



The Shield

Grand Knight's Message



Tom Krivchenia, PFN
Grand Knight
GrandKnight7109@gmail.com

Worthy Brothers & Ladies,

HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone!!! I hope you all had a wonderful and joyous Christmas; time spent with family and friends. It's hard to believe that it's 2026 already. We pray that God will shower us with many blessings in the New Year as we thank Him for his goodness to us in all the years of our lives.

We started the month off with our very successful Breakfast with Santa where we served 158 adults and 60 children and 26 of them being under the age of six. We ended up with a profit of \$655 after all expenses. I would like to thank the members of the 6PM Choir for taking time out of their morning to sing Christmas songs for us, including Mary Jo Routzahn, Debbie Manning and my wife, Margaret. Thank you, also, to Karen Jajuga for joining the choir. A big thank you to Roe & Richie Resler for playing Santa and Mrs. Clause and their daughter for being Santa's elf. Thank you, John Ruckert and his wife Kathy, for taking all those wonderful Christmas photos with Santa. We could not have had a successful breakfast without the help of many Knights and the woman's Auxiliary.

Matt Sunski	Jack Strehle	Edward Amador
Tom Harkins	Kay Strehle	Margaret Krivchenia
Anne Harkins	Santo Laparo	Tom Krivchenia
Joe D'Amelio	Betty D'Amelio	George Inderwies

Issue 01, January 2026

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

View the Newsletter online at:
www.safetyharborkofc.org

Visit the State Website at:
www.floridakofc.org
Visit the Supreme Website at:
www.kofc.org

Karen Jajuga Tom Wozniak Irving Hernandez
Gene Jajuga Jean Wozniak Sue Engelmann
Pat Nocerino Adel Nammour Tom Fitzpatrick
Mark Feldman

We concluded our Keep Christ in Christmas Cards Sale. This year we sold 57 boxes of cards and 40 magnets. I want to thank Tom Harkins, JJ Coyne, Mike Engelmann and Gene Wolanin for spending the last three weeks selling these cards after each Mass.

I would like to welcome our three new Brother Knights who joined our Council on Thursday, December 18th. To John Rieman, Patrick J. Flynn and Roman Parys, may you find your experience with the Knights be everything you want it to be.

Lastly, we ended the month with our annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 19th in the Parish Center. Again, we invited the members from All Saints, Our Lady of Lourdes, and Light of Christ Councils and Assemblies to join us for a fun night with music and dancing. Thank you to the Women's Auxiliary for beautifully decorating the tables and for making the gift baskets that we raffled off. A special thanks to Fred DiMasi for an extraordinary job as our bartender for the event. We had Chicken Cordon Bleu, Eggplant Parmesan, Baked Ziti and Gluten Free Baked Ziti, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, Salad, Rolls and

Cake. I have heard compliments on the food and party overall. Everyone had a good time getting their picture in a Christmas scene, and once again, thanks to John Ruckart and his wife, Kathy, for taking all those pictures. This year, our Council had 93 people registered for the event and 6 people who didn't sign up but came that night. We unfortunately also had 17 no-shows this year. We had 46 guests from the other Councils. Thank you to Ben Brudnicki for being our DJ.

Upcoming Events

We will be having our Basketball Free Throw Contest on Sunday January 11th Starting at 9:00 AM in Padua Hall. If you know of any children, ages 9 to 14 years old who would like to participate in this event, please invite them. There will be certificates for all participants and winners.

- Fish Fry Meeting – Monday, January 5th at 7:00 PM In the Gathering Room
- Program Directors Meeting – Monday, January 5th at 7:00 PM In the Parish Center
- Rosary – Thursday, January 8th at 6:15 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Council 7109 Membership Meeting – Thursday, January 8th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting -Thursday, January 8th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Coffee & Donuts – Sunday, January 11th at 7:00 AM in the St. Johns Bosco Center
- Basketball Free Throw Contest – Sunday, January 11th at 9:00 AM in Padua Hall
- Pinellas Hope Prep – Thursday, January 15th at 9:00 AM in the Parish Center Kitchen
- The Kimberly Home Workday – Saturday, 17th at 8:00 AM at The Kimberly Home in Clearwater, FL
- Assembly 2474 Business Meeting – Thursday, January 22nd at 7:00 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Council Officers Meeting – Thursday, February 5th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Rosary – Thursday, February 12th at 6:15 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Council Business Meeting – Thursday, February 12th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting – Thursday, February 12th at 7:00 PM in the Sta. John Bosco Center
- Valentines Day Dinner Dance – Saturday, February 14th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center

Pope Leo XIV's Prayer Intentions for 2026

January - For Prayer With The Word Of God - Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

February - For Children With Incurable Diseases - Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

March- For Disarmament And Peace - Let us pray that nations move to effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

April - For Priests In Crisis - Let us pray for Priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

May - That Everyone Might Have Food - Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

June - For The Values Of Sports - Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity and personal growth.

July- For Respect For Human Life - Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

August- For Evangelization In The City - Let us pray that in large cities, often marked by anonymity and loneliness, we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

September- For The Care of Water - Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

October - For Mental Health Ministry - Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

November - For The Proper Use Of Wealth - Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be at the service of the common good and in solidarity with those who have less.

December - For Single-parent Families - Let us pray for families experiencing the absence of a mother or father, that they may find support and accompaniment in Church, and help and strength in the Faith during difficult times.



SK Edward Amador
Chancellor, Captain, Director of Membership
Barney Gonyea Council #7109
Assembly 2474
Edamador00@gmail.com

Council 7109

Holy Moments

Brother Knights,

A New Year, Renewed Momentum, and Holy Moments in Action

As we begin a new calendar year, we do so with renewed hope, gratitude, and momentum. January reminds us that fresh beginnings often come from faithful perseverance and this past month delivered exactly that.

I am pleased to share that we have now reached **10 new members on our goal of 15**, a meaningful step forward as we continue our journey toward Star Council for this fraternal year.

