



DISTRICT 53 KNIGHTLY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026



Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. It is a season of penance, prayer, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too. It is important to remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer and fasting.



The Church requires all Catholics from ages 14-59 to fast on Ash Wednesday. As long as you are in good health, this means that you should only eat one full meal, plus two smaller meals that do not equal a full meal. Ash Wednesday is also a day where Catholics avoid eating meat.

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God.

Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance.

Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. Even non-Christians and the excommunicated are welcome to receive the ashes. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass.

Council Rosters should be uploaded monthly. The date to upload your roster this month is **February 13**. 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!**

Per Capita Bills from the Supreme Council for all councils became available on January 1, 2026. The council bill can be easily found in the Reports Tab of Officers Online (paper invoices are not mailed). Please process your payment in a timely manner to keep your council in good standing.

Be sure to file **Form 10784 Fraternal Programs Report** after each Council event. Any member can file the form. This will make filling out your SP-7 much easier.

122nd FSC State Convention preparations are underway. All Councils should begin the process of electing your Delegates to the Convention. Each Council should elect two (2) Delegates and two (2) alternates for a total of four (4) delegates elected. The Grand Knight is automatically selected as one (1) Delegate. All Election results will be certified by the Financial Secretary on the State Website. The Financial Secretary must put in the Delegates phone number and email address when entering the information.

District Mid-Year Meeting Thank you for all who attended the meeting on January 10 hosted by Ponce de Leon Council 8074. The group discussions were very valuable and a good time was had by all.

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 may 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 \(25-26\)](#)

FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATIONS:

March 20 Panama City, St. Dominic Catholic Church

May 9, 2026 Naples, St. Elizabeth Catholic Church

Contact Robert Urrutia, FL Master for further information. (507) 486-7883,
robert.s.urrutia84@gmail.com

Fourth Degree – February 26 6:00 p.m. Social hour at 5:00 p.m. San Antonio Parish Center.

Fourth Degree Ice Cream Social, 28 February 2 p.m. Jacobson Veterans Home, PC

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE DISTRICT

San Antonio Council 12456

San Antonio Church Men's Gospel Discussion Group, every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Rooms 1&2 of the Ministry Building at San Antonio Catholic Church,

February 14-15 Membership Drive

February 17 at 6-7:30 p.m. Open House San Antonio Ministry Center, Rooms 1 & 2

Ponce de Leon Council 8074

January 31 Pork Chop Dinner

February 15 9:00 a.m. Corporate Mass

February 25 Comedy Show - Sacred Heart Parish Hall

St. Charles Borromeo Council 5399

February 1st, 7th & 8th Tootsie Roll Drive - Publix

Regional Free throw Challenge February 21, 2026

St Maximilian Kolbe Council 11483

7 FEB 5:30 p.m. Valentines Dinner Dance (See attached flyer)

19 FEB 8:00 a.m. Silver Rose Pilgrim Icon

20 FEB First Fish Fry of Lent St. Max Parish Hall

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

Gary D. Miller

District Deputy, Dist 53

Vivat Jesus!



50's Dinner Dance



Saturday, February 7, 2026



Fundraiser

By

Sons and Daughters of Italy – Lodge 2507

And

Knights of Columbus - 11483

\$18.00 per person

(Quarter Chicken Dinner, Sides, & Dessert)

Doors Open 5:00 PM

50/50

Chinese Auction

Location of Event: 3725 Easy Street, Port Charlotte, FL

**For tickets call: 941-875-7314 or 941-764-9003 leave message or you can
purchase tickets at: Gregg's Automotive located at 236 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda**

Phone: 941-575-8868