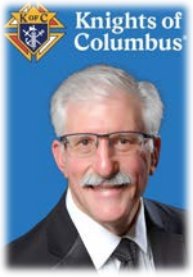
The Shield

Grand Knight's Message



Tom Krivchenia, PFN
Grand Knight
GrandKnight7109@gmail.com

Issue 11, November 2026

Next Council Meeting
Thursday, November 12 @ **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

Worthy Brothers and Ladies,

Can you believe the holiday season is almost upon us with its never-ending activities? We begin the month of Nov with All Saints Day on the first and All Souls Day the following day. We honor the saints of the church and remember the loved ones we lost throughout the past year. Then we move right into Thanksgiving, Advent and the Christmas Season. Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to reflect on the many and beautiful blessings that God has bestowed on each of us. On Thanksgiving Day, as we gather with family and friends around the dinner table, let us recall one of our greatest blessings in the past year and thank God for his kindness, goodness and mercy. He rejoices with us in our joys and holds us in our sorrows. What would we do without him!

Recalling the comfort and love God has for each of us, let us petition him now for our dear friend. It is with a heavy heart that I am sharing the sad news of the passing of Betty D'Amelio. She was a fixture at all our functions. Betty and her husband, Joe, always gave generously of themselves to all the functions that went on in our parish. If they were needed for anything they would be there immediately. It gave her such joy to be able to do things and help in different groups at a church. Betty will be so missed. Joe will be moving with his daughter Gina, as it will be difficult for him to live on his own. Her funeral Mass will be held Thursday, November 5th at ESCC, with a reception to follow at a to-be determined location. Please keep Betty, Joe, Gina, and the entire D'Amelio family in your prayers. This is such a great loss.

Please continue to keep Fr. Michael Cooper in your prayers and support him and his family.

Looking back at what we did this past month of October, I am amazed at what we accomplished. We started the month off with our Council Family Picnic at Phillippe Park. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped set-up, cook, and clean up. We had a good turnout of around 30 Knights who enjoyed themselves in fellowship. The following week we had our Columbus Day Full Family Breakfast. We had a good showing of parishioners who enjoyed breaking bread and visiting with each other. I would like to report that our new grill performed flawlessly, not one burnt pancake had to be thrown away. I want to thank everyone who helped to make this a successful and profitable event.

Matt Sunski	Ed Amador	Samantha Amador
Ken Seguin	Tom Harkins	Amaro Lionheart
Tom Stanko	Karen Jajuga	Margaret Krivchenia
Jack Strehle	Gene Jajuga	Tom Krivchenia
Keith Taylor	Santo Loparo	Esmeralda Salazar

Paul Harvey	Tom Fitzpatrick	Pat Nocerino
Bob Stowell	Anne Harkins	Jean Wozniak
Carlos Salazar	Garrett Phoebe	Tom Wozniak
George Inderwies		

If I missed anyone, I do apologize.

We had a Unified Degree Ceremony where we welcomed two new Knights to our Council. When you see Logan Manderscheid and Mark Slone, please Congratulate and welcome them to our Council. We had our first Cor Meeting - Men of The Word - on the third Thursday of the month. Thank you to John Gohman and Thomas Myers for conducting a faith filled program.

Our second to last event of the month was our October at the Ranch Dinner Dance. After four weeks of selling tickets, we had 104 attendees who danced the night away. Everyone enjoyed the dinner and the country music. Thank you to the Ladies Auxiliary for putting together 6 beautiful gift baskets to be auctioned off. We also had a Lotto Tree and a 50/50 raffle. Thank you to everyone who helped with decorating and setting up the hall and serving the food, tending bar, prepping and cooking the food and clean-up. I especially want to thank Frank McEwen for washing all the dishes by himself. Thank you to all the volunteers from the school and the Youth Group. They did a wonderful job.

Matt Sunski	Roe Resler	Frank McEwen
Scott Mayo	Karen Jajuga	Gene Jajuga
Ken Seguin	Gabe Seguin	Margaret Krivchenia
Jean Wozniak	Richie Resler	Tom Krivchenia
Tom Wozniak	Kaleb Uriate	Tom Fitzpatrick
Harper Heart	Inga Dolega	Claire Inderwies
Ed Amador	Sophia Ferretti	George Inderwies
Sue Engelmann		

On Sun October 25th our District Deputy Alan Gauzens presented our Council with the Star Council Award at the10:30 Mass. Thank you to everyone who attended the Mass.

Thank you to those who helped at the school with their Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 30th. The school really appreciated your assistance.

Upcoming Events

We are combining our Memorial Mass with the parish Mass of Remembrance on Monday, November 2nd at 6:30 PM in the Main Church. They will read all the names of the Knights who have passed away this past year, and they will provide a booklet of all the names of Knights who have passed over the years. We will have a reception afterwards in the Parish Center for all the Knights, widows and family members who attend the Mass.

The Gary Sinise Golf Tournament is on Friday November 6th at 12:00 PM at the Seven Springs Country Club. We are still in need of golfers and volunteers. Please check out our auction site and look at all of the fantastic items we have to bid on.

We will have the Sacred Heart Icon from November 10th - 16th. The Icon will be on display on the Altar for all Masses. We are working to arrange a special Mass or service with the Icon on Thursday, November 12.

We will have our second Cor Session - Men of the Word - on the third Thursday of the month with John Gohman and Thomas Myers leading the group.

Saint Vincent DePaul has asked us to help deliver Thanksgiving baskets on Saturday, November 21st. We will need delivery teams at 8.30am in the JBC. We are requesting 12 – two-person teams to deliver to five neighbors each. Therefore, the total number of volunteers we need from you is 24 people. Cars need to be large enough to hold 15 full grocery bags and two people. I will be sending out a sign-up sheet for this shortly.

We will be decorating the courtyard for Christmas on Tuesday, November 24th at 10:00 AM. Mike Englemann will lead the decorating efforts.

We will be lighting up the courtyard on Saturday, November 28th after the 6:00 PM Mass. The 6:00 PM Choir will sing Christmas Carols, and the priest will bless the lights and courtyard. We will serve hot chocolate and cookies for refreshments.

We will start selling our Keep Christ in Christmas Card on Saturday, November 28th after all Masses for the next three weeks.

- Assembly Coffee & Donuts – Sun, Nov 1st after all the morning Masses in the St. John Bosco center.
- All Souls Day – Mon, Nov 2nd at 6:30 PM in the Main Church
- Council 7109 Officers Meeting – Thu, Nov 5th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room

- Gary Sinise Golf Tournament – Fri, Nov 6th at Seven Springs Golf Club
- Sacred Heart Icon – Tue, Nov 10th – Nov 16th during all Masses
- Monthly Rosary – Thu, Nov 12th at 6:15 PM in the Gathering Room
- Council 7109 Business Meeting – Thu, Nov 12th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting – Thu, Nov 12th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Pinellas Hope Food Prep – Thu, Nov 19th at 8:00 AM in the Parish Center Kitchen
- Men of The Word – Thu, Nov 19th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Kimberly Home Workday – Sat, Nov 21st at 8:00 AM in Clearwater
- Thanksgiving Baskets Delivery – Sat, Nov 21st 8:30 AM in the St John Bosco Center
- Courtyard Decorating – Tue, Nov 24th at 10:00 AM
- Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales – Sat, Nov 28th after all Masses in the Pavilion
- Light up the Courtyard – Sat, Nov 28th after the 6:00 PM in the Pavilion
- Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales – Sun, Nov 29th after all Masses in the Pavilion
- Council 7109 Officers Meeting – Thu, Dec 3rd at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales – Sat, Dec 5th after all Masses in the Pavilion
- Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales – Sun, Dec 6th after all Masses in the Pavilion
- Monthly Rosary – Thu, Dec 10th at 6:15 PM in the Gathering Room
- Council 7109 Business Meeting – Thu, Dec 10th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting – Thu, Dec 10th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales – Sat, Dec 12th after all Masses in the Pavilion
- Breakfast with Santa – Sun, Dec 13th at 8:00 AM in the Parish Center Kitchen
- Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales – Sun, Dec 13th after all Masses in the Pavilion
- Council & Assembly Christmas Party – Fri, Dec 18th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center

Autumn's gifts from God are here, harvest colors, family gatherings of thanksgiving, and anticipation of the Advent season. The Ladies Auxiliary will have their monthly meeting Thursday, November 12th and discuss the annual Toys for Tots collections and upcoming Advent and Christmas events. A joyous season of God's love for us all. But November is also a time of reflection and memories of those who have left us to join our Savior in heaven. This month the Knights and Ladies will be honoring our late fellow Knights and particularly our dear Lady Betty D'Amelio who has recently been called home. God needed another angel for sure. Betty's presence was a blessing to all who knew her.

