



Grand Knight's Report

Brothers,

In 2018, while touring Spain, our tour guide mentioned that while Spain was still predominantly Catholic (about 60% of the population), most Catholics did not attend church services other than for special occasions. Considering Spain's rich Catholic history, I was surprised to learn only about a third of the Catholics in Spain were practicing members of the church. Similar declines in church attendance have also been mirrored in other countries, including the U.S.



Since 2007, the Pew Research Center's Religious Landscape Study (RLS) has generated data on US religious groups. After years of decline, RLS data shows US church attendance has stabilized and even grown a bit. A recent article in The New York Times, "One Nation, Under God" by Lauren Jackson, explains rising church attendance is due to:

- People turned to faith during the pandemic. 25% of Americans surveyed indicated the pandemic had strengthened their faith.
- Secularization has a limit. "Americans pray more often, ...and value faith in their lives more than adults in other wealthy democracies..."

Some believe the growth in church attendance is just a "vibe shift" subject to society's whims. Jackson disagrees. She states the Pew data "...doesn't rely on vibes. Instead, it offers measurable insights on the trends shaping American politics and culture. The ranks of the godless have stopped growing for now. But, when it comes to spiritual longing for the possible, the transcendent — Americans are surprisingly in agreement." As Knights, we understand spiritual longing. VIVAT JESUS!!!

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

CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

Deacon Tom Dwyer

Each year the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops produce an ecclesiastical calendar, called the “Ordo”, that provides daily liturgical instructions for Mass and Divine Office readings. Its introduction to Lent describes how the cycle of weekday readings (this year “Cycle I”) are organized into two parts: the first, weeks 1 through 3; the second, weeks 4 through 5. The first part can be summarized as a call to conversion and holiness. All Gospels for the second part are from John, summarizing Jesus’ actions that engendered belief in Him as messiah and statements by Him that prompted condemnation by the Chief Priests and Pharisees.

The Gospels at the start of the fourth week tell of Jesus’ miraculous healings of a royal official’s son and a lame man. The following Gospels tell how the Pharisees objected to Jesus healing on the Sabbath, and give Jesus’ replies with His messianic claim as “Son of the Father”, and divinity by asserting “I am”, the same name that God gave to Moses from the burning bush: “I am who am” (YHWH/Yahweh).

These Gospels clearly lay out how Jesus became the irritant to the Jewish religious hierarchy; one they could no longer tolerate. With concern that Jesus would upset the accommodation that Jews had with their Roman rulers, Caiaphas states, “...that one man should die instead of the people, so the whole nation might not perish.” And the Gospel for Saturday before Holy Week concludes, “So from that day on they planned to kill him.”



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

Mar 20	Assembly Meeting at HNJ, 7 p.m. (Dinner and Social at 6:15 p.m.)
Mar 29-30	Knights Lead Pre-Mass Rosary. Come a half-hour early and wear your Council shirt.
Mar 21	Bingo at HNJ 6 p.m. (COR Team)
Mar 27	Executive Board at Bluewater Community Church, 7 p.m.
Apr 3	Council Meeting at Bluewater Community Church, 7 p.m. (Dinner and Social at 6:15 p.m.)
Apr 12	Fire Truck Pull at 3rd Planet Brewing
Apr 20	EASTER SUNDAY
Apr 24	Assembly Meeting at HNJ, 7 p.m. (Dinner and Social at 6:15 p.m.)

February Knight of the Month

Joseph Gettis

Our Knight of the Month is relatively new, but he has been one of the most active volunteers in our Council. He recently served on the Color Guard for the March for Life in Pensacola and volunteers at the Alaqua Animal Refuge. He also helped prepare the Christ Our Redeemer Parish Hall for its much-needed renovation. And he volunteered to help build a home with our Council's Habitat for Humanity venture and actively supported the Council's St. Patrick's Day event at 3rd Planet Brewing. For his enthusiastic start in our Council, we are pleased to announce Brother Joseph Gettis as our February 2025 Knight of the Month.

