



**Knights of
Columbus®**



**Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Osprey , FL
Council #15821
December 2025 Newsletter**



**Knights of
Columbus®**

A Very Merry Christmas

& a Happy New Year

to you all !!!



Luke 2 : 8-14

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. and this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

***"Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."***



Words of Wisdom

by Grand Knight Chuck Donelson



GOD GAVE HIS ONLY SON ...

How many of us who went to Catholic Grade School remember the Nuns constantly reminding us that it is better to give than to receive? I never believed them until about 6th Grade when I finally became brainwashed. In the same vane, years later when our Pastor would get up on “Money-talk Sunday” he constantly reminded everyone that God pays back exponentially. “If you increase your weekly contribution by \$1.00, it is likely that you will receive it back many times over!” No one believed him, but who were we to contradict the Pastor of our parish?

I personally think nothing has changed:

On Giving Tuesday, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, many organizations and companies make a myriad of promises that things will improve if only you contribute \$35.00, or more, today.

When you look at your mail on any day of any week, what percent of your mail is actually someone asking for money?

Remember when all of the news websites on the Internet were free?

Remember when a cup of coffee was \$0.15?

Have you noticed that most “hot” sales are not really a “hot” price, but a large percentage discount? The question becomes a discount from what?

I think the real spirit of giving is really something else. I do remember when the Pastors of most churches changed from family’s weekly contribution to the Church to a new strategy called Time, Talent and Treasure. My Dad told me that this was simply getting much more by giving something other than money. I believe that our next door neighbor had a better idea as he thought that any combination of the three was important. If you did not have the Treasure, Time or Talent is also acceptable. I thought that my neighbor had the correct conclusion.

So, let me share a couple of numbers that you may be interested in:

Our parishioners gave over \$100,000 in food and financial contributions to the Guadalupe Missions in Immokalee in 2025.

These same parishioners gave over \$50,000 in Christmas gifts and financial support to the same Guadalupe Missions in Immokalee in the last month.

Knights of Columbus Council 15821 raised and donated over \$42,000 to various charities and institutions in 2024-2025.

Knights of Columbus Council 15821 donated countless hours of labor for Parish and Council events including the Lenten Dinners, maintenance and upkeep of Tillotson Hall, supporting and delivering our parishioner’s donations to Guadalupe Missions. If we also include all of the assistance that Knights provide the Parish through the many ministries of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, that number grows significantly.

Knights of Columbus Council 15821 helped raise over \$50,000 in two years to help support the Deacon Tom Grant Scholarship Fund.

Giving is a habit that many Catholics seem to come by intuitively. God the Father gave his only son to mankind to show His love for us. Jesus’ ministry over a short three years showed the same love for his fellow man that he gave his human life for the forgiveness of our sins. I think that this is a prime example of leadership in “setting the example” of what should be expected. I would say that many of our fellow Knights fit this description well. Don’t you think so too?

Star Council



2023-2024



2024-2025



2022-2023



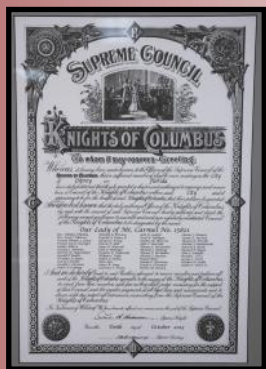
3 Years in a row !!!

Congratulations to every Knight in
Council #15821

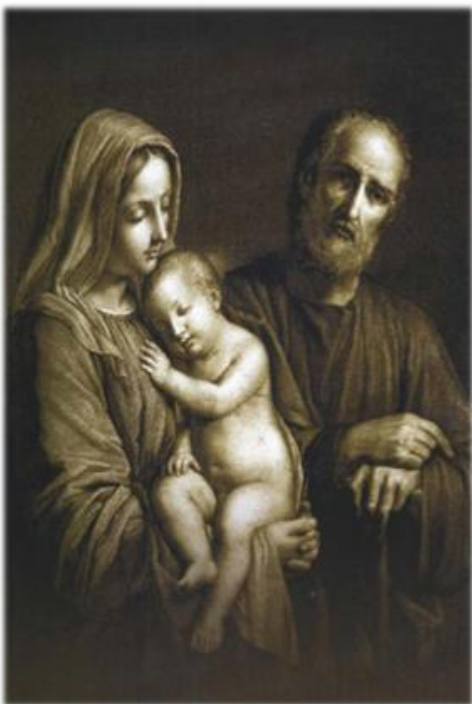
Its takes all of us to make this happen !!!

Double Star Council

Star Awards recognize outstanding achievement in membership, insurance, programming, and overall operations. Earning a Star Award is the marker of a high performing Knights of Columbus unit and the goal to which every council, district, and assembly should strive. Star Council, Star District and Star Assembly Awards can be earned by completing criteria designed specifically for each division of the Knights of Columbus.



Since our councils founding on October 10th, 2013 ,
the council has earned the STAR award **7** times.



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.



**Knights of
Columbus®**
**Florida
State Council**





Chaplain's Minute



Reflection: The Sacred Heart Icon and the Love of God in this Advent Season.

As we approach the final days before Christmas, our hearts naturally turn toward the mystery of God's love revealed in the Incarnation. The birth of Christ is the ultimate sign that God "so loved the world" that He entered into our humanity to redeem us. In this sacred season, it is profoundly fitting that the Sacred Heart Icon is among us, traveling from council to council across the country. This image of Christ's Heart reminds us that His love is not abstract—it is personal, burning with mercy and tenderness for each of us.

The Knights of Columbus Pilgrim Icon Program invites us to encounter this love through prayer, particularly in the Holy Hour structured around the Sacred Heart. The prayer booklet accompanying the icon provides a beautiful rhythm for this time of devotion. It begins with an Introduction, which sets the tone by reminding us that the Sacred Heart is a symbol of Christ's total self-giving. His Heart is pierced and aflame, signifying both His suffering and His passionate love for humanity. This devotion calls us not only to contemplate His love but to respond with our own love and by our repentance and conversion.

The Holy Hour unfolds in several parts: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, prayers and litanies, Scripture readings, reflections, and time for silent adoration. Each element draws us deeper into communion with Christ. The Litany of the Sacred Heart is particularly powerful, as it names the many ways Christ's Heart is present to us—patient, generous, source of consolation, and fountain of mercy. These invocations remind us that the Heart of Jesus is not distant; it beats for us here and now.

