

INVOCATION

April 2026



Remembering
Jim Schonefeld

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By John O'Toole, Former Master of the Florida District of the Fourth Degree



*Brother Sir Knight James J. Schonefeld (State Deputy 2007-2009), (Florida District Master 2010-2014) passed away on March 28. A retired U.S. Army Sergeant Major, he most recently served as State Fraternalist. A second-generation Knight of Columbus with 46 years of service, he was a member of **Council 6624 St. Cloud Kissimmee** and **Father William J. Holmes Assembly 1951**.*

James J. Schonefeld passed away last week. He was so much more than a Past State Deputy and Former District Master, he was a husband to Dorothy, and a father to John and Connie, as well as a grandfather. He was also a friend to so many Brother Knights across the State of Florida and beyond.

Jim began his life in Texas, and like Texas he often seemed bigger than life. Jim was a second-generation member of the Knights of Columbus. Jim lost his father when he was just a teenager, and he used to say that the local KofC Council adopted and looked after his family after that. At 18 years old, the Council brought him to town, and he became a member of our Order.

Jim joined the U.S. Army and went to Vietnam, serving several tours. He was always proud of

his service and rose to the rank of Sergeant Major. During his long service in the Army, Jim had many stops along the way, including Hawaii, Virginia, and his last stop Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana supporting Desert Storm.

Jim and Dottie arrived in Florida and moved to Kissimmee where he was quickly elected Grand Knight and led the council which was consecutively named Council of the Year by the Florida State Council because of his leadership. He was appointed District Deputy by State Deputy Gary McLain, and became the Director of Florida KC Charities under Jerry Grillo. As the Director of KC Charities, Jim travelled throughout the State.

In 1999, Jim was elected State Warden for the Florida State Council, and progressed through the chairs until he was elected State Deputy in 2007. He served two years as State Deputy, along with his State Secretary Dick Krohn. Again, Jim travelled across the State, criss-crossing the State from coast to coast, north to south. Jim attended almost every State function and banquet. He travelled to promote both programs and membership. Under his leadership, the Florida State Council received the Pinnacle Award for membership growth.

In 2010 Jim was named the District Master

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of the Florida Province of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus. Under his proven leadership, the Fourth Degree continued its growth in both membership and assemblies. As District Master, expanded the number and quality of the Exemplifications. His wife Dottie was always by his side. He was also able to expand the generosity of the Fourth Degree through his support of the Veteran's Hospitals, Vocations, as well as the support of the Military Chaplains Fund

In his last years, Jim served the Order as the State Fraternalist. This was a job in which Jim was perfectly suited. No one ever fit the description of Fraternalist better than Jim. Jim knew so many Brother Knights across the State, as well as their wives and family.

Jim was always interested in the welfare of others. Some of his proudest moments were when he had helped others, whether it was making sure that the wife and family of a deployed soldier got his pay, or getting gift cards from Winn-Dixie that could be used by families affected by hurricanes and disasters. He always supported our priesthood,



both by his support of our seminaries as State Deputy, Military Chaplains as Master, or private contributions.

Jim Schonefeld was most importantly a friend. He was a friend who would call just to see if you were all right. He would call to let you know if someone had passed, even if they were on the other end of the State. He was someone who would give you advice and comfort. It is Jim Schonefeld's friendship I will miss the most.



Father Downey Council 4934 recently hosted a active shooter course open to all parishioners regarding safety at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in New Smyrna Beach.

Law enforcement officers and agencies are frequently requested by schools, businesses, and community members for direction and presentations on what they should do if confronted with an active shooter event.

The Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) course, designed and built on the Avoid, Deny Defend (ADD) strategy developed by ALERRT in 2004, provides strategies, guidance and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event. Topics include the history and prevalence of active shooter events, civilian response options, medical issues, and considerations for conducting drills.

SK Patrick Kelly was the point of contact for the course, under the direction of PGK Leo Decker and GK Nick Stuart.

Open Wide The Doors For Christ

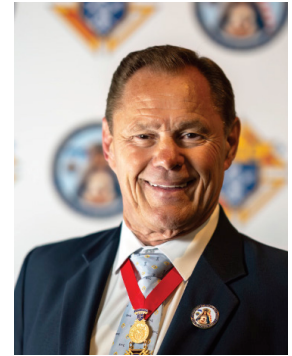
In this most sacred season of the Church, as we enter into the profound mystery of the Passion, Crucifixion, and glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are reminded that our faith is not simply something we profess it is something we are called to live. The Cross stands before us not as a symbol of defeat, but as the ultimate expression of sacrificial love. And the empty tomb proclaims to the world that death is not the end, but the beginning of eternal life. It is within this holy context that we reflect on our mission as brothers of the Knights of Columbus, especially here within the Florida State Council.

