

Knights of Columbus®

Nov 2025 **Newsletter**





Words of Wisdom

by Grand Knight Chuck Donelson

OUR NEWEST AMERICAN

During my entire lifetime, I have never known anyone who has gone through the process of becoming a United States citizen. That all changed yesterday when Father Anthony became a US citizen. This morning he sent me a picture of himself and his certificate in front of the sign stating that today he had become an American. I am so very, very proud of Father Anthony, first wanting to become a citizen and then making the effort to actually become an American citizen.

One of the things that Father Anthony and I had discussed months earlier is why he wanted to become a citizen. I listened avidly and felt extremely proud that a Brit would want to become a citizen of a country that the English had fought twice and lost, the American Revolution and the War of 1812. But the question that was raised in my mind was why would anyone want to become a citizen of the United States?

Over the past decade, there has been enough political controversy for some to come to the conclusion that no one would make the effort to become a new citizen of the United States. If you ever listen to some of the politicians that we have, they have spouted more negatives than positives. The talking heads of both sides of the aisle are not the best proponents of our country. Actually, Media Matters runs analysis on how many positive and negative stories are told by both sides of the aisle. Why would there be more negative stories than positive?

Yet, over the same amount of time, our Country has had more people find illegal ways to enter our Country. Depending on which side of the aisle is pontificating, the influx of people range from 10 million all the way up to 25 million. Someone must want to be here. I have spent the last couple of days in deep thought as to why; and this is my conclusion.

If we reread the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson included 27 specific grievances, or "repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States." From this point on, based on the declaration of thirteen British colonies, they fought to correct these inadequacies. For eight long years, the colonists fought to free themselves from this alleged tyrannical rule. We need to remember that only 1/3 of the people wanted to become independent, and another 1/3 were absolute loyalists to King George, while the last 1/3 did not care one way or the other. With the Treaty of Trent in 1783, the war ended and Independence was affirmed.

Having won their independence, their next hurdle was for them to govern. Thus began the task of writing their Constitution and having it approved by a majority of the states. In the summer of 1787, fifty-five delegates from 12 of the 13 states debated and created the Constitution of the United States of America. Although originally wanting to update the Articles of Confederation, they soon found it necessary to start over. The new Constitution was fully drafted and approved by the delegates in September of 1787. Then came the task of having it ratified which commenced in 1788.

The ratification process produced 85 Federalist Papers written by Hamilton, Madison and Jay to persuade the most populous state, New York, to ratify the new Constitution. When New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify the Constitution four months later, it was finished with two exceptions. The ratification process showed a lack of individual freedoms and the lack of control over the power of the Federal Government. To secure ratification, a guarantee was made that these issues would be addressed. Two years later, again after the delegates of thirteen states had created the first ten amendments to the Constitution, or the Bill of Rights, the concerns of all states had been satisfied.

Based on the actions of our forefathers, around 250 years ago, we see the basic fundamentals of what helped create the second longest living Constitution in the world. Along with the basic premise from the Mayflower Compact that all should work together and share responsibility, an early form of capitalism, appeared early on which has continued in some form to this day.

With the 27 issues stated by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence, I would suggest that each was handled in some fashion by either the Declaration of Independence itself, and later by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. And the American people have seen fit that only an additional 17 Amendments have been necessary to modify our original Constitution. I would conclude that between the protection of individual rights and the underlying capitalistic form of economy, many people, but not all, from all corners of the world, see America as a shining beacon of freedom and opportunity.

Congratulations again Father Anthony, and I am very proud to call you a fellow Countryman.