The reflections in the booklet comes from Pope Francis's last encyclical *Dilexit Nos* ("He Loved Us"), which emphasizes that devotion to the Sacred Heart is rooted in Scripture and Tradition. It is not merely sentimental; it is a profound theological truth. The Heart of Jesus reveals the inner life of God—a love that is faithful, sacrificial, and transformative. As *Dilexit Nos* explains, this devotion calls us to imitate Christ's love in our own lives, especially through acts of charity and reparation. In a world often marked by indifference and division, the Sacred Heart reminds us that love is stronger than hatred and that mercy triumphs over sin.

As we stand on the threshold of Christmas, these truths take on special meaning. The Child in the manger is the same Lord whose Heart was pierced on Calvary and now reigns in glory. His coming at Bethlehem was an act of love so radical that it changed the course of history. To gaze upon the Sacred Heart Icon in these days before Christmas is to be reminded that the love which began in the stable continues to flow from His Heart today.

May this Holy Hour that we just celebrated yesterday (at the time of writing this) and the presence of the Sacred Heart Icon in these days inspire us to open our hearts more fully to Christ. Let us allow His love to transform us, so that we, as Knights and as Catholic men, may bring that love into our families, parishes, and communities. In doing so, we honor the Heart of Jesus and prepare a fitting dwelling for Him this Christmas.

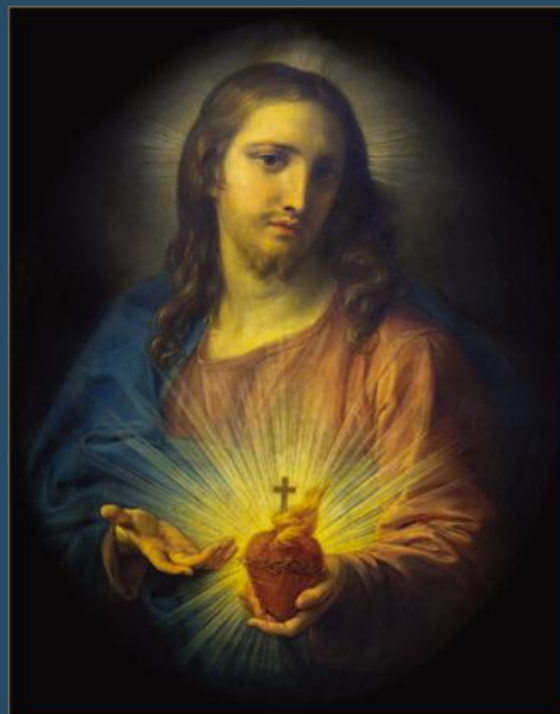
The Sacred Heart icon is with us through Monday, 22nd December and I would warmly encourage all Knights to make a special visit in the next few days to reflect on this beautiful image and the season of joy that we are about to enter.

May God bless you all abundantly as we near the Christmas season.

With prayers and best wishes,

Fr. Anthony





Sacred Heart Holy Hour



On Thursday December 18th, 2025

OLMC Knights of Columbus

Council #15821

Hosted the Sacred Heart Holy Hour Service.

The service was a great addition to our

Advent season.

Prayer to the Sacred Heart

O Sacred Heart of Jesus,
living and quickening source of eternal life,
infinite treasure of the Divinity,
and burning furnace of divine love,
You are my refuge and my sanctuary.

O my amiable Savior,
consume my heart with that burning fire
with which Your Heart is ever inflamed;
pour down on my soul those graces
which flow from Your love;
and let my heart be so united with Yours
that our wills may be one,
and that mine may be
entirely conformed to Yours.

May Your divine will be equally the standard
and rule of all my desires and of all my actions.
Amen.

Sacred Heart of Jesus
Painting by Francesco Bottini (1707)
Church of the Gesù, Rome
Photo by Tomasz Rębalak



Lecturer's Minute



Three Sons and a Bundle of Sticks



Sir Knight Darwin Reeck

Once upon a time, an old man lived with his three sons in a village. The three sons were hard workers, but still, they quarreled all the time.

The old man tried a lot to unite them, but he failed. The villagers appreciated their hard work and efforts, but they made fun of them in their fights.

Months passed by, and the old man fell sick.

He told his sons to stay united, but they didn't listen to him. So, he decided to teach them a practical lesson so they would forget their differences and stay united.

The old man called his sons. He told them, "I will give you a bundle of sticks. Separate each stick, and you will have to break each stick into two. The one who breaks the sticks quickly will be rewarded more." The sons agreed.

The old man gave each of them a bundle of 10 sticks and asked them to break each stick into pieces.

They broke the sticks into pieces in minutes. And again, they started to quarrel about who came in first.

The old man said, "Dear sons, the game is not over. Now I will give another bundle of sticks to each of you. You will have to break the sticks as a bundle, not as separate sticks."

The sons agreed again and tried to break the bundle of sticks. Though they tried their best, they could not break the bundle. They failed to complete the task. The three sons reported their failure to their father.

The old man replied, "Dear sons, see! You could easily break the single sticks into pieces, but you could not break the bundle! So if you stay united, nobody can do any harm to you. If you quarrel every time with your brothers, anyone can easily defeat you." And so the father suggested that they stick together.

The three sons understood the power of unity and promised their father they would stay together, whatever the situation.

The moral of the story:

**When solving problems, it's much easier to work together as a group
rather than spend all that time bickering!**



Pancake Breakfast

Sunday - Dec 21st, 2025

After All Sunday Masses

Merry Christmas

Thank You for your support !!!

FREE !!!



Pancakes
Eggs
Fruit Cup
Sausage Patty
Coffee
Orange Juice



Deacon Tom Status Report

November 2025

	Revenue	Expense	Margin
Other Donations	1,520.00		1,520.00
Christmas Dance	3,765.33	95.52	3,669.81
Thank You Cards		49.20	(49.20)
Grand Total	5,285.33	144.72	5,140.61

Council Status Report

November 2025

	Revenue	Expense	Margin
50-50 Gen Mtgs	100.00		100.00
Badges / Shirts		114.76	(114.76)
Dues	160.00		160.00
Knight's Breakfast	670.00	250.12	419.88
Mtg Refreshments		117.50	(117.50)
Taxes / Fees		49.34	(49.34)
Raffle Tickets	20.00		20.00
Keep Christ in Christmas	1,085.00		1,085.00
Tillotson Hall Improvements		341.33	(341.33)
Christmas Cards	100.00		100.00
Tootsie Roll Drive		169.06	(169.06)
Citizenship Party		242.18	(242.18)
Event Inventory		354.06	(354.06)
Grand Total	2,135.00	1,638.35	496.65