Matthew Kelly reminds us that *Holy Moments* are created when we choose faith over fear, action over comfort, and invitation over hesitation. The growth we experienced this past month is proof that when Brothers answer the call, God responds in abundance.

Answering the Call: Brothers Leading by Example

Two Brother Knights deserve special recognition for answering that call with conviction and courage.

A heartfelt thank-you to **Color Corps Commander Thomas Wozniak** and **SK George Inderwies**, who each stepped forward and personally invited highly qualified Catholic men to join our Order. Because of their intentional invitations and their willingness to act rather than wait we joyfully welcome **Brother Roman Parys** and **Brother Patrick Flynn** into our council. Please be sure to greet them warmly and make them feel at home as they begin their journey with us.

This is exactly what Matthew Kelly describes when he says that Holy Moments often begin with a simple, faithful decision: *"Will I step forward, or will I step back?"* Thomas and George stepped forward and the entire council is stronger because of it.

Choosing Presence Over Convenience

I would also like to recognize **Brother John Rieman**, who beautifully embodied the spirit of fraternity and commitment. Although Brother John completed his exemplification online, he made the intentional choice to

attend the **in-person ceremony** so he could experience it fully alongside his wife and their newborn child.

That decision speaks volumes. It reminds us that this Order is not merely about membership completion, but about **shared moments, lived faith, and family-centered witness**. Brother John chose presence over convenience, community over isolation and in doing so, created a Holy Moment that will remain with him and his family for years to come.

The Invitation Still Matters

Brothers, we now stand at **10 of 15**, and while we celebrate this progress, the mission continues. There are Catholic men in our parish, our families, our workplaces, and our neighborhoods who are simply waiting for one thing: **An invitation**.

Matthew Kelly teaches us that many people long to live a life of meaning but do not know where to begin. The Knights of Columbus offers that pathway a place to put faith into action through charity, fraternity, unity, and service.

I ask each of you this month to reflect on this question: ***Who in my life is God asking me to invite?*** It does not take a polished speech or perfect timing just a willing heart and a simple conversation. Those small acts of courage are often the Holy Moments God uses to change lives.

Moving Forward Together

Let us continue this momentum into the new year. Let us keep inviting, welcoming, mentoring, and supporting one another. Together, we are building something greater than ourselves, a council rooted in faith, strengthened by brotherhood, and guided by God's will.

We are **five Brothers away** from our goal. With unity, intention, and trust in God, we will get there.

Thank you for your continued dedication, your willingness to serve, and your openness to creating Holy Moments wherever God places you.

Vivat Jesus,



Unity – Strength in Numbers

Informational Open House Schedule

2026

Feb 18 | Apr 15 | Jun 16

Unified Degree Ceremony Schedule

2026

Feb 19 | Apr 16 | Jun 18

Look for more information from our Grand Knight



Council Membership Report

Total Membership	338
Insurance Membership	127
Honorary Life Members	60
Honorary Members	08
2024-2025 Membership Growth vs Goal	10/15
2024-2025 Insurance	00/02

Assembly Membership Report

Total Membership	126
Honorary Life Members	14
Honorary Members	01
2024-2025 Membership Growth vs Goal	00/06



Council Officers 2025-2026

Grand Knight	Tom Krivchenia, PFN	727.366.5422
Chaplain	Fr Michael W. Cooper, SJ	727.644.5544
Deputy Grand Knight	Mark Feldman	727.366.5959
Chancellor	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Recorder	Bill 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!

Paul Barry, David Behrle, Domenic Berenato, William Brandon, John Cathcart, Richard Ciardullo, Ricardo Colina, Joseph Culmone, Hoyt Decker, Robert Ehrman, Ward Griffin, Gerald Grubba, James Hayes, Derek Jones, Phil Lafreniere, Brian Lawandus, Gerald Lubig Jr, Francis Lubowa, Francis Mahoney, Daniel Manella, James Montali, Javier Ortega, Gerald Pappa, Christopher Purcell, Donald Reed, Kenneth Ruckart, Keith Taylor Sr, Steven Verba

Prayers for the Sick

Marie Bishop, Sean Michael Cook (d), Tim & Barbara Rush, Ken Seguin, Susanne Papa (d), Ward Griffin, Elizabeth Inderwies, Linda Cooper (d), Bob Ehrman, Antonia Rosin (d), Frances Hamacher (d), Jacqueline Barry (d), Mary Branham (d), Mary Williams (d), Frank Schuster II (d), Kennedie McFadden, George Smith (d), Pauline Sager (d), Vicki Nolan (d), Steve Gorey (d), Felice D'Elia (d), Stanley Kwiatowski (d), Ethan Griswold (d), Dick LaLuzerne (d), Fr Rich Rosin (d), Mary Duell (d), Tony Doyle (d), Mary Frances Lowe, Dwight Rochester, Jim & Pat Nolf, Frank Diaz (d), Ed Warticki (d), Jack Mills (d), Bob Justiana, Madison Lentz, Helen Lentz, Kathleen Griffin, Karen Loparo, Taylor Dumke, Richard Roberto, Peter Saleses, Peggy Gohman, Barbara Papa, Kathy King, Richard Roberto, Joe LaGuardia, Michael D'Amelio, Steve Wozniak, Evelyn Harvey (d), Skylar Ruckart, Krish Sujani, Jack Greenwald, Don Bishop (d), Claire Inderwies, Matt Sunski, Colleen Spaeth, Frank Nunziata (d), Dave Weber (d), Nicholas Burriesci (d), Anthony Burriesci (d), Tania Carnet, Thomas Ziegler (d), Thomas Barrett, Chuck Friesema, Jerry Custin, Nicholas Neubauer, Paul Harvey, Lilian Lenehan, Don Borbath, Tammy Harrison, Sal Burriesci (d), John Saleses (d), Ed Pagnott

Please pray for all our sick and deceased Brothers, Ladies, and family members. Please report illnesses and deaths to Sir Knight Paul Harvey, Lecturer, at 727.286.7171 or pharvey10@verizon.net

Support Our Vocations Fund



Austin Smith



Mark Wegener



John Paul Grabowski

Thank you for your continued support of the Vocations Fund. As most of you know we are making annual donations to three seminarians. Austin and Mark are located at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, while John Paul is located at St. Joseph Seminary College. Austin Smith is from Nativity parish in Brandon. Mark Wegener is from St. Anthony the Abbot, Brooksville. John Paul Grabowski is from Catholic Student Center, USF Tampa.

