



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



COUNCIL #5644 1330 SUNSHINE AVE. LEESBURG, FLORIDA 34748

GRAND KNIGHT William Collins (914) 329-7010	DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT Daniel Gonzalez, Sr. (630) 379-2850	FINANCIAL SECRETARY Tom Diemer (352) 267-9502	INSURANCE AGENT Alberto Fernandez (352) 895-4992
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A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND KNIGHT

I would like to first wish everyone a Blessed Lent as we make our way to the most Holy season of Easter. This is a season of fasting and abstaining but should also be a season of participation. Whether it be attending daily mass, the Stations of the Cross or just taking some time during the course of the day for a little reflection and private prayer to help bring us closer to our God.



February has been a busy month for our council, we had our successful Citizens with Disabilities Campaign which raised more than \$1600, and I would like to thank everyone for jumping in and covering all the masses. The Polish dinner on the 14th was its usual success; Ash Wednesday Soup-n-Sandwich luncheon which was attended by more than a hundred people; and the first Lenten Fish Fry came off smoothly even though we encountered some equipment problems, but the ingenuity of our A Team overcame.

Our March meeting on the 18th will be an Exemplification for new members and our District Deputy will be there also to formally conduct the installation service for Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight, it would be nice to have a good showing of our membership.

I want to thank the members of our executive board for covering for me at some of our functions this past month as I have frequently been out of town due to family medical reasons. Again, I ask everyone to please keep our Military, First Responders and all those in need, in your prayers.

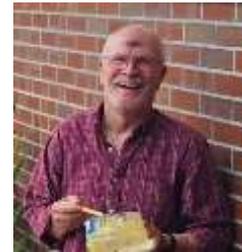
Vivat Jesus!

GK Bill and Joyce Collins



Honorees

Knight of Month (Pg. 2)



Family of Month (Pg. 2)





**“DO YOU NOT HAVE
ONE HOUR TO
SPEND WITH ME”
EVERY FRIDAY
9am Until 12 Noon
St. Paul’s Church
Exposition & Benediction
Everyone Welcome!**



Council #5644 Website
KofC5644.org

Florida State Website
FloridaKofC.org

Supreme Website
KofC.org



PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Tom & Carol Cane, **Jim Cecil**, Ryan Cimino, **Pat Detweiler**, Tom & Cindy Diemer, **+Andrew Dul**, Anthony Durkin, **William Ehrbar**, **Melody Fraser**, Stephen Gabriel, **Susan Gaucher**, Ron Golembiowski, **Jim Gorman**, Terry Graham, **Maria Iturbe**, Joey Landon, **Dixie, Edward, Kathy, Ken and Marianne Lynch**, Mike Magister, **Lynn Manns**, Greg Matthews, **George & Linda Mello**, DW Jerry & Joanne Moreau, **Bob Nixon**, Greg & Mark Ochalek, **Dawn & Joni Pauline**, Susan Polito, **Al Ragona**, Phil Reed, **Tom Schweitzer**, Joann Siedhoff, **Jim Suleski** Richard Sullivan, **Karen Watson**, Haley Williams, **Joan Woodson**, Walt & Marilyn Young, **Mary Clare Zedler**.



KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

February Knight of the Month is Louis Trapp. Brother Louis has been a Knight for 20 years. He transferred into Council 5644 this past November and became active in the Council and St. Paul Parish immediately. Louis has joined the Kitchen Krew, ready to pitch in at the Ash Wednesday Soup-n-Sandwich luncheon and upcoming fish fries & picnics. He is also an EMHC and a volunteer at the Thrift Store, with his wife Ingrid.

Your service as a Knight and to the Church are greatly appreciated. Congratulations on being selected Knight of the Month for February 2026!

FAMILY OF THE MONTH

The Family of the Month for February are Jim, Betty and son Tracy Suleski. Jim has been a Knight for over 40 years and a 4th Degree for almost as long. The Suleski's are snowbirds, from the Buffalo, NY area where he was very active when his home council had their hall, working bingo and hall rental receptions. When they are here they are "full-time" members of the St. Paul parish & Council 5644. You'll see Jim ushering or serving as an EMHC at the 9am Mass. All three have volunteered at the Thrift Store a couple of days a week. Notably, Jim & Betty celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary last July!

Your service to the Knights and St. Paul Parish are greatly appreciated. Congratulations on being selected: Family of the Month for February 2026!

(Note: Jim is fighting stage 4 throat cancer; please keep Jim and the family in your prayers!)