Our Lady of Mount Carmel Council #15821

Welcome









Alexander S Garfield Robert C Stengel Michael R Bryant Jose L Cando











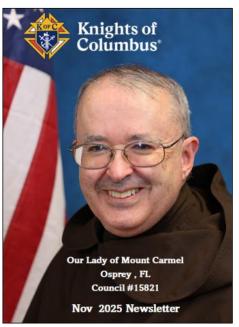






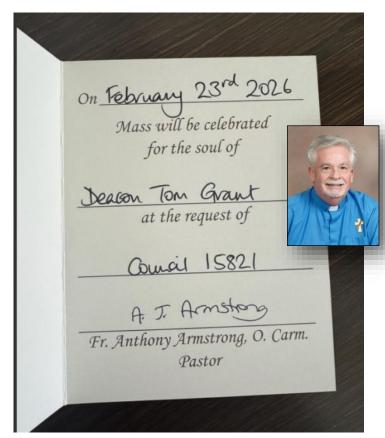


On The Cover

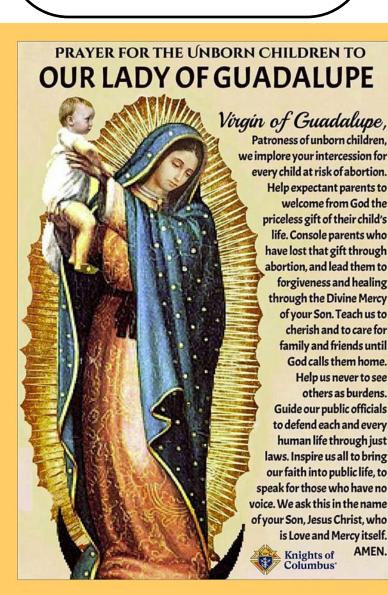


We celebrate SK Fr. Anthony's

US Citizenship 11/12/2025



Please Mark Your Calendars !!!





In Loving Memory
"Pop's"

John K Wucki



A Catholic Understanding of Thanksgiving

As we approach Thanksgiving, it's easy to think of it as simply a day for family, food, and football. But for us as Catholic men, this season invites us to go deeper—to rediscover gratitude as a way of life rooted in faith.

The word "Eucharist" itself comes from the Greek eucharistia, meaning "thanksgiving." Every Mass is the supreme act of thanksgiving, where we unite our lives to Christ's perfect offering to the Father. This reminds us that gratitude is not just a polite gesture; it is a spiritual posture. It acknowledges that everything we have—our families, our health, our work, even our very breath—is a gift from God.

Scripture repeatedly calls us to this attitude. St. Paul writes, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Notice he doesn't say "give thanks when things go well." He says in all circumstances. Gratitude is not dependent on comfort or abundance; it flows from trust in God's providence. Even in trials, we can thank Him because He works all things for good for those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

Thanksgiving also guards us against two spiritual dangers: pride and despair. Pride whispers, "I earned this; I deserve this." Gratitude counters with humility: "All is gift." Despair says, "I have nothing; life is empty." Gratitude opens our eyes to blessings we overlook—the smile of a child, the warmth of friendship, the grace of forgiveness. When we practice thanksgiving, we train our hearts to see God's goodness everywhere.

But how do we live this out practically? Here are three ways:

Firstly, begin with prayer. Start and end your day by naming three things you're thankful for. This simple habit shifts your focus from what's missing to what's given.

Secondly, express it outwardly. Tell your wife, children, friends, and coworkers that you appreciate them. Gratitude strengthens relationships and reflects Christ's love.

Thirdly, live generously. True thanksgiving overflows into action. Share your time, talents, and resources with those in need. When we give, we imitate the God who gives all to us.

Finally, remember that gratitude is contagious. In a world often marked by complaint and entitlement, a thankful heart stands out as a witness to the Gospel. When others see our joy and peace—even amid challenges—they glimpse the goodness of God.

This Thanksgiving let's not settle for a single day of gratitude. Let's become men of thanks-giving—men who live Eucharistically, offering every moment back to God in praise. May we have, as the Jesuits often say, "an attitude of gratitude". And may our lives echo the words of the Psalmist: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endures forever" (Psalm 136:1).