Please get your name on the list by giving \$5.00, \$10.00 or whatever you can in support of this worthy endeavor! We need to continue to support these young men and vocations, but it will take everyone's help. Thank You!

Edward & Violet Amador, Mark Barrett, Donald Borbath, James & Jean Burris, William Cullen Jr, Joseph & Betty D'Amelio, Douglas & Carol De Wolfe, Peter Demzak, Frederick & Suzanne Di Masi, Sean Donahoo, Robert & Zoe Dufour, Michael & Sue Engelmann, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Michael & Lisa Furman, Joel & Karen Gray, Robert & Catherine Gwinner IV, James & Anna Haitz, Thomas & Anne Harkins, Timothy & Ann Hartle, James Hayes, David & Donna Heezen, Joseph & Sandra Hoherl, George & Claire Inderwies, Steven & Anne Ippolito, Robert & M. A. Justiana Sr, Michael & Katherine King, Dan & Donna Kistel, Mark & Renee Kraf, William & Katherine Krajewski, Frank Laffey, Stephen & Ellen Leger, Milton Levine, Amaro Lionheart, Jerry Maratea, Frank & Cindy McEwen, Charles McEwen Sr, Kenneth (Ken) Miller, John Morgan, Adel Nammour, Chris & Leah Nesci, Thomas & Carolyn O'Rourke, John & Susanne Papa, Paul & Virginia Pappas, Mark & Christine Peterman, Robert & Vickie Pickard, Richard Roberto Jr, Kenneth & Gabriella Seguin Sr, Jason Seguin, Morgan Sheaffer Sr, James & Karin Smith, Thomas Stanko, John & Kay Strehle III, Matthew Sunski, Roy & Linda Vanderveer, Steven & Jaclyn Verba, Paul & Josefina Vilchez, Mario & Judy Zaccaria, Dennis & Joyce Ayrall, Jonathan & Marianne Boyce, Sean Casey, John Coyne, Gerald Custin Jr, James & Sylvia O'Neill, Michael & Mary Kathleen Dixon, Philip & Jane Farney, Mark & Elaine Feldman, Charles & Raquel Friesema, John & Peggy Gohman II, Michael Gutknecht, Thomas Hart Jr, Paul & Rose Marie Harvey, Eugene & Karen Jajuga, Shawn & Pattie Jajuga, Christopher & Celise Jones, Gregory & Kim Juedes, Richard Kembell-Cook Jr, Timothy Kielich, Matthew Killeen, Tom & Margaret Krivchenia, Jack Kuczej, Christian Kuczej, Thomas Kukulski, James & Maria Lankford, Brian & Christina Lapointe, Brian & Angela Lawandus, Santo Loparo Jr, Patrick Mackin, Michael & Maria McCarthy, James & Patricia Nolf, Brian & Lisa O'Connor, Gerald & Holly Pappa, Frank Pensabene, Daniel & T Peterson, Donald & Alexis Reed, Andrew Rodnite, Juan & Rosemary Romero, Peter & Susan Saleses, Daniel & Paula Saracki, William & Mary Scott, Jim & Nancy Shirer, Michael & Melissa Short, Massimo & Valeria Simeoni, Chuck & Elizabeth Sullivan, Keith & Griselda Taylor Sr, Thomas & Jean Wozniak, Patrick & Joan Alix, Patrick & Beatrice Boland, Sal & Ingrid Burriesci, Ryan Burriesci, Patrick Carroll, Joseph Celic III, Terrell & Victoria Clampitt, Joseph Cortese, Joseph Culmone, Hoyt Decker, Frank & Angela Di Mattei, Jonathan Di Mattei, Terry & Shirley Drake, Richard & Joan Ducheny, Frederick & Christi Elflein, Zach Faraone, Joseph & Megan Gajewski, Ward & Kathleen Griffin, Mark Gurley, Irving Hernandez, Kenton & Sue Heuertz, Jarret & Lesley Ann Honahan, Mark & Maryann Kapinos, William & Elizabeth Kasak, Brian & Christine Kearns, Robert Kenny, Raymond Kraker, Dennis Lentz, Francis & Carol Mahoney, Frank & Juliann Marsalek, Edward Martinenko, Kevin McMullen, Clifford & Michelle Merz, Anthony Metty, Darryl & Mary Miller, Thomas Myers, Javier & Xiomara Ortega, Todd & Margaret Owers, Edmund & Diane Pagnott, Donald & Carol Palacheck, Robert Papariella, Thomas Penders, Glen Pettersen, James & Suzanne Preston Jr, Christopher Purcell, Edward & Sandra Riley, James & Drema Servoss Rooney, John Ruckart, Kurt & Mary Lynn Salac, Julius & Minnie Silva, Thomas Smith, Bryan & Krista Snyder, Gregory & Carolina Sohn, James & Darlene Stanley, Jugdesh & Sucheta Sujanani, Alvah & Margaret Vankleeck, Walberto & Ramona Vazquez, Margaret Watson, Vincent Baldwin, Fred & Caroline Bennett, Thomas Bergevin, Victor Berggren, Jacob & Mary Burnett, Mark & Janet Busing, Jerome Dewberry, Timothy & Marcy Dolan, Eric & Maria Flores, Gerald & Lorraine Grubba, Lawrence & Nancy Harkins, Robert Kelly, James Kleinsorge, Stanley Lipiarz, Gerald & Renee Lubig Jr, John Malone, Will & Jennifer Maxwell Jr, Christopher Mazzone, James & Phyllis Montali, Michael O'Neill, Miguel & Sammantha Perez I, Guillermo Romero, John J Liu, John T Liu, Albert Masselli, Peter & Susan Saleses

Total Collected to Date: \$3363.13



Father Michael W. Cooper, SJ
Chaplain

Chaplain's Corner

Republished from January 2025

A Very Happy New Year!