A little poem I found to dedicate to Betty:

How Do We Get To Heaven?

Margaret Peterson

We don't need a compass to get to Heaven –
The Bible points the way.
Page after page of love is there,
Ready to be read each day.
The things we do are a prayer itself –
We're working for the Lord!
Hoping our deed can be written in gold,
Worthy of God's reward.

Keith Taylor
keithptaylor1@gmail.com
727.698.7331

Membership Matters

Twas the "Knight" before Christmas…

Come join us at the Espiritu Santo Knights of Columbus Exemplification Meeting for Council #7109 on Thursday, December 17th in the St. John Bosco Center across from the Church to join our brotherhood and become a Knight of Columbus before Christmas!

You can gain **1st, 2nd and 3rd degrees with the Knights** at this single event. We would love to have all Catholic men become part of our Knights of Columbus fraternity and Council!

Feel free to reach out to Keith Taylor; Knights of Columbus Membership Director at 727.698.7331 (call, voice message &/or text) to get you ready for membership with the Knights for this December 17th Exemplification as a 3rd Degree Knight of Columbus.

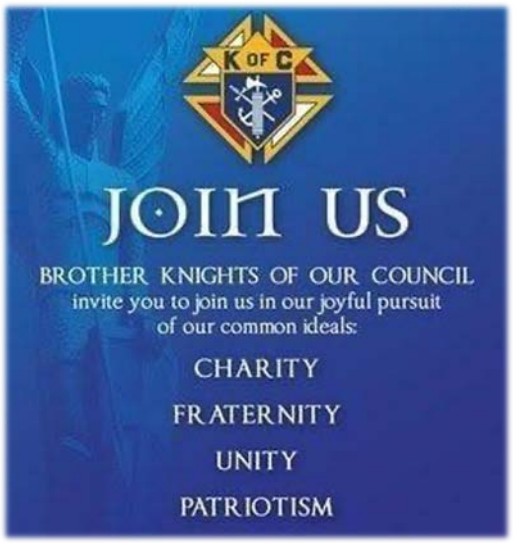
2026 Key Membership & Statistical Highlights:
On August 4th, 2026, Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly delivered his annual report at the 144th Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus. His report highlighted the Order's continued membership growth, its commitment to strengthening the Catholic faith, and its extraordinary charitable impact around the world.

- **New Members**: Welcomed more than **105,000 new members** during the past fraternal year, marking the organization's strongest annual membership growth in over a century.
- **Total Membership**: Exceeded **2.2 million members** serving in over **17,000 councils** worldwide.
- **Fastest Growing Segment**: Men **under the age of 35** emerged as the fastest growing demographic of new members.
- **College Councils**: Reached **37,000 college council members** across 320 campuses.
- **Charitable Impact**: Donated a record **$200+ million to charitable causes** and contributed **48+ million volunteer hours**.

At Espiritu Santo Knights Council 7109, we serve our parish and community through a wide range of charitable initiatives: Here are some examples of the 24 charitable causes we assist our communities with and the collective efforts of our brother Knights of Columbus causes globally:

- **Faith & Vocations**: Supporting seminarians, parish needs, and religious education.
- **Families & Youth**: Providing food assistance, student scholarships, Scout support, and family-centered Christmas events.
- **Community Outreach**: Helping families in financial hardship, supporting individuals with disabilities, food for the poor, providing coats to children, and assisting homebound parishioners.
- **Respect for Life**: Supporting mothers and infants through Kimberly Home, ultrasound initiatives, the Silver Rose program, and Special Olympics.

Come find and join your brothers and become "a Knight before Christmas." Remember, is all about doing what you can when you can to better assist our community and see how we make that happen as we as brothers work together, pray together and support one another. Hope to see you on December 17th for the next Knights of Columbus Exemplification Ceremony to join our Council and may God Bless!



Unity – Strength in Numbers

Informational Open House Schedule

2026	2027
Dec 16	Feb 17 | Apr 14 | Jun 16

Unified Degree Ceremony Schedule

2026	2027
Dec 17	Feb18 | Apr 15 | Jun 17

Look for more information from our Grand Knight



Council Membership Report

Total Membership	322
Insurance Membership	124
Honorary Life Members	60
Honorary Members	08
2026-2027 Membership Growth vs Goal	02/15
2026-2027 Insurance	00/02

Assembly Membership Report

Total Membership	125
Honorary Life Members	13
Honorary Members	01
2026-2027 Membership Growth vs Goal	00/06

Council Officers 2026-2027

Grand Knight	Tom Krivchenia, PFN	727.366.5422
Chaplain	Fr Theo Weria, ALCP	727.726.8477
Deputy Grand Knight	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Chancellor	George Inderwies	727.647.1601
Recorder	Bill Krajeski	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	Vincent Cristiano	
Trustee Three Year	Gene Jajuga, PGK, PFN, FFA	727.403.3261
Trustee Two Year	JJ Coyne, PGK, PFN	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	Gary Murphy	
Special Assistant to the Council	Jacob Bandy	

Happy Birthday Brothers! Many Happy Returns!

Dn Vincent Alterio, Justin Appel, Dennis Ayral, Benjamin Bergin, Daniel Bergman, Donald Borbath, Herman Brames, Jacob Burnett, Mario Camario, Anibal Cruz, Jerry Custin, Ronald DeSantis, Timothy Dolan, Michael Furman, John Gohman, Craig Hare, Steven Ippolito, Gene Jajuga, Brian Jones, Mark Kapinos, William Kasak, Robert Kelly, Mark Kraf, Tom Krivchenia, Anthony Kuczej, John Liu, Santo Loparo, Andrew Lynn, Louis Lyons, John Malone, Chris Mazzone, Clifford Merz, Darryl Millller, Kirk Nelson, Arthur Owens, Brandon Parrinello, Brent Rochette, Juan Romero, Ronald Theriot, Charles Warrington, Timothy Weber

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), Jacquline Barry (d), Mary Branham (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 Duelk (d), Tony Doyle (d), Mary Frances Lowe, Jim & Pat Nolf, Frank Diaz (d), Ed Warticki (d), Jack Mills (d), Bob Justiana, Kathleen Griffin, Evely Harvey (d), Jack Greenwald (d), Don Bishop (d), Frank Nunziata (d), Dave Weber (d), Nicholas Burriesci (d), Anthony Burriesci (d), Thomas Ziegler (d), Sal Burriesci (d), John Salesses (d), Zoe DuFour (d), Don Puchalski, Ed Fucillo (d), Pat Flynn, Rose Marie Harvey, Daniela Salazar, Kathy Akbari, Fr Michael Cooper, Terry Mueller, James O'Neill (d), Dn Dom Friscia (d), Julius Silva (d), Thelma Rochester (d), Rolando Kirk, Minnie Silva, Richard Cook (d), Ingrid Burriesci, Mark Feldman, Paul Barry (d), Ed Sleyzak (d), Nelson Amador (d), Joseph DiMattei, Robert Morgan, Amaro Lionheart, Joseph Genalo Jr, Doris Colon, Tommy Murphy, Jim Slattery, Cecile Sweeny, Betty D'Amelio (d), Cindy Custin

Please pray for all our sick and deceased Brothers, Ladies, and family members. Please report illnesses and deaths to Sir Knight Frank McEwen, at 727.239.2687 or fmcewen99@gmail.com

Support Our Vocations Fund



Austin Smith

Mark Wegener



Thank you for your continued support of the Vocations Fund. As most of you know we are making annual donations to two seminarians. Austin and Mark are located at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary. Austin Smith is from Nativity parish in Brandon. Mark Wegener is from St. Anthony the Abbot, Brooksville.