Easter is not just a moment in time it is a call to transformation. It is an invitation to draw closer to Christ, to die to ourselves, and to rise with Him in a renewed spirit of faith, hope, and charity. As Knights, we are uniquely positioned to live out this calling in a powerful and visible way. Our Order was founded on the principles of charity, unity, and fraternity, and it is through these virtues that we become instruments of Christ's love in the world.

At the heart of our mission is the salvation of souls. Everything we do every act of charity, every hour of service, every prayer offered is ultimately directed toward bringing souls closer to Jesus Christ. This is not a task we can accomplish alone. The world today presents many challenges to faith, many distractions that pull people away from God. But what we cannot do individually, we can accomplish together as brothers united in purpose and guided by the Holy Spirit.

There is something deeply spiritual about the unity we share as Knights. When we gather in fraternity, we are not merely a group of men we are a brotherhood rooted in Christ. We strengthen one another, encourage one another, and hold one another accountable in our journey of faith. In this unity, we reflect the very nature of the Church itself, the Body of Christ, where each member plays a vital role in the mission of salvation.

During this holy season, we are called to reflect on the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. He gave everything for us His body, His blood, His very life. This total gift of self is the model for our own lives. As Knights, we are called to give of ourselves generously, to serve without expecting anything in return, and



*State Deputy
Michael P. Gizewski*

to love as Christ loves. Whether it is supporting our parishes, assisting those in need, standing for the dignity of life, or simply being present for a brother in need, each act becomes a reflection of Christ's sacrificial love.

The Resurrection, however, reminds us that sacrifice is not the end of the story. There is hope. There is victory. There is new life. This is the message we are called to bring into the world a world that so often struggles with despair and uncertainty. Through our actions, our words, and our witness, we proclaim that Christ is alive, and that His love has the power to transform lives.

The Florida State Council has been blessed with dedicated men who live this mission every day. Across our state, Knights are serving their communities, supporting their parishes, and standing as witnesses to the Gospel. But as we reflect during this Easter season, we must also ask ourselves: how can we do more? How can we deepen our commitment? How can we bring even more souls to Christ?

The answer lies in our willingness to grow spiritually. Our works are important, but they must always be rooted in a deep and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Prayer, the sacraments, and a life grounded in faith are essential. Without Christ at the center, our efforts lose their true purpose. But with Him, everything we do becomes a means of grace.

We must also be intentional in inviting others to join us in this mission. There are many men who are searching for purpose, for brotherhood, for a deeper connection to their faith. The Knights of Columbus offers all of this and more. By inviting them to become part of our Order, we are not simply growing our membership we are extending the reach of Christ's love and bringing more souls into a life of service and faith.

As we stand at the foot of the Cross and gaze upon the empty tomb, let us renew our commitment as Knights. Let us be men of faith, men of action, and men of charity. Let us embrace the mission of bringing souls to Christ with renewed passion and dedication. And let us remember always that we are not alone in this mission. We are brothers,

united in Christ, working together for His glory.

In the end, it is not about what we achieve as individuals, but what we accomplish together in the name of our Lord. Through our unity, our faith, and our commitment to service, we become instruments of God's grace in the world. And in doing so, we fulfill the true purpose of our calling as Knights of Columbus.

May this Easter season renew our hearts, strengthen our resolve, and inspire us to continue the sacred work entrusted to us. And may we always strive to lead others to the One who gave everything for us Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

And please always remember. God loves you and so do I.

Sacred Heart Knights Host Picnic



Father Downey Council 4934 participated in a free picnic to the parishioners of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and St. Gerard Mission in New Smyrna Beach on Palm Sunday.

The picnic was open to the public, and held on the campus of Sacred Heart School.

Activities included an Easter Egg Hunt, three bounce houses, DJ music, baked goods, hot dogs, hamburgers and cookies for dessert.

Under the direction of Grand Knight Nick Stuart, 20 Knights grilled and distributed 300 hot dogs and 275 hamburgers, and also provided all of the trimmings. The Knights purchased a new grill for the occasion, giving them three total grills to speed up meal preparation for the more than 300 parishioners in attendance.

Vicki Moran of the Catholic Women's Association was overall event coordinator.

Alive in Christ

By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

“He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.” - Matthew 28:6

Alleluia! He is Risen! Easter is here and we are alive in Christ! This most important day for all Christians gives our lives meaning and hope. It allows us to bear our own crosses knowing that death never gets the last word. This Easter season also allows us to be inspired by the joy of Jesus’ first followers, and this graced time helps us capture that excitement in our own spiritual lives. Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, lifts us up in any circumstances!

