



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
**SAINT THOMAS MORE COUNCIL 7121**  
**5205 A1A SOUTH**  
**SAINT AUGUSTINE, FL 32080-8006**  
**DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER**



## DECEMBER – THE MONTH OF MANY SEASONS



December starts with Advent, the joyous and hopeful season that precedes Christmas, with the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love celebrated on the four Sundays beginning Dec 1.

In preparation for Christmas, Pope Francis encouraged us to prepare our hearts daily for the coming of Christ: *"On this day of joy, we are all called to contemplate the Child Jesus, who gives hope once again to every person on the face of the earth. By his grace, let us with our voices and our actions give witness to solidarity and peace. Merry Christmas to all!"*

Pope Francis, "Urbi Et Orbi" message, 2016

While much of the world celebrates Christmas the entire month of December (if not earlier, with Christmas shopping sales starting just after Labor Day), the liturgical Christmas season begins with the Christmas Eve vigil Mass on December 24, 2024, and concludes this year on January 8, 2025 (officially the Sunday between Jan 2 and Jan 8). The 12 Days of Christmas (the days, not the catchy 12-verse carol) are a subset of Christmastide, the time between the Nativity on Dec 24 and the Feast of Epiphany ("Three Kings Day") on Jan 6. The "12 days" are an adaptation of pre-Christian "yule" festivals held to help ancient Europeans through the longest nights of the year during the winter solstice.

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[THE POPE'S PRAYER MESSAGE for DECEMBER 2024:](#) For Pilgrims of Hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

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Watch the [www.kofc7121.org/calendar](http://www.kofc7121.org/calendar) for additions and corrections to events that might not have been announced in time for publication of this newsletter. Please email your news and articles for the next newsletter to [kofc7121@gmail.com](mailto:kofc7121@gmail.com)

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See the **GOOD OF THE ORDER** web page for the list of Brothers, family members and friends in need of prayers. Prayers are also requested for many others sick or in distress. Names are added to this list as announcements are received.

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## DECEMBER BIRTHDAY LIST

**Happy Birthday** to this very short list of Brothers with birthdays in December, lucky enough to get two celebrations in the same month. The magic of Christmas never ends when the greatest gift is your family and friends. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a great big **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

BROTHER	BIRTHDAY	AGE
Sean Fox	12-02	58
James Welu Jr	12-05	52
Michael Piesco	12-14	72
Chuck Nitsch	12-16	77
Tony Sopranzi	12-18	61
Steve Barthelmes	12-20	68
Luis Brown	12-23	53

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS AND MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The [kofc7121.org](http://kofc7121.org) council website allows use of shared file and document storage on the Google Drive. Files can be viewed by anyone who has the file link.

**Click here to view the [Final Minutes of the October 24, 2024 meeting](#)**

**Click here to view the [Draft Minutes of the November 21, 2024 meeting](#)**

Please review the draft minutes of the previous meeting for expedited corrections / approval at the next business meeting. By using these electronic media files, we are able to simplify business meetings and eliminate a lot of uninformed discussions.

**NOTE THE ANNUAL CHANGE OF DATE IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER TO 3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY**

**BUSINESS MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER**

### **COUNCIL 7121 BUSINESS MEETING**



**3rd Thursday  
St. Anthony Hall  
(Community Center)  
DECEMBER 19**

**Recitation of the Rosary at 6:30 PM - Business Meeting starts at 7:00 PM**

## **THREE-PEAT: COUNCIL 7121 RECEIVES STAR COUNCIL AWARD**



At the regular council business meeting on Nov. 21, District Deputy Robert Billoni (right) presented GK Bill Remy (left) the Star Council Award plaque to Council 7121 for Fraternal Year 2023-2024, achieving the highest possible Supreme Council recognition award. Less than 10% of the Order's 16,000 councils achieve Star Council status. The award is based on the council's Faith, Family, Community, Life and membership programs. This award is the third year in a row for Council 7121, and only the 5th time achieved in the council's 46 year history. Kudos also go to FS Rick Cozby for compiling and filling out all the forms and reports required for this award. The plaque will be mounted on the wall of fame in the Community Center.



## FAMILY & KNIGHTS OF THE MONTH RECOGNIZED



At the business meeting on November 21, GK Bill Remy handed out certificates for Knight of the Month for September to (left) Brother Nicky Demato for his dedicated help in the kitchen supporting council functions and (right) for the month of October to Brother Paul Summers who serves on the Parish Pastoral Council.