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, John & Betsy Clarke, Kevin Cordaro, John Coyne, Joseph & Betty D'Amelio, Douglas & Carol De Wolfe, Peter Demzak, Michael & Mary Kathleen Dixon, Terry & Shirley Drake, Robert & Zoe Dufour, Walter Feble, Patrick Flynn Sr, Michael & Lisa Furman, Thomas & Anne Harkins, Thomas Hart Jr, Paul & Rose Marie Harvey, David & Donna Heezen, George & Claire Inderwies, Eugene & Karen Jajuga, Shawn & Pattie Jajuga, Gregory & Kim Juedes, Michael & Katherine King, Dan & Donna Kistel, William & Katherine Krajeski, Frank & Deborah Laffey, Stephen & Ellen Leger, John Lenehan, Milton Levine, Amaro Lionheart, Doug & Kelly McCall, Michael & Maria McCarthy, Frank & Cindy McEwen, Charles McEwen Sr, Kevin McMullen, Stuart Miller, John & Morgan, Thomas & Carolyn O'Rourke, John & Susanne Papa, Gerald & Holly Pappa, Paul & Virginia Pappas, Robert & Vickie Pickard, Donald & Alexis Reed, Richard Roberto Jr, Guillermo Romero, John & Kathleen Ruckart, William & Mary Scott, Kenneth & Gabriella Seguin Sr, Jason Seguin, Michael & Melissa Short, John & Kay Strehle III, Matthew & Julie Sunski, Walberto & Ramona Vazquez, Paul & Josefina Vilchez, Mario & Judy Zaccaria, Justin Appel, Fred & Caroline Bennett, Frank & Angela Di Mattei, Philip & Jane Farney, Mark & Elaine Feldman, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Charles & Raquel Friesema, John & Peggy Gohman II, James Haitz, Irving Hernandez, Joseph & Sandra Hocherl, Christopher & Celise Jones, Robert & M.A. Justiana Sr, Matthew Killeen, Steve Kindrick, Tom & Margaret Krivchenia, Gerard Lobo, Patrick Mackin, Jerry Maratea, Frank & Juliann Marsalek, Clifford & Michelle Merz, James & Phyllis Montali, Chris & Leah Nesci, Frank Pensabene, Miguel & Sammantha Perez I, Garrett Phoebe, Juan & Rosemary Romero, Peter & Susan Salesses, Robert Shafer, Morgan Sheafer Sr, James & Karin Smith, Thomas Smith, Thomas & Janet Stanko, James & Darlene Stanley, Chuck & Elizabeth Sullivan, Alvah & Margaret Vankleeck, Steven & Jaclyn Verba, Timothy Weber Sr, Joshua Wisnowski, Patrick & Joan Alix, Dennis & Joyce Ayral, Patrick Carroll, Joseph Celic III, Sylvia O'Neill, Frederick & Christi Elflein, Zach Faraone, Joel & Karen Gray, Mark Gurley, Kenton & Sue Heuertz, William Kasak, Thomas Kukulski, James & Maria Lankford, Brian & Angela Lawandus, Albert Masselli, Christopher Mazzone, James & Patricia Nolf, Brian & Lisa O'Connor, Robert Papariella, Mark & Christine Peterman, Daniel & T Peterson, Glen Pettersen, Christopher & Carol Purcell, Carlos Salazar, Massimo & Valeria Simeoni, Bryan & Krista Snyder, Lawrence & Corinne Steinhardt, Jugdesh & Sucheta Sujanani, Keith & Griselda Taylor, Charles & Sharon Warrington Jr, Eugene Wolanin, Vincent Baldwin, Jonathan & Marianne Boyce, James & Jean Burris, Aaron Cardenas, Terrell & Victoria Clampitt, Joseph Cortese, Gerald Custin Jr, Frederick & Suzanne Di Masi, Sean Donahoo, Richard & Joan Ducheny, Eric & Maria Flores, Joseph & Megan Gajewski, Ward & Kathleen Griffin, Gerald & Lorraine Grubba, Lawrence & Nancy Harkins, Brian & Christine Kearns, Richard Kemball-Cook Jr, Timothy Kielich, Brian & Christina Lapointe, Didler Legros, Stanley Lipiarz, Francis & Carol Mahoney, Darryl & Mary Miller, Adel Nammour, Javier & Xiomara Ortega, Todd & Margaret Owers, Edmund & Diane Pagnott, Donald & Carol Palacheck, James & Suzanne Preston Jr, Andrew Rodnite, Daniel & Paula Saracki, Jim & Nancy Shirer, Gregory & Carolina Sohn, Mark & Janet Busing, John J Liu, John T Liu, Peggy Watson

Total Collected to Date: $2573.13



Father Theo Weria, ALCP
Chaplain

Chaplain's Corner

Saints Inspire Us To Live Our Present Time

We begin the month of November with the celebration of the Solemnity of All Saints in our Catholic church. These saints include both known and unknown. The church commonly describes the saints as models and intercessors. The word saint is of Latin origin "Sanctus" meaning "Holy" and it is formally defined as a person who died and officially recognized by the church through the process of canonization, as being in heaven in the presence of God and held as model of holiness and who intercedes for us.

All people are called to holiness. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that "All Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fulness of Christian life and to perfection of charity" (CCC # 2013). By reflecting on the life of all who faithfully follow and live the gospel, we grow in hope and anticipation while seeking heaven and be able to reach the perfect union with Christ, the perfect holiness; who calls us to "Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect." (Mt 5:48).

In general, saints and their lived life inspire us to grow in faith both spiritual and material life, and at the same time recognize them as living models and examples of faith and holiness. The saints and their ways of life show and pave a way for us to live the Gospel in our own situations and they share some practical ways and direction on how we too can grow in holiness. So, I encourage you to pick one of the saints this November or the following months, especially one who is new to you. Learn about her or him and understand how she or he inspires you. You will also learn that a saint was an ordinary person who said yes in responding to God's grace. You will appreciate what makes her or him so special an example of faith and holiness. This will inspire you as an individual or family and guide you in your faith in the present and current time.



Service Program Directors 2026-2027

Program Director	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Membership Director	Keith Taylor	727.698.7331
Faith Director	Mark Peterman, PFN	727.403.5993
Community Director	Mike King	727.453.8843
Family Director	Matt Sunski	727.423.9524
Public Relations Director	Amaro Lionheart	305.761.3419
Life Director	Jack Strehle	727.433.0081
Vocations/Prayers	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687
Retention Coordinator	Ken Seguin, PGK, PFN	727.331.7278



SK Edward Amador
Deputy Grand Knight
Edamador00@gmail.com

Deputy Grand Knight's Report

Brother Knights,

As we enter November, I want to take a moment to reflect on what it means to be a Knight and, more importantly, what it means to be a Brother. Our Council is blessed with men who give their time, talents, and energy in many different ways. Sometimes that service is visible at an event or parish activity. Other times, it happens quietly, without recognition. A text or phone call to a Brother, a helping hand, a prayer, an encouraging word, or simply being there when someone needs us can mean more than we realize.

These are the moments that remind me of Matthew Kelly's message about Holy Moments. We do not always know when an opportunity will present itself. Sometimes we simply have to recognize the need in front of us and choose to act.

November is a busy month for our Council, and I encourage every Brother to look at the calendar and find an opportunity to participate.

On Monday, November 2, we will gather for the Memorial Mass & Reception. As we remember Brothers and members of our Knights family who have gone before us, this is a meaningful opportunity to come together in prayer and fellowship. Our leadership continues working behind the scenes as well. The Council Officer Meeting on Thursday, November 5. Then on Thursday, November 12, we have several opportunities to come together. A Rosary will take place and I'm taking the liberty in offering it for the soul of our Lady Betty D'Amelio from 6:15 PM to 7:00 PM, in which as a reminder, is followed by our Council Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM. On Thursday, November 19, we will be preparing food for Pinellas Hope.