Monthly McGivney Message



Tuesday, December 9

December Grace and Grief

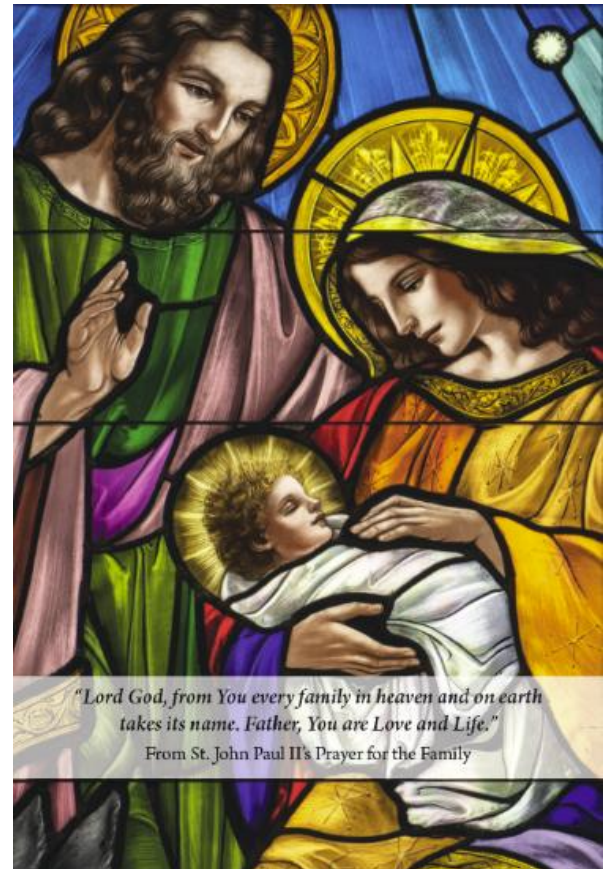
In his 13 years of priesthood, Father McGivney had many joyful December days, and some sad ones as well.

On the happy side was his priestly ordination, Dec. 22, 1877, in America's first Catholic cathedral, now known as the Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore. After four years of preparation at the nation's first Catholic seminary, he was ordained by Archbishop James Gibbons, who later became a cardinal and the leading American church figure of his time. After ordination, Father McGivney took a train to his hometown of Waterbury, Connecticut, to offer his first solemn Mass for Christmas, with his widowed mother and some siblings attending. Imagine the joy yet gentle pressure on the new priest as he went through the elaborate rituals of the Christmas Mass before a hometown crowd!

Years later, grief tempered the joy of Christmas preparations when his mother died on Dec. 8, 1888, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Now a seasoned pastor in Thomaston, Father McGivney traveled back to Waterbury to offer the Requiem Mass – a grateful and dutiful son to his earthly mother, Mary Lynch McGivney, and his spiritual mother, the Church.

As we make our own pilgrimage through this month that culminates in the Christmas Octave, let us ask Blessed Michael McGivney for guidance amid our joys and sorrows and prepare for the true focus of Advent, the Second Coming of Jesus.

Brian Caulfield
Vice Postulator
guild@kofc.org



Faith In Action



FAITH



COMMUNITY



FAMILY



LIFE



Knights of Columbus
**FOURTH
DEGREE**
Patriotic degree of the Order.

#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.

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

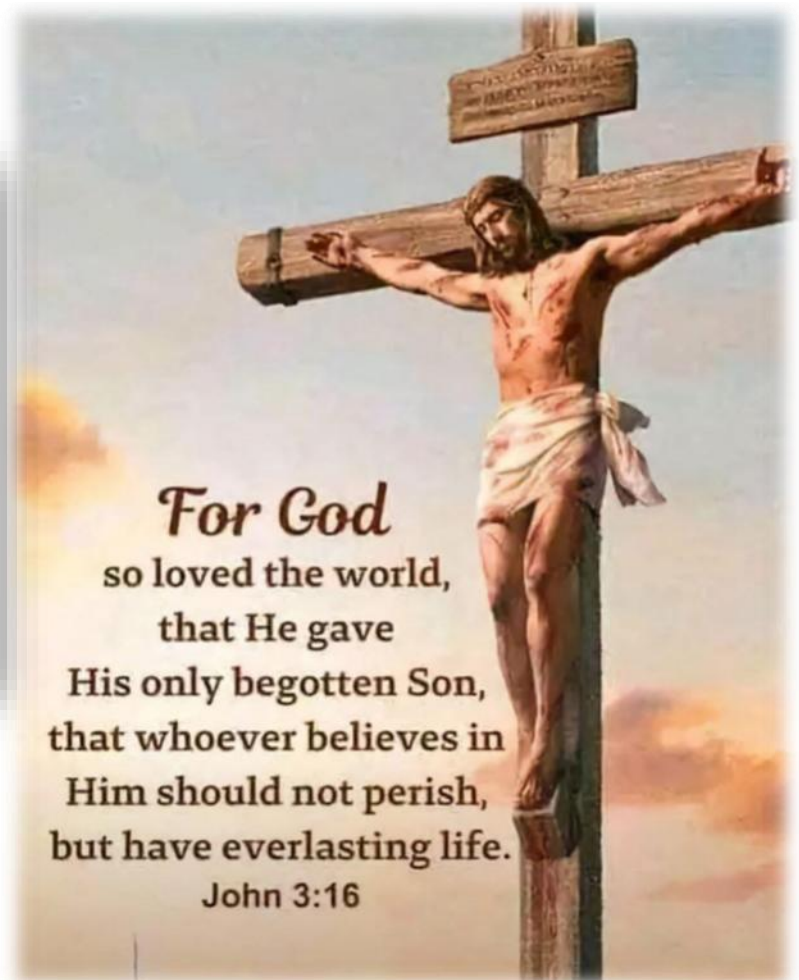
Sat, Feb 14 – Valentine for Vets Dinner/Dance Starts at 5:30 PM San Pedro Social Hall

If interested in becoming a 4th degree Sir Knight,

please contact Joe Frech at [703-505-3153](tel:703-505-3153) or frech.j1959@gmail.com.



Assembly #1818





Knights of Columbus
**FOURTH
DEGREE**
Patriotic degree of the Order.

Assembly #1818



The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Epiphany Cathedral

The Color Corps of the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree stood tall and reverent at Epiphany Cathedral during the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The bilingual Mass celebrated in both Spanish and English, though primarily in Spanish was a beautiful testament to the universality of our faith. Following the liturgy, the faithful processed joyfully to the school courtyard, where a traditional Mexican feast awaited. There was fun, laughter, and fellowship as we shared in the richness of culture and devotion.

The celebration recalled the miraculous appearance of the Blessed Mother to the humble peasant Juan Diego at Tepeyac in Mexico in 1531. Her image imprinted on his tilma became a powerful sign of God's love and Mary's maternal care. For the Mexican people, this vision was more than a miracle it was a message of dignity, hope, and unity. Our Lady of Guadalupe embraced a nation in its struggles and became a symbol of faith that transcends borders and generations.

