



# Knights of Columbus®

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826

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*The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, which is celebrated on January 3rd.*

*"In the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:10).*



## Grand Knights Report

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, which is celebrated on January 3rd. "In the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth, and under the earth" (Phil 2:10). Christ's name is chosen in heaven, and the Angel Gabriel reveals it when informing the Blessed Virgin about the incarnation: "Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus". This name holds incredible significance as it translates to "Savior." It profoundly signifies the enormity of His purpose, His boundless love—a love that compels Him to sacrifice Himself for us.

Last July, as our fraternal year began, our *VISION* was to deepen our spiritual growth by concentrating on the Eucharist, Prayer, and Personal Reflection, ultimately renewing our dedication to serving others through acts of charity. As the new year dawns, many embark on crafting a "New Year's Resolution" to make positive changes for personal growth. For us as Knights, January brings a distinctive chance: an opportunity to strengthen our bond with Jesus by engaging in charitable works within both our parish and our community.

As Knight's, our identity is as "practical" Catholics. This term signifies our commitment to embodying Christ's teachings in our actions. Let's kick off the New Year with a sense of urgency and focus on our spiritual growth through a renewed emphasis on the Eucharist, Prayer, and Personal Reflection. The result will be a stronger dedication to serving others through charitable works within our parish and our community.



### Feast of the Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrated on January 6th, signifies the conclusion of the Christmas Season, marking the 12th day of Christmas. Within the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, Epiphany Feast Day commemorates the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God. This celebration predominantly highlights this revelation to the Three Wise Men, but also it encompasses moments such as His baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist and the miraculous event at the wedding in Cana.

In the Eastern rites of the Catholic Church, Theophany, equivalent to Epiphany in the West, honors the revelation of Jesus' divinity at His Baptism in the River Jordan. Locally, In Tarpon Springs, Florida, this occasion is observed by the tradition of diving for the cross in the bayou waters as part of the celebration.

The ceremonial cross dive commemorates Christ's Baptism. The day starts with Orthros and Liturgy services held at St. Nicholas Cathedral. After the Liturgy, the doves are released, and the Archbishop casts a cross into the bayou. Young men then plunge into the waters. The diver who retrieves the cross is believed to receive blessings for the entire year.



## Grand Knights Report

**KNIGHT'S MASS** - On December 13th we had our monthly "Knight's Mass" at the 8:00 a.m. Mass with 40 Knights and wives in attendance (*the largest attendance so far*). Fr. Daniel was the celebrant and the rosary was prayed before the Mass starting at 7:30 a.m. with Adoration following the Mass. Both the rosary and the Mass were dedicated to those on the Good of the Order list with a special intention for our PGK Jim Meyd. Please join your Brother Knights and their wives for the "Knight's Mass" this month on Wednesday, January 10th.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY OPENING** - Our Council is looking to fill the Officer position of Financial Secretary as Brother Larry Hall's term expires in February of '24. If you have financial or accounting experience and are interested in serving as an Officer in our Council, please contact FS, Larry Hall, at [hallorhall@gmail.com](mailto:hallorhall@gmail.com) or GK, Ralph Neller, at [rneller65@outlook.com](mailto:rneller65@outlook.com) to discuss this key position.

### CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES CAMPAIGN -

The last weekend in January (26th-28th) begins our *CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES* Campaign at 4 neighborhood Publix stores. This campaign will require volunteers to fill 2 hour time slots at each store from Friday thru Sunday beginning at 11:00 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m. Please see Brothers Corey DeVito, Scott Deahna, or Steve McElroy to volunteer at a store. The money we raise will help the handicapped children and young adults attending St. Mary's Academy and Oak Park School. Please sign-up to volunteer for a time slot as we need every Knight to participate to make it a success!



### CRUISE RAFFLE -

January kicks off the sale of Cruise Raffle tickets as a major fund raiser for our Council. Brother Dan Bulinski and Brother Steve Melchiorre will be distributing tickets to all Council members and looking for volunteers to help sell raffle tickets after the Sunday masses in the coming weeks. Please volunteer to help them and support our major Council fund raiser starting this month!



### OUR LADY OF CHARITY ASSEMBLY 3089

The next Assembly meeting is scheduled for January 8th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's Parish. If you're interested in becoming a 4th Degree "Sir Knight" please contact Dr. Steve, Charlie Culkin, Joe Tiffany or the GK for details.



## Faith In Action

### PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY -

This year's Parish Christmas Party was a grand success! We had over 90 Knight and parish volunteers help with the Tree and decorations, Chelsea Center set-up, preparation, cooking and serving of the Christmas dinner.

