



DISTRICT 53 KNIGHTLY NEWS

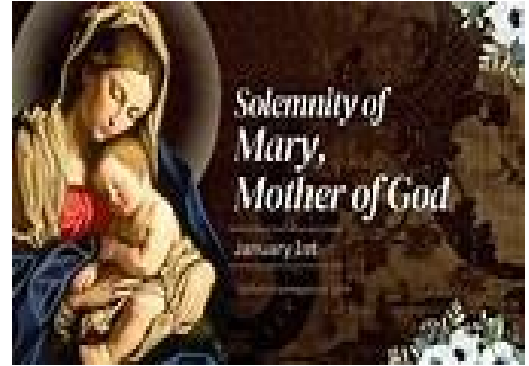
JANUARY 2026



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God – January 1, 2026 **Holy Day of Obligation!**

At the beginning of this new year which the Lord has granted us, we do well to lift our eyes and hearts to Mary. For, like a Mother, she points us to her Son. She brings us back to Jesus; she speaks to us of Jesus; she leads us to Jesus. The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, immerses us once more in the mystery of Christmas. In Mary's womb, God became one of us, and we, who have opened the Holy Door to inaugurate the Jubilee, are reminded today that "Mary is the door through which Christ entered this world" (Saint Ambrose, *Ep.* 42, 4: PL, VII).



The Apostle Paul sums up this mystery by telling us that "God sent forth his Son, born of a woman" (*Gal* 4:4). Those words – "born of a woman" – echo in our hearts today; they remind us that Jesus, our Saviour, *became flesh and is revealed in the frailty of the flesh*.

Born of a woman. Those words bring us back to Christmas, for the Word *became flesh*. The Apostle Paul, in saying that Christ was born of a woman, almost senses the need to remind us that God became truly man through a human womb. There is a temptation, which many people today find attractive, but can also mislead many Christians, to imagine or invent a God "in the abstract", associated with some vague religious feeling or fleeting emotion. No. God is tangible, he is human, he was born of a woman; he has a face and a name, and calls us to have a relationship with him. Christ Jesus, our Saviour, born of woman, has flesh and blood. Coming from the bosom of the Father, he takes flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary. From the highest heaven, he comes down to earth. Son of God, he becomes the Son of man. The image of the Almighty God, Christ came among us in weakness; though he was without blemish, "for our sake, God made him to be sin" (*2 Cor* 5:21). He was born of woman; he is one of us. For this reason, he is able to save us.

HOMILY OF POPE FRANCIS, Saint Peter's Basilica, Wednesday, 1st January 2025

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 **January 13**.

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.

State Convention portal opens January 1st. All Election results will be posted by the Financial Secretary and delegate registrations will be done online.

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. The halfway point of the fraternal year is a perfect time to evaluate what has gone well in your council, examine what has not been very successful and make your plan to polish your council operations to finish the fraternal year strong. Please mark your calendar and plan to start the second half of the fraternal year with a bang.

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 \(25-26\)](#)

FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATIONS:

January 31, 2026, St. Mark the Evangelist Church, 9724 Cross Creek Blvd Tampa, FL

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 – Renewal of Oath Ceremony January 22, 2026, 7:00 p.m. Dress is suit or jacket and tie.

Fourth Degree Ice Cream Social, 24 January 2 p.m. Jacobson Veterans Home, PC

Florida Knights of Columbus Hockey Challenge 2025-26

Our State Youth Director and Hockey Challenge Coordinator are spreading the word about the Youth Hockey Challenge to our Councils, generating interest, and maximizing participation as much as possible.

The program is run very similarly to the Soccer Challenge, can take place indoors or outdoors depending on what best suits the Council and the school. The equipment to run the event is available for scheduled use from State; and Incarnation Council #15332 has graciously offered to share the knowledge and experience they've gained over the last several months to help organize and promote the event, as well as help with purchasing equipment if your Councils so choose.

The competition does not need to be conducted on ice so the availability of an indoor rink is not prohibitive. The competition can take place on asphalt or concrete, grass or dirt or on a smooth, indoor floored surface. There are hard shooting mats available for purchase to protect a floor and mitigate uneven surfaces. The pucks are fairly soft so they will not damage an indoor surface.

The hockey challenge is a great way for the kids to have fun. Please consider having your Council participate in this program this coming year. Councils should target their competitions NLT the first week of February to leave time for a District competition. If one Council in the District holds a competition, a combined Council/District event may be held sometime during the last two weeks of February. The Region 5 Competition is scheduled for March 1st.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE DISTRICT

San Antonio Council 12456

CUF 1st Wednesday of each month as needed

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,

January 30 7-9 PM Doors open 6 pm **Simply 60's and More Band** Holy Trinity Event Center, 24411 Rampart Blvd, Port Charlotte. Cash Bar. Free Will Offering. Tickets available after all weekend masses.

St Maximilian Kolbe Council 11483

CUF 2nd Wednesday of each month as needed

Golf Outing at Paradise GC 17 JAN 2026. (See attached flyer)

Ponce de Leon Council 8074

CUF 3rd Wednesday of each month as needed

January 15 @ 6:30 pm **“Hearts and Souls” Adult Education Group**. Sacred Heart Parish Center.

January 18 @ 7:00 – 11:00 **Pancake Breakfast** Parish Hall

St. Charles Borromeo Council 5399

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

Regional Free throw Challenge February 21, 2026

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

Gary D. Miller

District Deputy, Dist 53

Vivat Jesus!



St Max Council 11483 Knights of Columbus



Not So Annual Golf Outing Supporting Knights' Charity Activities Saturday, January 17th, Paradise Golf Club

8135 SW Sunnybreeze Rd, Arcadia, FL 34269

Check-In 7:15a – 8:15a

4 Player Scramble - Shotgun Start 8:30a

\$90/player – \$85 if paid by Dec 1st!

KofC Members - \$80/player 😊

Fee Includes ALL of These!

Golf Cart and Green Fees

Continental Breakfast & Lunch

All Bag Handling Tips



Sponsorship
Opportunities

Help Even More by
Being a Personal
or Corporate
Sponsor

Skill Contests & Prizes – Unlimited Practice Balls

2 Beverage Tickets – 2 Mulligans – Prize Tickets

PRIZES!!! PRIZES!!! PRIZES!!! – Door and Skill

All Net Proceeds Go To Support our Local Charities Such As:

*Charlotte Harbor School, Special Olympics, Coats for Kids,
Homeless Coalition, Local Food Pantries*

For Entry Information, Sponsorships, Payments, Submission of 4somes, contact

Joe Manna (941) 661-2734 – koc11483@gmail.com