



Knights of Columbus

Msgr. Martin B. Power Council 14573



February 2026

Council Officers

Grand Knight
SK Rich Passarella
(321) 431-0982

Chaplain
SK Fr. John Bosco Maison
(321) 254-1595

Deputy Grand Knight
SK John Pechar
(724) 263-0273

Chancellor
SK Dwight Collins
(321) 960-6540

Warden
SK Bobby Sullivan
(321) 223-2473

Recorder
SK Bob Richmond
(321) 298-3884

Financial Secretary
Brother Richard Becker
(561) 523-0499

Treasurer
SK Randy Lascody
(321) 626-0804

Inside Guard
SK Joe Ameigh
(321) 242-0694

Outside Guard
SK Ralph Carestia
(321) 432-8439

Advocate
SK Mike Marzec
(321) 5431404

Lecturer
SK Deacon Chris Meehan
(321) 242-8003

Membership Director
SK John Miller
(321) 794-6620

Trustee (1 year)
SK Bill Quinn
(954) 917-8413

Trustee (2 year)
SK Dave AmRhein
(321) 591-6697

Trustee (3 year)
SK Jose Montes
(321) 795-8171



From the Grand Knight



Worthy Brothers and Sisters,

I sincerely thank the Knights and Ladies Auxiliary members who generously volunteer each month for these two activities: on the first Friday, assisting with Highway Cleanup along US 1, led by SK Randy Lascody. I also want to express my appreciation to everyone attending the prayer Life Chain at North Wickham Rd & Pineda Causeway, with SK B Sullivan as our main contact. Both activities warmly invite more Knights and Ladies to participate in these meaningful initiatives.

Several Knights from our Council traveled to South Florida on Friday, January 9th, to attend the weekend men's retreat at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center in North Palm Beach. This cherished annual pilgrimage provides a meaningful, spirit-filled weekend with prayer, silent reflection, brotherhood, and a wonderful opportunity to connect with knights from other Councils in South Florida.

I want to thank SK Mike Marzec, SK Bob Richmond, and the knights who volunteered for the Knights of Columbus Council Free Throw Championship held at Ascension Catholic School and the district-level competition at Melbourne Central Catholic High School. The Ascension Eagle competitors performed very well. We had eight students competing in the district competition; five finished in first place and three in second. The first-place winners will compete at the regional level on Saturday, February 28, at MCC. Congratulations to our Ascension Eagles champions.

Also, much appreciation and gratitude to SK Dave AmRhein for leading our volunteers and to the Knights and Ladies Auxiliary for volunteering to judge the Ascension School Science Fair on Thursday, January 22nd. I understand the school leaders were very grateful for our participation in our Catholic community activities.

The next monthly Council meeting will be held on February 19 at 7PM in the Knights Room. Power Rosary at 6:15 in the Ministry Building, Room 313.



GK Rich Passarella (continued)

Big kudos to SK Brian Ellerhorst for creating, organizing, and hosting a wonderful Saturday morning men's breakfast called "Fishers of Men," held on January 24th at Ascension Community. The Knights organized the breakfast, led by DGK John Pechar, with twenty-one Knights and members of the Ladies Auxiliary helping to prepare and serve a delicious breakfast. It was heartwarming to see an additional twenty-two Knights part of the 120 men who attended the conference, where we were inspired by guest speaker Father Zach Parker.

Our Council was invited to attend and pray the Patriotic Rosary on Tuesday, January 27th, at Ascension Church with the students of Ascension Catholic School, grades K through 6, arranged by teacher Mrs. Theresa Kniepmann. The school choir performed patriotic songs for each decade, and the children lit a rosary outlined with red, white, and blue electric candles as each Hail Mary was prayed. Several Council Knights and Ladies Auxiliary members joined the children to pray this beautiful rosary for our country, President, government, and every state.

It was a frigid weekend for the Council to collect donations at all the weekend masses for the upcoming Special Olympics Polar Plunge on Thursday, February 12th, at 11 AM at Tide's Collocated Club on A1A in Patrick SFB. Special thanks to SK Paul Kuracz for leading this fundraising effort for a very special cause, and to the Knights and members of the Ladies Auxiliary who braved the Arctic weather here in sunny Florida.

Our Council will again host the Sacred Heart Pilgrim Icon from Feb 17th to 21st. A Holy Hour prayer service is planned on Feb 17th at 6 PM, and the Icon will be on display in the sanctuary until Feb 23rd. The ICON will also be carried in the Vigil Mass entrance processional with Color Corps escorts on February 21st.

Also, the Council is planning a prayer service when the Knights of Columbus Silver Rose visits Ascension Catholic Community on Sunday, March 1st. The Silver Rose prayer service will be held in the church hall at 2 PM. Please save the date and plan to attend this beautiful event.

Please pray for the soul of brother Albert (Al) Odorizzi, who passed away on January 16, 2026. A funeral mass will be held at Ascension Catholic Church on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 11 a.m. His son, Rev. Thomas Odorizzi, will officiate. The interment of cremains will take place immediately after the mass in the Ascension Memorial Garden Cemetery.

Ash Wednesday is near, and our Council is preparing for Friday Fish Frys and the 40 Cans for Lent Pledge as part of our Food For Families program. We can use all the help we can get for this six-week activity, so please try to volunteer by visiting the Sign Up Genius on the Council webpage and committing to purchasing cans of food so Social Concerns can serve the needy in our community. Lent is a time for self-reflection, prayer, fasting, abstaining, almsgiving, and charitable works, but most of all, it is a time when we need to grow closer to Our Savior in thanksgiving for what He has done for us. Thank you Jesus.

