



### Grand Knight's Report

Brothers,

**Optimism** *noun* **1:** a doctrine that this world is the best possible world. **2:** an inclination to put the most favorable construction upon actions and events or to anticipate the best possible outcome. (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/optimism>)

Today's Knights are part of a worldwide fraternity of 2.1 million brothers, a fraternity built upon the values of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. For all the good works Knights do, they do it in a world that's increasingly impacted by disinformation/misinformation, political upheaval, terrorism, violence, etc. For many, social media outlets have displaced mainstream media as their preferred information sources. Many will put their faith in the misinformation/disinformation they read on Facebook, X, *et.al.*, but eschew reputable newspapers and other legacy sources. In these troubling times, it's essential that we fight negativism by cultivating a spirit of optimism.



In the words of Jim McCann, "optimism is more than just a sunny outlook... It's a mindset centered on embracing the positive and expecting good outcomes, even in the face of challenges. It's about viewing setbacks as temporary hurdles and opportunities for growth rather than insurmountable barriers." When he and his co-author, Dr. George Everly Jr, wrote *Lodestar: Tapping Into the 10 Pillars of Success* (ISBN 978-7-63763-273-4), they believed it was essential to begin their book with a chapter on optimism because they genuinely believed it was "...a prerequisite for meaningful change in life."

Moving forward, I pray we'll all embrace optimism and with it, the commitment to believe in ourselves and thrive in the face of uncertainty. My wish for you is to experience a new year filled with hope and boundless possibilities. Happy New Year!

Peter Blaise

Grand Knight	Peter Blaise	Advocate	Dan Rooney	Trustee (3 Year)	Stuart Lewis
Chaplain	Fr. Bob Johnson	Lecturer	Ken Rodriguez	Faith Director	Dcn Tom Dwyer
Deputy GK	(Vacant)	Warden	Jim Thennes	Vocation Dir.	Mark Haddorff
Chancellor	Dave Carter	Inside Guard	Art Jean	Community Director	Kevin Knebl
Recorder	Ralph McDonald	Outside Guard	Ryan Wehmeyer	Family Director	Mic Wehmeyer
Financial Secretary	Lenny Smales	Trustee (1 Year)	Bob Gualtieri	Life Director	Dave Halupowski
Treasurer	John Wohleber	Trustee (2 Year)	Jim Yurack	Public Relations	Joe Purka

3RD PLANET BREWING PRESENTS

# ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

Featuring Irish food  
by the Knights of Columbus

**SATURDAY, MARCH 15**  
**4 P.M. TO 9 P.M.**

Menu: Corned Beef Dinner, Shepherd's Pie  
and Irish Stew, as well as sweets  
by the Council of Catholic Women.

**All food and tip proceeds benefit non-profits.**

**Irish step dancers at 4:30 p.m., Irish music, contests.**

1400 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville

Cash or card.  
Take out available.

[www.3rdplanetbrewing.com](http://www.3rdplanetbrewing.com)



# CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

*Deacon Tom Dwyer*

Hopefully Christmas was a joyous and happy occasion, and you begin the New Year with renewed optimism. This would agree with Pope Francis' theme for the 2025 Jubilee Year, calling on us to be "Pilgrims of Hope". Borrowing from a BBC interview with the pope about his Jubilee Year announcement, "the pope emphasized that 'kindness is not a diplomatic strategy' nor 'a set of rules to ensure social harmony or to obtain other advantages' but rather 'a form of love that opens hearts to acceptance and helps us all to become more humble.'" The Jubilee Year is a special occasion for all, but especially Catholics, to reconcile themselves to God and to one other.

Just a short time ago the Church celebrated the Baptism of Jesus on January 12th, concluding both the Christmas season and beginning 8 weeks of Ordinary Time until Ash Wednesday on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Baptism is uniquely a sacrament of hope, when parents of children and adult converts assent to renounce sin and consciously seek divine adoption. Christ consented to John's baptism in the Jordan not to be made holy by the water, but to make water holy, consecrating it to become a source for grace for future Christians.



It is worthy of note that a new church, The Church of Jesus' Baptism, was recently dedicated at the site traditionally revered to be the location of John's baptism of Jesus, on the eastern bank of the River Jordan, about 6 miles north of the Dead Sea. [See [vaticannews.va](https://www.vaticannews.va) and [whc.unesco.org/en/list/1446/](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1446/)]

## Bingo Schedule—2025

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
24	21	21	25	23	20	25	22	19	17	14	19

## Upcoming Events

Jan 24	Bingo at HNJ 6 p.m. (COR Team)
Jan 25	Fourth Degree Exemplification at St. Sylvester's, Gulf Breeze
Feb 6	Council Meeting Bluewater Community Church, 7 p.m. (Dinner and Social at 6:15 p.m.)
Feb 20	Assembly Meeting at Bluewater Community Church, 7 p.m. (Dinner and Social at 6:15 p.m.)
Feb 21	Bingo at HNJ 6 p.m. (COR Team)
Mar 5	ASH Wednesday
Mar 6	Council Meeting Bluewater Community Church, 7 p.m. (Dinner and Social at 6:15 p.m.)
Mar 15	St. Patrick's Day Party at 3rd Planet (COR and HNJ Councils)
Mar 15-16	Knights lead Rosary before all Masses on Saturday and Sunday
Mar 20	Assembly Meeting at Bluewater Community Church, 7 p.m. (Dinner and Social at 6:15 p.m.)
Mar 21	Bingo at HNJ 6 p.m. (COR Team)

## December Knight of the Month

*Dave Carter*

Our December Knight of the Month is very active in our parish and the Council. He regularly serves as an usher at 10:30 Mass and currently serves as our Council Chancellor. He's been a team member in our Fire Truck pull fund-raisers and helped set up for St Patrick's Day fund-raiser events at 3rd Planet Brewing. He's also helped perform grounds maintenance around the parish.