As we honored Our Lady of Guadalupe, we were reminded that Mary always points us to her Son, Jesus Christ. Just as she comforted Juan Diego and uplifted the Mexican people, she continues to walk with us today, bringing peace, joy, and courage to live our faith boldly. May we, like Juan Diego, answer her call with humility and trust, carrying the message of God's love into our communities with steadfast devotion.



#1818 Color Corps

SK Anthony Hopfinger

SK Lou Nagy





OLMC Council #15821

Fr. Anthony Armstrong
Knight of the Month
Dec 2025



**Knights of
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OLMC Council #15821

Horatio & Adriana Hoggard
Family of the Month


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On February 23rd 2026
 Mass will be celebrated
 for the soul of
Deacon Tom Grant
 at the request of
Council 15821
A. J. Armstrong
 Fr. Anthony Armstrong, O. Carm.
 Pastor





OLMC
Knights of Columbus
Council #15821



Christmas Dinner & Dance





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



**Tickets
On Sale
Now !!!**





The Deacon Tom Grant Memorial Scholarship Committee sends a huge thank you to all our parishioners and friends who donated and supported our fund-raising events. Over the last four months your generosity has brought us an unaudited amount of over \$12,600 in donations. You have given us a huge advance in our goal to build a self-sustaining fund for our children seeking a Catholic education. May God continue to bless you and the Deacon Tom Grant Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Merry Christmas !!!



**"Investing in Futures
Guided by Faith"**



From Saint Nicholas to Santa Claus: A Catholic Reflection on a Beloved Figure

Every December, homes across America are filled with images of a jolly man in a red suit, bearing gifts and laughter. For many families—Catholic and otherwise—the figure of *Santa Claus* has become inseparable from the celebration of Christmas. Yet behind the cultural icon stands a real saint of the Church: **St. Nicholas of Myra**, a fourth-century bishop whose heroic charity continues to echo through the centuries.

As Catholics, rediscovering the roots of Santa Claus is not merely a historical curiosity, it is a reminder that the heart of our Christmas traditions spring from the witness of a saint who modeled the merciful love of Christ.

The Real Saint Nicholas: Bishop, Confessor, Wonder-Worker

St. Nicholas was born in the late third century in Patara, in what is now Turkey. Orphaned at a young age, he inherited substantial wealth—wealth he saw not as personal possession but as a gift entrusted to him for others. Guided by the Gospel admonition to care for “the least of these,” Nicholas became known for his **quiet and generous charity**, given secretly and without fanfare.

One of the most beloved stories tells of Nicholas secretly providing dowries for three impoverished young women, one at a time, saving each of them from a life of destitution. When the father of the young women stayed awake for two days to catch the mysterious benefactor in the act of giving the third dowry, he fell on his knees in gratitude for what Nicholas had been doing. St. Nicholas only asked that the father keep his actions a secret (which he presumably did not do). In this moment we see clearly the saint’s spirit: a shepherd after Christ’s own heart, who sought to restore dignity and lift burdens in the name of the Lord with true humility.

Nicholas eventually became bishop of Myra, where he continued to be celebrated for his holiness, his defense of the faith (tradition even links him to the Council of Nicaea), and miracles attributed to his intercession. After his death in A.D. 343, devotion to him spread widely across both East and West.



HOW A HOLY BISHOP BECAME "SANTA CLAUS"

The journey from the revered *Saint Nicholas* to the modern American *Santa Claus* was long and layered—a blend of Christian tradition, European folklore, immigration, and the creative imagination of modern culture.

1

Early Christian Devotion Spreads His Fame

As devotion to St. Nicholas grew, so did customs associated with his feast day, **December 6th**. In many European countries, this became a day of gift-giving, especially for children, honoring the saint known for secret generosity.

2

Dutch Traditions Reach the New World

By the time Dutch settlers arrived in America in the 17th century, they brought with them their beloved *Sinterklaas*—a distinctly Dutch pronunciation of “Saint Nicholas.” In their communities, Sinterklaas still resembled a bishop, complete with miter and staff, visiting children to reward virtue.

3

American Culture Reimagines the Saint

Over the 18th and 19th centuries, American writers and artists reshaped the image of Sinterklaas into something new. Washington Irving’s playful writings, Clement Clarke Moore’s famous poem, *A Visit From St. Nicholas* (“’Twas the Night Before Christmas”), and later illustrations by Thomas Nast gradually transformed the saintly bishop into a jolly, round, fur-clad figure traveling by sleigh.

Though his outward appearance changed, many traditions—gift-giving, generosity, childlike wonder, and the spirit of joy—echo the virtues of the original saint.

A Catholic Perspective: Rediscovering the Saint Beneath the Suit

While the American Santa Claus is now a cultural figure rather than a directly religious one, Catholics can still embrace his roots with gratitude. Santa Claus is not simply a symbol of seasonal cheer—he is, at his core, a reminder of *a life shaped by the Gospel*.

St. Nicholas points us back to Christ Himself

His generosity reflects the self-giving love of the Incarnation. His desire to protect the vulnerable echoes the Church’s call to defend human dignity. His humble anonymity in giving reminds us that authentic charity seeks not recognition but communion with God.

When parents tell their children stories about Santa, they can enrich those moments by connecting them to the saint who walked the earth, loved the poor, and lived the virtues we hope to cultivate in our families.

Bringing St. Nicholas Back Into Christmas

Here are a few Catholic ways to honor both St. Nicholas and the joyful traditions that surround him:

- **Celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas on December 6th**, perhaps with shoes left out for small treats or notes highlighting virtues each child has shown.
- **Tell the real stories of St. Nicholas**, emphasizing his love for Christ and the poor.
- **Strongly encourage acts of secret charity**, just as the saint did.
- **Use the image of Santa Claus as a bridge**, helping children understand that behind the cultural figure stands a saint who lived the Gospel with heroic generosity.

From Myra to the North Pole—A Journey of Grace

The American Santa Claus, though wrapped in layers of folklore and cultural evolution, still traces his lineage to a Catholic bishop whose life radiated the love of Christ. As we celebrate the joy of Christmas, we have a unique opportunity to reclaim that spiritual heritage, teaching our children—and reminding our own hearts—that the true meaning of the season is the gift of God Himself.

May St. Nicholas, the Wonder-Worker of Myra, pray for us, that we may become generous witnesses of Christ’s love in our own time.

St. Nicholas, pray for us.



Santa Claus Visits the Vatican.

Each year on the feast of St. Nicholas, the Swiss Guards keep a long-standing tradition. One of the guards dresses as St. Nicholas and walks through the Vatican giving out small gifts.

This year, “St. Nicholas” also visited Pope Leo XIV and offered him a gift.