I have a few words at the beginning of this New Year. I hope we are all very happy and grateful for the goodness and enthusiasm of our Council. We make a significant contribution to the life of our parish - more than any other group, especially as ministers of hospitality. In addition, we cook and serve Pinellas Hope and Kimberley Home. In addition, we distributed the food baskets for Saint Vincent DePaul and decorated the Church with Christmas trees and lights. We had a very joyful celebration at our Christmas Party shared with a few other local councils and assemblies. It was good to see that our Memorial Mass in November was better attended than last year.

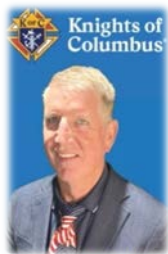
As we move into a New Year 2026, we might remember that song from the musical *Spamalot*, ***"Always Look on the Bright Side."***

Michael Cooper, SJ
Chaplain



Service Program Directors 2025-2026

Program Director	Mark Feldman	727.366.5959
Membership Director	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Faith Director	Wally Vazquez	727.542.5376
Community Director	Mike King	727.453.8843
Family Director	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,

First, I want to wish my Brother Knights and the Ladies Auxiliary a Happy New Year. My hope is to wish you all a better year than last year. I hope that you had a Blessed and Merry Christmas. Our Christmas Party was a big success. I want to thank everyone who helped put it together. Special thanks go to John Ruckart and his daughter for setting up and taking everyone who wanted their picture taken. I also want to thank all who volunteered to decorate the church and set up all the Christmas Lights. It really looks fantastic. We will be having our Coffee & Donuts on Sunday the 11th. Please help if you can. We will also be holding our annual Basketball Free Throw Contest this month, scheduled on Sunday the 11th in the school gym from 8am to 12pm. Any changes to this will be sent out. Invite anyone to this event, children, grandchildren, NBA players. It doesn't matter. Our Program Directors meeting will be on Tuesday the 6th at 7pm in the gathering room. Let's be prepared to discuss our plans for the year.

St Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

Born around 291AD into a noble Christian family in Rome. Renowned for her beauty and virtue, she attracted many suitors, but she dedicated her life to Christ, famously declaring, "Jesus Christ is my only Spouse." She dedicated herself to a life of virginity. Such self-gift was neither well received, nor well understood by the men of her time.

Agnes was reported to the local prefect to convince Agnes to offer sacrifices to the Roman gods. She refused. Outraged, the prefect ordered her taken to the brothels to be violated. During this time Agnes knew here Heavenly Spouse would protect her. At the brothels. The men appeared more frightened of her than she was of them. None dared to approach her. It is said that only one young man did approach her, only to be immediately struck blind and brought to the ground. Through a prayer spoken by Agnes, though, his sight was restored.

The prefect having failed to convert Agnes back to paganism, condemned her to a death by beheading. Agnes willingly offered her neck to the executioner, who trembled with fear as she approached, while she was as joyful as a bride waiting to meet her Bridegroom.

St Agnes was one of the earliest martyrs whose name was honored by its insertion into the Roman Canon

January Liturgical Calendar

- Jan 01 - Mary, The Holy Mother of God, Solemnity
- Jan 02 - Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church, Memorial
- Jan 03 - Most Holy Name of Jesus, optional memorial
- Jan 06 - Epiphany of the Lord, Solemnity
- Jan 07 - St Raymond of Penyafort, Priest, optional memorial
- Jan 11 - Baptism of the Lord, Feast
- Jan 13 - St Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, optional memorial
- Jan 17 - St Anthony, Abbott, Memorial
- Jan 20 - St Fabian, Pope and Martyr, St Sebastian, Martyr, optional memorials
- Jan 21 - St Agnes, Virgin and Martyr, Memorial
- Jan 22 - St Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St Marianne Cope, Virgin; optional memorials
- Jan 24 - St Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, Memorial
- Jan 26 - St Timothy and St Titus, Bishops, optional memorials
- Jan 27 - St Angela Merici, Virgin, optional memorial
- Jan 28 - St Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church, Memorial
- Jan 31 - St John Bosco, Priest, Memorial



John Ruckart
Field Agent
John.Ruckart@kofc.org



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

Fraternal Benefits Advisor Report

Happy New Year! The Knights of Columbus has very exciting news to share as we begin 2026!

Beginning January 1, 2026, a dividend increase took effect for eligible participating insurance policies, for the second year in a row. What does an increased dividend rate mean for you?

Dividends are amounts that may be paid annually from the surplus funds of the Knights of Columbus and are paid on an equitable basis by class as determined by the Board of Directors.

These dividends can be used in various ways, including:

- Purchase paid-up additions, which is the default option.
- Place the dividends on deposit and earn additional interest.
- Receive the dividends in cash.
- Reduce billed premium.
- Reduce an existing loan.

Guided by the vision of our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, we are dedicated to supporting the financial security of our members. Over the past 30 years, Knights of Columbus has paid more than \$8 billion in dividends to those we serve.

I would love to sit down with you in the coming year to discuss how this dividend increase may help you achieve your financial security goals. If you have any questions about this, or any of the benefits of having a Knights of Columbus insurance policy, please come chat with me, and we'll schedule a time to meet.

Thank you!
Thank you!
Vivat Jesus!