LADIES' AUXILIARY

Greetings

The KofC Ladies' Auxiliary had a great time assisting the Parish during its Ash Wed Soup and

Sandwich Luncheon and the 1st Lenten Fish Fry. We have several raffle items available. We have a Tray of Treats collection of gift cards, gift certificates and restaurant discounts with a value over \$250 dollars. There is a Patriotic Basket of 250th America Anniversary items include a large garden flag, cap, mug, patriotic towels, a copy of the US Constitution and decorative items. There is also a Golf Pkg basket for 4 players at Pennbrooke Golf Course, which includes play, golf cart and a variety of accessories which value is over \$300. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Take a chance to be our next lucky winner. Revenues gained from our Raffles are used to fund our Ministry's Mission of supporting our church, priests, school, and non-profit organizations that serve our community. We look forward to seeing our diners at the next 5 Lenten Fish Fries. We will appreciate your financial support.

Faith over Fear in ALL things... Always!!

Cindy Diemer
Joyce Collins
Co-Presidents
Email: ladiesaux5644@aol.com



St. Paul Council 5644
Monthly Mass Intention



During 2026, the Council will be sponsoring a Monthly Mass for the Intention of All Living & Deceased Members of St. Paul Council #5644

Wednesday, Mar. 25 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Apr. 22 at 8:30am
Wednesday, May 27 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Jun. 24 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Jul. 22 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Aug. 26 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Sep. 23 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Dec. 23 at 8:30am

The 2026 Annual Memorial Mass for the Deceased Members of Council 5644; Will be Sunday, November 15 at 9am

Membership Meeting Highlights

The February Membership Meeting was Cancelled due to Ash Wednesday on the 18th; meetings are held the 3rd Wed.; Food Service: 5:15 to 6:15pm, Rosary 6:30pm, Membership Meeting 7pm. (if no Exemplification)

Exemplification of Charity ~ Unity ~ Fraternity; All 1st & 2nd Degree Knights are encouraged and reminded they can immediately advanced to the 3rd Degree by merely attending an Exemplification; If you have not yet attained your 3rd Degree, sitting through this 30 minute ceremony automatically advances you! Contact your GK, Bill Collins.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 18th...

There will be an Exemplification prior to the meeting, beginning at 6:30pm; candidates should arrive by 6pm.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



7 th Harley D Burkett	16 th Vincent F Zedler 85
10 th Gary R Edwards	17 th Charles M Baxter 80
11 th Georg J Couturier	19 th Stephen J Bradley
Lawrence B Rinehart	21 st Henry Kanczurzewski
12 th Mark A Olszewski	22 nd John R Sieverson
15 th Douglas Rollins	26 th John G Pauline
16 th William J Collins 83	



MEMBERSHIP

As of 2/25/2026, the Council has 160 members: 69 insurance, 91 associate; 46 Honorary Life, 5 Honorary.

Tom Diemer, FS



Lenten Fish Fries for the Benefit of St. Paul's Youth Ministry

Fridays of Lent: Feb. 27; March 6, 13, 20 & 27



Ash Wednesday Soup n Sandwich

The Council's Annual Polish dinner was held on Saturday, Feb. 14th. Keeping with tradition everything was prepped and cooked the day of the event. Held in St. Paul's Catholic School cafeteria; it turned out to be a very successful day. Many of the attendees are repeat customers who look forward to the event. Besides helping prep and serve, the Ladies' Auxiliary handled the 50/50 raffle. The winner was generous to donate money back. It was a busy but fun day! I would like to thank the following volunteers for their extremely hard work to make the dinner a success. Ladies' Auxiliary members Cindy Diemer, Jan Huber, Barbara Klein, Ann Rollins, Helena Swinnes, and Jeanette Glinke. Thanks to the following Knights Larry Huhn, Mark Ochalek, Joe Huber, Bill Collins, David Vasser, Phil Ligienza, Doug Rollins, and Chris Prochise. We finally got to meet Don Oblazney, who transferred into our Council recently. Don was the "server extraordinaire" hustling the meals to the diners. Again, it was outstanding work by all!!!!

Tom Diemer
Chairman

Again, this year the Council assisted the Parish with their Ash Wednesday soup and grilled cheese sandwich meal. The lunch was served after the noon Mass from 1-3 PM. Members of the Council and Ladies' Auxiliary made 240 grilled cheese sandwiches to serve with the homemade tomato bisque soup. The soup was made by church staff employee Bill Briggs. The Council thanks Jack Hickey, Louis Trapp, Bill Collins, Joe Huber, and Doug Rollins. The Ladies' Auxiliary helping with the event with a BIG Thank you to Cindy Diemer, Jan Huber, Alora Symonds, Kathy Cornell, and Joan Marie Kanczurzewski.