In addition, he played an important role in recruiting two new members during our Pizza Party recruiting party last year. His efforts helped our Council meet its recruiting goals for the year, which allowed us to continue to grow our Council and, ultimately, to make Star Council for the year.

In December, he supported our Council's Habitat for Humanity build and brought his son to help. For these

and many more efforts, we are pleased to announce Brother Dave Carter as our December 2024 Knight of the Month.

## December Family of the Month

*Tom & Karen Sanders*

December's Family of the Month always brings our Council together for a dinner during the holiday season. They support a fellow Knight's business by coordinating the main course provided by Café Bien-ville, side items from our families in potluck style, and the live music! Their Christmas parties are always a blast, and Tom and Karen are much appreciated for continuing this important Council tradition.

Karen retired after 20 years working for Okaloosa County Schools as a teacher, literacy coach, and staffing specialist. She is a board member for Children in Crisis, promoting safe environments for children in rough family situations. She is also a Master Gardener, having completed all coursework and volunteer requirements. She is very active in the community.

Tom and Karen have four children and one granddaughter. Their daughters, Joanna and Julia, are active supporting families in Florida. Joanna is a WIC supervisor for the Florida Department of Health, and Julia is a therapist for the Florida Department of Education. Their son, JJ, works as a launch officer at Vandenberg AFB in California, and Shannon is a Principal with Morgan Stanley in Pensacola.



Tom is active in the Knights Council and also works with the Mid-Bay Rotary as a volunteer. In April, he retired as the Chief Economist for MOCA Systems in Niceville, a construction planning firm with contracts across the country and now enjoys playing golf and getting his work-out on. They are very proud of their family. For their wonderful work, we are pleased to announce Brother Tom and Karen Sanders as our December 2024 Family of the Month

# Knights Here and Abroad

## Supporting Life

As the annual March for Life and Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn Child in the United States approaches next week, Knights are encouraged to build a culture of life in their local communities through prayer, charity and peaceful demonstrations. Last year in Iowa, one council helped to establish a pregnancy resource center in rural Carroll County, rallying the community to fuel hope and offer support to women facing unexpected pregnancies. After just one year of operation, the New Creation Pregnancy Resource Center has already made a significant impact on the rural community of Carroll, Iowa. Founded in part by local Knights, the center offers educational resources, mentoring and baby supplies to women facing unplanned pregnancies.

*Read More in the Jan-Feb Issue of Columbia*

## Building Hope



More than 3.6 million Ukrainians have been displaced by the war, with many seeking safety and stable housing in the western part of the country. A temporary housing initiative sponsored by the Knights of Columbus recently opened 10 new modular buildings near Lviv, offering security and community support to refugee families. According to data from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, approximately 6.5 million Ukrainians now live outside the country, while about 3.6 million Ukrainians are currently displaced internally. Roughly one-third of all Ukrainians have been forced to evacuate their homes, many of them to the western part of the country, which has not been as severely impacted by the war.

Evening of  
**FAITH  
&  
FELLOWSHIP**  
with  
**BISHOP**  
*Guest Speaker*  
Most Reverend William A. Wack, CSC  
Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Benefiting  
Catholic Charities  
Northwest Florida

For more information,  
contact the Catholic Charities  
Development Team  
850-435-3560/850-776-0277  
or development@ccc-pfdiocese.org

**February 7, 2025**  
**6 pm - 8 pm**  
*Doors open at 5:30 pm*

**Saint Mary**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Tickets*  
**\$100/person**  
Cocktail/Business Attire  
VALUE: \$50  
Limited seating  
Replies requested by January 31, 2025

Scan the QR Code below  
to purchase your tickets online.

*~ Cocktail Buffet ~*  
Crab and Artichoke Mornay with  
Small Puff Pastries and Bagel Chips

Shaved Roast Beef with Queen Elizabeth Sauce and  
Sundried Tomato Aioli, Rolls, Angel Biscuits, and Croissants

Pate Maison with French Mustard and Peppercorn Béarnaise

Roasted Fingerling Potatoes with  
Caramelized Red Onions and Blue Cheese

Bermuda Onion and Caviar Pie  
with Toast Points and Bagel Chips

Shiitake Mushroom and Herb Cheesecake with  
Grilled Vegetable Topping, Flatbreads, and Crostinis

Raspberry and Almond Baked Brie  
Crackers and French Rounds

Seasonal Melons and Berries with Brandy Cream  
and Chocolate Fondue

*~ Bread Pudding Bar ~*  
Classic Bread Pudding with Whiskey and Lemon Sauces  
Chocolate Bread Pudding with Crème Anglaise  
Bananas Foster Bread Pudding

Fresh Brewed Iced Tea with Lemon Wedges,  
Sugar & Fresh Mint

Water with Citrus Slices

**Join Catholic Charities Northwest Florida**

**St. Mary Catholic Church**

**401 Van Pelt Ln, Pensacola**

**for an evening of faith and fellowship with  
special guest speaker Bishop William A.  
Wack, CSC.**