily devotionals to start 2026. The first one I heard was on **Strength for What is Necessary**. I was worrying about recruiting for the Fish Fry dinners. With some of our experienced volunteers experiencing physical limitations, including mine, I was afraid that some of our critical positions would not be filled with people who could do the work. The following devotional reminded me that I need to ask Jesus for help and to depend on his graces and mercy to answer my prayers. **Strength for What is Necessary** <https://brucedownes.orgview/21dopae/21dopae25-jan11/> Whenever you are afraid or you are worrying about something, I invite you to re-play this video. In the second video, we hear how we should trust God's timing when we ask Him to answer our prayers and petitions: **In God's Time, in God's Way** <https://brucedownes.orgview/21dopae/21dopae25-jan12/> These devotionals brought me peace, comfort, and they reduced my fears. They remind me to believe and trust in God in all my wants and needs. If you like these devotionals, listen to another one. The daily intention is to surrender control and follow the Spirit's leading in every area of life – even when it feels unfamiliar or uncomfortable. The greatest danger in the spiritual life is not failure. It is control. When we control, we confine. We reduce the mysterious leading of God to manageable systems. **Where the spirit Leads** <https://brucedownes.orgview/21dopae/21dopae25-jan16/> If you want to hear more of these devotionals, go to https://brucedownes.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Bless-2026-FINAL-21-Days-of-Prayer-and-Expectation_web.pdf If you want to listen/participate with their daily rosaries, go to <https://brucedownes.org/> and click on the Daily Rosary link.

For those who are suffering in any way, here's a message from Jan 14 Laudate: Do you allow Jesus to be the Lord and healer in your personal life, family, and community? Approach the Lord with expectant faith. God's healing power restores us not only to health but to active service and care of others. There is no trouble he does not want to help us with and there is no bondage he can set us free from. Do you take your troubles to him with expectant faith that he will help you? Lord Jesus Christ, you have all power to heal and to deliver from harm. There is no trouble nor bondage you cannot overcome. Set me free to serve you joyfully and to love and serve others generously. May nothing hinder me from giving myself wholly to you and to your service.

May God bless you and your family
Tom Przybyla,
Faith Director

Leave No Neighbor Behind - Helping Hands Program



If you know of a brother Knight, Men's Club member or SMM parishioner who needs the labor to help with a small project, such as yard work, pressure washing, or small repairs, and they have purchased the needed supplies, please contact our Helping Hands program chair Tom Poppell at tompopl@aol.com or 407-920-2497 or Tom Przybyla at tom-przybyla3@gmail.com or 407-460-8109. We need 2 weeks of lead time to make arrangements for the project.



Brothers,

We are now just over a month away from the 13th Annual Central Florida Laps4Life event. It will be held at Bishop Moore Catholic High School on 7-MAR 2026 from 9A-12P. It's time to remind you we need your participation in Time and Treasures.

◆ **TIME:** We need help in setting up, participation at all ends...if you can help herd the crowd to the appropriate area, clean up, etc. If you are unable to stand we have jobs for you (directing traffic at the entrance to the appropriate areas, as an example).

◆ **TALENT:** Normally, I'd discuss how we need you to sing...Brother Pat Cavanaugh will lead us in the National Anthem and Fr Chris will pray with us (with luck, he might be able to spend time during the event too), Deacon Johnny Rivas will work in the press box with Brother Pete Ramondetta. Brother Mark Lawrence will be the emcee. If you have any special talents, where you think you might be of value, let us know. We need to pick up 50-60 cases of water from Costco on 6-MAR. If someone has a pickup truck, let me know we will need help.

◆ **TREASURES:** As of this writing between the CCW and Bishop Grady Council, we have raised over \$5,300 (71% of all monies raised). Unfortunately, this comes to only \$7500). We need more. Last year we raised just over \$100,000. We spent it. We spent it ALL.

As you know, our goal was to place ultrasound machines in Central Florida, then the rest of Florida. Now we have been approached and been successful in placing them in Kankakee, IL; Columbia, SC; Conway, SC; Florence, SC; Anderson, SC; and Medina, OH...among others.

To those of you who have donated, thanks so much. To the rest of you, why are you waiting? Lent starts in just over three weeks, begin your fast now. Just take all the money you save by not eating brussels sprouts and donate it. See how easy and painless that can be? Or, if you prefer, all the savings from not going out to eat once/week for the next few weeks (Easter is eight weeks from today, as I write this). The word is out. We have and continue to place more Ultrasound Machines than any other group of Knights. The Knights have placed 2,000 ultrasound machines globally; of those we have placed 66 (more than some entire states). Our 2026 goal is \$125,000. Last year raised \$100,000. The demand is there. We are known as the "go to" team when it comes to filling the void. To donate, go to: <https://cflaps4life.org> follow the link to the Funding Page and then to Team Easy Ed (named after our beloved Msgr Ed Thompson. <https://www.stmarymagdalen.org/Media/FrEdTellsHisStory.htm>. Now that I've tugged at your heartstrings, go to Team Easy Ed. Show your resolve for life in honor of Msgr Ed. Step up and donate.

Fraternal Benefits Advisor

By Eric Monte



Brothers, Do you have goals in mind for this year? It may be February, but the year is still fresh. Instead of new year's resolutions, I like to think in terms of setting concrete, actionable goals. I recommend that at least once a year, you make it a goal to take inventory of your financial health. You can start by asking yourself if you've experienced any major life events in the last year that may call for an update to your insurance plan or to acquire a policy for the first time.