Special thanks to PGK Jim Meyd as Chairman of the Christmas Committee and the team leaders: Jack Rodman, John Cesare, Dave & Sue Bracy, and Al Ferrigno (Santa Claus). Also, a special thanks to Judy Arsenault and Trish Berberich for organizing the raffle baskets and to Carol Szafranski, and Denise Caldonia, for finding donors for the raffle baskets and to Carol McElroy and Paula Pariseau for ticket sales. Through their hard work and those of all the volunteers, the sale of raffle tickets raised over \$4k for the parish CFA.



To all the volunteers from the set-up of the tree and decorations, to the bussers, the servers, and the clean-up crew. THANK YOU!

Fr. Gordon thought this year was the best Parish Christmas Party ever!!!



## Faith In Action





## Faith In Action



**Coats for Kids** - This year our STM Council in partnership with the Incarnation Council provided over 150 new coats at Stillpoint Mission in Bradenton.

It only took us 35 minutes to give out ALL the coats. The Mission serves over 400 families with food, clothing, and other means of support and assistance.

It was both a rewarding and heartbreaking experience as we fell short of providing enough coats to all the children. The needs of so many are growing in our community and next year we hope to provide even more coats to those families with children in need.





## Faith In Action

### December Christmas Social -

Our Council December Christmas social was held at Stoneybrook CC with nearly 80 Knights, their wives and significant others in attendance to celebrate the Christmas season.





## Faith In Action



### December Christmas Social (continued) -

The Basket Raffle from the Parish Christmas Party raised just over \$4k! Judy Arsenault and Trish Berberich presented the check to Fr. Gordon for the STM CFA. Thanks again to all the volunteers!





## Faith In Action

### December Exemplifications -

During December we added four new members to our Council. They are: 1) Nicholas Macelletti, John Bauman, Joe Dean, and Fred Durr. The addition of these four members brings our YTD total to 9! We only need 1 more new member to reach our goal of 10 and qualify for STAR Council.

The Exemplification Honoree was Joe Tiffany, our Council Advocate, in recognition of his many outstanding contributions to our Council.



**Joe Dean**



**Nicholas Macelletti**



**Fred Durr**



**John Bauman**



**Honoree - Joe Tiffany**



## Faith In Action



## KNIGHT / FAMILY OF THE MONTH

**Knight of the Month - Jack Rodman and Dan Borgmeyer** - Brother Jack Rodman and Brother Dan Borgmeyer share this month's "Knight of the Month". Jack, was the Kitchen lead during the Christmas Party with his team. Brother Dan is battling ALS.



**Family of the Month - Jim and Debbie Alexander** - Our December Family of the Month in December is Jim and Debbie Alexander for their dedication and hard work with the refreshments and the gift baskets at the Parish Christmas Party.



**Congratulations to Dr. James Walsh on his Honorary Life Award** - The K of C Life Award is for members who have attained the actual age of 70 and who have been members of the Order for 25 consecutive years.



## Parish News



### Christmas Decorations -

Special thanks to those Knights who helped to decorate the church for Christmas: Ken Berberich, Charlie Culkin, Michael Mazur, Jeb Kingseed, John Koitch, and Fr. Daniel (*who was tall enough to put the star on top of the Christmas trees.*)

**Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA)** - St. Thomas More reached its CFA goal for 2023! Thank you to all those Knights and their families who have contributed to the CFA. Together, with your contributions, our Council donations, and the support of our parish, STM was able to reach its goal of \$285,000!



**Food Pantry** - Thank you to all the Food Bank volunteers and their spouses for your in-person participation and your monetary support. As you may know, the supply chain remains a challenge, and food supplies are in still in short supply. Given today's economy, we still have 75-100 families in need every week.

The weekly bulletin lists the items we critically need. Your donations are greatly appreciated by the pantry and those families we serve.



**Ministries** - St. Thomas More is in need of Hospitality Ministers. There is a need for Hospitality Ministers for Sunday 12:00 Mass. If you are a current Minister, please consider changing to assist in covering these masses. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you to those who have responded to this call.





## Committee Corner



### RIGHT TO LIFE -

Hello, Defenders of Life!

We never try to lose sight of that the Savior of the world arrived as a baby when we pray at Planned Parenthood. We also try to reflect on the fear that the Holy Family must have felt as they sought a safe place to bring Christ into the world and how it must be similar to the women who visit PP and think there ONLY choice is to end the life of their baby.