The most beautiful celebration of the Easter Vigil begins with the light of the Easter fire and lighting of the Paschal Candle cutting through the darkness of night. Jesus’ first followers were upset and afraid and in figurative darkness. Their master was dead and buried. And just when things were darkest, the light of Christ burst forth in the world in the Resurrection. It was a miraculous surprise that changed the lives of the apostles so long ago and sparks the same transformation in today’s missionary disciples. Out of the sin and death and darkness of a fallen world, God’s only begotten son delivers divine light.

Knights and their families have journeyed through 40 days of Lent undoubtedly filled with increased prayer and parish service activities. For some of us, it might have been challenging and tiring. Now the fruit of our labor comes in an encounter with the Risen Christ. Here in Florida

especially, where crowds fill our churches and Easter represents a high point and final flurry of activity, we can now take a deep breath and experience wonder at what God has done in our hearts, councils and churches.

After all the spiritual and temporal works accomplished by Knights

in recent weeks, there’s a certain satisfaction in knowing we have done our best for the Lord. The job is never done, but we can’t forget to pause and reflect from time to time. In this way we put things in holy perspective, and then continue the journey refreshed and renewed. The spirit of the Resurrection strengthens us now and keeps us rising again, to meet the next challenge, support the next cause, and serve God and neighbor in creative ways.

Jesus is Risen! I pray that your greatest joy will always be experienced in Jesus Christ as a member of the Knights of Columbus in the Body of Christ which is the Church. What great things God will continue to do in our lives when we open our hearts to Christ! On behalf of the officers of the Florida State Council, may our Risen Lord grant you and your families a most blessed Easter season! Vivat Jesus! Jesus Lives!



*State Chaplain
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

Did you know that the State of Florida Council has a YouTube Channel? Well, we do! This is a place where we can put in videos of the all the great things that we do as Knights in the State of Florida.

During the State Convention we took video interviews of some of the Dignitaries that honored us with their presence. You can

see the videos by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Please be sure to subscribe to the channel so you will be notified when new videos are added. If you have any videos that you would like to add that shows your Council doing good works please email Jim Clark, Broadcast Media Relations and Production Director at jclark1@gmail.com.

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Gospel for April 19, Lk 24:35)

The disciples on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until the breaking of the bread. Jesus promised he would be with us always, and the Eucharist is his fulfillment of that promise. We encounter his presence most profoundly in the Eucharist, where he is truly present — body, blood, soul, and divinity — under the appearance of bread and wine. The disciples' experience on the road to Emmaus was no ordinary meal, but an encounter with Christ, who invites us, too, to enter into communion with him through the Eucharist.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to remain in prayer and adoration for several minutes after Mass to grow in awareness of Christ's true presence in the Eucharist.

Questions for Reflection:

Do you fully realize it is the true body and blood of Christ that you receive in the Eucharist? Do you habitually pray in thanksgiving after Communion for this immeasurable gift? Do you consistently participate in Mass on Sundays and holy days? Do you make an effort to attend more frequently, so that you might avail yourself of the graces of this great sacrament?

Council Holds Tootsie Roll Drive



Knights of Columbus Council 2105 of Saint Mary Our Lady of Grace in the Diocese of St. Petersburg conducted its semiannual Tootsie Roll Drive on Feb. 14-15, raising \$1,977 to benefit Special Olympics and Morning Star Catholic School in Pinellas Park.

Continuing its longstanding commitment to individuals with intellectual disabilities, the council donated \$197.64 to Special Olympics and \$1,778.76 to Morning Star. “We have been helping Special Olympics and Morning Star for many years,” said Grand Knight Sean Denny. “Both are near and dear to our hearts, and both

support individuals with intellectual disabilities.”

The council’s support of Special Olympics carries special meaning for Council 2105. Al Palumbo, a council officer and former Special Olympian, has won four medals in bowling—three gold and one silver.

“At our last meeting, Al brought the medals he earned,” Denny said. “When you see them up close, they are beautiful. The pride Al takes in his achievements reinforces how important Special Olympics is. If we can help even a little, it is an honor and a privilege.”

Morning Star Catholic School, a mission of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, serves students with a variety of learning challenges. The school provides a comprehensive kindergarten through 12th-grade curriculum in a structured, small-group environment. In addition to core academic subjects and religious education, students may receive specialized services such as speech and occupational therapy during the school day.

“Morning Star is nothing less than a gift to our community,” Denny said. “They offer a full curriculum while meeting the unique needs of their students. Saint Mary Our Lady of Grace has designated Morning Star as a parish priority, so supporting the school is a natural fit for our council.”

