

April 2026



Newsletter

St. Joseph Catholic Church Council #2505



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A Message from our Worthy Grand Knight - Scott Philips

Worthy Brothers,

As we leave the season of Lent and enter the Easter season, I am filled with gratitude. I am still often amazed, and always humbled, to be Grand Knight. It's an honor and a privilege. This role can be challenging, but truthfully, I am so lucky to be surrounded by such great people. Every member of this team has been supportive, and the help I receive every day has made a nearly impossible job not only possible, but rewarding as well. I enjoy taking part in our activities, and I get to see first-hand the good things we can achieve as we work together.

Our combined efforts have benefited so many, and I know we are looking forward to helping those in need, and promoting our faith, for many years to come. Thanks to all of you that have been a part of this. Everyone contributes as they are able, and every contribution matters.

We wrapped up our Lenten fish fries on March 27th. I cannot overstate how impressed I am with our team. We had all the support we needed to run a successful night every single week. So many Knights came out to help. Many were there every time. This willingness to get involved, to give up a Friday night to serve others, is the reason we have such a successful council. When we come up with a plan, there are members ready to put that plan into action.

After all of the work of the fish fries, we are looking to do a couple of fun things in the next few months. We will keep everyone posted as our ideas come together.

Thanks again to the entire team for all that you do. I wish everyone a joyous Easter season.

Vivat Jesus

Scott Phillips GK

Dates to Remember

April 2nd Holy Thursday

April 3rd Good Friday

April 4th Holy Saturday

April 5th Easter Sunday

April 6nd ~ 6:30pm
Officers Meeting Rm. 103

April 13th ~ 6:00pm
Rosary Rm. 102

April 13th. 6:30pm
Council Meeting Rm. 102

April 20th 6:00pm
4th Degree Meeting at
Resurrection Church

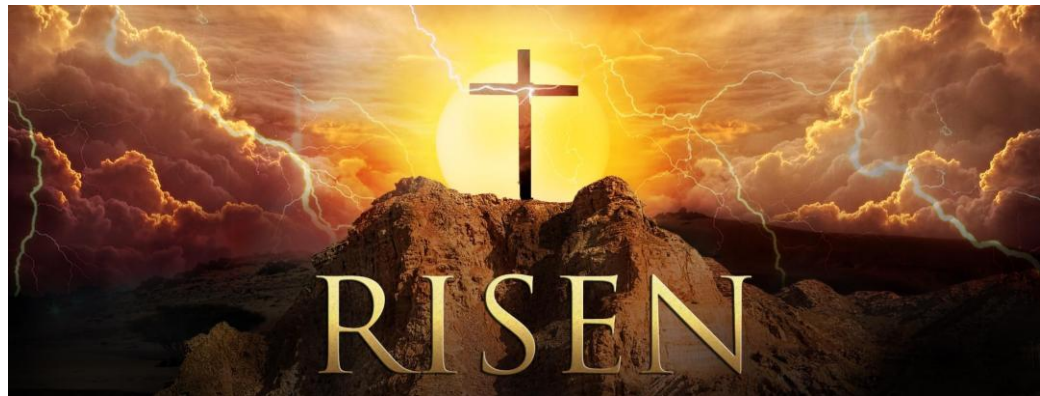
May 9th 10am to 2pm
ROAR Florida Tour and
Resident Cookout



A Call for Volunteers

Please see the upcoming volunteer opportunities listed below and let us know where you can help.

Date	Event	Contact
Apr 2 nd	Holy Thursday 7pm	Pastoral Office
Apr 3 rd	Good Friday 3pm	Pastoral Office
Apr 4 th	Easter Vigil 8pm	Pastoral Office
Apr 5 th	Easter Sunday 9am & 11am Masses	Pastoral Office
May 3 rd	Pancake Breakfast	Scott Phillips smphillips1965@yahoo.com
May 30 th	ROAR Cookout & Resident Dance	Ken Dauphinais kendauph@outlook.com
Ongoing	AV Help at Mass / Will Train	kendauph@outlook.com



How to Access the Council's Website

Google or Search: uknight council 2505

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the Blue tab for Members Only. The User Name is your membership number, and your Password is your date of birth.