After Mass on Dec 1, GK Bill Remy presented the November 2024 Family of the Month certificate to (from left) Brother Daniel, his wife Kimmie, Jason, Sadie and Zachary Goehl. Congratulations!

## COUNCIL 7121 WELCOMES TWO NEW BROTHERS

Our two newest Brothers were welcomed into Council 7121 at the Nov 21 business meeting. Left-to-right, GK Bill Remy and FS Rick Coby present the certificate of Knighthood to the Order's newest member Bob Parcher, having just completed his online exemplification. Also attending his first meeting was Brother/SK Ken Robinson, who transferred from St. John Paull II Council 16492 and Assembly 3771 in Nocatee, and is a retired U. S. Army Brigadier General. WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS BOB AND KEN!



## COUNCIL 7121 PRESENTS BIBLES TO CONFIRMATION CLASS



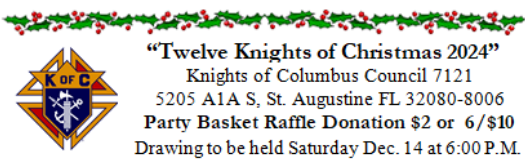
GK Bill Remy (center) presented Bibles to 22 members of the 2024/2025 Confirmation Class at the Sponsor and Candidate luncheon for the confirmands and their families on Sunday Nov. 3. This annual event featured a chicken dinner prepared by Chef Steve Barthelmes for all confirmands and their parents.

## RSVP FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY ON DECEMBER 14!

The Council 712 Christmas Party will be held on Saturday evening, December 14, in Celebration Hall, but **attendance will be limited to Brother Knights, family members, and invited guests ONLY**. The Christmas Party Committee, led by GK Bill Remy, has gone back to the “**POT LUCK**” format with minimal effort required in the kitchen and cleanup afterward. Anyone interested in helping GK Bill is asked to contact him at 303-886-8065 / [whremy@hotmail.com](mailto:whremy@hotmail.com) and offer assistance to make this a relaxed and enjoyable evening with friends and family.

The **COST OF THE DINNER** is **FREE!** No tickets. Those who RSVP by Dec 8 with the names of at least 6 people will be reserved a table sitting together. No RSVP, open seating!!

The council will provide the main course (ham and chicken) and fresh-baked dinner rolls. Just show up and bring a side dish to share. All we ask is that you tell us how many people are coming, what you are bringing, and the names and ages of your children if you want Santa to put them on his list. Please go to [kofc7121.org/rsvp](http://kofc7121.org/rsvp) for details.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

OR Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Watch for your envelope with the “Twelve Knights of Christmas” raffle tickets – our one and only annual appeal to the general membership event for CHARITY. You do not have to be present to win. Either mail your tickets and donation back in the return envelope, or bring them with you to the dinner. 50/50 and door prize raffles will also be held.

## GENEROUS THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE RESPONSE

Parishioners and guests at St. Anastasia responded very generously to the MORE THAN A FOOD DRIVE held Nov 16-17. A total of 2150 lb of food was collected in the drive-thru lane. Loading the truck on Sunday morning was (at right) Herb Zieglmeier (almost in the picture), along with Hunter, Abigail and Andrew O’Connell. All food donations were distributed in time for Thanksgiving by Monday, Nov 18, to St. Francis House, Catholic Charities and St. Johns Ecumenical Ministries Food Pantry.



In the “MORE THAN FOOD” department, cash and gift card donations totaled **\$6675**. The “**Homeless Ministry**” of Sr. Anne Halpin once again proved to be the most worthy of support, garnering the top spot on the donation list with **\$2270**. **Generosity is its own reward.**

At left, a van load of blankets, socks, toiletries and household supplies (left) were collected for the St. Anastasia Outreach Ministry and delivered to Port in the Storm, the Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County and the Wildflower Clinic. To help this ministry, contact Deacon Steve at [stephenkassebaum@comcast.net](mailto:stephenkassebaum@comcast.net).