St. Nicholas was a bishop known for giving help and gifts in secret, especially to the poor.

His life inspired what we now call “Father Christmas” or “Santa Claus.”

The name “Santa Claus” comes from the Latin and old forms of the name Nicholas.

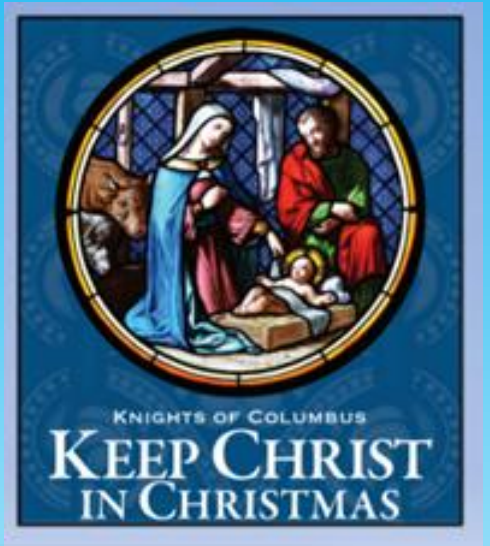
The feast of St. Nicholas on December 6, celebrated close to Christmas, later helped shape the custom of including “Santa Claus” in Christmas celebrations. [See less](#)





Knights of Columbus®

2025 Poster Contest



Myra Bryant



Sofia Sellner



Lukas Sellner



PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN CHILDREN TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



Virgin of Guadalupe,

Patroness of unborn children,
we implore your intercession for
every child at risk of abortion.

Help expectant parents to
welcome from God the
priceless gift of their child's
life. Console parents who
have lost that gift through
abortion, and lead them to
forgiveness and healing
through the Divine Mercy
of your Son. Teach us to
cherish and to care for
family and friends until
God calls them home.

Help us never to see
others as burdens.
Guide our public officials
to defend each and every
human life through just
laws. Inspire us all to bring
our faith into public life, to
speak for those who have no
voice. We ask this in the name
of your Son, Jesus Christ, who
is Love and Mercy itself.



Knights of
Columbus

AMEN.

Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

Optional Memorial

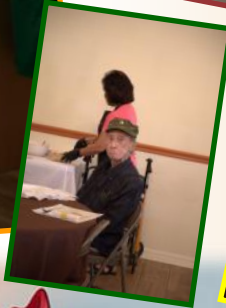
St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (1474–1548) was an Indigenous Mexican convert and visionary associated with the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Born in Cuautlitlán (now part of Mexico City) with the name Cuauhtlatotzin (“the talking eagle”), he belonged to the Chichimeca people. At about fifty, he was baptized by the Franciscan missionary Fr. Peter da Gand.

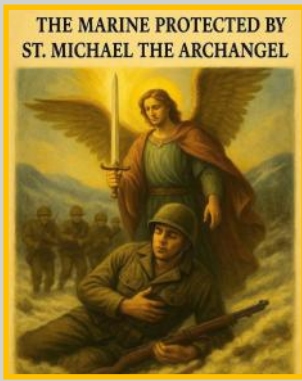
On December 9, 1531, while on his way to Mass, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him on Tepeyac Hill, asking that a shrine be built in her honor. When the local bishop asked for proof, the Virgin directed Juan Diego to gather roses blooming miraculously in winter. He carried them in his cloak (tilma), and when he opened it before the bishop on December 12, the flowers fell, revealing the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe imprinted on the fabric.

Juan Diego spent the remainder of his life as a hermit near the chapel that housed the image, devoting himself to prayer, service, and caring for pilgrims. He died in 1548 and was buried in the first chapel of the Virgin.

The miraculous image, which is preserved in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, shows a woman with native features and dress. She is supported by an angel whose wings are reminiscent of one of the major gods of the traditional religion of that area. The moon is beneath her feet and her blue mantle is covered with gold stars. The black girdle about her waist signifies that she is pregnant. Thus, the image graphically depicts the fact that Christ is to be “born” again among the peoples of the New World, and is a message as relevant to the “New World” today as it was during the lifetime of Juan Diego.^[1]

Juan Diego was canonized on July 31, 2002 by Pope John Paul II in the Basilica of Santa Maria di Guadalupe, Mexico City and is remembered as a humble messenger whose faith and vision continue to inspire devotion throughout the world.





The Marine Protected by St. Michael the Archangel

A Story of Heavenly Intervention During the Korean War

In the winter of 1950, amid the brutal cold and chaos of the Korean War, a young Marine named Michael lay recovering in a military hospital. From his bed, he penned a letter to his mother—a letter that would soon become one of the most extraordinary accounts of angelic protection in modern history.

Michael began by reminding his mother of the devotion she had instilled in him since childhood. Every night before bed, she had taught him to call upon St. Michael the Archangel, Heaven's mighty defender, with the simple but powerful prayer: "St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle..." Even after he became a Marine, facing the harsh realities of war, he never abandoned that devotion. In foxholes, on patrols, and beside dying comrades, he whispered the familiar prayer, trusting that the Prince of the Heavenly Host watched over him.

One day, as his unit marched through freezing, enemy-ridden terrain, something remarkable occurred. A towering Marine—broad-shouldered, calm, and radiating a quiet strength—suddenly appeared at his side. Michael had never seen him before. The stranger introduced himself with a simple, almost knowing smile: "Name's Michael."

The two walked side by side. The newcomer encouraged him, spoke to him with a brotherly confidence, and then said with sudden firmness, "Stay alert. Trouble ahead." Before Michael could ask more, the world erupted in gunfire.

An enemy ambush exploded around them.

Michael dove for the ground instinctively—but the Marine beside him remained standing tall and unshaken, bullets tearing through the air yet leaving him untouched. Confused and terrified, Michael tried to move, but a sudden shot struck him, and he collapsed in the snow. As his vision blurred, he felt two powerful arms catch him—arms that held him with both strength and gentleness.

When he looked up, what he saw defied earthly explanation.

The Marine called Michael now shone with an unearthly radiance. A brilliant light surrounded him, and in his hand he held a sword—not of steel, but of pure fire and glory. With sweeping, majestic strokes, he moved toward the enemy soldiers. Michael could hear their screams—and then silence.

Hours later, when the patrol found him, Michael tried to explain what had happened. His sergeant, shaken and confused, insisted that the young Marine had been entirely alone. No other Marine had been seen with him that day. And when they inspected the bodies of the enemy soldiers nearby, they discovered something impossible: not a single bullet wound among them—only deep, clean slashes, as though struck by a mighty blade.