Have a blessed Thanksgiving and I hope to see you many of you at our parish Thanksgiving celebration. With prayers and best wishes,

Fr. Anthony Armstrong, O.Carm.





Fr. Anthony's

Celebration

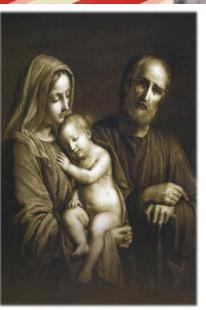


US Citizenship Tillotson Hall Date XX/XX/XXXX Sun 11:30_{am} -3:00_{om}

Lunch - 11:30 am - 1:00pm Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Pasta Salad, Mixed Fruit Salad

Hors D'oeuvres-1pm - 3 pm Iced Tea, Lemonade, Beer, Wine, Water





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.

Faith In Action





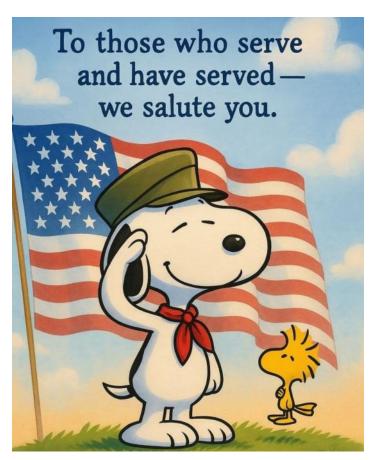




COMMUNITY

LIFE









Knights of Columbus Florida State Council



December

Dennis M. O'Leary
Thomas S. Patricoski
Louis Nagy
Justice S Falk
Leo J. Heatley
Mike R. Weisenbach
Gerard A. Bernard
William C. Elsner Jr.
Stanley J. Anthony
Tony Howard
Dennis J. Korinek



Lecturer's Minute

The Young Boy & His Greed



Sir Knight Darwin Reeck

Sam and Tom were identical twins. They were so identical that even their mother found it difficult to distinguish one from the other.

But apart from their looks, the two boys couldn't be any more different. The first young boy, Sam, had no problems making friends.

Meanwhile, the other little boy, Tom, was terrible at keeping them. Sam loved sweets, but Tom loved spicy food. Sam was mommy's pet, and Tom was daddy's pet.

Sam was generous and selfless. Tom had a nasty temper and was very greedy.

This is where the story gets interesting.

As Sam and Tom grew up, their father wanted to share his fortune equally. However, Tom disagreed and argued that whoever proved to be more intelligent and stronger would have to get a more significant share of the wealth.

Sam agreed. Their father decided to organize a competition between the two. He asked the two sons to walk as long as they could and return home before sunset. The wealth would be divided in proportion to the distance covered. As a rule of the competition, they were not permitted to carry a watch to keep track of the time.

The following day, Sam and Tom set out to walk. It was a relatively sunny day. Sam walked slowly and steadily, while Tom broke into a sprint as he was bent on winning the race and a more significant portion of his father's wealth.

Sam knew that it would be ideal to walk as far as possible until noon and then head home by noon as it would take the same amount of time to walk back home. And, so he did.

However, Tom – with his greed to earn more wealth – did not attempt to return home even after mid-day. He walked and ran twice as long as Sam and thought he would still be able to return home before sunset.

Unfortunately, he could not even make it halfway. Darkness slowly engulfed his path, and he had to drag his tired feet back home.

He had lost the race because of his greed!

The moral of the story:

It's tempting sometimes to pull a fast one to get ahead of everyone else. In the story, Tom thought he could accumulate an extra portion of his inheritance by outsmarting his twin brother. His greed caused him to overestimate his abilities, leading him to lose the race – and money in the process.

Meanwhile, Sam won by analyzing the situation and being smart about his decisions.



#1818 News

CALENDAR 2025-2026 Our Assembly is excited to present a calendar filled with

opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth, and service. We encourage all members to review the upcoming schedule and participate as actively as your time and talents allow. We look forward to seeing you there.