Our next Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19th, at 7 PM in the Knights Room, with a Power Rosary taking place at 6:15 PM.

God Bless You.

SK Rich Passarella
Grand Knight
Council 14573



Council Notes

Council Website. We continue to add new features to our Council and Assembly website — the place to find the latest information and activities — [HERE](#)

Prayer Requests – Prayer requests can be sent via email to ascension14573@gmail.com, and can now also be submitted from the [council's website](#). Just [click here for Prayer Requests](#) on the home page and you will be directed to a form where you can enter your request. An email will be sent to the Council and The Ladies Auxiliary to ask them to unite in prayer with you and your request will be also included in the monthly Power Rosary.

State Bowling Tournament. SK Jim Grantham made a motion at the December monthly Council meeting that the Council support the upcoming State Bowling Tournament which will be held on April 25 and 26. The primary support required is to show up and cheer on the teams. There is also support needed behind the scenes for the registration of other Councils who will be participating in the bowling tournament. This involvement includes the Council being responsible for handling the monetary transactions necessary for all of the other councils participating in the bowling tournament. GK Rich Passarella and DGK John Pechar met with SK Jim Grantham on January 13. They reviewed all the bowling documents, and reviewed the finances (income and expenses). This year, we are not holding the St. Patrick's party, which is a strong fundraiser for the council. So this event has the potential to be a very successful fundraiser. We can expect income of about \$1500 for taking on the sponsorship of the tournament.

- SK Jim Grantham gave an updated list of responsibilities that the Council would need to take on to sponsor the event. Most of the additional responsibilities involve taking in competition fees from the councils who are participating in the tournament. SK Jim Grantham agreed to take on the responsibility of coordinating with all of the state councils participating and collecting any funds for each individual council. The consolidated total of funds from each council would then be given to our Financial Secretary, Richard Becker.

Get ready for Florida State Council Charity Raffle

- Ticket Sales proceeds - 60% to State and 40% to Council
- Donation is \$3.00 per ticket, or \$10 per book (4 Tickets)
- Council 14573 required to sell 112 raffle books
- Solicitors/Sellers Prizes:
 - 1st prize winning ticket gets \$500
 - 2nd prize winning ticket gets \$250
 - 3rd prize winning ticket wins \$100



- One ticket solicitor wins:
 - \$250 in the **Quick Start**, drawing to be December 16
 - \$400 in the **Early Bird** drawing on March 13, 2026.
- All raffle ticket distribution ends May 1st, 2026
- All tickets and donations in by May 10th, 2026.
- **Final drawing** at the FSC-Annual Convention May 23rd, '26
- **Prizes:**
 - 1st Prize **\$25,000**
 - 2nd Prize **\$5,000**
 - 3rd Prizes (2) **\$1,000 each**



Council Notes

- **Renew Your Dues Now.** July 1st marks the start of a new Fraternal Year. Our membership dues for the K of C Council 14573 are due at the beginning of the Fraternal Year. Regular dues are \$40 per year. If you have any questions about your dues, email Richard Becker at rit3722@gmail.com. Below are two options to pay our dues:

1. Pay by check payable to "K of C Council 14573" and hand the check to Richard Becker (Financial Secretary) or Randy Lascody (Treasurer) at the next council meeting or mail it to: "K of C Council 14573, Attention: Richard Becker, 4825 Tiverton Court, Melbourne, FL 32934"



2. Pay electronically using a Credit Card, Debit Card, PayPal, or Venmo. This can be done from the Council's website Dues page by [clicking on this link](#). If that URL link does not take you to the dues page, visit the main page here — [Council Website](#).
3. Please remember that your membership dues support Council sponsored charitable contributions, operations, and per-capita assessments from Supreme and the Florida State Council. The combined annual Supreme and Florida State Council assessments must be paid by the Council for all members on the roster, even if the member did not pay his dues. Paying your dues avoids the Council from having to use someone else's dues or funds targeted towards charitable contributions to cover members who do not pay, therefore we ask that you please stay current with your membership dues.

- **Assembly Dues** were due on January 1. Please pay your annual dues of \$25 at your earliest convenience. Followup notices will sent to all members who have not paid their dues — you can pay in person or leave bring your check to the Parish office. Dues are the main funding for the Assembly so please pay promptly.

- **Ascension Thrift Store.** The store continues to fall short in having enough volunteers to support all the hours necessary to bring in the revenue needed to support the Social Concerns Ministry and the Ascension Catholic School. The store is a key source of revenue for these ministries. If you can spare a few hours, please consider volunteering. The Thrift Store is also looking for a number two person to help out John Casko. You can contact the Thrift Store to [volunteer here](#).

**ASCENSION THRIFT STORE
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Below are QR code links to sign up to volunteer. Please consider joining this amazing group of people, for it is in giving that we receive. Feel free to pass this along to anyone who may be interested in helping out. Thank you for your time and consideration. May the peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEER SATURDAY WAREHOUSE

**Ascension Thrift Shop is in need of
TENTS AND SLEEPING BAGS**

Please bring donations to the Thrift Shop during hours of operation.
Thank you for your generosity.

For more information on volunteering, please call: 321-610-8742 or email: info@AscensionThriftShop.com



Council Notes

- **Daily Bread.** In the past, the Knights have supported the Daily Bread facility on the fourth Sunday of the month with volunteers who served the noon meal. This is no longer provided at the Melbourne location. The future plans are to build Providence Place — a permanent, affordable multi-family apartment community with on-site resident services and amenities, prioritized for individuals and families facing homelessness in Melbourne. Currently, the staff at Daily Bread are organizing a mobile outreach program which we hope to support in the future. POC: SK Ric Robinson

- For more information on Daily Bread or to volunteer — [click here](#)

- **Council and Assembly Shirts.** We now have a new project officer who is our single point of contact for all things shirts and hats for the The Council and Assembly — SK Bill Quinn. We also have a new patriotic hat for \$20 that is available for both the Council or Assembly. Contact Bill for all of your Council and Assembly attire needs.