The story traveled quickly throughout the Marine Corps, and soon reached the ears of military chaplain Fr. Walter Muldy. After meeting with the young Marine and examining the testimony, Fr. Muldy affirmed publicly that the account was true. It was, he believed, a profound and unmistakable act of divine intervention.

To this day, the story of the Marine protected by St. Michael the Archangel continues to strengthen the faith of soldiers, families, and believers around the world. It stands as a powerful reminder that God does not abandon those who call upon Him, and that the Archangel Michael—commander of Heaven's armies—still defends, protects, and fights for those who invoke his aid with faith, humility, and trust.

"St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle..."



January Birthdays

This page represents 1,655 years on God's green earth.

James Campbell

Tom Hall

Terry Kasten

Fred Madigan

John Tyrrell

Harry Antrim

Steve Garza

Brian Morrissey

Harvey Gracz

Charles Hall

Bruce Crisman PGK

Horatio Hoggard

Joe Frech

Dave Hankey

Tom McDermitt

Tony Hopfinger PGK

Georg Somborn

Norburt Bruns

Nickolas Caringi

Stewart McEntee

Harold Jackson

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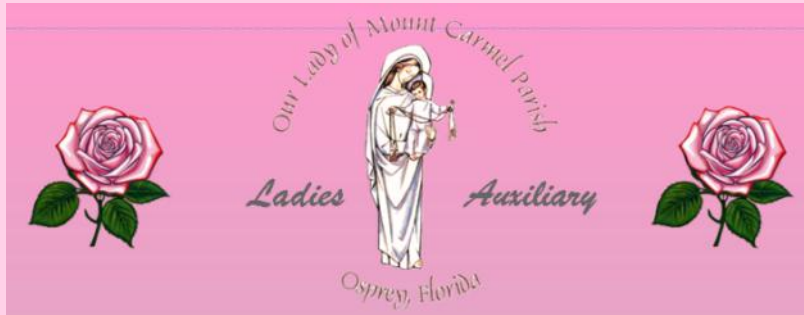
941-786-7742

al.castillejo@kofc.org



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Merry Christmas one and All!

This time of year is bust for everyone celebrating and waiting for Christmas.

Savor the anticipation of the arrival of Christ. Check out Waiting Well from Fr. Mike

Schmidt. A month of short Advent prayers and reflections that are not usual but beautiful. :

12/17 Genesis 49:8

Today, offer someone praise or encouragement where it is due, particularly if it is someone about whom we struggle to think well. Offer God a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of that person in your life.

12/18 Matthew 1:24

What task have you been putting off for fear that you won't do it well? Ask the Holy Spirit to banish that fear, and then resolve today to make at least a little bit of progress on that task.

12/19 Luke 1:25

In which areas do we need to be kinder to ourselves (being patient with our spiritual progress, forgiving ourselves for things we have already confessed, or accepting a particular wound or weakness and offering it to the Lord to be healed)?

12/20 Luke 1:30

There are three kinds of fear: natural (fight or flight, life preserving fear), sinful (excessive and immoderate fear), and religious (fear of the Lord's power). Do you have any fears that you're giving power to that should belong to God? Identify this fear so that you can work on returning this power to God.

12/21 Fourth Week of Advent 1 Chronicles 4:10

asking God to extend your boundaries. Ask God to help you see as he sees and to expand your desires to encompass what he wants for you.

12/22 1 Samuel 2:6-7

How can you stretch yourself to give a little bit more than usual during this season of Advent (for example, tithing, donating time or labor, or giving away items to those who need them more than you)?

12/23 Malachi 3:1-2

Reflect on ways you are anticipating God's move or putting limits on his power. Ask him to help you reject the lie that he will not do anything new in your life or that you are "stuck in a loop." Ask him instead to affirm in your heart the truth that he makes all things new.

12/24 Luke 1:68

Write down some of the greatest blessings you received this Advent. Thank God for these and for the gift of your faith. Reflect on his gifts to you this season to deepen your trust in his continued providence.

12/25 Christmas Day Psalm 97:11-12

Meditate upon the scene of the Nativity, putting yourself in the place of some of the participants. In what ways do you feel like the shepherds, coming to Christ with little to offer? In what ways are you as the innkeeper, shutting Christ out of your heart and not wanting him to dramatically change aspects of your life? Conclude your prayer by thanking Jesus for the gift of his birth and spending a few moments in silent adoration, gazing upon him lovingly like Mary and Joseph did

Our December 8 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting was full. Meeting generalities were covered and then the gift swap. Many smiles, swaps and steals. We were served a beautiful chocolate and a fresh fruit trifle prepared by Dee Hamill and Mary Claire Schultz.

December 9 – The ladies met for December's monthly luncheon at The Breakfast Cottage in Nokomis. Always nice to meet for lunch.



December 9 Althea Nagy, Kathee McEntee, Donna Pierson and Margo Antenucci served eleven Priests supper after the very well attended Penance Service.

The next ladies' luncheon will be held on January 13 at 11:30 am. It will be held at Moulin Blanc Café, 55 US 41 Bypass N, Bird Bay Drive, W. Venice FL

January's Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be held on January 5 and will be the Holiday Dinner Celebration. Time will be at 6:00 in Tillotson Hall.

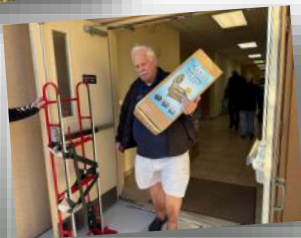
January 13th Giving Tree will be taken down. If you can lend a hand be by the tree after 8:30am mass.

Continue to pray always, about everything; specially for the those less fortunate, ill, suffering adversity or loss, for the souls in purgatory and for the unborn.



Giving Tree Truck

Photos by :
Adriana Hoggard





IMMOKALEE REPORT

Dec 2025



Food Drive



Food Collected : 2520 LBS.

Funds Collected : \$ 1,437.00

Total Value Delivered : \$ 8,997.000

Knight Horatio Hoggard

Community Director—Immokalee Food Drive



*In Service to One.
In Service to All.*

How many Tootsie Rolls are produced a day? —

We are currently producing more than 50 million Tootsie Rolls each day.



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Tickets on Sale Soon!!!

Please Join Us!



**Fr. Anthony's
US Citizenship
Celebration**

\$5.00

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

Tillotson Hall

Date PENDING !!!

Sun 11:30_{am} -3:00_{pm}



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 !!!

