



DISTRICT 53 KNIGHTLY NEWS

DECEMBER 2025



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

December 8 Holy Day of Obligation! The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a day on which we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary (the Immaculate Conception has been the Patroness of the United States since 1846.



Note that it is she, Mary herself, who is the Immaculate Conception. The day does not refer to Mary's conceiving Jesus by the Holy Ghost which we recall on the Feast of the Annunciation, but to the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother, St. Anne, by Mary's father, St. Joachim. What makes her conception immaculate is not that she was conceived by the Holy Ghost of a virgin, as was Christ Our Lord, but that from the very moment of her conception, she was free from original sin and filled with grace by God, Who knew, in his omniscience, that she would say "yes" to the Angel Gabriel and become the Mother of the Savior.

ADVENT IS HERE

Advent began on Sunday, November 30, 2025 and ends on Christmas Eve - Wednesday, December 24, 2025

The Advent season is a time of **preparation** that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the



Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. Our Advent calendar (linked below) can help you fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.

The Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord – December 25

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. ~Luke 2:1–7



Prayer: Most Holy Savior of the World, You are the Light that scattered the darkness. You chose to be born in the most humble conditions, elevating humility as a means of great holiness. As we celebrate Your birth, I pray that You will also be born in my life, and through me, into the world. May this Christmas be a time in which I come to know You more fully and intimately, joining the shepherds in their adoration of You, so that I can share in the abundant new life You came to bestow. Holy Savior, have mercy on me. Jesus, I trust in You.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!

Council Rosters should be uploaded monthly. Supreme updates all transactions submitted by Financial Secretary's throughout the Order after normal business hours every Monday. Therefore, if you update your council Member Management on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, your council membership roster will always be up to date. **Put a note on your calendar to complete this important task!** If you have not done so already, do so now as the date to upload your roster this month is **December 9**.

Individual Member Worksheet (#1728A) should be provided to council members for reporting their volunteer hours and charitable donations made during the year on behalf of your council. This will enable the council to submit an accurate Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) due January 31, 2026.

Be sure to file Form 10784 Fraternal Programs Report after each Council event. Any member can file the form.

IMPORTANT DATES

District Mid-Year Meeting will be held on January 10, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Ponce de Leon Council 8074 has graciously agreed to host the meeting at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 211 W. Charlotte Avenue, Punta Gorda. This meeting will be focused on group discussions and member feedback on the fraternal year to date. Please mark your calendar and plan to start the second half of the fraternal year with a bang.

Men's Gospel Discussion Group

The San Antonio Church Men's Gospel Discussion Group meets every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Rooms 1&2 of the Ministry Building at San Antonio Catholic Church, 24445 Rampart Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33980.

The Men's Gospel Discussion Group provides men an opportunity to grow in their Faith and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. Men from all Parishes are Welcome.

For More Information, contact:

Chris Wagner: 941-628-9554; chris.wagner5453@yahoo.com

Jerry Vekteris: 609-513-2335; vekterisgerald@gmail.com

Schedule your **Open House/Fraternal Benefits Events** with our Field Agent, Alan Kotlarski. Each council must conduct two FBEs during the fraternal year to qualify for the Founders Award. The Founders Award is an essential element required for the Star Council Award. A change for this year is that the Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight meet individually with their agent for a personal review of the benefits available to them. These two meeting count for one of the two required FBEs. The Grand Knight reports these GK/DGK meetings and the regular FBEs using this online reporting tool: [#11077 Fraternal Benefits Event Council Report \(25-26\)](#)

THE CHOSEN IS BACK!

Come join St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 11483 on Friday nights for Season 5 of "The Chosen - The Last Supper". The Knights of Columbus will be showing episodes of the award winning series on the life of Christ and His Disciples beginning Friday, October 3rd, in the St. Max Parish Center starting at 6PM. Contact Ray Desjardins, desjardinsfl@gmail.com, (941) 628-1590 for details.

FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION:

January 31, 2026, St. Mark the Evangelist Church, 9724 Cross Creek Blvd Tampa, FL 33647 Contact Robert Urrutia, FL Master for further information. (507) 486-7883, robert.s.urrutia84@gmail.com

Fourth Degree - No Member meeting in December.

Fourth Degree Ice Cream Social, 20 December @ 2 pm Jacobson Veterans Home, PC

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE DISTRICT

San Antonio Council 12456

CUF 1st Wednesday of each month as needed

December 12 5-9 pm **Christmas Ball** Maple Leaf CC. Entertainment by John Fetterer. Tickets \$50 pp

Annual "Keep Christ in Christmas" Christmas Fundraiser sale DEC 6 & 7

St Maximilian Kolbe Council 11483

CUF 2nd Wednesday of each month as needed

Golf Outing at Paradise GC 17 JAN 2026

Ponce de Leon Council 8074

CUF 3rd Wednesday of each month as needed

December 11 at 5 p.m. **Christmas Party** at Twin Isles CC

December 21 @ 7:00 – 11:00 **Pancake Breakfast** Parish Hall

St. Charles Borromeo Council 5399

December 14 5-9 PM **Christmas Dinner Dance**, St. Charles Parish Center

Regional Free throw Challenge February 21, 2026

(Please provide me by email the details including photographs for any event or program you are running in the coming six weeks that would be open to members of all councils and parishes.)

Thank you for all you do for the Order and the Church.

Gary D. Miller

District Deputy, Dist 53

Punta Gorda, FL

Vivat Jesus!