- SK Bill now has both Council and Assembly hats for sale — \$20. Contact Bill if you want a hat.

- **Bartman.** We will continue to use Bartman as a source for Council and Assembly attire. This company is owned and operated by a brother Knight and has proven to be very reliable in the past. Any Knight shirt, hat, or other item or clothing can be ordered from Bartman and can also be embroidered to your specifications. You can order the shirt to your specifications yourself by visiting their website, calling, or visiting their shop — or just see Bill.

Bartman Enterprises

2735 Center Place
Suite 101
Melbourne, FL 32940
Phone: (321) 259-4898
Cellphone : (321) 324-9212
Fax: (321) 259-4424

Email : papanole@aol.com

Business Hours :
Monday through Thursdays : 8:30am - 5:30pm
Friday : 8:30am - 3:00pm
[Visit Bartman here](#)



**Feb
2026****COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**Monsignor Martin B. Power Council #14573
Council Email: ascension14573@gmail.com

Council #14573 – 2009/10/11/12/19 Florida State Council of the Year

DATE	TIME	EVENT	CHAIR
Sat 31 st	All Masses	Food for the Poor/ Red/Assembly Shirt	SK J. Kelly
Sun 1 st	All Masses	Polar Plunge Donations	SK P. Kuracz
Thu 5 th	6:30 pm	Chaplet of Divine Mercy (Knights Room – 312)	SK Ralph Carestia
	7 pm	Assembly Meeting (Knight's Room – 312)	WFN Rob Light
Fri 6 th	9 am	Highway Cleanup (Knight's House)	SK R. Lascody
Sun 8 th	1:30 pm	Life Chain (Corner of Pineda and Wickham)	SK B. Sullivan
Thu 12 th	11 am	Polar Plunge Event PSFB Tides Restaurant Beach	SK P Kuracz
Thu 12 th	6:30 pm	Council Officer's Meeting (Knights Room – 312)	WGK Rich Passarella
Sat 14 th	7:15 am	Pray for Life (In Orlando, Meet at North Melbourne Home Depot)	SK R. Sepulveda
Tues 17 th	6 pm 7 pm	Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon Holy Hour Service	WGK Rich Passarella
Wed 18 th	Ash Wed	40 Cans for Lent Drive starts through Good Friday	SK D Collins

Thu 19 th	6:15 pm	Power Rosary (Ladies Auxiliary Room – 313)	SK B. Sullivan
	7 pm	Council Meeting (Knights Room – 312)	WGK Rich Passarella
Fri 20 th & 27 th	4:30 - 7 pm	Lenten Fish Fry Dinner School Cafetorium	SK Jose Montes
Sat 28 th	9 am 11 am	Regional Free Throw Competition (MCC High School Gym)	SK M Marzec
Sat 28 th Sun Mar 1 st	All Masses	Global Wheelchair Mission Weekend	SK J Pechar

LOOKING AHEAD IN MARCH

DATE	TIME	EVENT	CHAIR
Fri-6, 13, 20, 27	4:30 - 7 pm	Lenten Fish fry Dinner School Catetorium	SK Jose Montes
Sat 7 th	9 am 12 pm	Laps for Life MCC	SK J Barfield
	10:30 am 12:30 pm	State Free Throw Competition (MCC High School Gym)	SK M Marzec

*** Please provide input for the monthly council events to
jpechar68@gmail.com

[Click here](#) to subscribe
to the Council and
Assembly Calendar.

Near Term Important Dates at Ascension Parish:

- Each Wednesday: Holy Hour (1700-1800)

Activity Chairmen Phone Numbers:

WGK Rich Passarella 321-431-0982
 WFN Rob Light 321-626-9641
 DGK John Pechar 724-263-0273
 CCC Eddy Merlet 954-882-3687
 SK Ralph Carestia 321-432-8439
 SK Jerry Kelly 321-258-7477
 SK Randy Lascody 321-626-0804
 SK Bob Richmond 321-298-3884
 SK Bobby Sullivan 321-223-2473
 SK Mike Marzec 321-543-1404
 SK Paul Kuracz 321-223-5627
 SK Dave AmRhein 321-591-6697
 SK Dwight Collins 321-960-654
 SK John Barfield 407-433-5421

Ladies Auxiliary Contacts:

Ladies Auxiliary President Becky Richard 412-779-9970
 Ladies Auxiliary Vice President Lyn Becker 561-531-3173



Assembly Officers

Faithful Navigator
SK Rob Light
(321) 626-9641

Faithful Friar
SK Fr. John Bosco Maison
(321) 254-1595

Spiritual Advisor
SK Deacon Tom Stauffacher
(321) 242-4504

Faithful Captain
SK Ralph Carestia
(321) 432-8439

Faithful Pilot
SK Malachy McGuinness
(321) 213-0923

Faithful Admiral
SK Bill Quinn
(321) 917-8413

Faithful Comptroller
SK Lacy Beanblossom
318-230-0393

Faithful Purser
SK Elmer Rivera
(787) 619-7684

Faithful Scribe
SK Bob Richmond
(321) 298-3884

Faithful Inner Sentinel
SK Bobby Sullivan
(321) 223-2473

Faithful Outer Sentinel
SK Joe Ameigh
(321) 242-0694

Trustee (One Year)
SK Jim Chatman
(321) 223-8963

Trustee (Two Year)
SK Rich Passarella
(321) 431-0982

Trustee (Three Year)
SK John Pechar
(724) 263-0273

Color Corps Commander
SK Eddy Merlet
(954) 882-3687

BISHOP NORBERT M. DORSEY CP ASSEMBLY #3482



From the Faithful Navigator

Sir Knights

History of the Pledge of Allegiance – Part IV (excerpt from *The Knights of Columbus: An Illustrated History*, pg. 140, by Andrew T. and Maureen H. Walther, SquareOne, 2020):