Tom Diemer
Coordinator



"Sometime things happen, and we don't understand why. Jesus wanted all of us to know that he will take care of us, even if we don't understand, and that we can always trust in his love."

~ by Barbra & Dr. Gregory Bottaro (Sitting Like a Saint)

Ray Crowell, Faith Director

PGK Mark O's Corner Offering !

Peace be with you! When I was in grade school, from the 3rd grade on, I went to public schools so we attended CCD classes for our religious education on Saturday mornings. When Lent came we were given these little canisters, enclosed with a slot cut in the top. The idea was to put your loose change in them, instead of buying candy, comic books or baseball cards; this would be our Lenten Offering. I remember scrambling as Holy Week began, to make the amount look as though I participated as instructed; well that was the plan.

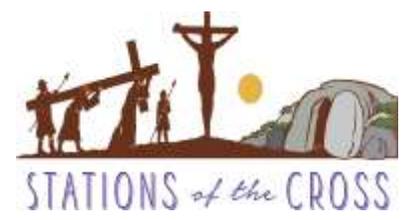
There was a carpenter who had a habit of taking jobsite materials home at the end of the day. His conscience got the better of him, so he went to confession. Fr. O'Brien said, Paddy are you sorry for what you have done and resolve not to continue; he was. Father tried to think of an appropriate penance to impose; a Rosary was not it, nor saying many Our Fathers & Hail Marys. So he asked: Paddy, have you made the Stations of the Cross? And Paddy responded: No Father, but if you have the plans, I have the lumber!

As we continue this Lenten Season, may we all resolve to be better men and women; preparing ourselves for the most Blessed and Sacred time of our calendars, Holy Week and the institution of the Body & Blood of Our Savior Jesus Christ at the Last Supper, to His ultimate Sacrifice for us on the Cross and the Glory of His Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Are you ready?

God has the plan, do you have the lumber!

Vivat Jesu!

Please Pray for Vocations!



COUNCIL SHIRTS & VESTS

Show you're a member of the Knights of Columbus by purchasing a council shirt or vest.



For information and ordering contact:
Tony Lause:
 tonylause@gmail.com
 or phone: 573-346-0643

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Oh, what happiness would be Ours if all men, individuals, families, and nations, would but let themselves be governed by Christ!"
 – Pope Pius XI



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**Life Insurance • Long-Term Care Insurance
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Protecting Catholic families since 1882.



"Carry it with you Always...

And Pray it Often!