If you've gotten married, welcomed or are expecting a baby, changed careers or purchased a home, these are good reasons to evaluate your life insurance coverage. Don't forget that if your life insurance policy is dependent on your current employer, you could be underinsured and only protected while you are still working. It's also important to consider whether you're on track to maintain the lifestyle you want in retirement. Do you know how much money you'll need to retire comfortably? It's not too late to set goals for 2026. If you have any questions, please contact your agent to schedule a time to meet. Thank you!

Eric M. Monte
Field Agent

Knights of Columbus – Urrutia Agency

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Winter Fest Frosty Grill Booth

by Tom Przybyla

The Knights and Men's Club Frosty Grill booth was a big success! Volunteers blessed our booth by showing up and helping with the work and the fun. Many of the volunteers showed up even though they did not sign up. The sign-up Genius only allowed for 5 volunteers for each shift, but we averaged around 10 volunteers for each shift. Our 7 booth co-captains were some of the hardest working guys, spending a lot of hours each day. Justin Hernandez worked many hours each day from Thursday to Saturday smoking the BBQ pork. His time and effort were well worth it; everyone loved the BBQ! I want to thank all the volunteers and especially those who helped me carry things and watched after me to protect my back by continually reminding me to sit down (easier said than done for me!). May God bless us all! You can view photos on the [home](#)



Basketball Free Throw Competition and Hockey Challenge



On Saturdays, January 17 and 31, we held the Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Competition and the Hockey Shoot-Out Challenge at the SMM gymnasium. These annual events allow winners to progress through local, district, and state levels. This year, we hosted both the Council and District level competitions simultaneously. All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 were invited to participate. We had a great turnout for the basketball free throw, and all the participants had a wonderful time. Hockey Chairman & DGK, Joe Pocius coordinated the hockey event. Those who participated in the shoot-out received specialized training and practice on how to shoot pucks, and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Community Director and Youth Chairman Ed Gallagher organized and coordinated these events with the school. Congratulations to everyone who participated in this SMM/Knights youth event. You can view photos from both competitions on the [home page](#) of our website.

Catholic Citizenship Essay Awards Mass

by Ed Gallagher



On January 14 at the 10 am SMM School Mass, I presented the Knights' School Catholic Citizenship Essays Awards. This Knights of Columbus citizenship essay contest program encourages today's youth to be more connected to their community and their Catholic faith through creative writing. I want to thank the Knights who helped read and grade the finalists' essays, the Knights who helped me present the awards at the Mass and those Knights whose presence at the Mass was a demonstration of the support that our Council has for this program and the children of our parish school. At the presentation, I recognized the finalists and the top three winners. You can view photos on the [home page](#) of our website.

Knight/Family of the Month Spotlight



Congratulations Council 5618 Knights on your achievements!!

Picture #1: Worthies GK George Meyer (Right) and DGK Joe Pocius (Left) presented the Knight of the Month award for December to our Membership Dir. Art Wright (Middle). Art has been our hard-working Membership Director for the last few years. His organizational skills and dedication with this role have been invaluable; as he has done all the leg work and interviewing for new members - plus his methodical research into best practices and their application to facilitate recruiting. He has also assisted in critical roles related to events, including: food coordination for Installation Dinners, Planning and shopping for the latest Christmas Party, and new event planning. Besides that, his input related to technology initiatives has been consistent and critical to their success. Art shows himself to be a gracious, articulate, and generous Knight. He exemplifies Charity, Unity, and Fraternity and we are happy to call him Worthy Brother Knight! **Picture #2:** Worthies GK George Meyer (Right) and DGK Joe Pocius (Left) presented the Knight of the Month award for November to John Byrnes (Middle). You can see his bio [here](#). **Picture #3:** Worthy Grand Knight George Meyer (Left) presented the Family of the Month award for December with our worthy Chaplain Fr. Duberney Rodas G (Right) to the Fred & Laurice Milcarsz family (Middle). Fred and Laurice have been dedicated Saint Mary Magdalen parish members for decades, and serve as an example of bedrock parish life. Fred, a Worthy Brother Knight in our council, is a stalwart meeting attendee, and regular contributor at parish and council events. Despite his more recent health issues stemming from a car accident, he resolutely continued to participate. A man of true modesty, he has been silently generous in other ways, graciously benefitting our council. Fred is also an active member of the 4th degree, attending monthly meetings at the Sanford Ed Thompson Assembly. Their faithful lives, lived out for God and each other are a strong witness to our Catholic faith and a true testament to the ideals of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity! We thank them for their abiding faithfulness and recognize their worthy contribution to the Council and Parish. **Picture #4:** Worthy Grand Knight George Meyer (right) and Brother Don Holzemer (left) welcomes our newest Knight, Frank Scarlata (middle) who transferred from another Council.

Lenten Fish Fry Dinners - Feb 20–Mar 27

Bishop Thomas J
Grady Council #5618



The fish fry is returning for the 2026 Lenten season. Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

- February 20, 27
- March 6, 13, 20, 27

Volunteers are needed for each of these Fridays. Please watch your emails for further communications from [Tom Przybyla](#) regarding how to sign up and help.