[(Continued from December's article) ... "A number of other groups joined the campaign for this official change. After several resolutions were introduced in the House of Representatives, Congressman Louis C. Rabaut of Michigan presented the bill that Congress eventually passed. Then, on Flag Day, June 14, 1954, the bill was signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. On August 17, 1954, President Eisenhower sent Supreme Knight Hart the following message, which was read at the 72nd annual Supreme Convention in Louisville:

We are particularly thankful to you for your part in the movement to have the words "under God" added to our Pledge of Allegiance. These words will remind Americans that despite our great physical strength, we must remain humble. They will help us to keep constantly in our minds and hearts the spiritual and moral principles which alone give dignity to man, and upon which our way of life is founded. For the contribution which your organization has made to this cause, we must be genuinely grateful.

Adding the words "under God" to the pledge was a true victory. It not only highlighted the divine origin of American rights, it also continued to make the case that Catholics could take the lead as good, patriotic citizens."]

A big thank you to Faithful Captain SK Ralph Carestia for his efforts in coordinating the Deployed Services Member Appreciation Dinner ... however, due to renovations taking place at the host site on South Patrick, the dinner event is postponed until further notice – perhaps this spring. Also, a sincere thank you to the Color Corps for their participation in SK Frank Altro's funeral (St. Joseph's) on 7 January and SK George Poole's wife's funeral (HNJ) on 16 January – much honor given! To wrap things up, we also had another successful Round Table meeting with our beloved pastor, Father John Bosco, on 20 January.



As a reminder, the next Assembly meeting will be held on Thursday, **5 Feb**, at **7:00pm** in Rm 312 of the Ministry Center. Some other upcoming activities include:

- Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon (with Color Corps), 21 February, 1630
- Saint Patrick's Day Parade, Melbourne, 14 March, Time is TBD
- Flag Retirement Ceremony with Ascension School, 24 April, 1000

If you are not already a member of the Assembly or Color Corps and interested in learning more, please contact Membership Director, SK John Miller, Color Corps Commander, SK Eddy Merlet, or myself about joining (contact info listed on the KofC newsletter front page and Assembly page). Please keep an eye out for upcoming events in the monthly activity sheet and God Bless!

Vivat Jesus

SK Rob Light
Faithful Navigator

Next meeting is February 5 at 7 PM in the Knights Room. Chaplet of the Divine Mercy immediately preceding the meeting at 6:30 in Room 313 (Ladies

2025-2026 ASSEMBLY 3482 PLAN OF ACTIVITIES

Date/Time	Event	Chairman
July 15 1500	Roundtable with Fr. John Bosco	Parish Office, WGK, FN, MP
August 10	Veteran Presentation Purple Heart Recognition	FC Ralph Carestia CCC Eddie Merlet
August 10 1130	Quarterly Council/Assembly Corporate Communion, Color Corps CCC Eddie Merlet	WGK/PFN Rich Passarella FN Rob Light
Sep 11 1200	911 Patriotic Rosary Ascension Catholic Church	WDGK/PFN John Pechar SK John Auto
Sep 11 1800	911 Ceremony at Veteran's Center Meritt Island	SK Bobby Sullivan
Sep 18	Vietnam Disabled Veterans Fundraiser Dinner	SK Be Duong SK Bobby Sullivan
Oct 30 1500	Roundtable with Fr. John Bosco	Parish Office, WGK, FN, MP
Nov 1 Sun Mass	All Souls' Day Service	WGK/PFN Rich Passarella CCC Eddie Merlet
Nov 8 1000	Veterans' Day Parade – Color Corps Assembly / Council / LA	CCC Eddie Merlet SK Bobby Sullivan
Nov 11	Veterans Flag Ceremony at Shady Oaks Cemetery following Veterans' Day Parade	SK John Auto SK Bobby Sullivan
Nov 17	Flag Folding Event with Cub Scouts	SK John Auto
Dec 13 1630	Quarterly Council/Assembly Corporate Communion, Color Corps CCC Eddie Merlet	WGK/PFN Rich Passarella FN Rob Light
Dec 13 0930	Wreaths Across America at Shady Oaks and JS Sloan Cemeteries	FN Rob Light WDGK/PFN John Pechar CCC Eddie Merlet
Jan 3-14	Prepare Form 1728 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities Report – Due Jan 31	FN Rob Light FC Ralph Carestia
Jan 12-18	Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon w/Color Corps	WGK/PFN Rich Passarella CCC Eddie Merlet
Jan 21 1500	Roundtable with Fr. John Bosco	Parish Office, WGK, FN, MP