**RESPECT LIFE  
APOSTOLATE**

### RIGHT TO LIFE - (continued . . .)

As we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child, let us continue our commitment to stand together at Planned Parenthood on the 4th Thursday of every month for one hour between the 9-1 and pray for these unborn children and their families. If you haven't joined recently or at all - Please join us this Thursday, December 28th! We always enjoy the genuine fellowship as we privately and peacefully gather to pray.

Year to date, we already know from the nurses at CPC (Community Pregnancy Center) that 44 babies have NOT been aborted due to Our Lord's intercession and through your prayers, presence, sacrifices and witness. Think about that - 44 Human Lives Saved, more than double the number from the same time last year.

We are instruments and you never know when God will change hearts of abortion minded people so let's make this Advent and Christmas a gift back to our Lord with your presence on December 28th for one hour. We will have drinks, chairs, signs and pamphlets available.

Merry Christmas to you and yours!

For Life,  
Brothers Neil and Brian



## Committee Corner

**Special Olympics** - The TORCH Campaign at Publix. The Florida Councils for the K of C are the longest-standing and most committed supporters since the inception of the Torch campaign in 1968. Local Councils work with Publix and Special Olympics state-wide during the Torch campaign.

Beginning January 12th and running through January 21st, customers who visit their local Publix can help support their state athletes with a donation which can be made at the register during checkout for as little as \$1 or a specific desired amount.

PGK Jim Meyd and Brother Steve McElroy have adopted 2 local Publix store in our area during the campaign. The pictures on the right show them presenting the Special Olympics' 2023 Awards to their respective Publix store managers for their participation in the TORCH campaign.

If you are interested in becoming involved in Special Olympics please reach out to Brother John Cesare for details at [johncesare1@verizon.net](mailto:johncesare1@verizon.net)



**Membership** - Our New Member Goal this fraternal year is ten New Members. With the December Exemplification of 4 new members, we now have a total of 9 new members! We only need 1 more new member to reach our goal. Thank you all for helping us to achieve Star Council again this year!!

New Members must be a practicing Catholic, 18+ years of age. We need your help to reach out to K of C "prospects". You can contact Chancellor Chris Pariseau, at his email [pariseau314@outlook.com](mailto:pariseau314@outlook.com) or his telephone # 443-994-7397. Membership growth is essential to the success of our Council.



## Committee Corner

### SIGN UP FOR THE BALTIMORE ORIOLES SPRING TRAINING SEASON - IT IS FUN

In seven weeks, the Baltimore Orioles 2024 Spring Training Season will begin. The Orioles will play a 16-game schedule at Ed Smith Stadium. The season begins on Saturday, February 24th and ends on Saturday, March 23rd. The schedule includes three games against the Pittsburgh Pirates; two games with the Atlanta Braves, Boston Red Sox, Detroit Tigers, Tampa Bay Rays and Toronto Blue Jays; and single games with the Minnesota Twins, New York Yankees and Philadelphia Phillies. There will be 10 afternoon games starting 1:05 pm and 6 night games starting at 6:05 pm – two more games than last season

For the 13th consecutive year, the St. Thomas More and Incarnation Councils will be working a concession stand together. Charlie Culkin will continue as the Team Director. The Councils will operate the Outdoor Patio Grill, where they have worked the past three years. As of now, the menu will be hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs and sausage peppers & onions; peanuts, popcorn and chips; and bottled soda and water, Gatorade and draft beer.



BALTIMORE ORIOLES SPRING TRAINING

## 2024 SCHEDULE

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
FEBRUARY/MARCH							BOS
	PIT	TB ATL	DET	MIN	PIT	ATL	NYN
	PIT	MIN	PHI	PIT		DET	ATL
	TOR TOR	NYN	TB	ATL	PIT	TB	BOS
	ATL DET		TOR	PHI	BOS	PIT	TOR TB
	MIN						

■ HOME ■ AWAY



Like last year, it will take 12 volunteers to operate the concession stand – an average of six volunteers from each Council per game. And like last year, volunteers must make a two-game commitment. Last year, a number of volunteers stepped forward to work multiple jobs. To provide more staffing flexibility, it would be beneficial if a few more volunteers step forward to learn multiple jobs, such as working as a grill assistant or a cashier. There are Brothers who can train you.

In early December, you received an email with the "2024 Spring Training Baseball Sign-Up Sheet. If you did not receive one, please email me ([cinandchas@verizon.net](mailto:cinandchas@verizon.net)), and I will send you one. The deadline for submitting your sign-up sheet is January 13, 2024. If you want to work some Spring Training Games, please return your sign-up sheet as soon as possible.