DECEMBER 2025

Wed, Dec 10 - SNC @ 8:30 AM

Tue, Dec 9 – Christmas Assembly Dinner Meeting

Sat, Dec 13 – Placement of Wreaths @ SNC @ (TBD AM)

JANUARY 2026

Sat, Jan 3 – Removal of Wreaths @ SNC @ 8:00 AM

Tue, Jan 13 – Officers Meeting @ 9:00 AM (OLOL)

Wed, Jan 14 - SNC @ 8:30 AM

Thurs, Jan 15 - Assembly Meeting @ 6:30 PM Rosary @5:30 PM - Dinner @ 5:45 PM

Thurs, Jan 29 - Color Corps Drill Practice @ 2 PM (SP)

FEBRUARY 2026

Wed, Feb 11 - SNC @ 8:30 AM

Sat, Feb 14 – Valentine for Vets Dinner/Dance Starts at 5:30 PM San Pedro Social Hall

If interested in becoming a 4th degree Sir Knight,

please contact Joe Frech at 703-505-3153 or frech.j1959@gmail.com.



I am please to announce that

Tom McDermitt

was Exemplified into the 4th Degree this past Saturday and now carries the title Sir Knight. Tom becomes a member of

Assembly 1818.

With the Exemplification of Sir Knight Tom that bring to 26 Sir Knights in Council 15821.



	Revenue	Expense	Margin
50-50 Gen Mtgs	85.00)	85.00
Badges / Shirts		96.30	0 (96.30)
Dues	870.00)	870.00
Knight's Breakfast	743.00	740.3	8 2.62
Mtg Refreshments		111.7	1 (111.71)
Taxes / Fees		34.0	2 (34.02)
Golf Outing	100.00	300.00	0 (200.00)
Raffle Tickets	280.00	324.00	0 (44.00)
Food For Families	500.00)	500.00
Postage / Shipping		78.0	0 (78.00)
Sympathy Cards		6.7	6 (6.76)
Exemplification		56.8	5 (56.85)
Christmas Cards		100.00	0 (100.00)
Grand Total	2,578.00	1,848.0	2 729.98





Deacon Tom Status Report October 2025

	Revenue Ex	pense	Margin
Other Donations	4,300.00	0.00	4,300.00
Grand Total	4,300.00	0.00	4,300.00







Knights of



OLMC Council #15821

Stewart & Kathy McEntee

Family of the Month

Nov 2025

OLMC Council #15821

Mike Ochoa

Knight of the Month

Nov 2025

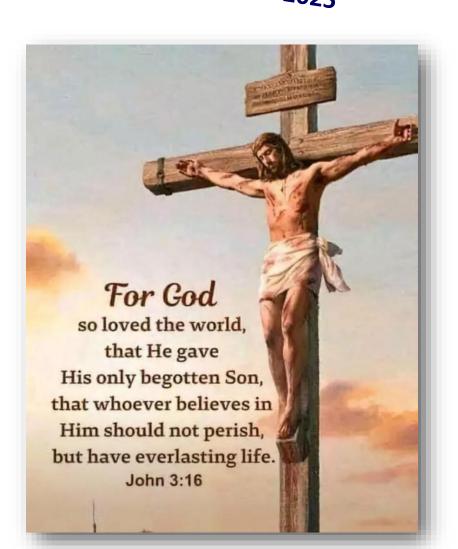


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Knight Horatio Hoggard

Community Director—Immokalee Food Drive

IMMOKALEE REPORT Nov 2025

Food Collected: 2840 LBS.

Funds Collected: \$1,939.00

Total Value Delivered:

\$10,459.00















November Knight of Columbus Newsletter- Ladies Blog

Advent is on the horizon! November 30, will be here soon making it the first Sunday of Advent.