Please keep SK Joe D'Amelio, Gina, and the entire D'Amelio family especially close in your prayers in the days ahead.

May God welcome Lady Betty into His eternal kingdom, comfort those who mourn her, and give the D'Amelio family strength and peace.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace. Amen.

Vivat Jesus!
SK Edward J. Amador, MPS, FN



Fr Len Piotrowski looks on as District Deputy Alan Gauzens presents WGK Tom Krivchenia with Star Council Award for the 2026 Fraternal Year



John Ruckart
Field Agent
John.Ruckart@kofc.org

Knights of Columbus INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

Fraternal Benefits Advisor Report

This time of year, we give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. Like many of you, I became a Knight out of love for my family. I wanted to join other Catholic men in becoming a better man, husband and father. I wanted to be a better protector of my family.

One way to protect your family is to start thinking about your family's future and how an extended care event could have a large impact. Do you know somebody that has experienced an extended care event – if so, how did that impact their family's situation?

I want to take this opportunity to help you prepare for the possibility that you or your spouse may one day need extended care. **November is Long-Term Care Awareness Month.**

With that in mind, I would like to share a valuable resource available to you and your family and would encourage you to check this out.

WhatCareCosts gives you access to view the costs of Skilled Nursing Homes, Home Health Aides Assisted Living Facilities in your area and across the country. This service is available free of charge to all our members regardless of whether or not you hold an insurance policy with Knights of Columbus. Visit www.whatcarecosts.com/KnightsofColumbus and enter sponsor code "KofC" to get started. We want to help families focus on their time with their loved ones – not the financial cost of caring for them.

Lastly, I'd like to remind you of your 2026 Financial Protection Survey and the opportunity to update the Knights of Columbus on your personal financial goals and share any updates you have had over the last year. If you haven't already filled it out, I strongly encourage you to do so.

This year, all survey respondents will be entered into a drawing for a Knights of Columbus RTIC® cooler, with several chances to win! *

Please fill out the survey as soon as you can at https://survey.kofc.org.

Whether you have questions about the survey or want to talk about setting up an extended care plan, I'm here to help 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





SK Edward Amador
Faithful Navigator
Edamador00@gmail.com

Faithful Navigator's Log

Brother Knights,

November is a month that gives us a special opportunity to pause, remember, and reflect on what it means to live our faith beyond ourselves. As we begin the month, All Souls' Day reminds us that those who have died in Christ are not lost to us. Though death separates us for a time, we remain united in the Mystical Body of Christ, this is a quote directly from our Supreme Master, Michael McCusker and I chose to include it as my opener as we have endured many moments of tragedy and loss this year and in particular one hitting home for me with the passing of my father in August. In that spirit, I have learned that to pray for the faithful departed bears witness to our Christian hope. And to unite in charity for people who are suffering brings Christ's healing love to those most in need.

For us as Knights, this is an important reminder of why we serve. Our work is not simply about completing projects, attending events, or raising money. Those things are important, but they are expressions of something greater: our Catholic faith and our call to serve others.

This is also where I continue to see the connection to Matthew Kelly's message of Holy Moments.

A Holy Moment can be found in something as simple as remembering someone in prayer, reaching out to a Brother who is struggling, volunteering when help is needed, welcoming someone into our Assembly, or making a personal invitation to a man who may be called to become a Fourth Degree Knight.

Sometimes we may never know the impact that one small act of faith and charity has on another person.

November Is a Month to Serve

We have several important opportunities coming up this month, and I encourage every Brother to participate wherever he can.

Sunday, November 1: Assembly Coffee & Donuts
Friday, November 6: Golf Tournament

Our Golf Tournament is one of the major events on our Assembly calendar. If you can play, play. If you can volunteer, volunteer. If you can help with sponsorships or spread the word, do that. Every Brother can contribute something.

Tuesday, November 24: Men's Social

We will also have our Men's Social on November 24. The location is still TBD, so please watch for additional information as plans are finalized.

As we move through November, I want us to remember that our service is ultimately about people.

We pray for those who have gone before us. We support those who are struggling. We serve our parish. We support our families. We help our communities. We stand with our veterans. We welcome new Brothers. And we invite Catholic men to discover the opportunity to serve alongside us. These are not separate activities. They are all expressions of our Catholic faith.

Our Assembly does not depend on one person. It depends on all of us. When each Brother contributes his time, talent, experience, and faith, we become stronger together.

Let us make November a month of remembrance, prayer, service, and brotherhood.

Pleaser also remember Lady Betty in our prayers and commend her to the loving mercy of our Lord. May God grant her eternal rest, and may His perpetual light shine upon her.

And let us continue to become the men God is calling us to be.

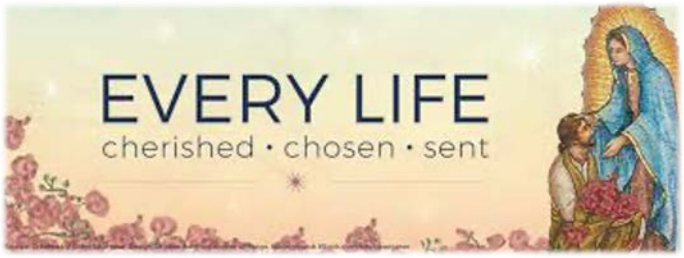
Vivat Jesus!



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When the Earth Falls Silent, Heaven Remembers: November and the Holy Soul

November enters the sanctuary of the year with the solemn dignity of a cathedral at twilight. The brilliance of autumn begins to fade, the last leaves descend like fragments of a golden manuscript, and the earth gathers beneath its quiet mantle the remnants of another passing season. There is something profoundly sacred in this annual surrender, as though creation itself were offering a silent meditation upon the mystery of mortality. The trees stand stripped of their earthly splendor, yet beneath their barren branches life remains concealed, awaiting a spring not yet visible. In this eloquent silence, the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church invites us to contemplate a mystery far greater than the changing seasons. November is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory, those faithful departed who await the fullness of heavenly glory through the final purification of divine love. It is a month when memory becomes intercession, sorrow becomes charity, and the veil separating the visible world from eternity seems almost transparent beneath the light of faith. The Church does not ask us merely to remember that we shall die. She asks us to consider what it means to have been created for a life that death itself cannot contain.

There is a peculiar cruelty in the ordinary things that remain after someone dies. The clock continues its measured procession across the hours, indifferent to the silence that has settled upon the house. A familiar coat hangs undisturbed, a book rests open where it was last placed, and the afternoon sunlight enters a room whose occupant will never return. Perhaps the most painful inheritance of grief is not the funeral, with its solemn prayers and gathered mourners, but the first ordinary morning afterward, when the world resumes its business while one human heart discovers that its universe has changed forever. The table is prepared for one fewer guest, the telephone holds a number that will never answer, and the simplest objects become reliquaries of memory. Yet these quiet remnants reveal something extraordinary about the human soul. We do not grieve merely because a life has ended. We grieve because love has encountered a separation it was never created to desire. Deep within the human heart lives an intuition that love ought to endure, that the beauty of a person cannot be reduced to the handful of earth returned to a grave. Christianity does not dismiss this longing as the sentimental protest of mortal creatures. It answers with the astonishing proclamation that humanity was created for eternal communion with God.