Let's have a great 2024 Spring Training Baseball Season!! See you at the Ball Park!

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

Charlie Culkin,  
Director, Spring Training Baseball



## Council Good of the Order

### Please pray for the following individuals:

John Baldelli (son of Charles Baldelli)  
 Alec & Shirley Berardinelli  
 Shirley Berardinelli (wife of Alec Berardinelli)  
 Ted Bogusz  
 Dan Borgmeyer  
 Dave Bracy  
 Erin McAlonie Brady (daughter of John McAlonie)  
 Jerry Hayes  
 Steve Wyer  
 Johnnie Turner  
 Don Leonard  
 Pat Cesare  
 Gary Ellis  
 Janek Jakubiuk  
 Don & Jeanne Leonard  
 Sheree Levanti (wife of Ken Levanti)  
 John & Kay Maier  
 Jon McAlonie  
 Ron McCluskey  
 Judy Moore (wife of Joe Sommer)  
 Christopher Peppard (son of Hank Peppard)  
 Nancy Risbano (wife of George Risbano)  
 John & Craig Spinale (John's son)  
 David and Donna Woodford (wife of David Woodford)  
 Fr. Gordon Zanetti  
 Jim Meyd



Please keep our recently departed Brothers and their families in your prayers: Jim Beck, George Risbano, Leon Leroux, Jack Shaw, and Lee Dusoe.

**Lord, grant healing to those in pain. Through Your grace, bring peace to their hearts, body, and soul. May Your love restore and renew them. Amen**



If you know of any Brother Knight in need, let us know, and we will make sure that he is contacted. If you have any questions or needs, please contact (Ralph Neller, Grand Knight) at his email address [rneller65@outlook.com](mailto:rneller65@outlook.com) or my mobile 513-708-0528.

**STM K of C Websites** – The STM parish web page and our STM Council 7826 website have been updated to ensure current information and events are available in a timely manner to all members. Our Council website address is [www.kofc7826.org](http://www.kofc7826.org).

Please use this website and pass it along to your friends, relatives and associates that may have an interest in the Knights of Columbus and our St Thomas More Council.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Brothers James Alexander and Dan Martin for their kind assistance with this Newsletter!



## Council Birthdays

### December Birthday Celebrations



January 1 - Roy Rasmussen  
 January 1 - Jan Jakubiuk  
 January 2 - Robert Sorge  
 January 4 - Derek Noll  
 January 8 - Paul Hudale  
 January 14 - Ken Keating  
 January 17 - Theodore Kovacic  
 January 19 - John Cesare  
 January 19 - Richard Stauffer  
 January 20 - Dave Bracy  
 January 21 - Jerry Hayes  
 January 22 - Philip DeCarlo  
 January 22 - Jeffery Pick  
 January 27 - Ralph Neller  
 January 30 - Richard Calo

### K of C #7826 Officers

Fr. Daniel Scanlan - Chaplain  
[frdaniel@stthomasmoresrq.org](mailto:frdaniel@stthomasmoresrq.org)

Ralph Neller - Grand Knight  
[meller65@outlook.com](mailto:meller65@outlook.com)

Charlie Culkin - Deputy GK  
[cinandchas@verizon.net](mailto:cinandchas@verizon.net)

Larry Hall - Financial Sec.  
[hallorhall@gmail.com](mailto:hallorhall@gmail.com)

Ken Berberich - Treasurer  
[berberichken@yahoo.com](mailto:berberichken@yahoo.com)

Chris Pariseau - Chancellor  
[pariseau314@outlook.com](mailto:pariseau314@outlook.com)

Dan Bulinski - Recorder  
[danb6002@comcast.net](mailto:danb6002@comcast.net)

Dave Bracy - Warden  
[dsbracy@comcast.net](mailto:dsbracy@comcast.net)

Joe Tiffany - Advocate  
[iav82@yahoo.com](mailto:iav82@yahoo.com)

Derek Noll - Lecturer  
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Corey Devito - 3yr Trustee  
[cmdevito@kaighnco.com](mailto:cmdevito@kaighnco.com)

Al Ferrigno - 2yr Trustee  
[A7342@gmail.com](mailto:A7342@gmail.com)

Scott Deahna - 1 yr Trustee  
[scott34465@yahoo.com](mailto:scott34465@yahoo.com)

Charlie Ballschmieder - Inside Guard  
[cjball01@verizon.net](mailto:cjball01@verizon.net)

Hank Peppard - Outside Guard  
[hakp7916@gmail.com](mailto:hakp7916@gmail.com)