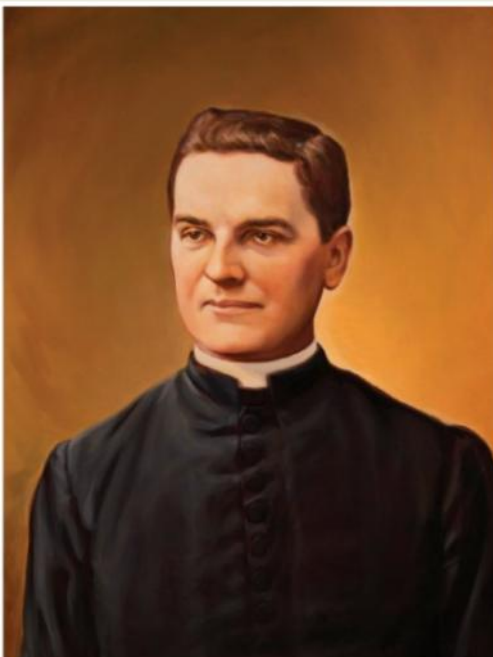
Funeral Mass Ushers	As Needed	Mike LaVecchia	C 631-478-2831
Immokalee Food Drive	Monthly	Horatio Hoggard	C 941-720-3472
Immokalee Food Drive Drivers	Monthly	Mike Monville	C 813-309-0558
KofC Membership Drive	Jan 17th & 18th	John Canevari	C 941-441-5242
Pancake Breakfast Team	Monthly	Bruce Crisman	C 941-232-8450
Pancake Breakfast Set Up	Monthly	Terry Leary	C 619-851-3634
Council #15821 Newsletter	Monthly	Rob Wucki	C 262-646-0855
Spaghetti Dinner	Jan 17th	Don Crandell	C 989-274-6476
Tootsie Roll Drive	Jan 31st & Feb 1st	Don Crandell	C 989-274-6476
Lenten Fish Dinners	Lent (6 weeks)	Mark Callahan	C 401-487-6423



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

On The Cover



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.

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

Painting by Chas Fagan © Knights of Columbus



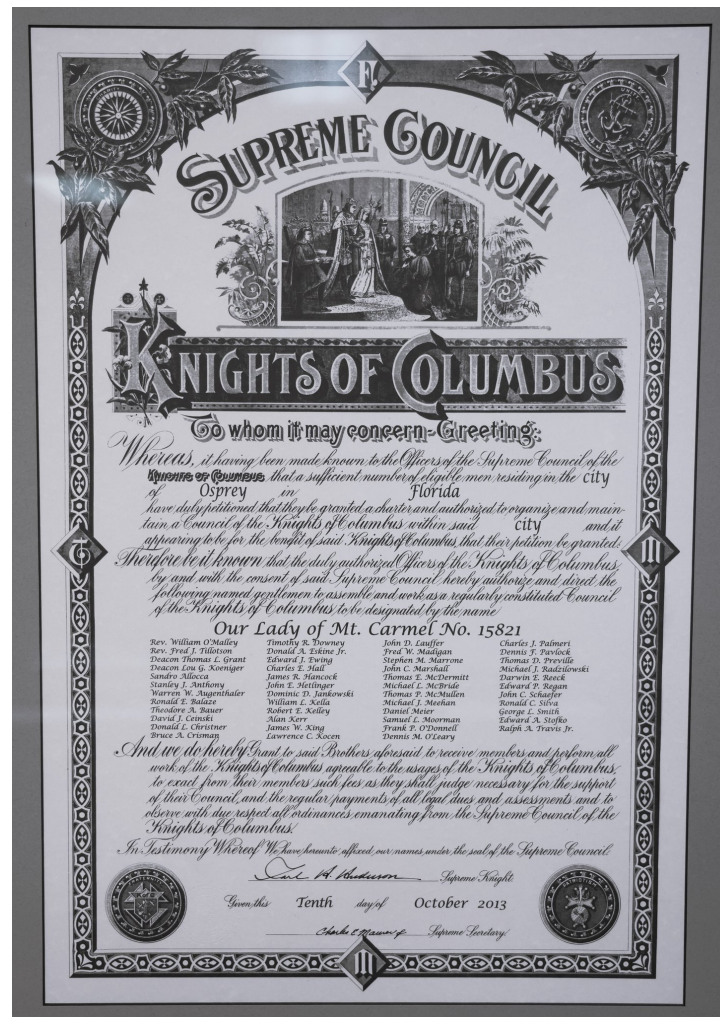
SK Mike LaVecchia & Santa

Celebrate at the Deacon Tom Grant Christmas Party

Council Calendar Jan / Feb 2026



Dec	19th	Knights Breakfast Set Up	Hall	8:30 am
	21st	Knights FREE Breakfast	Hall	After All Masses
	22nd	Scared Heart Icon Leaves	OLMC	TBD
Jan	29th	Officers Meeting	Hall	7:00 pm
	2nd	First Friday Mass	OLMC	8:00 am Mass
	3rd & 4th	Immokalee Food Drive Bags Hand out	OLMC	After All Masses
	8th	Praying of the Holy Rosary	Hall	6:30 pm
		Council Meeting	Hall	7:00 pm
	10th & 11th	Immokalee Food Drive Food Collection	OLMC	Before All Masses
	13th	Take Down Creche	OLMC	After 8:00 am Mass
	14th	Practice Exemplification	Hall	TBD
	15th	Exemplification of the 3rd Degree	Hall	7:00 pm
	16th	Set Up Spaghetti Dinner	Hall	8:30 am
	17th	Spaghetti Dinner	Hall	5:30 pm
	17th & 18th	Knights Membership Drive Weekend	OLMC	All Masses
	23rd	Set Up Knights Breakfast	Hall	8:30 am
	25th	Knights Breakfast	Hall	After All Sun Masses
	26th	Officers Meeting (All Welcome)	Hall	7:00 pm
	31st & 1st	Tootsie Roll Drive	OLMC	All Masses
Feb	5th	Praying of the Holy Rosary	OLMC	6:30 pm
		Full Council Picture	OLMC	6:50 Pm
		Council Meeting	Hall	7:00 pm
	6th	First Friday Mass	OLMC	8:00 am Mass
	6 ,7th & 8th	Tootsie Roll Drive	Publix	All Day
	7th & 8th	Immokalee Food Drive Bags Hand Out	OLMC	After All Masses
	14th & 15th	Immokalee Food Drive Collection	OLMC	Before All Masses
	18th	Ash Wednesday	OLMC	
	20th	Fish Dinner Set up & Dinner 1	Hall	2:00 pm
	21st	Knights Breakfast Set Up	Hall	8:30 am
	22nd	Knights Breakfast	Hall	After All Sun Masses
	23rd	Deacon Ton Grant Mass	OLMC	8:00 am
	23rd	Officers Meeting (All Welcome)	Hall	7:00 pm
	27th	Fish Dinner Set up & Dinner 2	Hall	2: 00 pm