## HOW EASY IS IT TO JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS?

A candidate need only apply to attend one of the Weekly Exemplifications of Charity, Unity and Fraternity presented by the Florida State Council. The live ZOOM Exemplifications are held at 7:00 PM every Thursday during weeks 1-4 of each month. Click on the following link to register, or use it to invite a Catholic gentleman to join us:

[FSC Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity](http://FSCExemplificationofCharityUnityandFraternity)





## Amendment 4 is Defeated!!

### Pro-Life Message Prevails

The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops has released a statement on the defeat of Amendment 4 on Florida's General Election ballot

"We are profoundly relieved at the defeat of Florida's pro-abortion Amendment 4. This is a positive outcome for Florida and all efforts to promote the flourishing of our state.

Though Amendment 4 failed to reach the 60% threshold required to pass, a **majority** of Floridians voting in the general election supported it. While significant gains to protect women and preborn children in recent years will remain in place, abortion in Florida will continue at a very high rate under our current laws.

"Much work remains to open hearts and minds to the dignity and goodness of life in the womb and at every stage. We will continue to proclaim in our churches and in the public square the value of every human life and to highlight that there is a better way forward for women, families and society than abortion.

Through our many ministries, we will continue to support, encourage and assist pregnant women and young families. For those who regret their abortion or abortions, or their cooperation in one, we reiterate that the Lord is eager to forgive, and the Church is ready to facilitate healing. God bless the people of Florida."

## ANNUAL SURVEY OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITY NEEDS YOUR INPUTS!

**CLICK HERE FOR THE 2024  
ANNUAL SURVEY OF  
FRATERNAL ACTIVITY  
LAST CHANCE  
REPORT DUE Jan 31, 2025**

**BROTHERS** – Have you done or donated something in calendar year 2024 in the areas of **FAITH, FAMILY, COMMUNITY, LIFE and/or FRATERNAL SERVICE** that was **NOT INCLUDED** in any other regular council activity? Take credit for it and help our Worthy Financial Secretary document these service hours in our quest for another Star Council Award! Click the box at the right to make a record of the good you did in 2024!



### Ancient Order of Hibernians Women's Christmas Party and Membership Drive

This is a free event!  
Everyone welcome!

Food & refreshments, door prizes  
and lots of holiday cheer!

Tuesday evening, December 10  
6:30pm-8:30pm in Celebration Hall

Questions? Contact Maureen at 718-406-4410 mleahyrice@gmail.com



The Ancient Order of  
**HIBERNIANS**  
Irish • Catholic • American

The Ancient Order of  
Hibernians is America's  
oldest Irish Catholic

Fraternal Organization founded concurrently in the coal-mining region of Pennsylvania and New York City in May, 1836. The Order can trace its roots back to a series of similar societies that existed in Ireland for more than 300 years. Today the AOH exists in America, Canada, Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland, however, while the organizations share a common thread, the American AOH is a separate and much larger organization. We invite all Catholics of Irish birth or descent to seek admittance to the **FINEST** Irish Catholic Organization in the world — all we would ask is for you to live our motto of: "Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity".

The St. Anastasia Chapter meets on the third Tuesday of the month. For more information, contact:

Women, contact: Maureen mleahyrice@gmail.com

Men, contact: Brian Foy 304-871-0888 (c)bfoyl1@yahoo.com



Gentlemen! Do you want to play a  
more active role in your parish?

**Join the Knights of Columbus!**

Just call or text Rick Cozby,

Financial Secretary: 410-322-3248

**The Knights: We make things happen!**

(open to all Catholic gentlemen 18 years and older)



**ST. ANASTASIA FUNDRAISING RAFFLE!**  
**\$10,000 JACKPOT! ONE WINNER!**  
**ONLY 300 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!**

Proceeds to benefit  
St. Anastasia Catholic Church!

Drawing in Celebration Hall

at St. Anastasia on

February 15, 2025 at 6:00pm

(You do not have to be present to win)

\$100.00 per ticket

Tickets on sale in the Narthex starting November 2 & 3!



