



# The Compass

John A. Hill Council 4955 / Chartered 1960

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March / April 2026

## 2025 - 2026 COUNCIL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT David Rouchard.....754-224-1402  
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OUR LADY OF MERCY Mike Tarr.....845-793-0957  
OUR LADY OF THE SIGN Rev. Martin R. Vavrak.....954-429-0056

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PRESIDENT Marian Fetchik.....561-909-7465

## EDWARD A. O'NEIL ASSEMBLY 1534

FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR David Miller.....954-574-7943

## DISTRICT 71

DISTRICT DEPUTY John Yardley, PGK, PFN.....954-798-8596

## PAST GRAND KNIGHTS

1960 Louis Georgen +	1973 Eugene Ciotoli +	1986 Thomas Armento +	1999 Donald Tomlin +	2012 Daniel Davis +
1961 John A. Hill +	1974 Edward Millar +	1987 Richard Chisholm +	2000 Prospero "Nick" Pavia +	2013 Daniel Davis +
1962 Edward A. O'Neil +	1975 Earl Sloane +	1988 Jim Salisbury +	2001 Gerald Sherlock +	2014 Leon Lacroix +
1963 Walter A. Millar +	1976 James W. Cupp +	1989 Richard A. Fetchik Sr.	2002 Tom Miller +	2015 William W. Whiting
1964 Thomas Brown +	1977 Jack Spanola +	1990 Dave Kacprowicz	2003 Ray Peglow +	2016 Donald W. Macejko
1965 Robert Dugdale +	1978 Charles Schramm	1991 Dave Teitz +	2004 Martin Gabriel +	2017 Miguel Dorante Ramia
1966 Fred Lassiter +	1979 James Zilai +	1992 Jack Chadwick +	2005 Don Scalzo +	2018 Kyle D. Riebel
1967 John Bussen +	1980 Jose Vales +	1993 John Papetti +	2006 Charles Monteforte Jr. +	2019 Terence M. Sheen
1968 Steve Santa Lucia +	1981 Frank Braun +	1994 Frank Ricciardelli +	2007 Martin Dunne III	2020 John G. Yardley
1969 Robert Sorrelle +	1982 Rocco Bochetto +	1995 Raymond Drew	2008 Charles Monteforte Jr. +	2021 John G. Yardley
1970 Joseph Massarella +	1983 Edward Joncas +	1996 Walter Kuhn +	2009 Daniel Davis +	2022 John G. Yardley
1971 Albert Vincent +	1984 Raymond Gauthier +	1997 Tom Miller +	2010 Leon Lacroix +	2023 Ralph Amato
1972 Ed Gross +	1985 George Vargo +	1998 Mack Courson +	2011 Daniel Davis +	2024 Ralph Amato

*Dated Material  
Please Rush!*

Knights of Columbus 4955  
St. Gabriel Parish  
731 N. Ocean Blvd.  
Pompano Beach, FL 33062

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# *Time to live up to principles of charity, fraternity*

Brother Knights and Families,

As we begin a new year together, I am proud to share the kickoff of one of the most meaningful efforts of our Council: the **2026 Annual Intellectual Disabilities Drive**. This initiative reflects the very heart of who we are as Knights — men committed to charity, service and standing with the most vulnerable among us. Our first drive of the year took place at **Our Lady of Mercy** at the beginning of January and it was an encouraging start, thanks to the generosity of parishioners and the dedication of our volunteers.

In the weeks ahead, we will continue the drive **before and after all Masses** at the parishes we are honored to serve:

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary** – February 28 & March 1

**St. Gabriel** – March 7 & March 8

**St. Paul the Apostle** – March 14 & March 15

**St. Ambrose** – March 21 & March 22

I encourage every Brother Knight, along with family and friends, to take part where you can. Whether you volunteer your time or simply help spread the word, your presence makes a difference.

One of the great blessings of this drive is that it allows us to spend time within the broader parish communities we serve. Over the past weeks, many of us enjoyed a **religious education event at St. Ambrose**, strengthening our connection with parish families and youth. We also were treated to a **special Indian dinner at St. Gabriel** earlier this month — a wonderful evening of fellowship and hospitality.