Example: Month (2 digits) Day (2 digits) Year (4 digits).

Once logged in you can find:

- Meeting Minutes
- Newsletters
- Members Birthdays
- Family of the Month Nominations
- Prayer Requests
- Member Lists – You can email from here
- Share comments or ideas with Officers
- Keep track of Volunteer Hours

On the Home page you can find calendars, photos, Catholicism, About our Council, Fr. McGivney, etc.

If you need help, please call Mark Sagen @ 815-791-8352

St. Joseph C.C. Parish News & Info

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

- Every Wednesday from 9:00am to 11:45am in the Church.
- Every Friday from 1:00pm to 6:00pm in the Holy Family Chapel.
- Every third Monday of the month in Spanish starting at 6:30pm in the Church.

First Friday Adoration with Evening Prayer of the Blessed Sacrament

- Every First Friday of the month at 6:00pm in the Church

Reconciliation Saturday

2:45 -3:45pm English

5:30 – 6:15pm Spanish

stjosephlakeland.org



Our Catholic Appeal 2026

Blessed are they who seek Him with all their heart. We are blessed because we are created by God for God – we are gifted to serve God in all that we do.

You may visit ourcatholicappeals.org to view Bishop Noonan's homily video, read the Our Catholic Appeal brochure, and learn more about the life-changing impact of your gifts.

If you have already received your packet and pledge form in the mail, please complete the pledge form and mail it in the envelope provided or bring it to Mass with you next weekend. You may also go online to ourcatholicappeal.org to make your pledge or gift. For those who prefer to give later in the year, please share your intent on the pledge form. This will help us track our progress earlier so we can budget appropriately for the new fiscal year beginning July.

Our parish goal is \$159,194. Once we achieve this goal, most additional funds will be returned to our parish to support our own needs.

Blessed are they
who **seek Him** with
all their heart.

 Our Catholic Appeal



Council #2505 News

Annual Election of Officers

According to our bylaws, the election of officers is held each year at the June meeting. Two months before the election (i.e., the April meeting), the Grand Knight appoints a Nominating Committee of three members. If you're interested in serving on the committee, email Scott, the Grand Knight and let him know.

The Nominating Committee will canvass the membership to see who is interested in serving in the various offices, and propose a slate of candidates at the May meeting.

Offices up for election:

- Grand Knight
- Deputy Grand Knight
- Chancellor
- Recorder
- Treasurer
- Advocate
- Warden
- Inside Guard
- Outside Guard
- First Year Trustee



Anyone interested in serving should reach out to the Nominating Committee and let your interest be known. The slate tendered by the Nominating Committee is not definitive; any member may make a nomination from the floor at the June meeting, and officers are thereafter elected by a vote of the members. Watch this spot for the names and contact information of the Nomination Committee after the April meeting.

Knights in Action

Join us on Saturday, May 30th at ROAR Florida, (formerly Noah's Ark) 500 Inspiration Dr. Lakeland where the Knights and Columbiettes will provide a cookout and dance party for the residents and staff. Bring your family members for an unforgettable day. If you haven't had an opportunity to visit this incredible facility in the past, now is your chance. You'll be able to meet the residents, tour the facility, play games, and have a great buffet lunch provided by the Knights and Columbiettes. Later in the day, we will be hosting a dance for the residents, and Mark Sagen will be the DJ. Feel free to stay and enjoy the dance. More details to come.

ROAR Florida empowers individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities and helps them discover and fulfill their greatest potential.



Council #2505 News



A Message from our Worthy District Deputy Billy Antley

Building the Brotherhood: Growing Membership in the Knights of Columbus

Recruiting new members is more than a task, it is an opportunity to strengthen the brotherhood and expand the good works of the Knights of Columbus. Growth enables councils to deepen their impact, meeting the increasing needs of their communities with faith, unity, and charity. Now more than ever, both our communities and our councils depend on committed men stepping forward to serve.