## THE PARISH CORNER



**KICK OFF CHRISTMAS COCKTAILS & APPETIZERS DOWNTOWN AT THE CPS PARKING LOT**

**YOU WILL BE PROVIDED MAGICAL GLASSES FOR AN ENHANCED VIEWING OF THE THREE MILLION LIGHTS DISPLAYED IN BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN ST AUGUSTINE. CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND CAROLING WITH YOUR FAVORITE ST ANASTASIA FRIENDS!**

**THEN JOIN US FOR WARM COOKIES AND WARM CIDER AFTER THE TROLLEY RIDE!**

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATION SOON, AS WE EXPECT THIS EVENT WILL SELL OUT!**

**\$ 25 PER PERSON**

**NOTE: FOR ANYONE NOT ABLE OR WANTING TO WALK TO THE TROLLEY FROM CPS, YOU CAN PARK AT THE VISITOR CENTER AND MEET US THERE AT 7PM**



**TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKET: POINT YOUR PHONE CAMERA AND FOLLOW THE LINK!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MARRIAGE MINISTRY, VISIT: [WWW.SACCFL.ORG/MARRIAGEMINISTRY](http://WWW.SACCFL.ORG/MARRIAGEMINISTRY) OR CONTACT GARY REMENSNYDER AT [MM@SACCFL.ORG](mailto:MM@SACCFL.ORG)**



### Our Annual Luminary Program is BACK!

Honor your loved ones this Christmas with a luminary! A candle will be lit with the name of your loved one and placed outside the church for the Christmas Eve Masses.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Living/Deceased

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Living/Deceased

**Please fill out the form and turn it into the Youth Office by December 18th. The cost is free. Donations are gratefully accepted on behalf of the Youth Ministry. Questions? please contact Molly youth@sacccfl.org**

## ST ANASTASIA CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE PROGRAMS

The annual parish tradition of giving to the less fortunate will be held on the three weekends beginning Nov 16-17. Catholic Charities of St. Augustine, Saint Augustine Youth Services, the Farm Workers Ministry and the St. Johns County School District Aid and Support for Students In Sudden Transition (A.S.S.I.S.T.) will be soliciting specific donations.

**ALL DONATIONS WILL BE COLLECTED ON THE WEEKENDS OF NOV 30-DEC 1 and DEC 7-8.** Volunteers with trucks or large SUVs are needed to help deliver items beginning on Monday, December 9. Contact Brian Schoonover at 904-471-5364 x103 if you can help load and/or deliver boxes.

*"If we see someone who needs help, do we stop? There is so much suffering and poverty, and a great need for good samaritans."*

- Pope Francis



### ST. ANASTASIA CATHOLIC CHURCH PRESENTS THE 2024-25

#### And Let There Be Music Concert Series



#### \*Seaside Serenade

Featuring Trio Aquarelles:  
Yian Liu, Flute, Juneho Josh Kim, Cello &  
Dr. David Mach, Piano

*\*A fundraising concert to benefit St. Anastasia*

DEC

7

7:00 PM

JAN

18

7:00 PM

#### ¡Fiesta Barocca!

A Celebration of St. Augustine through the Music of Old and New Spain | featuring 5 musicians of Seven Hills Baroque



*St. Therese Rosary Guild Christmas Sale December 15 in the Narthex*

Christmas Ornaments, Mangers, Pocket Crosses, Christmas Potpourri, Christmas Jewelry



### ST. ANASTASIA BUILD FRIDAYS: DEC 13, JAN 10 - 8AM

THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. ANASTASIA CATHOLIC CHURCH HAVE COMMITTED TO HELPING BUILD HOMES IN ST. JOHNS COUNTY FOR THE PAST 33 YEARS.

FIRST OF ALL, THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAST SUPPORT! WITHOUT YOU, THESE VERY WORTHY CITIZENS OF ST. AUGUSTINE WOULD NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE FIRST-TIME HOME OWNERS.

SECONDLY, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A PARISHIONER TO JOIN ONE OF OUR CHURCH SPONSORED BUILDS. SO PLEASE INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS TO JOIN US! THERE ARE MANY TASKS ON EACH BUILD SITE FOR THOSE YOUNG AND NOT-SO-YOUNG. SO ANYONE 18-YEARS-OLD AND OLDER CAN PARTICIPATE.

Questions? Contact Brian in the parish office 904-471-5364 [admin@sacccfl.org](mailto:admin@sacccfl.org)

### GIVING TUESDAY 12.3.2024

Advanced Giving is available until midnight on December 2nd and then Giving Tuesday begins December 3rd! To support the campaign:

Visit the parish website at [www.sacccfl.org](http://www.sacccfl.org) and click on the #GiveCatholic link at the top of the homepage or scan the QR CODE

Thank you for your open-hearted generosity in support of this campaign!