John D Ruckart, FICF
813.855.5111

Book an appt with me here:

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

Learn about our investments:

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



Ladies,

Happy holidays and may the New Year have many blessings for you and yours. Keep the Christmas spirit going by reaching out to others who need a hug, an open ear, and time spent in their presence.

Once again, in collaboration with WES, the Ladies Auxiliary was able to present over \$1600 of toys to the Marines' Toys for Tots program! Thank you, Katie, for making this possible and being there for everyone. Thank you for those who were Santa shoppers and making the delivery to the collection location. This has been a yearly tradition for many years of collecting toys through our auxiliary and shopping with the donated gift cards from the Giving Tree for Target and Walmart. I'm sure it brightened many a child's face for Christmas.

Our next auxiliary meeting will be Thursday January 8th at 7 PM in the Gathering Room. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in the new year and welcome any new members into our group.

All ladies are welcome to join to support our Knights of Columbus council. Discussion of the upcoming dinner dance will be the topic and initial planning for the Lenten seasonal fish fries also.

God bless you and yours.



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

Faithful Navigator's Log

Sir Knights,

As we continue our fraternal year, I hope that each of you and your families enjoyed a joyful and blessed Christmas season. May the celebration of Christ's birth continue to bring peace, good health, and renewed faith into your homes. I also offer my prayers for a happy, safe, and grace-filled New Year, and for God's continued blessings upon our Assembly and the work we do together.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your outstanding support during the first half of the fraternal year. Your commitment and participation have been evident in many ways, most notably in the highly successful golf tournament, which was a tremendous example of teamwork, fellowship, and service. As we look ahead, I am confident that same spirit of cooperation will carry forward as we support our Council during the Lenten Fish Fries beginning next month, an important ministry of both service and fraternity.

At our upcoming monthly Assembly meeting, on January 22, we will also conduct a Renewal of Obligations. This solemn and reflective ceremony offers each Sir Knight the opportunity to reaffirm the promises we made upon joining the Fourth Degree. It serves as a powerful reminder of the values that unite us as Catholic gentlemen and patriotic leaders.

Your presence and participation are strongly encouraged, as the strength of our Assembly lies in the fellowship and dedication of its members.

As a reminder, our area will be conducting a Patriotic Exemplification on January 31, at St Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Tampa, providing eligible Third-Degree Knights the opportunity to

advance to the Fourth Degree and become Sir Knights. This exemplification is a meaningful step that affirms a Knight's dedication to the principles of our Order and to our nation.

All applications must be submitted to the State Master no later than January 17; please have them to me by January 14. I encourage any eligible Knights who are considering this important step to act promptly and to reach out with any questions regarding the process. Let us continue to grow our Assembly with men committed to visible patriotism and active service.

Thank you for your continued service and commitment to the Knights of Columbus and to our Assembly. I look forward to seeing you at our meeting and to working alongside you in the months ahead.

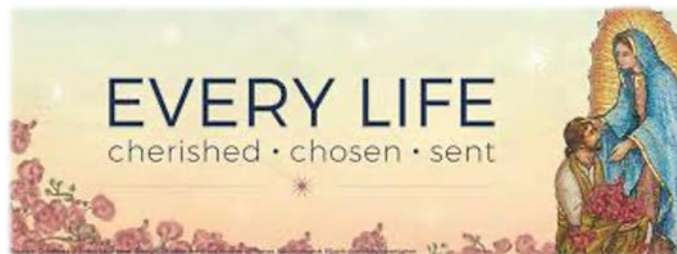
Vivat Jesus!
JJ Coyne
Faithful Navigator

Join Us
FOR A FISH FRY!

EACH FRIDAY DURING LENT
4:00P – 7:30P
FEBRUARY 20 & 27
MARCH 06, 13, 20 & 27



Njålssen Amaro Lionheart
realamarolionheart@gmail.com
305.761.3419



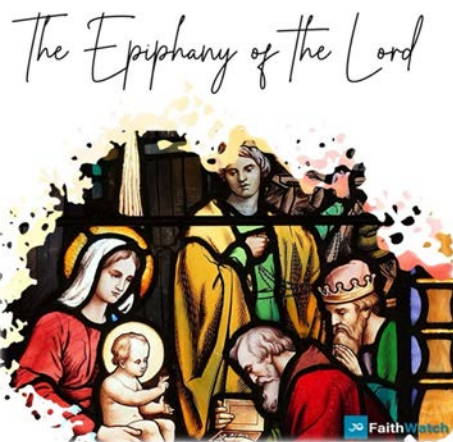
The Month of the Holy Name and the Manifestation of Christ

January opens like a clean white page upon which the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church writes the most sacred of words: Jesus. At the threshold of the year stands the Feast of the Holy Name, when we meditate on the Name given not by human intention but by the voice of the Eternal Father through the message of an angel. It is a Name that holds the weight of salvation, a Name before which every knee in heaven, on earth, and under the earth shall bow. January invites us to begin again not with resolutions but with reverence, placing the Holy Name upon our lips and in our hearts as a shield against temptation, as a refuge in suffering, and as a promise that the God who came in weakness reigns in power. This is the month when Christians reclaim identity not from the noise of the world but from the profound simplicity of invoking Jesus, the Name that steadies the soul like a lighthouse piercing through winter fog.

As the days unfold, January leads us to the Feast of the Epiphany, when heaven unveils the hidden glory of the Child in Bethlehem. The Magi, royal seekers from distant lands, bow low before the King who wears no crown except His mother's love and no robe except the swaddling cloths of simplicity. Their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh reveal the mystery of His identity. Gold for His kingship. Frankincense for His divinity. Myrrh for His sacrifice. In their worship we behold the destiny of nations and the longing of every human heart. Epiphany is the moment when creation itself recognizes its Creator, when the star above the stable burns as a fiery psalm declaring that the Light of the world has come and cannot be hidden. It is the feast that reminds us that Christ is not given to Israel alone, but to all peoples, tribes, and tongues, and that those who truly seek truth will always find Him, even if their journey must cross deserts of doubt or mountains of suffering.