March	Prepare Form 2321 Civic Award Application	FC Ralph Carestia FN Rob Light
April 11	Ascension School Flag Retirement Ceremony	FC Ralph Carestia SK Bob Richmond
Mid-April 1500	Roundtable with Fr. John Bosco	Parish Office, WGK, FN, MP
May 4	Color Corps Marching of the Colors	FP Malachy McGuinness
May 4 TBD	Quarterly Council/Assembly Corporate Communion, Color Corps CCC Eddie Merlet	WGK/PFN Rich Passarella FN Rob Light
May TBD	Vietnam Travelling Wall & Laying of Wreaths (Assembly/Council/LA) – Color Corps	CCC Eddie Merlet
May TBD	May Crowning (ACCW) Color Corps	CCC Eddie Merlet
May 25 TBD	Memorial Day Ceremony at Shady Oaks	SK Bobby Sullivan
June 27 1800	Flags for Heroes Flag Display Knights House Lawn Area	WDGK/PFN John Pechar POK Dave Amrhein
July 4 1000	Independence Day Parade Assembly / Council / LA	CCC Eddie Merlet SK Bobby Sullivan



February Birthdays

Heavenly Father, We praise You for all Your gifts to us. In a special way,, we thank You for our brothers as they celebrate their birthday. Bless them always in Your love. Bless us too, Holy Father, Help us all to praise You and give You glory Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Richard Ceravolo	February, 1
John Kisiel	February, 3
Stephen Gerrish	February, 4
Roy Estes	February, 5
Lawrence Herring	February, 10
Michael Naughton	February, 11
James Chatman	February, 13
Patrick Cleveland	February, 13
Allen Allebach	February, 20
Heriberto Hernandez	February, 20
James Marriott	February, 20
George Provencher	February, 22
Thomas Stauffacher	February, 24
Orlando Lopez	February, 27

****Be sure to [let us know](#) if we miss any monthly birthdays****

[You can find the Ascension 14573 Monthly Newsletters -- HERE](#)



Chaplains Corner

Deacon SK Tom Stauffacher

Come and see...

Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth."

But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."
(John 1:45-46)

When Deacon Tom first was approached to be a Knight, his first thought was to wonder what the Knights were all about — "come and see" and you will find out for yourself what the Knights do. He was in training for becoming a Deacon and — food for thought — as a Deacon you will have influence on the Knights as an organization — "come and see."

OCIA — "come and see." Every year we get new people that enter the Church. But why do they enter the Church? Why really comes down to them wanted to "come and see." Its that simple. They are not going to get into long discussions on philosophy, preaching and teaching — no lengthy discussions on the Council of Trent. It is simple — they are there to "come and see."

But we as Knights have seen and know the message of Christ — what we do as Knights. "Come and see" what the Knights can do for you. Be a Knight — join the Knights on this faith journey we are all on — we are here to help people along the way on this journey. We are cleansed of pride, prejudice and hate and filled with the love of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We as Knights strive to be all that we can be — to aim high and to make our call as Knights more than just a job but a personal call to honor — Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.



On Epiphany Sunday, Sir Knights John Miller and Be Duong ushers at the 7:30 Mass, shared a moment with seminarian Gavin Foreman, one of our RSVP seminarians, while he's home for Christmas at Ascension.



Nativity and KCIC Banner take down and clean-up crew



Third Degree Exemplification

January 22



Our Newest Knights With Deputy Grand Knight John Pechar (C)
Phil MacDonald (L) and Marcel Bonnici (R)





Monthly Council Meeting



Family of the Month — December
Brother Richard and Lady Lyn Becker



Family of the Month — November
SK Randy and Lady Cecilia Lascody



Knight of the Month — October
SK Malachy McGuinness



Knight of the Month — December
SK Joe Ameigh



Free Throw Championship

The local competition was held on Monday, January 12 and Tuesday, January 13 in the Ascension School gym.

- There are 12 age divisions of boys and girls age 9-14. To compete, at the follow-on competitions, students must be 9yo as of December 1. We allowed all eligible students to compete at the local level.
- We had our regular volunteers but are always looking for a few more who would like with this and other events held at the school that we support. This is a great opportunity to work with the school staff and students but it does come with a special requirement — all volunteers must be Safe Environment Background Checked and fingerprinted. So if you qualify or would like to qualify for future events with the school, consider volunteering.
 - SK Mike Marzec and SK Bob Richmond are co-chairs for the 2026 Free Throw. Please let us know if you have any questions about how to volunteer or get your Safe Environment Training.
- We had a great experience at the local competition — was fun for both the Knights, staff and students. We had 9 students who completed their official forms to enter the District Level competition.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Name</u>
9 Year-Old Girls	Maggie Jerome
9 Year-Old Boys	Ricky Vogel
10 Year-Old Girls	Addison Moyles
10 Year-Old Boys	Kayden Lewis
11 Year-Old Girls	Isabella Walters
11 Year-Old Boys	Carson McCurdy
12 Year-Old Girls	Liana Roeder
12 Year-Old Boys	Brayden Dunham
13 Year-Old Boys	Emanuel Montoya

The Knights of Columbus District Free Throw Championship was held today at Melbourne Central Catholic High School and the Ascension Eagle competitors did excellent. We had eight students who competed at the District Competition and the results are below:

First Place

10 Year-Old Boys	Kayden Lewis
10 Year-Old Girls	Addison Moyles
11 Year-Old Girls	Isabella Walters
12 Year-Old Boys	Brayden Dunham
12 Year-Old Girls	Liana Roeder

Second Place

9 Year-Old Boys	Ricky Vogel
9 Year-Old Girls	Maggie Jerome
11 Year-Old Boys	Carson McCurdy

All winning competitors will receive a certificate and a check for \$25 at a school Mass after the State Competition. Those who advance beyond the District level will receive a check for \$50.