Looking ahead, I hope many of you will join us for ***That's Amore* Italian Dinner at Our Lady of Mercy at 5 p.m. Saturday, February 21**. These gatherings remind us that service is not only about what we give, but also about the relationships we build.

As Lent approaches, I wish each of you a **prayerful and**

## *Candidates invited to stand for election on May ballot*

Candidates interested in running for council offices at the May 11 meeting should contact members of the Nominating Committee, including Chris Long, David Rouchard and Mike Charles, by March 31. Only Third Degree members qualify. The following positions will be on the ballot:

**Grand Knight** – Presides over council meetings, ex-officio member of all committees, appoints membership and program directors, lecturer, committees, convenes officers for monthly meeting, ensures reports are submitted to state and Supreme Council; aware of council's financial status and signs all checks.

**Deputy Grand Knight** – Assists grand knight with council affairs; presides at council meetings in absence of grand knight; chairman of retention committee.

**Chancellor** – Assists grand knight and deputy grand knight, oversees council in their absence; charged with strengthening members' interests in council activities, chairman of admission committee.

**Recorder** – Maintains record of all council actions and correspondence.

**spiritually fruitful season**, beginning **Ash Wednesday, February 18**. May this time of reflection renew our commitment to faith, family and service, and prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter.

Our Council continues to grow in both numbers and spirit. This year alone, we have welcomed **five new**

**members**, and interest continues to build. Bringing in new men who are called to serve our parish communities through **charity, unity and fraternity** is the foundation of everything we do. If you know someone who may be interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, I ask you to personally invite him. Your invitation can change a life and strengthen our Council.

Finally, it is with a heavy heart that we note the passing of **Brother Frank Laverty**, a **Fourth Degree Knight** and honored **Third Order Franciscan** since 1998. Frank exemplified faithful service and quiet dedication. We ask all Brother Knights to keep Frank and his family in your prayers, and to remember him with gratitude for a life well lived in service to God and the Order.

Vivat Jesus!

**Chris Long, Grand Knight**



**Francis (Frank) Laverty, 1935-2026.**

**Treasurer** – Maintains records of all council funds and accounts; deposits money into council's accounts and provides certificate of such monies to the grand knight; also pays expenses.

**Advocate** – Legal representative of council, serves as council's attorney at trials and investigations; does not need to be legal professional, but should be familiar with council bylaws, the Order's Charter, Constitution and Laws, Methods of Conducting a Council Meeting and Robert's Rules of Order.

**Warden** – Watchdog for council property and degree paraphernalia, responsible for setting up council chambers for meetings and ceremonials.

**Inside and Outside Guards** – Outside guard admits visitors and members to inner door. The inside guard checks to make sure that membership cards are current.

**Trustee** – Three members elected by council, plus grand knight, who serves as chairman of board; oversee work of financial secretary and treasurer, and with deputy grand knight serve on retention committee.



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## 2026 Disabilities Drive

**Supporting programs for local families**

ARC Broward, Broward Children's Center, B-PAN  
Warriors Foundation, Equine Assisted Therapies,  
Sallarulo Race for Champions Special Olympics



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## ***That's Amore***

Dinner and dancing featuring penne and homemade  
meatballs, bread with olive oil, salad and dessert;  
beer, wine, soda, coffee; raffles; DJ music

**5 p.m. Saturday, February 21**  
**Our Lady of Mercy Parish Hall**

**Donation \$25**

Benefits Our Lady of Mercy Church  
**Seating limited; please reserve by February 15**  
online at [kofc4955.com](http://kofc4955.com) or the following:



**Jan Weaver 954-421-3246**  
**Mike Tarr 845-793-0957**

**Our Lady has made 15 promises** regarding the recitation of the Rosary, which show just how powerful the Rosary is in the face of the monsters we profiled:

1. Those who faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary shall receive signal graces.

2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.

3. The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell. It will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.

4. The recitation of the Rosary will cause virtue and good works to flourish. It will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God. It will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.

5. The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary shall not perish.

6. Those who recite my Rosary devoutly, applying themselves to the consideration of its sacred mysteries, shall never be conquered by misfortune. In His justice, God will not chastise them; nor shall they perish by an unprovided death, i.e., be unprepared for heaven. Sinners shall convert. The just shall persevere in grace and become worthy of eternal life.