MARCH 2026

APRIL 2026



Apr 2 Holy Thursday/Mass of the Last Supper 7pm

Apr 3 Good Friday/1st Friday 3pm - Passion

Youth Ministry Living Stations - 5pm

Apr 4 Holy Saturday/Easter Food Blessing 9am

Easter Vigil 8pm

Apr 5 Easter Sunday Masses: 7 - 9 - 11am

Apr 8 4th Degree Meeting ~ BMMMC ~ 7pm

Apr 10 Friday Adoration: 9am - 12pm Church

Apr 11/12 Divine Mercy Sunday

Apr 13 St. Martin I

Apr 15 Council Membership Mtg ~ BMMMC ~ Dinner 5:15pm ~ Rosary 6:30pm ~ Mtg 7pm

Apr 17 Friday Adoration: 9am - 12pm Church

Apr 18/19 3rd Sunday of Easter

Apr 21 St. Anselm

Apr 23 Ss. George & Adalbert

Apr 24 St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen

Friday Adoration: 9am - 12pm Church

Apr 25 St. Mark the Evangelist

Apr 25/26 4th Sunday of Easter

Apr 28 St. Peter Chanel

Apr 29 St. Catherine of Siena

Apr 30 St. Pope Pius V



Mar 1 2nd Sunday of Lent

Mar 3 St. Katherine Drexel



Mar 5 St. Casimir

Mar 6 1st Friday Adoration: 9am-12pm Church

Stations of the Cross 4pm - Church

Lenten Fish Fry - SPCS Cafeteria 5-7pm

Mar 7 Sts Perpetua & Felicity



Mar 7/8 3rd Sunday of Lent

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Mar 09 St. Frances of Rome



Mar 11 4th Degree Meeting ~ BMMMC ~ 7pm

Mar 13 Friday Adoration: 9am - 12pm Church

Stations of the Cross 4pm - Church

Lenten Fish Fry - SPCS Cafeteria 5-7pm

Mar 14/15 4th Sunday of Lent

Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day



Mar 18 Council Membership Mtg ~ BMMMC ~ Dinner 5:15pm ~ Rosary 6:30pm ~ Mtg 7pm

Mar 19 St. Joseph, Spouse of BVM



Mar 20 Friday Adoration: 9am - 12pm Church

Stations of the Cross 4pm - Church

Lenten Fish Fry - SPCS Cafeteria 5-7pm

Mar 21/22 5th Sunday of Lent

Mar 25 Annunciation of the Lord



Mar 27 Friday Adoration: 9am - 12pm Church

Stations of the Cross 4pm - Church

Lenten Fish Fry - SPCS Cafeteria 5-7pm

Mar 28/29 Palm Sunday





Knights in the News



St. Paul Council 5644 hosted the Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon, blessed by Pope Francis, Feb 7-13, 2026. The sacred image invites us to draw nearer to the Heart of Christ, asking Him to shape our hearts like His, that we may grow in charity and recognize His presence in others. The Icon was displayed in the Narthex through the week, concluding with a Holy Hour Adoration and Benediction led by SK Deacon Michael Balchus, SK Thomas Diemer FS, SK Daniel Gonzalez DGK and SK Ray Crowell Faith Director. (Thank you all!)



Citizens with Disabilities Fund Drive -- raised \$1,700 this year!
 The Council graciously Thanks St. Paul Parishioners for their continuing support of this worthy cause





Knights in the News

St. Paul Council 5644 & Ladies' Auxiliary hosted the Ash Wednesday Soup-n-Sandwich Luncheon



LENTEN FISH FRIES - BENEFITING ST. PAUL'S YOUTH MINISTRY





KofC 4th Degree Assembly 1675

1975 ~ 50th Anniversary Year ~ 2025



Coffee & Donuts for Vets

We will be at the Taveras V. A. Clinic Friday, March 6th from 8:30am until 10:30am serving coffee and donuts in appreciation to our veterans.



(Assembly Meetings: 2nd Wednesdays at St. Paul's Blessed Michael McGivney Center, 1320 Sunshine Ave.)

COFFEE & DONUTS TODAY
 08:30 to 10:30 
 Provided by the
 Knights of Columbus
 4th Degree
 Lake County Assembly 1675

The Assembly is in the process of re-establishing their Color Corps/Honor Guard

Any Sir Knight interested please contact our Faithful Navigator Tim Jaskiewicz
50% of the uniform cost will be covered through the support of the Assembly.



Calling All 3rd Degree Knights!!

All 3rd Degree Knights are invited to advance to the **FOURTH DEGREE - The Patriotic Degree of the Order**

Next Exemplification: January 31st in Tampa, FL
(Contact Mark Ochalek for more Information)

ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for 4th Degree, one must:

1. Be over 18 years of age.
2. Be a citizen of the United States.
3. Be a 3rd Degree member in good standing.
4. Be a practical Catholic.

Annual Polish Dinner



St. Paul Council #5644 - St. Paul Catholic Church, Leesburg, FL



BLESSED
MICHAEL MCGIVNEY
Pray for Us!

[A Litany of Blessed Michael McGivney](#)

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us. God, the Father of heaven, have mercy on us. God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us. God, the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us. Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us. Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, ... Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization, St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary and Guardian of the Redeemer, St. Michael the Archangel, Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us. Humble Servant of God, ... Faithful Disciple of Jesus, Son of the Immaculate Heart, Obedient Son of the Church, Exemplary Priest of Purity, Zealous Priest of Christ, Gentle Shepherd of Souls, Devoted Parish Priest, Wise Counselor, Teacher of the Faith, Servant to All, Protector of the Poor, Defender of the Widow and Orphan, Friend of the Lonely and Suffering, Companion to the Imprisoned, Comforter of the Sick and Dying, Apostle of Christian Family Life, Father to the Young, Advocate of Workers, Evangelizer of Those Gone Astray, Champion of the Gospel of Life, Guardian of the Laity, Pastor of Immigrants, Exemplar of Charity, Model of Unity, Builder of Catholic Fraternity, Instructor of Christian Patriotism, Founder of the Knights of Columbus, Blessed Michael, humble in service, pray for us. Blessed Michael, devoted to the Sacred Heart, ... Blessed Michael, pure in heart, Blessed Michael, faithful in priestly duties, Blessed Michael, strong in suffering, Blessed Michael, peaceful in dying, Blessed Michael, conformed to Christ crucified, Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord! Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord! Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us!

V/ Pray for us, Blessed Michael McGivney,

R/ That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. God, our Father, inspired by the heroic example of the life and virtue of your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, 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 outcast. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.