Deputy Grand Knight Matt Sottong, serving as chairman of the drive for the third time, reflected on the fundraiser’s continued success. “What strikes me is how effective such a simple, traditional fundraiser can be,” Sottong said. “Standing outside after Mass, greeting parishioners, asking for support, and offering a piece of candy in thanks—it’s a small gesture that makes a real difference. Many parishioners even declined the candy; they were simply happy to help.”

Like many Florida parishes, attendance at Saint Mary Our Lady of Grace increases during the winter months when seasonal residents return. “We plan our Tootsie Roll Drives for the fall and spring when the church is fullest,” Denny noted. “It allows us to reach the greatest number of parishioners—and avoids handing out sticky candy in ninety-degree heat,” he added with a smile.

Through the generosity of their parish community, the Knights of Columbus Council 2105 continue to advance the Order’s mission of charity, supporting organizations that uphold the dignity and potential of every individual.

Are You A Member?

The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney.

The Guild distributes informational materials about him, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics.

Guild members receive regular updates on the progress of Blessed Michael J. McGivney’s



cause for canonization and are invited to participate in promoting devotion to this Servant of God. Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically Guild members and must elect to join the Guild.

The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter is published bimonthly except July - August, and is sent free to Guild members.

To join the Guild, register online at: <http://www.fathermcgivney.org/> †

Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage



Notre Dame Council 10514 in Flagler Beach participated in the Order's new 'Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage' Program by honoring St. Joseph and St. Patrick.

The first part of the program was the restoration of the St. Joseph statue on the grounds of Santa Maria del Mar Church. The statue had fallen into disrepair. Permission was given by council Chaplain and Pastor, Fr. Manny Lopez, for the Knights to undertake the restoration project. Deputy Grand Knight Bruce Zarajczyk and his wife, Debi, removed and took the statue to their garage to perform the restoration work which took several weeks to complete. A new staff was fashioned and other cosmetic work performed that brought the statue back to its original state.

The work was completed so that the rededication could be held around the feast day of St. Joseph. As part of the rededication ceremony, Grand Knight Bryant Perszyk led prayers to honor St. Joseph in front of the refurbished statue.

As part of the overall program, a Holy Hour was conducted to honor both St. Joseph and St. Patrick. This was held in the adoration chapel at Santa Maria del Mar Church. The Holy Hour was held the week of their feast days. Preparation for the holy hour included the printing of prayer

cards dedicated to the saints and other holy hour materials for distribution to those attending.

Deacon and Brother Knight Robert Krol began the holy hour with exposition of the blessed sacrament. After taking time for private meditation, Deacon Krol gave a summary of the lives and accomplishments of both saints. Faith Director Doug Hill led an Intercessory prayer to St. Joseph followed by Grand Knight Bryant Perszyk leading an intercessory prayer to St. Patrick. Knights and guests then recited the Sorrowful Mysteries of the rosary. The holy hour was concluded with benediction prayers and songs while the Blessed Sacrament was reposed.

The 'Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage' program encourages councils to celebrate the cultures and traditions of their parish communities. This program aims to educate, inspire, and unite the community while celebrating the deep-rooted faith and cultural heritage of its members.

More information on the Supreme Council's Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage Program can be found at:

<https://www.kofc.org/what-we-do/programs/community/celebrating-catholic-heritage/>

Standing Together for the Unborn

On March 25, the **Mother Seton Knights of Columbus Council** of Palm Coast gathered the community for a powerful Holy Hour dedicated to prayer and advocacy under the sacred patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

This solemn afternoon served as a spiritual rallying point for the parish, focusing on the protection of the most vulnerable and seeking the intercession of the Blessed Mother in her role as the patroness of the unborn. The atmosphere was one of deep reflection and communal solidarity, as attendees united their voices in a shared commitment to the sanctity of life.

The heart of the activity centered on a mission of advocacy for those at risk of abortion and all individuals involved in the pro-life movement. Throughout the hour, participants offered intentions for a wide range of needs, including the defense of the unborn, the healing of those experiencing infertility, and the continued care for mothers and families in crisis.

A pivotal moment of the service featured a moving message from Life Director Wayne Friday, who illuminated the historical and modern impact of Our Lady of Guadalupe on young women in Mexico. His words served as a stirring call to action, reminding every person in the community

that they possess the power to make a difference and that even the smallest contribution is vital in the fight for women and children in need.

The result of this gathering was a significant display of faith in action, benefiting not only the parish members who attended but also the broader pro-life cause by fostering a culture of compassion and vigilance. The service was exceptionally well-attended, with over fifty parishioners joined by more than fifteen Knights of Columbus members. This collective presence sent a clear message of unity against the challenges facing the unborn today, providing a spiritual foundation for ongoing local advocacy and support efforts.