The opening days of November unfold like two illuminated pages of the same sacred book. On November 1, the Solemnity of All Saints lifts our contemplation toward the heavenly Jerusalem, where the redeemed behold the face of God. There, beyond the reach of suffering and corruption, the saints participate in the eternal joy promised by Christ. We remember the martyrs whose blood testified to the Gospel, the apostles who carried the faith across the ancient world, and the great doctors and mystics whose wisdom continues to illuminate the Church. Yet the heavenly multitude extends far beyond the names inscribed upon the liturgical calendar. Among the blessed are souls whose earthly sanctity was known only to God, whose lives unfolded without distinction or applause, and whose holiness was woven into the unnoticed fabric of daily sacrifice. Perhaps heaven's most beautiful procession includes those who spent their lives washing the wounds of strangers, forgiving injuries that no one else witnessed, and carrying their crosses with a humility too quiet for history to record. Their earthly obscurity becomes a profound revelation: holiness is not measured by the magnitude of one's reputation, but by the depth of one's surrender to divine love.

On November 2, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed turns our attention toward the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and here the Church reveals one of the most tender dimensions of her understanding of salvation. Purgatory is neither a second opportunity for conversion after death nor a place where human suffering purchases what Christ has already redeemed. It is the final purification of those who die in God's friendship yet remain in need of complete sanctification. Imagine a great cathedral window through which the morning sun has not yet fully entered. Its glass bears the colors of a masterpiece, but the accumulated dust of centuries obscures their brilliance. When the light finally passes through unobstructed, the window does not become something foreign to its nature. Its intended beauty is

revealed. Such is the mystery of the soul purified by God's grace. Divine holiness does not extinguish what is truly human. It restores, perfects, and brings to fulfillment what sin has disfigured. The fire of this purification must never be confused with the hopelessness of damnation, for the souls undergoing it belong to Christ and are destined for heaven. Their longing is directed toward the eternal embrace of the God whose mercy has already claimed them.

The sacred doctrine of Purgatory also reveals a truth that modern society, with all its fascination for independence and self-sufficiency, struggles to comprehend. No Christian is saved into isolation. Through Baptism, we enter the Mystical Body of Christ, a communion that transcends the boundaries of nations, generations, and earthly existence. The Church Triumphant rejoices in heaven, the Church Militant continues its pilgrimage upon earth, and the Church Suffering undergoes purification in anticipation of eternal glory. These are not three competing communities, but one Church united in Jesus Christ. Within this sacred communion, charity possesses a reach that no earthly distance can diminish. A mother praying for her departed son, a widow offering Mass for her husband, or a Knight kneeling in remembrance of a deceased brother participates in the enduring fellowship of Christ's faithful. Their prayers do not attempt to alter the judgment of God, but entrust those undergoing purification to His mercy. In this mystery, love becomes an act of intercession, and the silence of the grave does not silence the charity of the Church.

At the center of this hope stands Calvary, where the eternal Son of God entered the full tragedy of human mortality. Beneath a darkened sky, the hands that fashioned creation were fastened to rough timber, and the brow before which angels bow was crowned with thorns. The Cross rose above Jerusalem like a terrible contradiction, the Author of Life suspended upon an instrument of death. Yet what appeared to be the triumph of human cruelty became the supreme revelation of divine mercy. From the pierced side of Christ flowed blood and water, which the Church has long contemplated as signs of the sacramental life born from His saving Passion. The wood of execution became the Tree of Life, and the hill of suffering became the place where the ancient wound of sin encountered its Redeemer. The Resurrection did not erase the wounds of Christ. His glorified body still bore their marks, transforming the instruments of His suffering into everlasting witnesses of victorious love. In those sacred wounds, the Christian discovers that God does not redeem humanity by remaining distant from its pain. He enters that pain, bears its weight, and overcomes its final dominion.

Perhaps nowhere is the mystery of Christian grief more beautifully revealed than in the tears of Jesus before the tomb of Lazarus. The Gospel tells us that Christ wept, even though He knew that He would summon His friend from the grave. Here, in two simple words, the infinite compassion of God becomes visible in the sorrow of a human face. The Savior who possessed authority over death did not regard the tears of Martha and Mary as evidence of insufficient faith. He entered their mourning and shared its bitterness. This moment offers profound consolation to every Catholic who has stood beside a coffin or watched the earth close over someone dearly loved. Faith does not demand an unfeeling heart. The Resurrection does not make bereavement imaginary, nor does the promise of eternal life render earthly separation painless. Rather, Christian hope permits us to mourn without surrendering to despair, because the tears of the faithful fall upon ground already consecrated by the tears of Christ.

There is a solemn beauty in the Catholic cemetery, particularly during November, when the names engraved upon stone seem to speak with greater urgency to the living. Beneath weathered crosses and polished monuments lie the earthly remains of people who once possessed ambitions as vivid as our own. They planned journeys, celebrated weddings, endured disappointments, worried over children, and imagined futures that now belong to history. Their graves bear names and dates, but the narrow space between those inscriptions contains entire worlds of affection, labor, sacrifice, and unfinished dreams. Here the marble of the wealthy and the modest marker of the poor stand beneath the same heavens, stripped of the distinctions that so often govern earthly society. The cemetery becomes a sanctuary of equality before God, where every monument quietly contradicts the illusion that possessions or prestige can preserve us from mortality. Yet the crosses rising above these resting places proclaim something greater than the universality of death. They proclaim the resurrection of the body, the promise that the dust entrusted to the earth remains within the providence of the Creator who first breathed life into humanity.

The ancient Christian admonition Memento mori, remember that you must die, is often misunderstood as an invitation to dwell morbidly upon the grave. It's true wisdom is far more demanding. To remember death is to recover the proper value of life. The hourglass does not condemn the sand for passing through its narrow passage. It reminds us that the gift of time is precious precisely because it cannot be reclaimed. Every day entrusted to us carries possibilities that eternity will reveal in their full significance. The apology withheld through pride, the reconciliation postponed through stubbornness,

the neglected parent awaiting a visit, and the lonely neighbor whose suffering remains unseen all stand as quiet examinations of conscience. What becomes of our achievements if they are purchased at the expense of charity? What value does public admiration possess when the private heart has forgotten mercy? The remembrance of death strips away the ornamental disguises of worldly importance and confronts us with the question upon which our eternal destiny depends: have we learned to love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves?

For the Knights of Columbus, this question reaches into the very meaning of Christian fraternity. Our principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism must be more than honorable declarations preserved in ceremonial language. They must acquire flesh in the lives we touch and the burdens we willingly carry. A brotherhood worthy of the Cross is recognized not only in its public achievements, but in its fidelity when applause has faded and service becomes inconvenient. It is found in the Knight who accompanies a grieving widow, the brother who visits the sick, the family that receives assistance without humiliation, and the deceased member whose name continues to be remembered in prayer. The dignity of Christian knighthood does not rest ultimately upon a sword, a title, or a jeweled emblem, but upon the willingness to imitate the King who knelt to wash the feet of His disciples. November reminds us that the finest memorial we can offer our departed brothers is not simply an inscription upon stone, but a continuation of the charity they were called to practice.

The Church's care for the dying reveals this same tenderness with extraordinary clarity. As earthly strength diminishes and the familiar world begins to recede, the sacraments become luminous signs of Christ's abiding presence. Through Penance, the Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Communion received as Viaticum when possible, the Church accompanies her children toward the final passage. The word Viaticum, provision for the journey, possesses a beauty that deserves contemplation. The Eucharistic Lord, who nourished the faithful throughout their earthly pilgrimage, comes to sustain them as they approach its conclusion. The One who declared Himself the Bread of Life becomes their sacred provision for the road that leads beyond the visible horizon. There is no earthly possession capable of accompanying the soul into eternity, yet Christ offers Himself as the food of everlasting life. In this final ministry, the Church appears as a loving mother who refuses to abandon her children at the threshold of death.

Our remembrance of the faithful departed therefore demands something more meaningful than nostalgia. The flowers placed upon a grave will wither, the candles will eventually burn low, and the inscriptions upon monuments may one day become illegible, but prayer remains an enduring act of Christian charity. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered for the departed, the Rosary recited for their repose, the indulgences obtained according to the Church's prescribed conditions, and the works of mercy performed in their memory all bear witness to a love rooted in the Communion of Saints. These devotions do not presume to know the eternal condition of any particular soul. Rather, they entrust the departed to the perfect justice and immeasurable mercy of God. In praying for those who have died, we also confront the reality of our own spiritual poverty, recognizing that one day we too may depend upon the prayers of those who remain behind.