January draws to its close with the Baptism of the Lord, when Christ descends into the waters not to be cleansed but to cleanse, not to repent but to sanctify repentance itself. In the Jordan River, the heavens are torn open, the Spirit descends like a dove, and the Father speaks the words every human heart longs to hear: "You are my beloved Son." This baptism is the inauguration of Christ's public ministry, the moment when the hidden years of Nazareth give way to the revelation of His mission. The waters tremble with awe as the Creator steps into His own creation, and from that moment forward, every Christian baptism becomes participation in that living river of grace. And to my brother Knights, January calls us to renew our vows by the waters of our own baptism. Let us carry the Holy Name of Jesus with honor, live as men who reveal Christ to others through mercy and truth, and stand firm as witnesses of the Light in a world that still wanders in shadow. Let us be like the Magi in seeking Him, like John the Baptist in proclaiming Him, and like the saints whose lives testify to the power of His Name. January is the month that sets the tone for the year ahead. Let us begin it at the feet of Christ, offering Him our lives as gold, our prayers as frankincense, and our sacrifices as myrrh.

Ad Jesum per Mariam.





What is more important than a faithful and unified family? What is a greater blessing? What is harder to achieve in today's jumbled world? What better time to heal those wounds than now? Psalm 51 is a heavy-duty confrontation between King David and Nathan, the prophet. David had been unfaithful and not only slept with Bathsheba but also killed her husband, Uriah. Nathan took David to task and prophesied that his son by Bathsheba would die. David lamented in Psalm 51. We have key lessons to review as we regroup. First, God is a God of justice (we get what we deserve), mercy (we can be forgiven and not get what we deserve), and grace (God gives us what we don't deserve). A main lesson here is that we have to recognize our sins, admit to them, and correct them. How? Be contrite. Have sorrow for our sins because they offend God, not just because we may feel guilty. As David tells us, ***My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a contrite, humbled heart, O God.*** When we have true contrition, the doors to God's forgiveness, mercy, and grace are opened wide. We need to ask as David asked, ***"A clean heart create for me, God; renew within me a steadfast spirit."*** Then we can heal wounds.



Have mercy on me, God, in accord with your merciful love; in your abundant compassion blot out my transgressions. Thoroughly wash away my guilt; and from my sin cleanse me. For I know my transgressions; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your eyes. So that you are just in your word, and without reproach in your judgment. Behold, I was born in guilt, in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, you desire true sincerity, and secretly you teach me wisdom. Cleanse me with hyssop, that I may be pure; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. You will let me hear gladness and joy; the bones you have crushed will rejoice. Turn away your face from my sins; blot out all my iniquities. A clean heart create for me, God; renew within me a steadfast spirit. Do not drive me from before your face, nor take from me your holy spirit. Restore to me the gladness of your salvation; uphold me with a willing spirit. I will teach the wicked your ways, that sinners may return to you. Rescue me from violent bloodshed, God, my saving God, and my tongue will sing joyfully of your justice. Lord, you will open my lips; and my mouth will proclaim your praise. For you do not desire sacrifice or I would give it; a burnt offering you would not accept. My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a contrite, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn. Treat Zion kindly according to your good will; build up the walls of Jerusalem. Then you will desire the sacrifices of the just, burnt offering and whole offerings; then they will offer up young bulls on your altar.

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Photo Gallery



SK Irving Hernandez
July Knight of the Month



SK George Inderwies
October Knight of the Month

KNIGHT & FAMILY OF THE MONTH

WGK Tom Krivchenia presents awards to:



SK John Papa, Reg Admin
November Knight of the Month



SK George & Clair Inderwies
September Family of the Month

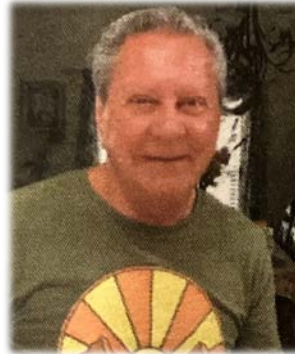


SK Gene & Karen Jajuga
November Family of the Month

In Memoriam

Salvatore “Sal” Burriesci

August 30, 1941 – December 7, 2025



God saw that he was getting tired.
A cure was not to be.
So he put His arms around him
And whispered, “Come with Me.”
With tearful hearts
We watched him fade away.
Although we loved him dearly,
We could not make him stay.
A golden heart stopped beating.
Hard working hands to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove us
He only takes “the best.”



Letter to the Editor

Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam... For the Greater Glory of God

I visited New York just before Christmas, and one of the stops was St. Patrick's Cathedral. I had been there before, but this brought back many memories as we prepare for 2026.

Ad maiorem Dei gloriam...for the greater glory of God. This is the motto of the Jesuit order, and I think it is safe to say that this is a primary reason we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. Our actions in the Council, Assembly, and Auxiliary are all driven by that objective in one way or another. Yes, it is often a lot of busy and hard work, but in the end, we are driven to act to serve God's people and bring greater glory to him.



A statute of our founder, Blessed Michael J McGivney, is prominently displayed on the left side of the main altar. The memorial describes Father McGivney's key role in the growth of Catholicism in America, as well as his founding of the Knights of Columbus as a "mutual benefit society for working-class and immigrant Catholic families in the United States". It further describes the formation of an insurance program to "to promote such social and intellectual intercourse among its members as is desirable and proper."

A significant memory for me was the road sign on 5th Avenue indicating John Cardinal O'Connor Way. Cardinal O'Connor was Admiral O'Connor and Chief of Navy Chaplains in the mid-1970's. On his farewell tour of the Mediterranean, he stopped in Naples, Italy. Our pastor asked us to host him for dinner. We did on the way in and the way out. He went to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia pretty much across the street from St. Joe's University, which I attended. He later went to Georgetown University. Both are Jesuit schools. So, we had the greater glory of God tie. He was consecrated as a Bishop on May 27, 1979, by Pope John Paul II. We were honored to attend that Mass with several other families from Naples and sat about 100 feet from Mother Theresa. A blessing to be in the presence of two saints.