Advent Prayer

"Dear Jesus, help us to focus on You during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy You bring to our lives. We want to find you in everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to Your manger on Christmas."

Next Ladies Auxiliary Meeting:

Ladies December Meeting will be held on December 8, 2025 at 6:30 pm in Tillotson Hall. If you wish to participate in the ever fun and entertaining Gift-Exchange, bring a \$10.00 wrapped gift and let the party begin!

If you've never attended one of the Ladies Auxiliary Meetings, why not join us in friendship and fellowship.

Giving Tree:

OLMC Giving Tree will be installed on November 28th. If you are able to lend a hand in the preparation, meet in the gathering space. If you are unable, another chance to help is the replenishing of tags that will take place after each Mass. Thank you. Take a moment and choose a tag for a child's gift request. Remember the tags are joy and love to a child. Thank God for the opportunity present to share what He has blessed us with.

OLMC Arimathean Ministry

The guest speaker at our November meeting was Darwin Reeck. Darwin spoke about the Arimathean Ministry and is asking for volunteers. The

Arimathean's attend funerals when they are able, in a show of support for the deceased and their grieving loved ones. The Ministry's purpose is to perform the corporal work of mercy to "bury the dead" and older spiritual support during a dillicult time. Arimathean presence represents the support of the entire faith community.

If you are not a part of this Ministry and are interested, please contact Darwin Reeke.

The next Ladies Luncheon will be December 10th, at the Breakfast Cottage, 2301 N. Tamiami Trail, Nokomis.





Let me tell you about Fr. Arnold Damen, SJ.

Fr. Damen was Dutch, he came to the United States with his family, joined the Jesuits, and became a priest in 1844.

He was professor, and then a pastor, and was sent in 1857 to establish a Jesuit presence in Chicago. He founded a parish, Holy Family, on the city's West Side, which was populated by Irish and other immigrants, who were largely derided by more settled Americans as invaders or freeloaders.

Damen helped them build a church, and then schools, and a small college, right in their own neighborhood.

He was there for more than a decade, growing the parish, and standing with his people. And then in his own parish, in October, 1871, disaster struck.

Though people still disagree, most accounts say that fire started October 8, 1871, in a barn belonging to Catherine O'Leary. Some people say a cow kicked over a lantern. Other people say a woman knocked over that lantern while carrying a case of beer. There are stories that maybe the fire started while a group of men played cards inside the barn, careless with ashes.

But whatever the cause, the barn went up in flames. Then houses caught fire, their tarred roofs exploding, with flame raining down on wooden sidewalks.

Given a bad message, the fire department went to the wrong part of town, while the fire spread to lumber and coal yards, and wind blew burning chunks of tar across the city. Within one day, four square miles had burned. Hundreds were left homeless.

It might have been worse. It might have destroyed Holy Family Church, and even more homes. But Fr. Damen — in New York to preach a parish mission — took to his knees in the parish where he stayed, and promised to Our Lady of Perpetual Help that if she spared his church and his people from more anguish, he would light inside seven candles — to remain always lit as a sign of his devotion and gratitude— at his parish statue of her.

Today, even while we pray for the Blessed Mother's intercession, we might make fewer of the promises. But they were a devotional practice very common in Fr. Damen's era, and the real point was that he entrusted his people to Mary's intercession.

When he returned to Chicago, it was to devastation. But the church survived, and Fr. Damen lit the candles. Today, electric candles remain lit in the same spot in the same church.

More to the point, Fr. Damen opened the church, the schools, and every building he could to the people made homeless by the fires.



Seven candles below Our Lady of Perpetual Help, at Holy Family Church in Chicago.

A statue of Fr. Arnold Damen in Chicago, Illinois.

He borrowed money, leveraged what he had, and helped people rebuild.

He did what he could to be in solidarity with his people as they recovered from disaster, as they buried their dead, and as they got up off the mat.