**Our Next Full Council Meeting
is on Thursday, January 8th , 2026
at Tillotson Hall**

Rosary starts at 6:30 pm
Meeting at 7:00 pm
Social at 8:00 pm

CULTURE OF LIFE LUNCHEON

CELEBRATE AND SUPPORT MINISTRIES
THAT WALK ALONGSIDE MOTHERS, FATHERS
AND FAMILIES EVERY SINGLE DAY



Community
Pregnancy
Clinics

SUPPORT
»» AFTER ABORTION

HOSTED BY: THE SAN PEDRO RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY
NORTH PORT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 7997
SAN PEDRO HOLY NAME SOCIETY

JANUARY 18, 2026 - 12:00 PM

SAN PEDRO ACTIVITIES CENTER
14380 TAMiami TRAIL
NORTH PORT, FL 34287

TICKETS \$25



ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE
DIVIDED EQUALLY AMONG
THE PRESENTING CHARITIES

THE CULTURE OF LIFE IS NOT JUST A CAUSE - IT'S A CALLING



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Tickets On Sale Now

**Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday**

Jan 17th, 2026

Menu

**Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad,
Bread & Butter, Beverages**

Dessert

\$20.00

Tillotson Hall
Doors Open 5:30 pm





Knights of
Columbus®



Knights Breakfast

Sunday, Jan 25th

After Each Mass
Tillotson Hall

Menu

Pancakes
Scrambled Eggs
Sausage Patty
Fruit Cup
O.J. / Coffee

\$9.00 adult
Kids eat **FREE !!!**



Immokalee Food Drive

Bag Hand Out After Mass Jan 3rd & 4th
Food Collection Before Mass Jan 10th & 11th

We could use your help !!!

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

Thanks For Your Support



Knights of
Columbus®

Save The Date



#15821 Charity Golf Outting Sat April 18th



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A KNIGHT

We are Catholic men who lead, serve, protect and defend. We share a desire to be better husbands, fathers, sons, neighbors and role models and to put charity and community first.

Recruitment Weekend

Jan 17th & 18th

See Us After ALL Masses to Learn More



**Knights of
Columbus®**

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Council #15821**



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



I then heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send?
Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me!"

Isaiah 6:8



®Tootsie Roll Day

OLMC



**Knights of
Columbus® #15821**

Tootsie Roll Drive

Jan 31st – Feb 1st
After All Masses



Look for the
Knights
Wearing Yellow
Vests!

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





Saturday, April 18, 2026

**at The Waterford Golf Club
Venice, FL**

11TH Annual Charity Golf Outing

7am – 7:45am Registration &

Breakfast by: Chick-fil-A®

**8:30am Shotgun Start
Four Person Scramble**

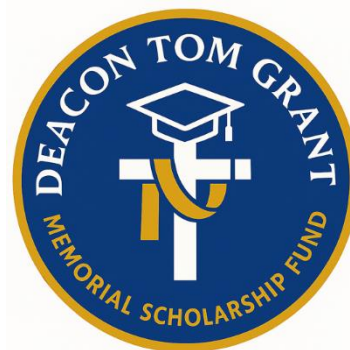
Proceeds to benefit:



**Warriors
TO LOURDES**



**VENICE
PREGNANCY
CENTER
VENICE, FL**



\$125 PER GOLFER INCLUDES:

BREAKFAST, GOLFER'S GIFT PACKAGE
BAG HANDLING, GREENS FEES, 2 BEVERAGE TICKETS
LUNCH SERVED IMMEDIATELY AFTER EVENT

RAFFLES FOR CASH & PRIZES:

50/50, SILENT AUCTIONS, PRIZE DRAWINGS,
GOLF COURSE GIFT CERTIFICATES, THEMED GIFT BASKETS
DOOR PRIZES

CONTESTS:

- **HOLE IN ONE – Sponsored by:**
1st Hole in One Wins a New Car!!!



- **Men & Ladies:**

- Top Teams
- Closest to the line
- Closest to the pin
- and more...



For questions or to make a donation please text or call:

Lou Nagy

Cell: 516-835-4273

Email: lounagy51@gmail.com

Bruce Crisman

Cell: 941-232-8450

Email: gma53crisman@gmail.com

Make check payable to:

Knights of Columbus Council 15821



Saturday, April 18, 2026
at The Waterford Golf Club
Venice, FL

For questions or to make a
general donation please text,
call or email:

Lou Nagy (516) 835-4273
lounagy51gmail.com

Bruce Crisman (941) 232-8450
gma53crisman@gmail.com

**If paying by check, make
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Knights of Columbus
Council 15821

Mail registration to:

Lou Nagy
129 Rimini Way
North Venice, FL 34275

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

\$125 PER GOLFER INCLUDES:


BREAKFAST,
SCRAMBLE FORMAT,
GOLFER'S GIFT PACKAGE,
BAG HANDLING, GREENS FEES,
2 BEVERAGE TICKETS,
LUNCH IMMEDIATELY AFTER EVENT



RAFFLES FOR CASH & PRIZES:

50/50, SILENT AUCTIONS, PRIZE DRAWINGS,
GOLF COURSE GIFT CERTIFICATES, THEMED GIFT BASKETS
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CONTESTS:

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1st Hole in One Wins a New Car!!!
- **Men & Ladies:**
 - Top Teams
 - Closest to the line
 - Closest to the pin
 - and more...

ONLY THE FIRST 120 GOLFERS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Name (1)

Email

Phone

Name (2)

Email

Phone

Name (3)

Email

Phone

Name (4)

Email

Phone



Saturday, April 18, 2026

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Venice, FL**

11TH Annual Charity Golf Outing

Proceeds to benefit:



**Warriors
TO LOURDES**



**VENICE
PREGNANCY
CENTER**
VENICE, FL



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Email: lounagy51@gmail.com

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Email: gma53crisman@gmail.com

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lounagy51gmail.com

Bruce Crisman (941) 232-8450
gma53crisman@gmail.com

**If paying by check, make
payable to:**

Knights of Columbus
Council 15821

Mail registration to:

(or we can coordinate pick up at your convenience)

Bruce Crisman
108 Cavallini Drive
Nokomis, FL 34275

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MEAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

LUNCH SPONSOR \$2000 ☐

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DRINK SPONSOR \$1000 ☐

Includes: 2-hole signs, Lunch & opportunity to speak to participants, PowerPoint Presentation, Listing in Program, Sponsors Banner, Certificate of Appreciation, Sponsored Drink Tickets, Business Cards in Golfer Gift Package

BREAKFAST SPONSOR \$500 ☒



Includes: 2-hole signs, PowerPoint Presentation, Listing in Program, Certificate of Appreciation, Table Sign, Business Cards in Golfer Gift Package