One of the most effective recruitment tools is simple: a personal invitation. When one Knight reaches out to another man and invites him to join, it carries authenticity and meaning. Each member should take on the challenge of bringing in at least one new Knight this fraternal year. The reality is, everyone knows someone who would be a great addition to the Order, they may just be waiting to be asked.

Structured efforts like Membership Drives are also highly effective, often bringing in an average of three new members per event. Councils unfamiliar with the process can benefit from reviewing tools like the Church Drive Checklist, which outlines the key steps to organizing a successful drive. With preparation and teamwork, these events can yield meaningful results.

Beyond formal drives, every council activity presents a recruitment opportunity. Fish fries, pancake breakfasts, and charitable events are living examples of the Knights in action. These gatherings showcase the impact of the Order and provide a natural setting to invite others to get involved. Make it a priority to talk about membership at every event throughout the year.

Many men share that they waited years, sometimes decades for someone to invite them to join. Often, all it takes is that one personal connection. Knights are encouraged to go beyond their immediate circles: engage with fellow parishioners after Mass, be visible within the parish, and reach out across ministries, age groups, and cultural communities. Remember, we're all recruiters - let's go offer the gift of membership to all eligible Catholic men.

Vivat Jesus,

Billy Antley
District Deputy 31



Council #2505 News

Catholic Men of Lakeland at Lugo's Distillery

The Catholic Men of Lakeland met on Thursday, March 12th at Lugo's Craft Distillery with Fr. Zach Edgar, assistant to Cardinal Burke, giving a presentation on Lent and Divine Mercy. Fr. Edgar is director of Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in Wisconsin and brought numerous relics of saints for veneration as well as brochures detailing the Shrine's mission. Fr. Edgar hopes to return next year for another presentation and encourages all of our fraternity to visit the Shrine in Wisconsin where he can offer personal tours and spiritual guidance.

Many Brother Knights participated in the evening, and we highly encourage all to come as these gatherings are an incredible opportunity to share our mission and recruit new members. Chaplain Fr. Frank Buck offers the sacrament of reconciliation at our gatherings for those unable to go during the times provided by the parish.

The group is open to all men, Catholic or non-Catholic, and strives to create an organic environment outside of the Church walls to proclaim Christ in culture. Lugo's is consistently a generous host, and gourmet food is provided at our meetings for a low cost of \$5.

Founding member of the group, Brother Knight Akol Arop, will be returning to one of the gatherings this summer and will be providing an update on his discernment and evangelization in Belize in an upcoming newsletter. Please keep him in your prayers!

The next gathering will be in the Easter season at 7pm on Thursday, April 9th at Lugo's Craft Distillery. Macson McGuirk will be giving his testimony as well as sharing stories from his time in the Lakeland Police Department.

Please invite anyone interested and we hope to see you there!