The success of the Holy Hour was guided by the leadership of several key players and dedicated Knights who have made the pro-life cause a pillar of their service. Among the notable attendees were District Deputy Greg Gully, Grand Knight Joseph Paul, and Life Director Wayne Friday, whose message anchored the event. They were joined by Membership Director Joe Lupo, Faith Director Carlos Diaz, and Deacon Steven Johnson, all of whom played an essential role in the afternoon's proceedings. Through the efforts of these leaders and the Mother Seton Council, the parish remains a steadfast beacon of hope and protection for the unborn and their families.



Knights of Columbus®
Programs



FAITH

Our goal is to strengthen men and their families in the Catholic faith. Formation in our faith goes beyond mere facts or religious practice to an authentic connection with a loving God and his son Jesus Christ. Programs in this category are designed to...

[Learn more](#)



FAMILY

Father McGivney sought to strengthen the familial bond of father to mother and children to parents. His vision for family life was not only financial and material aid but also spiritual strength. The majority of our time is easily spent in secular circles unless...

[Learn more](#)



COMMUNITY

Knights are called to serve others. Our first principle is Charity – at home with our families and in our communities. When Knights of Columbus members come together as one through their council and parish, they accomplish great things.

[Learn more](#)



LIFE

"Catholics must be committed to the defense of life in all its stages and in every condition" (St. John Paul II, 1995). The urgency of the threat to a culture of life in our world cannot be misunderstood. The Knights of Columbus vigorously defends...

[Learn more](#)

Rick Hughes To Be Honored

District Master Rob Urrutia announced that Immediate Past State Deputy Rick Hughes will be the honoree for the next Fourth Degree Exemplification for the Florida District of the De Soto Province, which will be held in Naples on Saturday, May 9.

The Naples Exemplification will take place at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 625 111th Ave N, Naples. Details are available on the Florida Council state web site (floridakofc.org). The deadline is Friday, April 24.

Looking ahead, the Miami area will host an Exemplification on Saturday, June 27, at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church, 1201 SW 136th Avenue in Davie.

The Miami-area ceremony will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. Retiring Miami Archbishop Most Rev. Thomas Wensky will be the honoree. An impressive guest list is gathering for the event, led by Supreme Master Michael McCusker and Supreme Director and Past State Depute Scott O'Connor. The registration deadline is Friday, June 12.

The candidate fee either ceremony is \$90, including the meal, and the fee for a Priest is \$50. While the ceremony is free, the banquet fee for family, friends and observers is \$50.

Third Degree Knights are encouraged to join the Patriotic Degree, and experience the revitalized ceremony that debuted at New York City's St. Patrick's Cathedral on Washington's Birthday in 2025 – the 125th anniversary of the Fourth Degree.



Unlike former years, family members and friends are encouraged to attend, Sir Knights who took the Fourth Degree prior to 2025 are also invited to experience that stresses the importance of becoming a Patriotic Catholic Citizen.

Assemblies are required to send in a downloaded copy of the registration form (please do not write on the original), degree certificate, signed dress code letter, signed Form 4 (all four copies for each candidate), and check payable to the Master, Robert Urrutia. Forms are available on the Florida State website.



Guest House to Expand Care



Guest House, a benefactor of the Knights of Columbus’ new charitable initiative, Recovery Sunday, broke ground on its new Health and Wellness Center on December 11, 2025.

Located in Lake Orion, Michigan, Guest House is a nonprofit residential treatment center dedicated to caring for the health and wellness of Catholic clergy, women and men religious, and seminarians. As the only treatment facility in the United States dedicated exclusively to the ordained and consecrated of the Catholic Church, Guest House continues its 70-year mission of healing those who serve others.

The Florida State Council of the Knights of Columbus supports Guest House through the Recovery Sunday initiative – an effective, parish based fundraiser. Recovery Sunday was conceived by Florida State Deputy Michael Gizewski after becoming aware of Guest House during a dinner with Sir Knight Joe McGivney – a descendent of the KofC Founder. With State Deputy Gizewski’s leadership and vision, Recovery Sunday was born.

Founded in 1956 to treat priests struggling with alcoholism, Guest House has grown into a comprehensive behavioral health provider addressing the increasingly complex challenges faced by today’s clergy and religious. While substance use disorders remain a primary focus,

treatment now also includes process addictions such as overspending, hoarding, gambling, cluttering, and disordered eating, as well as underlying mental health conditions like depression, anxiety, and trauma.



SK Joe McGivney

What makes Guest House unique is not only whom it serves, but how it serves. Lay-run yet deeply rooted in Catholic values, the organization provides specialized care tailored to the spiritual and vocational realities of religious life. Many who come to Guest House are accustomed to being the ones others turn to for help, making it especially difficult to seek care themselves. Guest House offers a safe, confidential environment where healing can begin.