I'll close with a couple of additional photos reflecting on how St. Patrick's Cathedral displays God's great glory in its architecture and statuary.



Ad maiorem Dei gloriam! This is our call for 2026.

From the Desk of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly...

Witness of God's Tenderness

Christ's humble birth in Bethlehem draws our attention to those. Most in need of love

As we approach Christmas, my thoughts naturally turn to my visit to the Holy Land this fall with our supreme chaplain, Archbishop William Lori, and Supreme Secretary John Marrella. We were joined by Msgr. Peter Vaccari, president of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association-Pontifical Mission. During this Jubilee Year of Hope, our purpose was to bring a message of hope and solidarity to those suffering Christian communities deeply impacted by the conflict in Gaza and the West Bank.

One of our most memorable stops was the Holy Family Children's Home in Bethlehem. Operated by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, the home provides a loving atmosphere for about 50 abandoned children. These children come from a variety of difficult circumstances. Some are newborns dropped off anonymously on the doorstep. Others have parents who are unable to care for them. Still others are victims of abuse and have been placed in the home by local authorities. Regardless of their background, the sisters provide what the children need the most: the healing that comes from a loving home and a genuine sense of belonging.

The sisters' work is difficult. I could see it on their faces. No one is poorer or more vulnerable than an abandoned child - especially in a land torn apart by social and political conflict. Yet the sisters give the children a new life and the sense of security every child needs. And perhaps for the first time in their lives, the children have hope. This was evident to me in the *joyful* sounds of laughter and play echoing through the courtyard.

In his homily during Mass for the Jubilee of the Poor last month, Pope Leo reflected on the many forms of poverty that plague our world - material, moral and spiritual. He observed that they all share a common thread, a tragedy that cuts through all of them - the experience of loneliness. To break down the "walls of loneliness," the Holy Father said, we must foster a "culture of attention." That is, we must "be attentive to others, to each person, wherever we are, wherever we live, transmitting this attitude within our families, living it out in the workplace ... in different communities, in the digital world, everywhere, reaching out to the marginalized and becoming the witnesses of God's tenderness."

This is the heart of what it means to be a Knight of Columbus - to be attentive to the needs of others and never closed in on ourselves. The Order was founded precisely to look outward - to care for widows, orphans, the vulnerable and the marginalized. Just as God does not abandon us in our hardships, we must never abandon others in theirs. Christ implores us: "Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 15:12).

As we journey through the Advent season and draw closer to Christmas and the conclusion of this great Jubilee Year of Hope, let us remember that Jesus Christ himself is the true author of our hope. He can break down the walls of our loneliness and give us the grace to be attentive to the real needs of others. He does not abandon us. He came as one of us to save us - poor and vulnerable, born in a Bethlehem manger in a time of great turmoil.

St. Paul writes, "For your sake he became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (2 Cor 8:9). Christ came to offer us a new way - the Good News, which has the power to heal us and free us from the power of sin and death. May we open our hearts wide to the riches of his grace, attentive to ways we can generously share this wealth with our neighbors in need.

Vivat Jesus!



From the Florida State Council Chamber...

God Is At Work Here

Every now and then the Lord grants us grace, that it reminds us exactly why we do what we do as Knights of Columbus. This month, I was blessed with such a moment an afternoon spent in the company of 125 seminarians, sharing lunch, conversation, and fraternity.

To sit among them was to sit among the future shepherds of Christ's Church. Their joy, their conviction, and their deep, steady faith stirred something powerful within me. The strength of their witness radiated like a living testimony to the enduring love of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It was a reminder that the Church is not only alive but flourishing, and we as Knights have a sacred duty to support these young men who will one day stand at the altars of our parishes, blessing our families, baptizing our children, and guiding God's people home.

Moments like these ground us. They remind us that our work is not paperwork and programs. It is apostolic. It is sacrificial. It is holy. And as we look back on the month of November and forward into December and beyond, I can say with absolute confidence that the Florida State Council is living its mission with vigor, faith, and brotherly dedication.

This past November, we witnessed something historic a membership surge unlike anything seen in our state's rich history. For the second month in a row, we shattered the Florida membership record of 359, setting a new standard for what is possible when faith-filled men step forward in unity and purpose. This is not merely an administrative milestone; it is a sign of spiritual awakening. Every new member is a new heart willing to serve Christ. Every new Knight is another pair of hands ready to lift up the poor, protect the unborn, serve our parishes, and strengthen our families. These numbers represent souls men choosing to answer the call to charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

And now, with December already off to a remarkable start, the momentum continues. The Holy Spirit is clearly moving among our councils. The energy is unmistakable. And as we prepare for our Mid-Year Organizational Meeting from December 11th to 14th, we gather not merely to discuss numbers or updates, but to celebrate the work of God in our midst. We will reflect on the strength of our charitable outreach, the growing depth of our programs, and the exceptional commitment we have seen in membership. These three pillars' charities, programs, and membership are not isolated efforts. Together, they are a testimony to the beating heart of the Florida Jurisdiction.

This year, we have issued a bold challenge to our district deputies an invitation not just to meet expectations, but to surpass them with excellence and zeal. We call it the 25 and 25 Challenge. It is a challenge befitting the spirit of Florida State Council of the Knight of Columbus: courageous, ambitious, and mission driven.

Any district deputy who brings 25 new members into a single council in the month of December will receive a tremendous honor at our state convention. Both he and the grand knight and their wives will be seated upon the dais, recognized publicly for their extraordinary leadership and commitment. This is more than an award; it is a seat of honor earned through vision and perseverance.