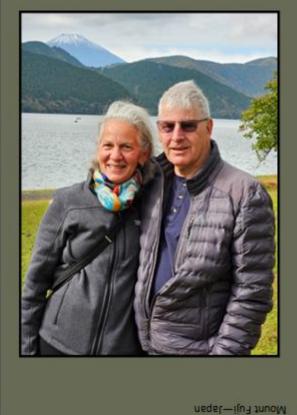
The stroke that eventually killed him came in Wyoming in 1899, as he distributed the Eucharist during a parish mission. He died a few months later.

Fr. Damen is still remembered in Chicago, with a street named for him, and some statues

Tom Mc Dermitt



Where in the World Are Mark & Val ???





Insurance Investments Charitable Solutions

CLICK FOR MORE INFO







Al Castillejo Field agent

Cell: (941) 786-7742 AL.CASTILLEJO@KOFC.ORG License #E154179

Up Coming Volunteer Opportunities - Contact Info

In the next few months, the Council has a lot of things to accomplish.

Here is a quick recap & the correct Knight you can reach out to help.

Thanks in advance for your help, we only succeed together as a group !!!

Funeral Mass Ushers	as Needed	Mike LaVecchia	C 631-478-2831
Immokalee Food Drive	Monthly	Horatio Hoggard	C 941-720-3472
Immokalee Food Drive Drivers	Monthly	Mike Monville	C 813-309-0558
Hurricane Support Team	as Needed	Mike Monville	C 813-309-0558
KofC Membership Drive	Jan 17 th & 18th	John Canevari	C 941-441-5242
Pancake Breakfast Team	Monthly	Bruce Crisman	C 941-232-8450
Pancake Breakfast Set Up	Monthly	Terry Leary	C 619-851-3634
Keep Christ in Christmas Poster	Contest Judges	Rob Wucki	C 262-646-0855
Council #15821 Newsletter	Monthly	Rob Wucki	C 262-646-0855
Giving Tree Truck Load day	Dec 15th	Horatio Hoggard	C 941-720-3472
Creche Set Up day	Dec 16th	Chuck Donelson	C 561-353-8774
Sacred Heart Icon	Dec 17th	Al Balchi	С
Creche Take Down day	Jan 7th	Chuck Donelson	C 561-353-8774
Spaghetti Dinner	Jan 17th	Don Crandall	C 989-274-6474
Tootsie Roll Drive	Feb 2026	Ron Balaze	C 810-610-2801
Lenten Fish Dinners	Lent (6 weeks)	Mark Callahan	C 401-487-6423





Mark Your Calendars !!!

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon

Will be at OLMC

Dec 16th—Dec 22nd



Pope Francis blessed more than 300
Sacred Heart of Jesus icons as part of the
Knights of Columbus' Pilgrim Icon
Program. These icons, reproductions of
the image painted by Pompeo Batoni, are
traveling to different parishes worldwide
for veneration and prayer services.

How Special to Enhance our Advent Celebration





Tickets On Sale Now !!!

ANNUAL DEACON TOM GRANT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

"Investing in Futures, Guided by Faith"

Sat. Dec 6th, 2025 5:30PM Tillotson Hall

\$45 per person

Dinner, Door Prizes, Raffle, Music and Dancing

Four course dinner :

Light Hors d'oeuvres, Salad, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Key Lime Pie





Tootsie
Roll Drive

Jan 31 & Feb 1st at OLMC

Feb &th & 8th at Publix



Look for the Knights Wearing Yellow Vests!

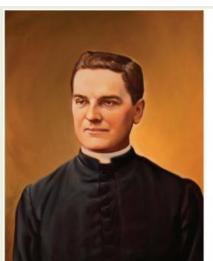
Your contribution benefits programs for our brothers and sisters with developmental disabilities



See SK Ron Balaze PGK
To help !!!!