Central to its mission is a commitment to accessibility. No priest, sister, brother, deacon, or seminarian is ever turned away due to an inability to pay. Thanks to the generosity of donors, Guest House provides approximately \$1.5 million in free care each year, ensuring that financial barriers never stand in the way of recovery and renewal.

The new Health and Wellness Center represents the next step in this mission. The facility will feature an expanded fitness and exercise space directly connected to the treatment center, supporting physical health as a key component of recovery. A demonstration kitchen will provide hands-on instruction in nutrition and healthy living—practical skills essential for sustaining wellness when individuals return to ministry or community life. Additional classroom space will further support education and long-term recovery planning.

More than an expansion of services, the new center reflects a deeper understanding of healing. Recovery is not only about overcoming addiction, but about restoring the whole person—body, mind, and spirit. As Guest House looks toward

completion of the project in fall 2026, it continues to stand as a place of hope for the Church: where those who dedicate their lives to others can themselves be restored, renewed, and strengthened for the future.

Join us in building the future of Guest House—make your donation today: <https://guesthouse.org/give/>



Donate Now

The Importance of St. Patrick

By Scott O'Connor, PSD Supreme Director

Our founder, Blessed Michael J. McGivney, was born of immigrant parents Patrick and Mary McGivney who came to the United States from Ireland, in the middle of the 19th century.

It is believed that Patrick came from the province of Ulster, but no specific records survive. What is known is that they settled in the town of Waterbury, Connecticut where Michael was born in 1852.

The McGivneys represented strong Catholic values learned at home and brought with them to their new land. They wanted the opportunities that the United States was offering to Catholic immigrants. Catholic Ireland owes its heritage to one man in particular. That man – St. Patrick – is one of the most recognizable figures in Christian history and the patron saint of Ireland, celebrated annually on March 17.

Though widely associated with Irish identity, Patrick was not actually Irish by birth. He was born in Roman Britain, likely in the late 4th or early

5th century, into a relatively wealthy family. His father was a deacon and his grandfather a priest, indicating a Christian upbringing, though Patrick himself later admitted he was not particularly devout in his youth. It is thought

to be that his birth name was Maewyn Succat {sometimes spelled Magonus Sucatus} Later, when he had become Catholic, he took the name Patricius, which means “nobleman” or “father figure.” This eventually became “Patrick” the name he is known by today.

At around the age of sixteen, Patrick’s life changed dramatically when he was kidnapped by



Scott O'Connor



from England by Irish Druid raiders and taken to Ireland as a slave. During his captivity, which lasted about six years, he worked as a shepherd, often in harsh and isolated conditions. It was during this period of suffering and solitude that Patrick experienced a deep spiritual awakening. He turned to prayer and developed a strong personal faith, which he later described as the foundation of his life's mission.

According to his own writings, particularly the *Confessio*, Patrick eventually escaped his captors after hearing a divine voice in a dream telling him to flee. He traveled a great distance to reach a port, where he found passage on a ship back to Britain and was reunited with his family. Despite their relief and his regained freedom, Patrick felt a calling to return to Ireland—not as a captive, but as a missionary.

To prepare for this mission, Patrick studied Christianity more formally, possibly in Gaul (modern-day France), where he trained for the priesthood. He was eventually ordained and later as a bishop sent back to Ireland to spread Christianity. His approach was notably effective: he engaged with local leaders, respected existing cultural practices, and used familiar symbols to explain Christian teachings. One of the most

famous legends attributes to him the use of the shamrock to illustrate the concept of the Holy Trinity.

Patrick's missionary work is credited with significantly expanding Christianity throughout Ireland, though it is important to note that he was not the first to bring the religion there. Over time, stories of miracles and legends grew around him, including the famous tale that he drove all the snakes out of Ireland—an allegorical story, as there is no evidence that snakes ever inhabited the island.

He continued his work in Ireland for many years, establishing churches, schools, and monasteries. Patrick is believed to have died on March 17, around 461 AD. After his death, his legacy grew, and he became a central figure in Irish culture and religious life. Today, the Catholic Church celebrates St. Patrick's feast day on March 17.

Saint Patrick is remembered not only as a missionary but also as a symbol of faith, resilience, and cultural identity. His story blends history and legend, reflecting both the man he was and the inspiration he became.

As Knights of Columbus, we look to St. Patrick as one who practiced the same virtues that we value in our Order, his great works of Charity paved the way for religious unity throughout Ireland and beyond. Let us remember St. Patrick through the Saint Patrick's Breastplate:

I bind unto myself today the power of God to hold and lead, his eye to watch, his might to stay, his ear to hearken to my need; the wisdom of my God to teach, his hand to guide, his shield to ward; the word of God to give me speech, his heavenly host to be my guard.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
 Christ behind me, Christ before me,
 Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
 Christ to comfort and restore me,
 Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
 Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
 Christ in the hearts of all that love me,
 Christ in the mouth of friend and stranger.
 Amen.