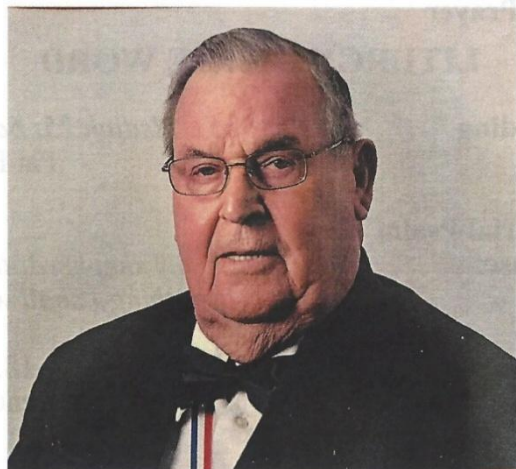
Council #2505 News

In Memoriam



Sir Knight Eugene "Gene" Day

May 20, 1933 – Feb 18, 2026



Eugene F. Day of Lakeland, FL, passed away at home on 02/18/26 at the age of 92. He was born in Montour County, PA, to John H. Day and Beulah A. Day. He was one of 18 children and enjoyed his childhood on a farm with his large family. After leaving Danville, PA, he resided in Northampton, PA, for many years, until his retirement to Lakeland, FL, almost 40 years ago. He retired from driving truck for several companies in PA. Upon moving to FL, he worked for Butterkrust Bakeries and retired after 10 years. He then drove school bus for McKeel Academy and retired from that at the age of 80. Gene was proud to serve with The Knights of Columbus St. Joseph Council 2505, and as a 4th Degree Knight with Assembly 2546. He is predeceased by his wife, Caroline Day, his son, Randy Day, and all 17 of his siblings. He is survived by his daughter, Debra (James) Records of Newark, DE, 6 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his special friends Howdy & Tara Jones and family, and Greg Alderman, who he considered as his family. Special thanks to his McKeel family of friends, who were by his side these last few weeks with love and support. Also, thanks to the staff at Lake Gibson Village and to VITAS Hospice.

Mass Intentions for Eugene Day

March 21st 9:00am
April 28th 12:00pm
May 20th 12:00pm
June 21st 9:00am
August 3rd 12:00pm

Worthy Brothers,

We finished up the season with our final fish fry this past Friday evening. We had a good turnout and a full crew, so it was a very good night. I want to again thank everyone for coming out to help. It really takes a large group of people to make a successful night, but we were never short-handed at any time. Every single fish fry was a success because everything went smoothly and we had lots of satisfied customers. The parish without a doubt has come to look forward to our fish fries and I don't think they were disappointed. We have a fantastic group, doing great work, and I thank each of you for your help.

Vivat Jesus – Scott Philips GK

Just a few of the many Knights who came out to help with this year's Lenten Fish Fry – Thanks!



Council #2505 News

Bishop Noonan Retirement Announcement

The following is a letter to the faithful Bishop John Noonan offered on his birthday, Feb. 26

My Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord! I am grateful to God for your faithfulness as I remember you constantly in my prayers, night and day. St. Paul reminds each one of us to stir into flame the gift of God! For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power, love, and self-control.

Today is my 75th birthday, and according to Canon 401 §1, I wrote a letter to our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, offering my retirement. I have served you, God's holy people, as bishop of the Diocese of Orlando since December 2010, and as auxiliary in Miami since 2005. I pray rejoicing to God for my priestly ministry since the Sacrament of Holy Orders was conferred upon me in 1983, and I ask always for His blessing to lead His people that the bond of heaven flourish upon this earth.

Even though I have sent my letter to our Holy Father as prescribed by Canon Law, the appointment of a successor may take time. In the Province of Miami, there are two other bishops last year who submitted their letters of retirement, and they also await word from the Holy See.

Some of you may not be aware of these rubrics, nor care about them, for your whole relationship with God is not dependent upon a member of the clergy. Some of you regret the idea of change or question how the next bishop will lead as a shepherd. When Jesus walked the earth, He prayed for the people He served; He often went into prayer before or after serving the people within His public ministry. Jesus asks us to pray for one another unceasingly. This is what I would ask of each one of you. Pray for one another. Pray for me, God's humble servant, as I pray for you. Pray for our Holy Father as he discerns who will be appointed the next bishop of the Diocese of Orlando. Do not ponder what the next bishop can do for you; rather, ponder how you can serve God and assist the bishop and all clergy in their ministry. None of us are present on this earth to only get something from someone. We are invited, through the Sacrament of Baptism, and our partaking in receiving Jesus the Eucharist, to serve one another; not to expect to be served. Pope Leo XIV tells us that we are living images of the Lord. We are to be with one another through a unity that overcomes distances with a compassionate love. Christ leads us to become neighbor, equal to, or indeed lesser than others. Our holiness springs from the conviction that Christ can only be truly received by giving oneself generously to one's brothers and sisters. Echoing this spirit, I suggest that we 'carry on,' not as we are, but as we are to be, growing in holiness.

Each one has been chosen, called, and sent as servants of the faith. During this season of Lent, as we prepare our heart to suffer the Cross with Jesus, may we come to know the gift of healing through His forgiveness that we are given eternal life. Through prayer, word and deed, may we forgive one another that His love flourishes the land. May a clean heart be the path of our pilgrimage to heaven.