Next up for our **first place** winners is the Regional Free Throw Championship followed by the State Championship. The dates for these events are:

- Regional Level : Saturday **February 28, MCC**. Registration starts at **9AM** and the competition starts at **9:30AM**.
- State Level : Saturday **March 7, MCC**. Registration starts at **10AM** and the competition starts at **10:30AM**.



SK Eddy Merlet, SK Bob Richmond, SK John Pechar, Carl Cioci, SK Mike Marzec, SK Jose Montres, Bill Churchill, Jose Rodriguez



Ascension Catholic School Science Fair

Ascension Catholic School conducted its annual science fair on Thursday, January 22nd, 2026 from 8:15 AM to 2:00 PM on the Ascension campus. The school administration requested judges for the event — and the Knights and Ladies stepped forward to lead the way for another successful Science Fair for the school. The judges provided an important opportunity for students to practice their presentation skills.

THANK YOU for judging the Ascension School Science Fair last Thursday! Our judges provided a great service to the students and school. I spoke with Ms. Cassidy and she was again most grateful for our participation. Other organizations also typically provide judges but some could not support the event due to schedule conflicts. So our participation was even more critical. We certainly demonstrated the principles of the Knights of Columbus! Presentations were made to all winners at the school Mass on February 4.

Best Regards,
SK Dave AmRhein







Patriotic Rosary with Ascension Catholic School



On Tuesday, January 27, Knights and members of the Ladies Auxiliary attended and prayed the Patriotic Rosary with Ascension Catholic School students. Students in the school choir led the patriotic songs for each decade of the rosary. A rosary of red, white, and blue candles was lit for each Hail Mary. This was one of many events planned around Catholic Schools Week.





Fishers of Men

A proposal to the Council from Brother Brian Ellerhorst was brought to the Council during the November Council meeting to ask for help from the Council to setup and serve breakfast for the first Fishers of Men Breakfast scheduled for January 24 in the Buescher Center, 7:45 AM to Noon. This ministry has been approved by Fr. John for the development of men's individual relationship with Our Lord and Savior. The proposal was approved the the November meeting. Brian proposed that we utilize this as an opportunity for the Knights to serve men in large numbers providing a "live" witness to our faith by cooking and service the breakfast. All costs would be reimbursed by collections at the breakfast, therefore, this opportunity to attract men to the Knights will be at no financial cost to our council.

Seventeen Knights from our Council and several members of the Ladies Auxiliary prepared a delicious breakfast for 120 men attending the first Fishers of Men Saturday morning conference. There were also twenty-two Knights from the council attending the conference, which featured Father Zach Parker as a guest speaker.







Knights of Columbus Silver Rose Program

Each year, from early March through mid-December, Silver Roses are stewarded by Knights of Columbus councils along routes from Canada to Mexico. Every stop the Silver Rose makes throughout the pilgrimage is a rosary-centered occasion for Knights, parishioners, and community members to pray for respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

There are eight Silver Roses on eight pilgrimage routes throughout the US. This year, our Council will have the opportunity and privilege of a Silver Rose visiting our area. This Silver Rose is identified as the Route 5 Silver Rose starting here in Florida on February 14 for a month, visiting many Councils in Florida, then traveling through 10 states. Eventually, arriving in Mexico on December 9 and staying until December 12, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, all the Silver Roses will meet at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We are scheduled to receive it at Ascension Catholic Community on Sunday, March 1st, and are planning an afternoon prayer service similar to the pilgrim ICON Holy Hour.

You can share the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and promote respect for life by participating in this meaningful pilgrimage. The Silver Rose program demonstrates the unity among Knights of Columbus in Canada, the United States, and Mexico through a series of prayer services that promote the dignity of all human life and honor Our Lady. So please, **SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 1st, at 2 PM.**



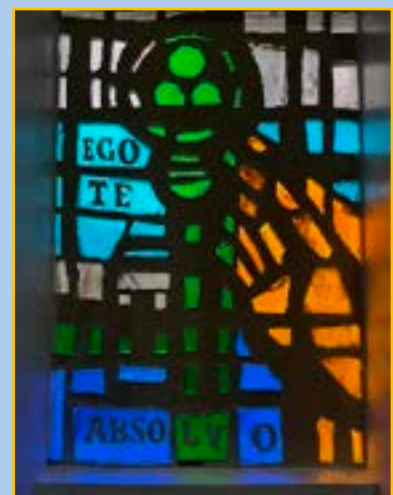
The Silver Rose and Our Lady of Guadalupe





MEN's Retreat at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center

Six Knights from our Council attended the weekend MEN's Retreat at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center on Jan 9-11, 2026. The retreat theme was PRAYER IS THE ANSWER. Attending were Deacon Sergio Colon, Deacon Tom Stauffacher, Fred Allard, John Pecha, John Miller, and Rich Passarella. Our Knights joined the Knights from other Councils in South Florida for a weekend of prayer, fraternity, and unity.





From the Ladies Auxiliary



I hope that you are all staying warm in this recent cold snap we've been having. Seeing SK Paul Kuracz in his polar bear headpiece while collecting for the upcoming Polar Bear Plunge was certainly very appropriate for the weather this weekend! BRR! Hopefully the actual day of the Polar Plunge, February 12, will feel much more like a Florida winter day, warm and sunny!

The month of January had our Ladies accompanying our Knights for many of the ongoing events that they provide our community. It remains our great honor to lend our support to our fine men of faith and integrity as they serve so fiercely and tirelessly, while proudly wearing the red shirts so familiar to all. We awarded Ginny Reeder our Lady of the Month of January. We were able to present the



Lady of the Month of November award to Karen Mitchell at the January meeting, also. Both Ladies do so much to support our Knights and Ladies, congratulations and thank you to you both! No award was given for December, as we did not meet.