There is an especially poignant symbolism in the candle burning before a sacred image during November. Its small flame rises from a substance that is gradually consumed, offering light through its own surrender. The candle does not resist the cost of illumination. It fulfills its purpose by giving itself away. Within this simple image rests a profound lesson in Christian discipleship. The faithful life is not one preserved untouched from sacrifice, but one poured out in love. Parents surrender years of comfort for their children, priests devote themselves to the service of souls, religious consecrate their lives to God, and countless ordinary Christians spend themselves in works of charity that the world will never celebrate. Their sacrifices resemble the quiet flame before the altar, diminishing in earthly substance while bearing witness to a light greater than themselves. The question November places before us is not merely whether our lives will eventually be consumed by time, for that is inevitable, but whether they will have given light while they burned.

As the liturgical year approaches its conclusion, the Church directs our attention beyond the limits of earthly history toward the final triumph of Jesus Christ. The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, celebrated on the final Sunday of the liturgical year, reminds us that all creation finds its ultimate meaning in Him. The kingdoms of this world possess boundaries, their rulers inherit temporary authority, and their monuments are subject to decay. The reign of Christ, however, is neither confined by geography nor diminished by the passing centuries. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the Lord of the living and the dead. Before His eternal majesty, human history is revealed not as an aimless procession of births and burials, but as a sacred drama moving toward judgment, resurrection, and the fulfillment of God's kingdom. The Christian does not await the annihilation of meaning, but its final revelation in the One through whom all things were created.

And so, the deepest meditation of November may be found not among the graves, but within the conscience of the living. We are surrounded by reminders that the world is passing, yet the Gospel insists that our choices possess eternal significance. The bread shared with the hungry, the forgiveness extended to an enemy, the prayer offered in secret, and the dignity preserved in another person's suffering become part of the spiritual history of a soul. The Church does not ask us to despise earthly life because it is temporary. She asks us to sanctify it because it is precious. Every human encounter becomes an opportunity to recognize the image of God, every act of repentance an opening to grace, and every sacrifice freely united to Christ an offering of love. Eternity is not a distant abstraction intended only for the final hour. Its significance is already pressing upon the present moment, asking whether we shall live as creatures imprisoned by passing things or as children of God preparing for their Father's house.

When November's final evening settles upon the earth, the Church's ancient prayer for the departed will continue to rise from altars across the world. Somewhere a priest will pronounce the names of souls entrusted to his care. Somewhere a family will gather before a photograph and pray for one whose absence remains painfully familiar. Somewhere a cemetery candle will flicker against the darkness, its fragile flame illuminating a name that may no longer be spoken by anyone else. Yet no human life is reduced to the endurance of its earthly remembrance. Every person is known to the God who called creation into being, whose justice is perfect, whose mercy is inexhaustible, and whose Son has opened the way to everlasting life. The promise of the Resurrection rests not upon the strength of our memories, but upon the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.

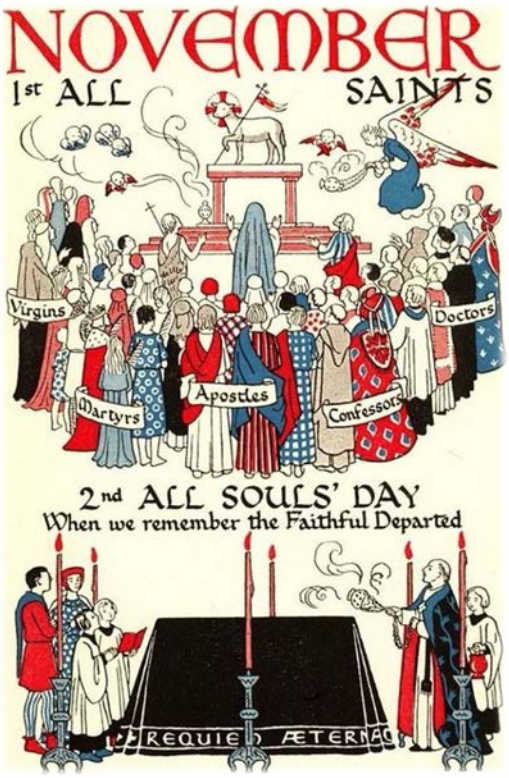
November therefore leaves us with an invitation more solemn and more beautiful than any monument could express. Let us pray for the Holy Souls with the devotion of those who understand that charity reaches beyond the grave. Let us honor the saints by imitating their holiness rather than merely admiring their glory. Let us approach the sacraments with renewed reverence, reconcile with those from whom pride has separated us, and recognize in every passing day an opportunity to prepare our hearts for God. For when the final hour arrives, the possessions we guarded will remain behind, the distinctions we pursued will lose their significance, and the masks we fashioned for the world will fall away. What will matter is the truth of a soul standing before its Creator, entirely known and wholly dependent upon His mercy.

The last leaf of autumn does not understand the spring that lies beyond its falling, nor can the seed buried beneath the soil behold the flower it may one day become. Yet creation bears within itself these quiet parables of renewal, imperfect reflections of a promise infinitely greater than the return of the seasons. The Christian hope is not that earthly life will simply repeat itself, but that through Jesus Christ the redeemed will be raised to a glory beyond the reach of corruption and death. The grave is real, and its sorrow deserves our tears, but it is not sovereign. The Cross stands above it, and the empty tomb has forever altered its meaning. When the bells of November sound across our churches and cemeteries, may we hear within their solemn resonance not only the remembrance of those who have departed, but the summons to become holy while the gift of time remains ours. For the most enduring memorial we can leave upon this earth is a life transformed by grace, and the greatest homecoming for which we can hope is to behold, at last, the face of the God for whom our hearts were made.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Ad Jesum per Mariam. To Jesus through Mary.

Vivat Jesus





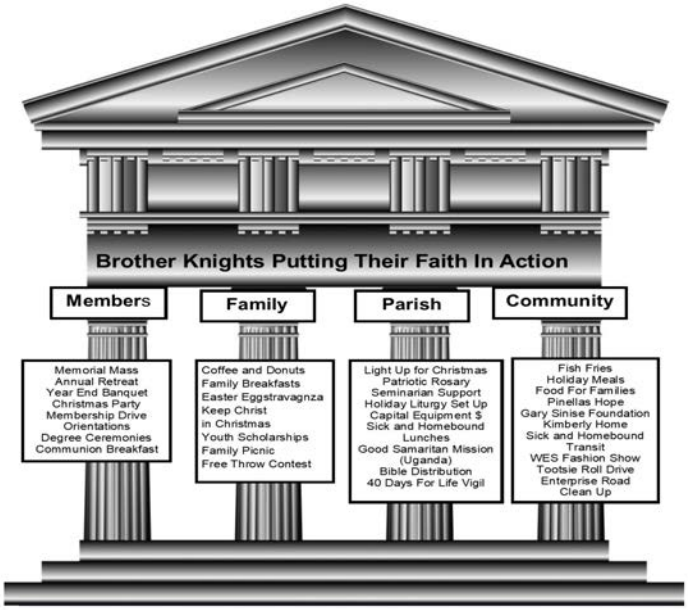
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Domestic Church October. Celebrate Sunday

There are four types of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, forgiveness and petition. The Psalms contain all 4 as well as add the lyrics for many great hymns. In Psalm 138, David thanks the Lord for all His blessings including ourselves, wives, children and grandchildren. But there is a hook. We "earn" those blessings through fear of the Lord and walking in His ways. Then our wives will be like fruitful vines and our children like olive plants. Then we will see prosperity for the rest of our lives. How do we do that? A couple ways.

One is found in Ephesians 5:25-27 where Paul provides some very practical advice **"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish."**
Another is by regularly going to Church and receiving His body and blood.



PSALM 128 Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and who walk in his ways. What your hands provide you will enjoy; you will be blessed and prosper: Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your home, Your children like young olive plants around your table. Just so will the man be blessed who fears the LORD. May the LORD bless you from Zion; may you see Jerusalem's prosperity all the days of your life and live to see your children's children. Peace upon Israel!