FAITH IN ACTION

Fraternal Year Program Updates

Council 2505 continues to grow within our four core program areas: Faith, Family, Community, and Life.
Keep an eye on this page to see what our council has completed this fraternal year.

Religious Education	\$2,000
Seminarian Support – RSVP Program	\$3,000
St Joseph C.C. Clergy Vestments	\$2,208
Clergy Appreciation	\$500
St. Joseph C.C. Masses	\$160
Wild Goose Series on the Holy Spirit	



Faith

Catholic Charities Food for Families	\$4,500
VISTE – Food for Families	\$1,000
Family of the Month	
Keep Christ in Christmas	



Family

Santa Fe HS Sacred Spaces Project	\$1,000
Youth Sports Sponsor – Kelly Rec.	\$500
St. Vincent DePaul-Veterans Support	\$1,000
Police Academy Scholarships	\$1,000
Talbot House – Helping Hands	\$1,000
Santa Fe Renaissance Sponsorship	\$2,000



Community

Options for Women	\$1,500
A Woman's Choice	\$1,500
Special Olympics Florida	\$2,000
Polk County - March for Life	
Tootsie Roll Drive - Special Olympics & ROAR	



Life



**Catholic Charities
of Central Florida**
A Ministry of the Diocese of Orlando

VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO THE ELDERLY

St. Vincent de Paul
ASSISTANCE • SHELTER • HOPE



FAITH IN ACTION

Family of the Month

September

Richard & Erica D'Amico



October

Jim & Helen Schmidt



November

Steve & Colleen Patton



December

David & Sandra Shannon



January

Matt & Maureen McGowan

Photo Coming Soon

February

Mike & Helen McFarland

Photo Coming Soon



**Special
Olympics**
Florida



Mark Your Calendars - Coming Soon

Watch your email for details on how to volunteer for this year's
Special Olympics Summer Games – May 16th. 2026
Knights and Family members are welcome to volunteer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April

1st Kevin Rodriguez

2nd Billy Antley

3rd John Duncan

6th Benjamin Vano

9th Fr. Valentine Ihim

11th Peter Kleponis

15th David Hurban

22nd Bob Renna

23rd Rick Stevens

24th John Spano

Knight's Wives

20th Leticia Graham

28th Miraflor Maja

April

April 3RD 1959 Gerald & Marianne Karels

April 5th 1986 Steven & Peggy Lannon

April 8th 1989 Gregory & Kathleen Elizabeth Thomas

April 14th 1973 Gary & Tana Cavender

April 30th 1977 Philip & Ginny Maitino

Happy
Anniversary



Saint of the Month

St. Catherine of Siena

CATHOLIC



St. Catherine's feast day is April 29, she is the patroness against fire, illness, the United States, Italy, miscarriages, people ridiculed for their faith, sexual temptation, and nurses.

St. Catherine of Siena was born during the outbreak of the plague in Siena, Italy on March 25, 1347. She was the 25th child born to her mother, although half of her brothers and sisters did not survive childhood. Catherine herself was a twin, but her sister did not survive infancy. Her mother was 40 when she was born. Her father was a cloth dyer. At the age of 16, Catherine's sister, Bonaventura, died, leaving her husband as a widower. Catherine's parents proposed that he marry Catherine as a replacement, but Catherine opposed this. She began fasting and cut her hair short to mar her appearance. Her parents attempted to resist this move, to avoid marriage, but they were unsuccessful. Her fasting and her devotion to her family, convinced them to relent and allow her to live as she pleased. Catherine once explained that she regarded her father as a representation of Jesus and her mother as Our Lady, and her brothers as the apostles, which helped her to serve them with humility.

Despite Catherine's religious nature, she did not choose to enter a convent and instead she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic, which allowed her to associate with a religious society while living at home. Fellow Dominican sisters taught St. Catherine how to read. Meanwhile, she lived quietly, isolated within her family home. St. Catherine developed a habit of giving things away and she continually gave away her family's food and clothing to people in need. She never asked permission to give these things away, and she quietly put up with their criticisms.