It was also wonderful to have Lady Sharon and SK Charlie Hunton in our midst for the month of January! They have been missed, and we will all look forward to seeing them again next year.

In this month of February, please join in celebrating these occasions with the following Ladies...

Happy Birthday to:

Denise Brower Feb. 12
Juliet Van Dyck Feb. 16
Jan O'Bryan Wilson Feb. 26

Happy Anniversary to:

Janet and John Autio Feb. 21
Dottie and James Ayers Feb. 21
Daniel and Maria Johnson Feb. 26

We look forward to all of the events ahead in the month of February, from the Polar Plunge, to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon Holy Hour Service, to the start of the Fish Fry during Lent, and to all of the ongoing activities. February is known for love, so let's share Christ's love in all that we do, to all that we encounter, while we offer our support to our Knights for the service of our Ascension and Melbourne Communities. See you soon!

Your Sister in Christ,
Becky Richard



Polar Plunge 2026 For Special Olympics Father John T is a 2026 Polar Plunger!

SK Paul Kuracz



Father John Triolo, SK Jim Voltaire, SK Paul Kuracz, Father John Bosco

Father John Triolo became an official “Polar Cub” when he received his own Polar Bear hat. Our goal is \$3000.00! Mass collections will be the weekend of January 31st and February 1st. We are going to have a challenge this year with the Ascension Community moving to the Parish Hall. Not only we need volunteers for the north and south side of the Parish Hall, but we need volunteers in the Donut Hall at the Buescher Center for the morning Masses. The plunge is currently scheduled for 11:00am February 12th at the Tides of Patrick Space Force Base. Donation will be accepted until February 14th. Thank you so much for your prayers and support!

The choices to donate to Ascension Polar Plungers are:

1. Special Olympics Team Page, please follow the following link:
[2026 Polar Plunge - Orlando: K of C Council 14573 - Ascension Polar Plungers - Special Olympics Florida](#)

2. Scan our QR Code:



3. If you prefer to give by check, please mail your donation to the address below:
Special Olympics Florida
Attn: Polar Plunge Orlando
1915 Don Wickham Drive
Clermont, FL 34711

IMPORTANT!!! Put “Council 14573-Ascension Polar Plungers” in the Notes of the Check

Too much to remember? Our amazing 3rd Trustee and Former Grand Knight Jose Montes has set up all this information up on our Council Website! [polar - KOFC COUNCIL 14573 AND ASSEMBLY 3482](#)



INSURANCE FIELD AGENT



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Do you have goals in mind for this year?

It may be February, but the year is still fresh. Instead of new year's resolutions, I like to think in terms of setting concrete, actionable goals. I recommend that at least once a year, you make it a goal to take inventory of your financial health.

You can start by asking yourself if you've experienced any major life events in the last year that may call for an update to your insurance plan or to acquire a policy for the first time. If you've gotten married, welcomed or are expecting a baby, changed careers or purchased a home, these are good reasons to evaluate your life insurance coverage.

Don't forget that if your life insurance policy is dependent on your current employer, you could be underinsured and only protected while you are still working.

It's also important to consider whether you're on track to maintain the lifestyle you want in retirement. Do you know how much money you'll need to retire comfortably?

Finally, consider if you're missing an opportunity to grow your assets. With faith-based investment options through our affiliate, Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, you can pursue your financial goals with products that adhere to Catholic investment guidelines.

It's not too late to set goals for 2026.

I'd love to sit down with you and conduct a complimentary needs analysis. If you have any questions, please come chat with me and we can schedule a time to meet.

And before I go, I'd like to share with you the story of our late brother Knight Brad Wolf. Brad was a past grand knight in Texas who chose to protect his family with a Knights of Columbus insurance policy. That decision became a lifeline for his family — allowing his wife, Dena, and their daughter, Riley, to remain in their home, free from the fear of financial hardship.

Lastly – if you have access to a video screen during your council meeting, we encourage you to play this video to council members or share another way.

Play Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hc-RSg3Ayl0>

Vivat Jesus!

John Barfield FICF, MDRT
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Melbourne, FL 32901



[Appointment Booking Page](#)

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Prayer Requests

Healthcare Providers and First Responders Worldwide
Service Men and Women serving our Country Worldwide
Victims of Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Fires and other Natural Disasters
All those suffering from terrorist attacks, invasions by foreign governments, and loss of life and oppression in all war-torn areas

All those in need of prayers for health issues

ARA SK Gerry Grillo
SK Randy Lascody
SK Dave AmRhein
SK Doug Blair
SK John Miller
SK Marc Worchel
SK Werner Schulz
SK Allen Allebach
SK John Kisiel
PGK David Sullivan
SK Ralph Carestia
Brother Bill and Betsy Hampton
Brother Geoff Schmits
Brother Bob Caldo
Lady Jan O'Bryan-Wilson
Jim, Brother of SK Bob Richmond
Rowena Carenen, Niece of SK Mike Marzec
Genevieve Harris, granddaughter of Lady Kathy Harris and SK Jack Duggan

All Those Men in Formation for the Sacrament of Holy Orders — Priest and Deacon

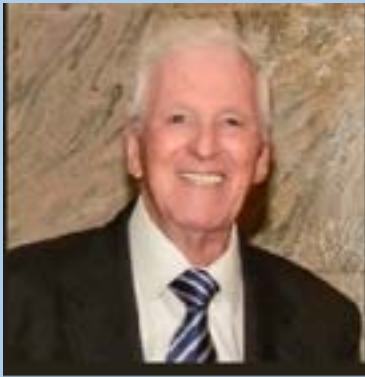
Michael Ancil
Jonathan Amgott
Gavin Foreman
SK Rob Light

Prayer for Blessed Michael McGivney

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.