## Council Upcoming Events

**Thank you for your support of these future events!**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- The Officers' Meeting is scheduled for January 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- Our Lady of Charity Assembly Meeting (4th Degree) will be held on Monday, January 8th at St. Patrick's Church starting at 7:00 p.m.
- Our monthly "Knight's Mass will be on Wednesday, January 10th at the 8:00 a.m. Mass. We will pray the rosary prior to the Mass beginning at 7:30 a.m. with Adoration to follow the Mass for approximately 1 hour.
- Our next Council Business Meeting will be on Thursday, January 11th, at 7:00 in the Spirit Center.
- Our next Council social will be held on Friday, January 12th, at Miguel's on Siesta Key beginning at 5:30 p.m. The space is limited to 60 and you'll need to contact Dave & Sue Bracy to make a reservation.
- On Sunday, January 14, the 10:00 a.m. Mass will be dedicated to the memory of all our departed Brother Knights. Please plan to attend and pray for all of the Brothers in our Council who have passed.



- The monthly Exemplification Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16th beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- Our 1st Pancake Breakfast for 2024 will be on Sunday, January 21st after the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Masses in the Chelsea Center.
- The monthly Right to Life Prayer Walk will be on Thursday, January 25th between 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. in front of Planned Parenthood.
- Our Citizens with Disabilities Campaign will begin on Friday, January 26th, through Sunday, January 28th, between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the 4 Publix stores assigned.





## Insurance Advisor

### NEWS FROM OUR FRATERNAL BENEFITS ADVISOR

2024 01 January Council Meeting Message

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a joyous and merry Christmas.

All of us start the new year afresh. We make resolutions. Let's plan now to look back at the end of 2024 and be able to say, "I kept those resolutions to improve myself, to improve my relationship with my family and friends, and my relationship with God!" An improved prayer life is the goal of many. I know I've made that resolution almost every year. Some years I do better than others.

But here are few things I've found about making resolutions that helped me.

First, I don't want to make a resolution that is not possible to keep. I've got to be realistic. I can't go to an extreme. For example, to improve my prayer life, I can't go from praying for 15 minutes in the morning to reading a chapter of the Bible, attending daily Mass, reciting the rosary, and saying the Liturgy of the Hours each day. For me, that's too much of a jump. I'm going to follow that for a day or two and then something will get me off track. Myself, I need to take baby steps. Maybe start with saying the rosary each day. I've got to make my resolution achievable.

The same is true of all those other resolutions we make.

I can't go from being a couch potato to running six miles a day...but I could start by walking a mile each day as an achievable step in that direction.

I can't starve myself trying to lose weight...but I could cut out snacks between meals as a start. Again, an achievable step.

I might want to read more, so I can start by reading a chapter a day in a book.

You get the idea. The resolution must be reasonable, achievable, and specific.

Now here is one resolution that is reasonable, achievable, and specific: Resolve to meet with me to update the information on your family's financial needs analysis. (Or maybe you need to complete a financial needs analysis.) Let's see where you stand. Your financial health is critical to your family's future security. As your field agent I'm charged to meet with each of my members each year. We can look at your goals and aspirations and make sure you're on track to keep your family appropriately protected.

I'll contact you soon to see if an appointment should be our next step.

Vivat Jesus! God Bless!

Brian DeBlauw



**BRIAN DEBLAUW**  
Financial Advisor  
M. 443-669-2912  
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Lakewood Ranch, FL  
<https://info.knightscolumbus.org/Meet/Brian+DeBlauw.html>

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## Calendar - January, 2024



# Knights of Columbus®

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826

SC – Spirit Center

CC – Chelsea Center

C - Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	1 <sup>28</sup> HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2 <sup>29</sup>	3 Officers Mtg. 7:00 pm SC	4 <sup>31</sup>	5	6
7	8 Assembly Mtg. 7:00 pm St. Patrick's	9	10 Knight's Mass 8:00 am (rosary @ 7:30 am C	11 Council Mtg. 7:00 pm. SC	12 Council Social at Miguel's on SK 5:30 p.m.	13
14 Special 10:00 a.m. Mass for ALL STM departed Knights	15	16 Exemplification 6:30 pm SC	17	18	19	20
21 Pancake Breakfast 8-10:00 am Masses CC	22 Council Trivia at Incarnation 7:00 p.m.	23	24	25 Prayer Walk 9- 1:00 pm. Planned Parent.	26 Citizens with Disabilities 11:00-5:00 pm Publix Stores	27 Citizens with Disabilities 11:00-5:00 pm Publix Stores
28 Citizens with Disabilities 11:00-5:00 pm Publix Stores	29	30	31			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7