Something changed her when she was 21. She described an experience she referred to as her "mystical marriage to Christ." There are debates over whether or not St. Catherine was given a ring with some claiming she was given a bejeweled ring, and other claiming the ring was made of Jesus's skin. St. Catherine herself started the rumor of the latter in her writings, but she was known to often claim the ring itself was invisible. Such mystical experiences change people, and St. Catherine was no exception. In her vision, she was told to reenter public life and to help the poor and sick. She immediately rejoined her family and went into public to help people in need. She often visited hospitals and homes where the poor and sick were found. Her activities quickly attracted followers who helped her in her mission to serve the poor and sick.

St. Catherine was drawn further into the world as she worked, and eventually she began to travel, calling for reform of the Church and for people to confess and to love God totally. She became involved in politics, and was key in working to keep city states loyal to the Pope. She was also credited with helping to start a crusade to the Holy Land. On one occasion, she visited a condemned political prisoner and was credited with saving his soul, which she saw being taken up to heaven at the moment of his death. St. Catherine allegedly was given the stigmata, but like her ring, it was visible only to herself. She took Bl. Raymond of Capua as her confessor and spiritual director. From 1375 onwards, St. Catherine began dictating letters to scribes. She petitioned for peace and was instrumental in persuading the Pope in Avignon to return to Rome.

She became involved in the fractured politics of her time, but was instrumental in restoring the Papacy to Rome and in brokering peace deals during a time of factional conflict and war between the Italian city states. She also established a monastery for women in 1377 outside of Siena. She is credited with composing over 400 letters, her Dialogue, which is her definitive work, and her prayers. These works are so influential that St. Catherine would later be declared a Doctor of the Church. She is one of the most influential and popular saints in the Church.

By 1380, the 33-year-old mystic had become ill, possibly because of her habit of extreme fasting. Her confessor, Raymond, ordered her to eat, but she replied that she found it difficult to do so, and that possibly she was ill. In January of 1380, her illness accelerated her inability to eat and drink. Within weeks, she was unable to use her legs. She died on April 29, following a stroke just a week prior.

4th Degree News & Information

Become a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus

Embrace Patriotism

Joining the Fourth Degree allows members to actively express their love for both faith and country. This degree emphasizes the principle of patriotism, encouraging members to be responsible citizens while living out their Catholic values.

Deepen Your Faith

Membership in the Fourth Degree integrates spiritual life with public service. It provides opportunities to put faith into action, making members living examples of Christ's teachings in their communities.

Leadership and Service

Becoming a Fourth Degree Knight involves taking on greater responsibilities. Members lead community initiatives, support veterans, and participate in events that celebrate faith and service, enhancing their leadership skills.

Brotherhood and Camaraderie

Joining this elite group fosters a strong bond among members. It creates a supportive community of like-minded individuals dedicated to serving God and their neighbors, enriching the experience of fellowship.

*** 4th Degree Patriotic Exemplification ***

Saturday May 9th – 11:00am to 1:00pm

Registration begins at 9:30am - Exemplification begins at 11:00am

Banquet Starts 20 min after Exemplification is completed - Mass at 4pm

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church 625 111th Ave. North Naples, FL

If you're interested in becoming a 4th Degree member of Assembly 2546

Please contact SK Ken Dauphinais at kendauph@outlook.com for more info.

If you're interested but cannot make the date, please let us know.



Knights of Columbus
FOURTH
DEGREE
Patriotic degree of the Order.