Golf Tournament



Letter to the Editor

Celebrate Sunday

The Fourth Commandment tells us to **Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy.** This isn't a suggestion but a clear responsibility. We don't do this out of fear but out of love.

Thinking about that I did some research on the "why" and how that has been explained these last 2000 years or so.

Psalm 118:24 tells us, **"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad."** Each Sunday is a "little Easter" - a celebration of the central mysteries of our faith

As "the first day of the week" (Mk 16:2) it recalls the first creation; and as the "eighth day," which follows the sabbath, it symbolizes the new creation ushered in by the Resurrection of Christ. Thus, it has become for Christians the first of all days and of all feasts. It is the day of the Lord in which he with his Passover fulfilled the spiritual truth of the Jewish Sabbath and proclaimed man's eternal rest in God. Thus, remembering God is our beginning and end goal. Our Alpha and Omega

The primary way in which we celebrate the Lord's Day is with our participation in the Sunday Eucharist. What better way to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord than by celebration of the memorial of his Passion, death, and Resurrection and receiving His body and blood?

Our Catholic Catechism tells us, Sunday is traditionally consecrated by Christian piety to good works and humble service of the sick, the infirm, and the elderly. Christians will also sanctify Sunday by devoting time and care to their families and relatives, often difficult to do on other days of the week. Sunday is a time for reflection, silence, cultivation of the mind, and meditation which furthers the growth of the Christian interior life. (CCC, no. 2186). Our Catechism also recognizes that in some cases it may be difficult to impossible for an individual to make Mass on Sunday due to obligations that often call them serve others – first responders, medical staff, service members, etc. and that these duties are very important to our society and a form of important service to others.

Finally, as Pope John Paul II said in Dies Domini (The Day of the Lord), his apostolic letter on Sunday: Through Sunday rest, daily concerns and tasks can find their proper perspective: the material things about which we worry give way to spiritual values; in a moment of encounter and less pressured exchange, we see the true face of the people with whom we live. Even the beauties of nature—too often marred by the desire to exploit, which turns against man himself—can be rediscovered and enjoyed to the full.

Celebrate Sunday, remember the Sabbath Day, keep it Holy. After all, it is a feast and one where we can receive the Body and Blood of our Savior.

Just remember, **"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad."**



From the Desk of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly…

We Read Scripture. Does It Read Us?

The word of God not only informs our minds but also searches our hearts and transforms them

Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

It is good for us to read the Scriptures prayerfully. But how?

Often we gravitate toward favorite passages that inspire or console us. I frequently return to Jesus' invitation, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28). Those words of Jesus never fail to encourage and strengthen me, especially when cares weigh heavily on my heart. Most of us, I think, have a few "go-to" verses in Scripture, especially in times of trial.

Sometimes we read Scripture to jump-start our prayer. Setting aside time for quiet prayer, we may find it difficult to focus our thoughts and affections. We think of everything except the Lord and his love. Reflecting on a few lines of Scripture can channel our thoughts and feelings, prompting conversation with God.

At other times, we may want to study Scripture. When we come upon a passage that is hard to understand, we might consult the footnotes in our Bibles. This might further prompt us to join a Bible study group. The Knights of Columbus offers a wonderful Scripture study, *Men of the Word*, that is used in *Cor* and other Bible study settings to help participants understand and love sacred Scripture more deeply. There are many Bible study groups for women as well.

In these ways, we read and understand Scripture. But isn't it also true that Scripture reads us? How often do biblical passages shed light on what we are feeling, thinking or doing, leading us to take stock of ourselves and repent of sinful patterns of behavior? Scripture is like a mirror in which we see ourselves as we really are, not the image we project before others, whether online or in person. Scripture reveals us to ourselves.

Consider Psalm 51. It is a penitential psalm in which King David repents of his adultery and his treachery in trying to cover it up. David acknowledges his sin before an all-knowing God. He begs to be forgiven. He asks the Lord for "a pure heart" and "a steadfast spirit." Can we not see ourselves in his plea for forgiveness? Psalm 51 is like a searchlight. Its beam shines on the sins we admit, but also on those we seek to deny, forget or hide. When we allow this psalm to read our hearts, we are set free to acknowledge our guilt, confess our sins and give thanks to God for his mercy. What a good psalm to pray before going to Confession or examining our consciences at night.

Other psalms "read" our human experiences — the perplexity we feel when someone gets ahead by cheating (see Ps 73), the bewilderment we feel when we are betrayed by a friend (see Ps 55), the distance from God we may experience in time of trouble (see Ps 22), the exultant praise and thanksgiving that wells up within us (see Ps 34). Yes, we read the Psalms, but the Psalms also read us.

The parables of Jesus "read" what is in our hearts. In John 2:24-25, we are told that "Jesus … did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well." We see ourselves in the prodigal son and the indignant older brother. Or in the servant who pleaded before his master for the forgiveness of his debt only to throttle a fellow servant who owed him much less. Or in the merchant searching for fine pearls who sells everything to obtain one of great value. Jesus' parables reveal our need to forgive and to be forgiving, our search for God's love, and much more.

We shouldn't be surprised that the Scriptures "read" what is in our hearts. After all, in every Scripture passage the voice of Christ resounds. So whenever we open the Scriptures, let this be our prayer: "Probe me, God, know my heart; try me, know my thoughts" (Ps 139:23).

From the Florida State Council Chamber…

Another Opportunity to Serve

My Worthy Brothers, as we enter the month of October, we have officially completed the first quarter of our fraternal year.

It is hard to believe how quickly these first few months have passed, but as I look back on everything that has taken place throughout the great state of Florida, one thing continues to stand out to me above everything else: Jesus Christ is alive and well within the Florida State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Everywhere I go as your State Deputy, I have the privilege of meeting Knights who are putting their faith into action, and time and time again, I see the face of Jesus in my brother Knights. I see Him in the men who are lifting up the hungry and helping to provide for those who are struggling. I see Him in the Knights who reach out to the poor and those who are facing difficult times, and I see Him in the men who make sure that people with disabilities know that they are not forgotten, that they are valued, and that they are loved.

I see Jesus in the Knight who quietly gives of his time, his talent, and his treasure without ever asking for recognition. I see Him in the brother who gives up an evening with his family to serve his parish or his community, and I see Him in the men who visit the sick, comfort those who are hurting, support our veterans, protect the unborn, assist our Special Olympics athletes, and stand beside families who simply need someone to help them through a difficult moment in their lives.

These acts of charity may sometimes seem small to the person performing them, but to the person receiving them, they can mean everything. When we reach out to someone who is hurting, we are not simply performing another charitable act; we are showing that person the love of Christ through our own hands and our own hearts.

I am also incredibly proud of the way our Knights continue to stand beside our priests, religious, and seminarians. There are times when the needs of our religious brothers and sisters are not always visible to the rest of the world. Sometimes they need financial assistance, sometimes they need encouragement, and sometimes they simply need to know that their brother Knights are standing beside them. Whatever the need may be, our Knights are there. We may not always be able to solve every problem, but we can always be present, we can always pray, and we can always remind them that they are part of our Knights of Columbus family. That spirit of brotherhood is one of the greatest gifts we can give to one another.

As we now move from the first quarter into the second quarter of our fraternal year, I want us to remember that the completion of one quarter does not mean that our work is finished. It simply means that another opportunity has begun. We should take a moment to thank God for all that He has allowed us to accomplish during these first three months, but we should also look forward with renewed energy and ask ourselves what more we can do for our Church, our families, our communities, and for those who need us most. There are still many people who need a helping hand, many families who need encouragement, many parishes that need our support, and many men who are searching for something meaningful in their lives and may simply be waiting for someone to invite them to become a Knight.