Assembly Assists Habitat with Cookout



Assembly 1675 in Leesburg has been supporting Habitat for Humanity for several years now with serving lunches to the university students that volunteer with Habitat.

Led by their student coordinator Dan McCern, the University of Toledo was in Central Florida from February 21 through March 7., and they began work on the last unit in the Tavares Habitat Community off Hwy 19.

“Students volunteering and working with Habitat is teaching them to give back to their communities” and “we want to support and encourage more students to feel that way” said Faithful Navigator Tim Jask.

On March 9-21, Ohio State University was in Leesburg working on a new home construction project. The Assembly wanted to provide both student groups a cookout of hamburger and hot dogs with all the fixings before they make the long journey back to their schools. It takes about seven or eight Knights to put on a outdoor cookout, but the guys are happy to support both Habitat for Humanity and the university students.

The group shows up to the Habitat location

at 10:30 a.m. to set up the serving tables, cut the tomatoes and start cooking. The Knights usually serve the kids around noon and clean up and are out of there by 1p.m.

“We usually do 2 or 3 of these cookouts in spring every year and the guys really enjoy providing lunch and talking to the students” said Faithful Navigator Jask.



Cigars & Bourbon to Benefit Special Olympics

Knights are invited to an unforgettable afternoon of camaraderie, flavor, and purpose at a Cigar & Bourbon event benefiting Special Olympics Florida, set for Saturday, June 6, from 1-5 p.m. The event will be hosted by **Our Lady of Victory Council 3358**, and held at Columbus Hall at 4880 Fruitville Road in Sarasota. The donation is \$50.

This unique gathering brings together enthusiasts and supporters for a relaxed yet meaningful experience—all in support of empowering athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Guests will enjoy premium cigars paired with carefully selected bourbons, creating the perfect setting to unwind, connect, and give back. Whether you're a seasoned aficionado or simply looking to try something new, this event offers a welcoming atmosphere for all. In addition to fine cigars and spirits, attendees can expect great food, engaging conversation, and a shared commitment to making a difference.

Events like this play a vital role in supporting year-round training, competition, and life-

changing programs for thousands of athletes across the state. Special Olympics Florida provides these opportunities at no cost to participants, helping individuals build confidence, develop skills, and experience the joy of inclusion through sports.

More than just a social gathering, Cigars & Bourbon is a chance to be part of a larger mission—one that celebrates ability, fosters community, and creates lasting impact. Every ticket purchased and every connection made helps champion inclusion and opportunity.

Don't miss this opportunity to indulge in a great experience while supporting an even greater cause. We look forward to raising a glass—and a cigar—with you.

For additional information, please contact Florida State Council Citizens with Disabilities Chairman John T. Gearon III at johngearon@yahoo.com.

FLORIDA K OF C CHARITIES

WE ARE KNIGHTS OF CHARITY AS CHARITY IS AT THE HEART OF OUR FAITH AND OUR WORK.

DONATE TO US TODAY **GET INVOLVED**

Give \$10 a month to Florida K of C Charities - Living Faith in Action, Charity in Service.



Supporting
Special Olympics
Florida

Cigars by



CIGAR & BOURBON NIGHT

JUNE 6TH - 1:00 PM TO 5:00 PM

**TWO PREMIUM CIGARS
ONE BOURBON / SCOTCH**

\$50

PER PERSON



SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE
OPEN TO COUNCILS AND PARISHES

Tickets & Details:

John T Gearon III
Chairman

941-320-4745
johngearon@yahoo.com

Our Lady of Victory Council #3358



GOAL IS \$2,000 TO RAISE.

2026 Knights of Columbus Charity GOLF TOURNAMENT

Benefitting the Santa Rosa Kids' House and the Knights of Columbus Council #7027



SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH, 2026
TANGLEWOOD GOLF CLUB

Hole in One Prize
\$10,000

FOUR-PLAYER SCRAMBLE

Check In 10:30 am/Shotgun Start 12:30 pm

\$85/Player or \$340/Team

Rain Date: May 2, 2026

PLEASE REGISTER AND PAY BY APRIL 14TH!



SPONSORSHIPS

- Hole Sponsors
- Team Sponsors
- Bronze, Silver, and Gold Level Sponsorships

Monetary Donations and the Donation of Auction Items are Also Greatly Appreciated!