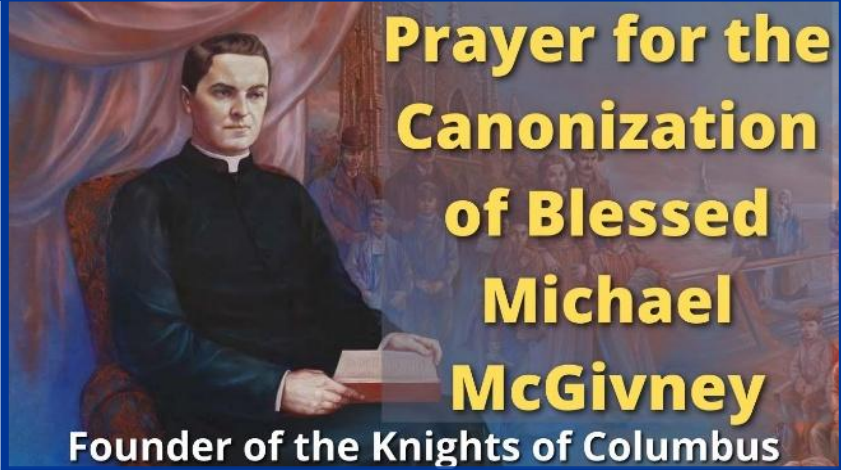


Prayer Requests

Please Keep These Knights & Their Families in Your Prayers

Jeff Trottier
John Rookie
Brandon Payne
Gary Page
Steve & Ruthie Jones Family
SK Charlie Stokes
SK Jay & Marianne Bice
SK Gene Day
Bill & Ginny Phalen
Fr. Frank Buck
Butch Scheffer
Akol Arop

Almighty God, I lift up my friend before You. Heal their body, mind, and spirit according to Your divine will. Comfort them in their suffering, restore their strength, and grant peace in their heart. Surround them with Your love, protect them from harm, and fill them with hope. May Your mercy bring complete restoration and lasting health, and may they feel Your presence every day.
Amen



God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, You called Your priest, Father Michael J. 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 Your venerable servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of Your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present
(make your request here),
through Christ our Lord.....Amen.

Knights of Columbus



Pray the Rosary Daily

Just for Fun

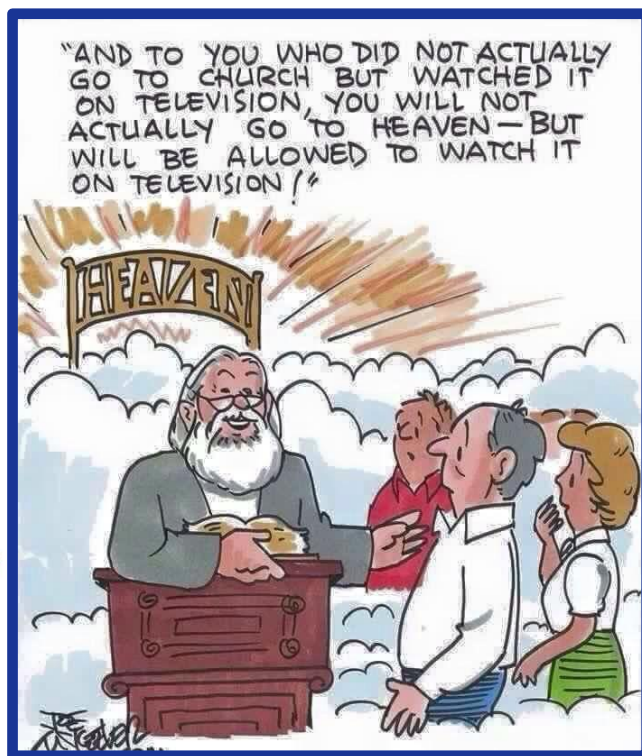
A Franciscan and Benedictine and a Jesuit are walking down the road when the Holy family appears before them.

The Benedictine falls to his knees and begins praising Christ.

The Franciscan immediately goes to Mary and asks if he can help with the baby or if there is anything they need.

The Jesuit walks over to Joseph, casually puts his arm around his shoulders, and says, "So, have you thought about college?"

A heart that laughs is a heart at peace. Even in the midst of duty, God invites us to carry joy, because true holiness is not heavy, but filled with love and light. **POPE LEO XIV**



Do you have a funny Knights of Columbus, or Catholic Joke, Meme, Riddle, Cartoon or Story you'd like to share with the Council?

Email: kofc2505@gmail.com and you may see it on the "Just for Fun" page in a future issue.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
INSURANCE
Your Shield for Life