Cell 810-610-2801





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 1 now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please report all favors received: The Father McGivney Guild 1 Columbus Plaza New Haven, CT 06510-3326 • USA www.fathermcgivney.org

Painting by Ches Fagen © Knights of Colum



Knights of Columbus*







2025



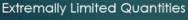
Available After Mass





Knights Exclusive Offer Christmas Rosary \$15.00









Our Lady of Mount Carmel Knights of Columbus Council #15821

Bags Distributed Dec 6th & 7th After Mass Food Collected Dec 13th & 14th Before Mass



What We Need

Food Items Most In Need :

Pinto Beans - Dry Canned Goods (meat, soup, veggies, fruit) Rice - Dry Cereal (store brand OK) Pasta (any kind) Maseca (flour tortilla mix)

Other Needed Food Items

Saltines (or similar crackers) Peanut Butter, Jam, Jelly Cans of Juice (46 oz) Canned Tomatoes Jars of Baby Food Cooking Oil (48 oz)

Biggest Non-Food Item Need

Diapers (sizes 5 & 6)

Cash or Checks are also accepted, Make Checks Payable to "Guadalupe Social Services"

Benefits Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities, Venice Diocese









Immokalee Food Drive

Bag Hand Out After Mass

Dec 6th & 7th

Food Collection Before Mass

Dec 13th & 14th

We could use your help!!!

Please contact Knight Horatio Hoggard hchoggard@gmail.com or 941-720-3472

Thanks For Your Support





VALENTINES FOR VETERANS

- 🖈 Saturday February 14, 2026
- 🖈 Doors Open at 5:00 PM
- multiple mark that Dinner at 6:00 PM
- 🦟 San Pedro Parish Activity Center 14380 Tamiami Trail, North Port
- DINNER INCLUDES BAKED PASTA WITH MEATBALLS, SALAD, BREAD AND DESSERT BYOB Entertainment provided by

BIG TIME ENTERTAINMENT

Plus Basket Drawing, 50/50 Raffle, Silent Auction

Tickets \$35 Per Person

PROCEEDS BENEFIT

LOCAL AND STATE

OUR VETERANS

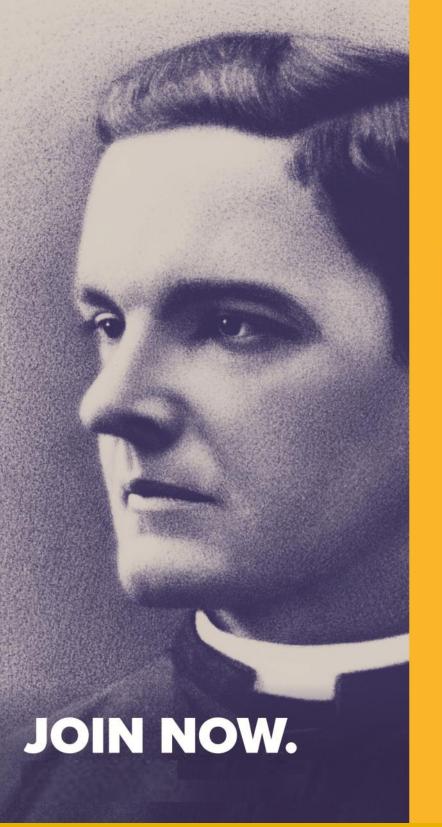
CONTACT: GEORGE BARBIERO 203-885-823

For Tickets or Sponsorship Opportunities

EVENT HOSTED BY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS **Bishop Charles** ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT

McLaughlin Assembly 1818





FIND YOUR MISSION.

Founded by Blessed
Michael McGivney in 1882,
the Knights of Columbus
empowers Catholic men to
become faith-filled leaders in
their families and communities.

Join more than 2 million
Knights around the world and
take the next step in
strengthening your faith,
protecting your family and
serving your neighbor.



To learn more about the OLMC Knights of Columbus,
Please reach out to John Canevari
941-441-5242 or johncjac1@gmail.com
or see any Knight