REGISTRATION

Includes 18 Holes, Cart, Range Balls, Lunch, and Prizes! Mulligans and Tee Buster Packages Available for Purchase



See Reverse for Details. Questions? Contact Ben Urnick at (850)516-5248 or flyerben@aol.com



Knights of Columbus
 Florida State Bowling Association
WELCOMES THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
72nd ANNUAL STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT
APRIL 25 & 26, 2026

Hosted by Msgr Martin B Power Council 14573, Melbourne, FL

Team, Singles & Doubles Events
 Shore Lanes Palm Bay
 4851 Dairy Rd, Melbourne, FL 32904
 (321) 723-7400 – Website: infopb@shorelanes.com

**\$100 PRIZE FOR
 1ST 300 GAME**

USBC Sanctioned - Handicap 90% of 230
Proceeds to Benefit KofC Special Olympics Bowling

	<u>Entry Fee</u>	<u>Prize Fund</u>	<u>Tourn. Expenses</u>	<u>Lane Fees</u>
Per Bowler				
Team	\$36.00	\$25.25	\$1.00	\$ 9.75
Singles	\$18.00	\$ 7.25	\$1.00	\$ 9.75
Doubles	\$18.00	\$ 7.25	\$1.00	\$ 9.75
All Events	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00	\$.00	\$.00
Assoc. Fees	<u>\$ 2.00</u>	\$.00	\$.00	\$.00
TOTAL	\$80.00			

ENTRY DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026



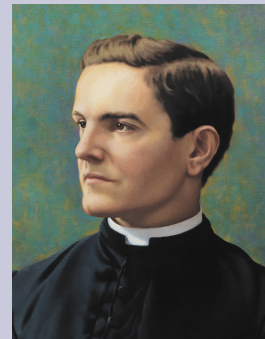
Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor.

Through the example of His life and virtue 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 the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant Blessed Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will.

Through His intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request).



Is Your Personal Information Accurate?

Every member of the Knights of Columbus in the Florida jurisdiction is listed on the Florida KofC website. Financial Secretaries update council lists on the Supreme and State websites at least quarterly. To ensure your information is correct, please review the brief YouTube video link below to confirm that your personal information and your preferred contact information is correct.

The 5-minute video describes how to log on or gain initial access, and reviews how to correct or confirm your personal information.

Please note that if you are a State, Assembly or Council officer, chairman or director, you must remain subscribed to the State Council's email list. Failure to do so will result in you missing important communications concerning your position and may result in your forfeiture of that position.

Follow the instructions on the video <https://youtu.be/IVS3XkgiUs> and while you are on the site, check out the other good news and information is available to you with just a click or two.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

Evangelize and proclaim our faith, protect families, and perform works of charity.

Through our witness and deeds attract Catholic men to our Order.

Build the Domestic Church through service, support our parishes, clergy, and communities.

Incorporate principled fiscal responsibility for charitable giving.

The Florida State Logo



Explanation of the Florida State Council Pin 2025-2027

“**OPEN WIDE THE DOORS FOR CHRIST**” is a powerful and fitting exhortation for the Knights of Columbus in this Jubilee Year. As men of faith, the Knights are called to welcome Christ into every aspect of their lives—into their homes, their parishes, and their communities. By echoing the words of St. John Paul II, we are reminded to live boldly and faithfully, opening our hearts to Christ’s truth, mercy, and love. Worn as a pin, it becomes a visible sign of commitment to evangelization, service, and the defense of life; encouraging all to embrace and share the Gospel in this special year of grace.

“**JESUS IN MARY’S WOMB**” is a profound symbol of the sacredness of life from its very inception. His presence as a child, unborn, reflects the divine value of every human life. The Knights of Columbus draws strength and inspiration from this mystery, standing firmly for the right to life from conception to natural death. As Mary carried the Savior of the world in her womb, so too must society recognize and protect the dignity of every human being at all stages of life.

We are a fraternity of men who love our God, love our Family, and love our country. We protect the children, we salute our veterans, and we pray to our patron Blessed Michael McGivney. We do all unashamed and with pride because we understand that which is not against us is with us. For we are the Knights of Columbus protectors of the widows and orphans, and we wear it proudly so **OPEN WIDE THE DOORS FOR CHRIST and he shall enter.**

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Florida State Council Social Media

Your State Council is now on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and You Tube. We need all Brother Knights to participate and Let Your Light Shine.

- Go to Facebook and "LIKE" the page
- Go to X (Twitter) and Instagram and "follow"
- #LetYourLightShine @KofcFlorida



Knightline

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.
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Check out the current issue of **Knightline**, a monthly resource for local KofC leaders. It is designed to help council officers plan events and activities, meet quarterly goals for the fraternal year and learn about Orderwide news. [CLICK HERE](#) to download the issue.

COLUMBIA

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the online version of **COLUMBIA** Magazine, a publication for the Knights of Columbus.