That is why our mission must always remain greater than numbers. Membership is important because every new Knight gives us another man who can serve his family, his parish, his community, and his Church, but our ultimate mission is to bring souls to Christ. When we invite a man to become a Knight, we are not simply asking him to join another organization. We are inviting him into a brotherhood where his faith can grow, where his family can be strengthened, and where he can discover the tremendous joy that comes from serving others. We must never lose sight of that purpose, because it is what makes the Knights of Columbus different. We are Catholic men who have chosen to live our faith, not simply by what we say, but by what we do.

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As we continue through this second quarter, we also find ourselves moving closer to one of the most beautiful and sacred times of the year, the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Before we know it, our churches, homes, and communities will begin to fill with Christmas decorations, lights, music, and celebrations. It is easy during this busy season to become focused on everything that comes with Christmas, but as Knights of Columbus, we must always remember the reason for the celebration. Christmas is about the greatest gift God has ever given to mankind. It is about the birth of Jesus Christ, who came into this world in a humble manger because God loved us so much that He sent His only Son to bring us salvation.

The same Jesus whose birth we celebrate at Christmas is the Jesus we encounter every day in our work as Knights. He is present when we feed the hungry, when we help a family that is struggling, when we comfort someone who is grieving, when we visit someone who is sick, and when we stand beside someone who feels that he has nowhere else to turn. He is present when we welcome a new Knight into our council, when we support our priests and religious, and when we put our arms around a brother who is going through a difficult time and remind him that he is not alone. When we live our lives in this way, we are giving people something far more valuable than anything that can be purchased in a store. We are giving them hope, friendship, compassion, and most importantly, we are giving them an example of the love of Jesus Christ.

My brothers, as we continue into the second quarter and begin our journey toward Christmas, I ask each of you to look for opportunities to make a difference in someone's life. Perhaps it will be through a charitable program, perhaps it will be through your parish, perhaps it will be through your council, or perhaps it will simply be by taking the time to sit with someone who needs a friend. We never know what someone else may be carrying in his heart, and sometimes the smallest act of kindness can become the greatest blessing in another person's life. Let us continue to be men who recognize those opportunities and have the courage to respond.

I am deeply proud to serve as your State Deputy, and I am grateful for the opportunity to travel throughout Florida and witness firsthand the incredible work being done by our Knights and their families. Everywhere I go, I see men who are not simply wearing the emblem of the Knights of Columbus, but who are living the principles represented by that emblem through their faith, their charity, their unity, their fraternity, and their service to others. This is the Knights of Columbus that I know, and this is the Knights of Columbus that I want the people of Florida to see.

We have accomplished much during these first three months, but there is still so much more that God is calling us to do. As we move forward together, let us keep Christ at the center of everything we do and continue to open wide the doors for Christ. Let us continue to bring souls to Christ, to strengthen our families, to support our priests and our Church, and to be there for those who need us. If we continue to pray together, work together, and serve together, I believe we will continue to make a lasting difference throughout the state of Florida.

As we approach the Christmas season, let us also remember that the greatest gift we can give is not something that can be placed under a Christmas tree. The greatest gift we can give is the gift of ourselves through our faith, our prayers, our friendship, and our willingness to serve. May every Knight and every family in Florida experience the peace and joy of Christ during this holy season and may our actions throughout these coming months help others to experience that same love.

May God continue to bless every Knight and every family throughout the Florida State Council. May He bless our priests, our religious, and all those who serve our Church. May He protect our military, our first responders, and all those who sacrifice for others. Most importantly, may He continue to guide us as Knights of Columbus so that everything we do brings honor and glory to His name.

My brothers, the first quarter has given us much for which to be thankful, and the second quarter now gives us another opportunity to serve. As we continue our journey toward the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us move forward together with faith in our hearts, love for our brothers, and a renewed commitment to serve those who need us most. Let us remember that wherever we go, whatever we do, and whoever we encounter, we have an opportunity to let someone see the face of Jesus through the way we live our lives.

May God bless you, your families, the Knights of Columbus, and the great state of Florida, and may God bless America.

Assembly Officers 2026-2027

Faithful Navigator	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Faithful Friar	Fr Michael W. Cooper, SJ	727.644.5544
Faithful Captain	Amaro Lionheart	305.761.3419
Faithful Admiral	JJ Coyne, PGK, PFN	901.832.7332
Faithful Pilot	Mark Feldman	727.366.5959
Faithful Scribe	Santo Loparo	727.804.7428
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	John Gohman, PFN	813.810.3735
Trustee Two Year	Wally Vazquez, PFN	727.542.5376
Trustee One Year	Frank McEwen, FDW, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687
Color Corps Commander	Tom Wozniak, FDD, PGK, PFN,	727.214.8377
Veterans Liaison	Bill Gallant	727.251.6300





A Prayer for the Family

Composed by St. Mother Teresa

Heavenly Father,
You have given us the model of life in the Holy Family of Nazareth. Help us, O Loving Father, to make our family another Nazareth where love, peace and joy reign. May it be deeply contemplative, intensely eucharistic, revived with joy.

Help us to stay together in joy and sorrow in family prayer. Teach us to see Jesus in the members of our families, especially in their distressing disguise. May the eucharistic heart of Jesus make our hearts humble like his and help us to carry out our family duties in a holy way.

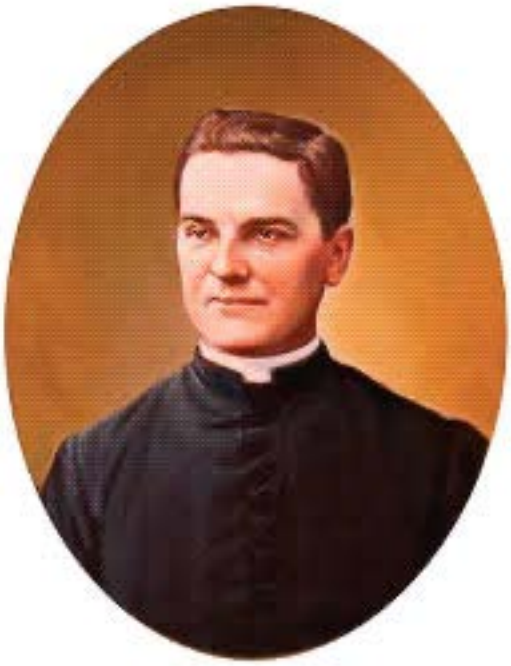
May we love one another as God loves each one of us, more and more each day, and forgive each other's faults as you forgive our sins. Help us, O Loving Father, to take whatever you give and give whatever you take with a big smile.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, cause of our joy, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

Holy Guardian Angels, be always with us, guide and protect us.

Amen.



Knights of Columbus®

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…

November 2026

- 11/02 | Mon 6:30p — Mass of Remembrance | KofC Memorial Mass
- 11/05 | Thu 10:30a — Funeral Mass – Lady Betty D'Amelio
- 11/10 | Tue 8:00a — Sacred Heart Icon (displays until Mon 11/16)
- 11/12 | Thu 6:15p — Rosary
- 11/12 | Thu 7:00p — Council 7109 & Ladies Auxiliary Monthly Meetings
- 11/19 | Thu 8:00a — Pinellas Hope Food Prep & Delivery
- 11/19 | Thu 7:00p — Men of the Word
- 11/21 | Sat 8:00a — Kimberly Home WorkDay
- 11/21 | Sat 8:30a — SVdP Thanksgiving Day Baskets Delivery
- 11/24 | Tue 10:00a — Christmas Light Installation
- 11/28 | Sat 4:00p — Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales
- 11/28 | Sat 7:00p — Light Up For Christmas
- 11/29 | Sun 8:00a — Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales

Assembly Calendar of Events…

November 2026

- 11/03 | Tue 7:00p — Golf Tournament Committee Meeting
- 11/06 | Fri 12:00p — Assembly 2474 10th Annual Golf Tournament
- 11/08 | Thu 7:00p — Assembly 2474 Coffee & Donuts
- 11/11 | Wed 8:30a — Veterans Day Mass | Color Corps

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I have most parts needed and the tools to repair and spruce up your rosary.

FREE to any Knight, family members, friends and neighbors

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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.