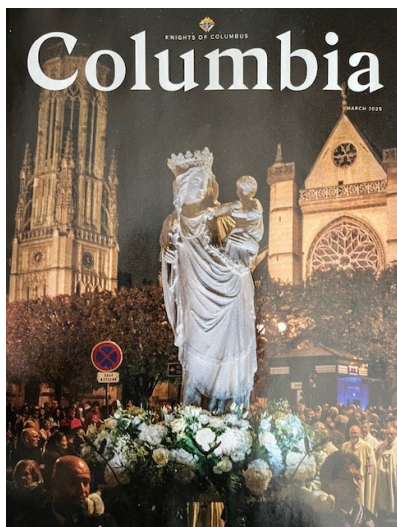


February Family of the Month

Dan & Gloria Roone



Our Family of the Month has been big supporters of the local church as well as the bigger church community. In the past, their son helped at our Council's Oktoberfest fund-raiser, and they took four grandchildren to support the Food for Hope program. There they helped fill 350,000 bags of food destined for the people of Haiti. Our Knight, Dan, also serves as an altar server occasionally for daily masses as well as on the Assembly's Color Guard conducting funeral details. Dan and Gloria also helped with the refurbishment of the church's pews and supported a Parish Picnic by setting up and running the water slide. More recently, Dan served on our Bingo team and delivered a Knights recruiting speech after a mass, where he may have recruited two new transfers and two new members. Additionally, Dan and Gloria serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. After seeing a need to help elderly residents of the Manor at Blue Water Bay, Gloria met with Manor leaders to start a Divine Mercy Chaplet. She's led this service three times. For their efforts, we are pleased to announce Dan and Gloria Rooney and family as our Family of the Month for February 2025.



What Is It to Be a Knight

To be a Knight is to live selflessly, sharing willingly one's individual gifts bestowed by God. In his [March 2025 column](#) for Columbia, Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly points to magnanimity as an essential virtue — particularly for Knights: "The magnanimous man is characterized by his selfless generosity of spirit. ... He knows that his gifts are not for his own use but are for serving and lifting up others." This virtue is closely related to the Order's founding principles and resonates with Knights (and prospective Knights) around the world — including in France, where membership has grown steadily since the first councils were established there nearly a decade ago.

Catholic Lenten Rules: Fast & Abstinence

The [Code of Canon Law](#) 1251: Abstinence from eating meat or some other food according to the prescripts of the conference of bishops is to be observed on all Fridays unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Catholics aged eighteen until sixty are required to fast. This involves eating one full meal and two smaller meals. The total amount of food consumed in the two smaller meals should not be equal to a full meal.

Additionally, all Catholics over the age of fourteen are expected to abstain from meat on all Fridays during Lent.



Assembly 3236 Supports Silver Rose at St. Mary's



Niceville's Assembly 3236 and Assembly 1564 at St Mary's recently provided a color guard for the Silver Rose ceremony at St Mary's. Assembly 3236's color corps has expanded this year with six members with a 4th degree uniform. Next Sunday the Assembly will be presenting the colors at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day Ceremony at the mullet festival grounds sponsored by the Amvets Post 78 in Valparaiso.

St. Patrick's Day Fest 2025



With the threat of high winds and damaging storms, the management of 3rd Planet Brewing and the Knights agreed that it would be better to delay the well-advertised event scheduled for Saturday, March 15 and reschedule it for the next day. Among the challenges were rescheduling the cooking, and producing the manpower with individual's conflicting schedules.

Sunday turned out to be a beautiful, sunny day allowing for hundreds to come out and enjoy the corned beef and cabbage dinners, traditional Irish stew and our first attempt at Shepherd's Pie. By late afternoon, the Shepherd's Pie was gone and the corned beef was gone by early evening.



Christ Our Redeemer Council 13527 and Holy Name of Jesus' Council 7667 cooked and served the dinners, as well as providing the manpower for the setup and clean-up. COR's CCW provided a wealth of sweets which were available for donation.

Altar Server of the Year

Grand Knight Peter Blaise presents a certificate to Ben Pudlo, selected as the Altar Server of the Year ages 13-18, after 10:30 a.m. Mass on Feb. 23rd at Christ Our Redeemer.