7. Those who have a true devotion to the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.

8. Those who faithfully recite the Rosary shall have, during their life and at their death, the light of God and the plenitude of His graces. At the moment of death, they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.

9. I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.

10. The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in Heaven.

11. By the recitation of the Rosary you shall obtain all that you ask of me.

12. Those who propagate the holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.

13. I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of their death.

14. All who recite the Rosary are my beloved children and the brothers and sisters of my only Son, Jesus Christ.

15. Devotion for my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.





**Council members joined the BLESS Respect Life Ministry and parishioners at St. Ambrose Church January 17 for the annual Respect Life Mass with Father Gary de los Santos. Participants joined in a Life March to the beach after Mass.**

## Calendar of events

Join our monthly Rosary devotion to Mary Mother Guardian of the Faith at 5:30 p.m. before our membership meetings. Refreshments and fellowship follow. Visit [kofc4955.com](http://kofc4955.com) for events reservations.

FEBRUARY			
Sat	2/21/26	5 PM	That's Amore Italian Dinner @ Our Lady of Mercy
Wkd	2/28-3/1		Coffee @ St. Gabriel Masses
MARCH			
Wkd	2/28-3/1/26		Disabilities Drive @ St. Elizabeth
Mon	3/2/26	6:30 PM	Officers Meet / Scholarship Applications Due
Wkd	3/7-8/26		Disabilities Drive @ St. Gabriel
Wkd	3/14-15/26		Disabilities Drive @ St. Paul
Mon	3/9/26	6:30 PM	Council Meet
Tue	3/17/26		St. Patrick Feast
Thu	3/19/26		St. Joseph Feast
Wkd	3/21-22/26		Disabilities Drive @ St. Ambrose
Wkd	3/28-29/26		Coffee @ St. Gabriel Masses
Sun	3/29/26		KofC Founders Day
APRIL			
Sun	4/5/26		Easter
Mon	4/6/26	6:30 PM	Officers Meet
Mon	4/13/26	6:30 PM	Council Meet
Wkd	4/25-26/26		Coffee @ St. Gabriel Masses

## In our prayers

**Our dead:** Frank Laverty.

**For healing:** Father Anthony Mulderry, Bernard McLaughlin, Marian and Richard Fetchik, Chris Maccio, Trish Macejko, Mike Tarr, Kurt Kohler, Steve Cole, Dan Falvey, Rev. Kenneth D. Whittaker, Larry Martin, Tomas Vazquez, Roger Harris, Vincent Casale, Beverly Cunningham, Joseph D'Jay, Bill Farrington, Mark Ardis, Margaret Hays, Joseph Smith, James Walker.

**If you know a member who needs help**, is ill, or has passed away, contact Bill Whiting, 561-368-6531, or email [kofc4955@yahoo.com](mailto:kofc4955@yahoo.com).

**Scholarship applications are due by March 2** for review by the Scholarship Committee. The Council offers scholarships for the children of Knights attending Catholic schools: \$250 for elementary grades, \$500 for high school students. Email Bill Whiting at [kofc4955@yahoo.com](mailto:kofc4955@yahoo.com) for an application.

**Local Shirt Vendor:** Council 4955 red golf shirts \$37 (plus \$12 shipping option) at Boca Color Graphics, 139 NW Third Street, Boca Raton, FL 33432; 561-391-2229 or email [amy@bocacolorgraphics.com](mailto:amy@bocacolorgraphics.com).

**Congratulations new members:** Joao Almeida, J.J. Bowman, Jean C. Cruzatty Macias, Ramesh Michael Ganesh, Edward Gorecki Jr., Rev. Lazarus Govin, Ivan Ramirez Villanueva, Andre Wangard. **Honorary member:** Michael Karol. **Honorary Life members:** Joseph Greco Jr., Rev. Jean Jadotte, Charles Joseph Roach.

### PATRONS

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Peter Assumma  
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Michael Charles  
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Kenneth Staab  
Michael J. Stock  
Daniel White PGK  
Bill Whiting PGK  
John Wohlford  
Daniel Woronkiewicz  
Rev. Stanley F. Wulinski

### MEMORIALS

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Joseph Dziminski Jr.  
Leon Lacroix PGK  
Charles Monteforte Jr. PGK  
Beth Schoepp  
Steve Schoepp