God Is At Work Here *(continued)*

Meanwhile, any district deputy who brings 25 new members district-wide in the month of December will be shown a level of appreciation fitting for such dedication. We have reserved a table at the State Convention white-glove service included complete with filet mignon and bottles of wine to mark the occasion. Not simply as a reward but as a celebration of the evangelizing mission that lies at the heart of our Order. Because every new member represents a soul drawn deeper into service, closer to Christ, and firmly rooted in fraternity.

Brothers, we do not issue these challenges lightly. We issue them because the times demand courage. The world around us grows louder, more divided, more confused. In such a world, the Knights of Columbus must be a beacon a lighthouse standing tall against the storms of modern life. Our families depend on us. Our parishes depend on us. Our priests depend on us. The vulnerable, the forgotten, the lonely - they depend on us too. And when we grow, when we multiply our strength, we multiply our capacity to be Christ's hands in a wounded world.

What we have accomplished in these last months is not simply organizational success. It is spiritual fruit. It is the sign of a jurisdiction alive with purpose, driven by love of God and neighbor. When I see seminarians filled with joy and purpose, when I witness councils growing at record speed, when I hear the stories of charity and compassion flowing from every corner of Florida, I am reminded of one fundamental truth: God is at work here.

May the peace of Christ be with you and your families, and may the Holy Spirit continue to guide the great work of the Florida State Council.

Open why the doors for Christ and he will enter and I promise you that great things will happen.

**State Deputy
Michael P Gizewski**



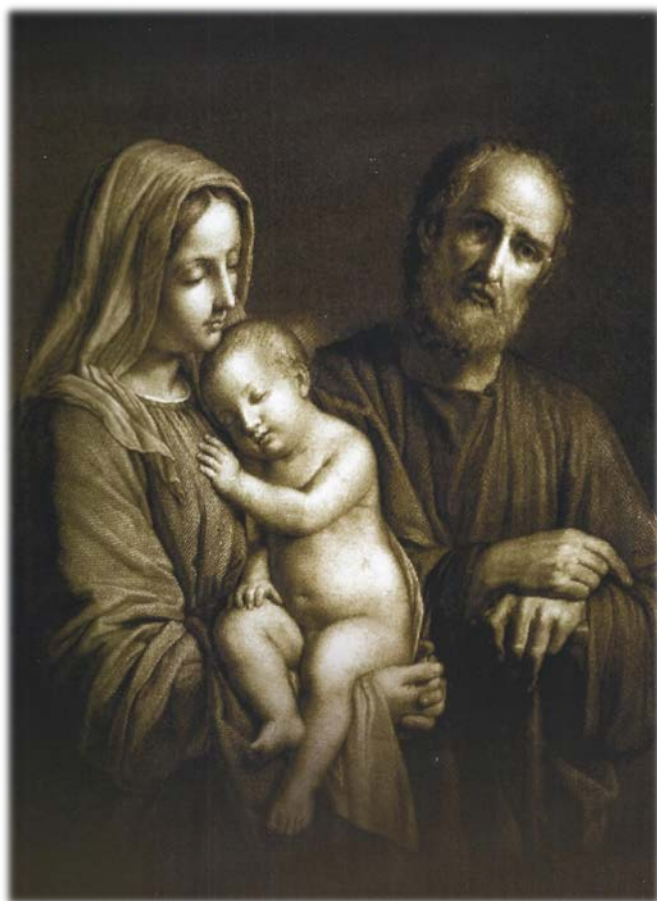
Our newest Third-Degree Knights in the Council, Patrick Flynn, Roman Parys, and John Rieman at the December Unified Degree Exemplification



SKs Matt Sunski and JJ Coyne present Lamar Woods of Mattie Williams Neighborhood Family Center with Coats For Kids.

Assembly Officers 2025-2026

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Faithful Captain	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Faithful Admiral	John Gohman	813.810.3735
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Trustee One Year	Frank DiMattei, PGK, PFN	727.871.6506
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.

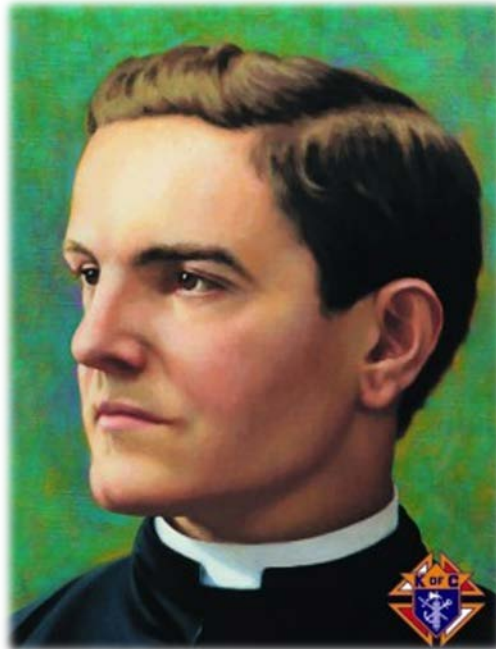
In our daily life and work,
May we reflect the self-giving love which you,
O Father, eternally show with your Son
and the Holy Spirit.

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...

January 2026

- 01/05 | Mon 7:00p Fryday Fish Fry Planning Meeting
- 01/08 | Thu 6:15p Rosary
- 01/08 | Thu 7:00p Council 7109 & Ladies Auxiliary Monthly Meetings
- 01/11 | Sun 8:00a Coffee & Donuts
- 01/11 | Sun 9:00a Basketball Free Throw Contest
- 01/15 | Thu 8:00a Pinellas Hope Meal Prep & Delivery
- 01/17 | Sat 8:00a Kimberly Home WorkDay



Assembly Calendar of Events...

January 2026

- 01/22 | Thu 7:00p Monthly Business Meeting
Renewal of Obligations
- 01/31 | Sat 9:00a 4th Degree Patriotic Exemplification
St Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church
9724 Cross Creek Blvd
Tampa, FL 33647

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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.