In Memory of Our Brother Albert 'AL' Odorizzi



Our brother, "Al" Albert Frank Odorizzi, 95, passed away on Friday, January 16, 2026. Al and his wife, Marie, moved to Melbourne in 1988, when the RCA Solid State Division was acquired by the Harris Corporation. Albert played a crucial role in the transition team that moved the Division from New Jersey to Melbourne. He was a dedicated member of the Ascension Catholic Community, actively involved in the Knights of Columbus, the Holy Name Men's Club, the Finance Committee, and the Eucharistic Ministry. Farewell, Brother Al, now Rest In Peace with Jesus in heaven

[Florida State Council January Newsletter](#)





My Catholic Life Prayer for Lent

My precious and crucified Lord, I offer You this Lent.

I offer it to You with total abandonment and trust.

I offer You my prayers, sacrifices and my very life this day.

Do with me, Lord, as You will.

I pray that this Lent will be fruitful.

I know You have much to say to me and much to do in my life.

May this Lent be a time through which Your mercy is poured in abundance into my soul,
and into the souls of all Your faithful.

Dearest Lord, help me to especially see my sin, this Lent.

Humble me so that I may see clearly.

Give me courage and strength to confess my sins,
and to turn from them with all my heart.

Enlighten me with Your Holy Word, dear Lord.

Help me to come to know You and to deepen the gift of faith in my life.

Show me the plan You have for me,

and place my feet upon the path You have chosen.

My suffering Lord, I thank You for the fullness of Your perfect Sacrifice.

I thank You for holding nothing back,
giving Your life to the last drop of blood.

May I offer You my very life as a sacrifice,
trusting in Your mercy with every offering.

Keep me faithful to my Lenten promises,
and bring forth new life through these sacrifices of love.

Strengthen my prayer and make me holy.

Help me to turn to You, each day,
seeking Your sacred and pierced Heart.

Blessed Mother,

you stood by your Son in His suffering and death,
stand by me, I pray, as I journey through this life.

Pray for me and offer me to Your Son,
that He may take me into His loving embrace.

Lord, Jesus, Son of the Living God,
have mercy on me a sinner.

Lord, Jesus, Son of the Living God,
have mercy on me a sinner.

Lord, Jesus, Son of the Living God,
have mercy on me a sinner.

Mother Mary, Mother of our Crucified Lord,
pray for us who have recourse to thee.

Amen





2026 Laps for Life



[Laps for Life](#)

In 2026 the Brevard County Knights of Columbus will host our 7th Annual Brevard Laps for Life. The State of Florida is second to no one in placing valuable ultrasound machines in the pregnancy centers where they are needed. As part of Central Florida Laps for Life since its initiation, we have raised more for these machines than any other Knights group of Councils world-wide.

Our Brevard L4L goal this year is \$20,000. In the past many of our Brother Knights were raising monies from their sponsors on a one-on-one basis; this year, we encourage more use of social media (email, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

While we are there to support Life, perhaps just as important is our support of the Culture of Life and helping families in distress. Often, we forget that this is not just about the infants we save but also the families; this is a stressful time and pregnancy centers offer help in other ways to them, including education, clothing, diapers, etc. While the Ultrasound Machines play an important part in the health of the mom and infant, these centers are truly lifesaving and help in keeping families together.

Join us on March 7th at Melbourne Central Catholic High School. Please register to participate via this website; walkers/runners who pre-register will be able to collect online donations from sponsors prior to the event and avoid manual registration forms onsite at the event..

Please contribute to help us save lives and families. You and your sponsors may donate online (if paying via credit card, please pay the fees if possible!) or register the donation and “send checks (payable to **“Brevard Laps for Life”**) to

Brevard Laps for Life
c/o Bob Duerr
8117 Cortese Dr
Titusville FL 32780



Bishop Robert Barron





Videos of the Month





Power Rosary



So humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:6-7)

My Brothers and Sisters,

Monthly Power Rosary — Power Rosary every 3rd Thursday with SK Bobby Sullivan and SK Ralph Carestia — immediately before the membership meeting in the Ministry Building, Room 313 — 6:15 PM. Contact Brothers Bobby or Ralph if you want to lead one of the decades.

They sought strength in solidarity, and security through unity of purpose and devotion to a holy cause: they vowed to be defenders of their country, their families and their faith.

These men were bound together by the ideal of Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of the Americas, the one whose hand brought Christianity to the New World. Their efforts came to fruition with the incorporation of the Knights of Columbus on March 29, 1882

We are the Knights of Columbus

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity! (Psalm 133:1)





**Knights of Columbus
Council 14573
Ascension Catholic Community
2950 N. Harbor City Blvd
Melbourne, Florida 32935**



**Newsletter Editor
SK Bob Richmond
bobr52@gmail.com**

!!!PLEASE BE AWARE!!! EMAIL AND TEXT SCAMS CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE!!! Please spread the word among your fellow Knights.

If you receive an email or text that appears to be from any Council or Assembly Officers, Church clergy or staff member requesting a moment of your time, need your help, asking for a favor, etc. **DO NOT REPLY!!** These scam emails continue to circulate and parishioners, out of the goodness of their hearts in trying to help, are falling victim.

We will NEVER request special favors, ask for your time, ask you to buy gift cards or make any such request via email or text, nor will any clergy or staff. PLEASE DELETE IMMEDIATELY AND DO NOT CLICK ANY LINKS. No matter how authentic it looks, it is a scam.