



## St. Thomas More Council 7826

### November 2021 Newsletter



#### **Welcome to the St Thomas More Council November Newsletter**

*On Veterans Day we remember again  
Our men and women who served;  
We honor them now for what they did then:  
The liberties they preserved.  
Let's never forget their sacrifice,  
The hard, heavy work they have done;  
They did what was asked, crucial needs they fulfilled,  
With a telephone, pencil or gun.  
We're happy and proud to honor them;  
They gave so much more than they got.  
Our heroes, our veterans kept freedom safe;  
All of us owe them a lot.*

## Grand Knight Report

Once again, I want to start out with my gratitude for the dedication and support of our Council. The three basic pillars of the Knights of Columbus are Charity, Fraternity, and Unity. I continue to be amazed how well our Council navigates these so smoothly. These qualities are evident as you read through the newsletter. It is an honor and a privilege to be the Grand Knight of our Council.

November is a special month. So many of us are veterans and have served our country well. We all came from different backgrounds, different nationalities, different religious beliefs, different races, different genders, different political beliefs, and different economic backgrounds. What mattered to us was one simple purpose, to protect and defend the United States of America. It is the single, most unselfish commitment one can make. To lay your life on the line for your country and fellow countrymen is a sacrifice that cannot be compared. Thank you to all who have served and sacrificed to keep our country safe and strong.

We held our Council meeting on November 11<sup>th</sup>, Veterans Day. As a council, we honored our veterans in the following ways. Thank you to all Color Corps and Council members who participated in this year's Bishop's Veterans Day Mass at Sarasota National Cemetery. Our Council filled three boxes, filled to the brim, of gifts and necessities for our veterans at Bay Pines VA Hospital. Our Speaker Series also presented a Vietnam Veteran, Geoffrey Morris, who spoke of his experiences as a medic. The Grand Knight wishes to express his sincere thanks to our Lecturer, Jim Clark, and our Speaker Series Committee members, Derek Noll and Mark Lawrie for their work and effort in enlisting speakers to our meetings that bring value and interest to our members. It is a great addition to our meeting night.



STM Council hosted the Our Lady of Charity Assembly meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to PGK Dan Bulinski, Brothers Hank Peppard, Charlie Ballschmieder, and Jack Rodman for assisting with room setup, food preparation, and serving refreshments. Our Council attended the Spiritual Reflection Retreat at Incarnation. PGK's Dan Bulinski, Johnnie Turner, GK Jim Meyd, and Brother Ken Gaasch attended the retreat. A virtual Fraternal Benefits Seminar took place on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Treasurer Greg Sokolik and GK Jim Meyd attended. With their attendance, our Council has reached the requirement to hold two benefit nights as part of Star Council Award Requirements.

The Council wrapped up this year's "Baby Bottle" campaign this month. The parishioners and Council members were very generous, as always. The donated proceeds will be going to My Choice Pregnancy Center. The final total will be announced in the next few weeks. Our Council has purchased 32 Coats for Kids to go to Stillpoint Mission in Bradenton. They will be delivered after Thanks giving.

We are a very active and vibrant council. Stay Active! Stay involved! We need every Knight in the Council to help keep our Council active.

### **November Social**

With the holidays so close together, we did not hold a November social. We will hold our holiday social at The Meadows Country Club. This is one we all look forward to attending. Details have been sent out through Council email blasts and are also available further down in the Upcoming Events section.

### **November Knight of the Month**

This Brother Knight has been involved in so many parish and Council activities. He is a Hospitality Minister. He has been involved in every Council activity in the short time he has become a Brother Knight. You see him membership drives, Tootsie Roll campaigns, baby bottle campaigns, and participating in assisting with the Bishop's Veterans Day Mass, just to name a few. Our November Knight of the Month is Brother, Max Streibel. Max was not able to attend the meeting and we will present his certificate at the December meeting.

### **November Family of the Month**

Another active family in our Council assists with the Hospitality Ministry and many Council activities. Given the challenges, this Brother participates in many activities, most notable our Tootsie Roll Campaign, our Baby Bottles Campaign, and our membership drive. Our November Family of the Month is George and Nancy Risbano.



### **Faith in Action**

As part of our Commitment to Faith in Action, our council continues to support the STM Youth Group. We will also be supporting a new Seminarian Andres Cordero, and of course, our constant support of our Seminarian Alejandro Giraldo-Roldan.



## Parish News



We are all aware of how fortunate we are to belong to such a vibrant parish. Father Gordon, Father Lawton, and the staff at St. Thomas More work very hard to create an environment of inclusion and support to our parishioners and our local community. In the same way the pandemic has affected us all, so too with our parish. The parish leadership team kept our parish open and available to us all, while controlling expenses across the board. We know that like us, our parish facilities are not getting any younger, and the cost to function and maintain our facilities continues to rise. Please be mindful of this as you look for ways to support our parish financially, and through your continued volunteer efforts. Anything you can do to contribute to your weekly offering, and support of the Catholic Faith Appeal, would be greatly appreciated. The parish still remains \$27,000 short of our goal, with only one month to go. By achieving and exceeding our goal, more of those funds are directed straight back to our parish. Rest assured, the leadership team of our parish, is dedicated to using these resources efficiently to keep our parish alive and vibrant.

St. Thomas More is also in need of Hospitality & Eucharistic Ministers. There is a need for Eucharistic Ministers and Hospitality ministers for the Sunday 8:00am mass, and Hospitality Ministers for Sunday 12:00 mass. If you are a current Minister, please consider changing to assist in covering these masses. The parish is also in need of Lectors for the 4pm Saturday Vigil Mass. This is a great way to volunteer your time to assist our parish and increase the visibility of all we do as a Council. You are already attending mass, and this really adds to the spirit of the day. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested in volunteering.

### **Committee Corner**

We have needs on many of our committees. These are a great way to become involved in our Council activities. Each year we donate over \$6000 in scholarships for students attending Cardinal Mooney High School. Please reach out to our New Scholarship Committee Chair Brother Steve McElroy. This is a great committee that is dedicated to helping our youth stay connected to their faith and assisting in giving them the tools they need to be successful and to be valuable assets in our community. We hope to restart our Coffee & Donut Ministry beginning in January after the 8:00 & 10:00 masses on Sunday. This is a great way to start working actively in our committees. Starting date information will be forthcoming.

## Special Olympics

As in all sports, seasons come and go. Special Olympics are shifting to new activities as we move to summer/fall events. Special thanks to Brothers Al Ferrigno and Ted Bogusz, who have stepped up their commitment to support the activities of this great organization. There are several great opportunities coming up you can volunteer to assist and participate in. There will be a Polar Plunge on March 26, 2022 and the Special Olympics USA games will be held in Orlando, June 5-12. Brother John Cesare has done a fantastic job as Chairman of this committee through his leadership and communications of its activities. If you are interested in becoming involved in Special Olympics please reach out to Brother John Cesare for details how you can become a volunteer.

## Right to life

**40 Days for Life 365 - The Knights of Columbus has begun a campaign to pray – 365 days a year – at Planned Parenthood facilities. Our Council has been requested to participate at the Sarasota Planned Parenthood facility on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month – from 9AM to 1PM.** We are asking our Members to consider a one hour shift and to **sign-up by contacting our Right to Life Co-Chairs**, either Brian Harkins [bjharkins1@gmail.com](mailto:bjharkins1@gmail.com) or telephone # 908-451-7454 or Neil Corrado at [lamb1anc2@verizon.net](mailto:lamb1anc2@verizon.net) or telephone # 941-377-8710. Please consider praying outside of the Planned Parenthood facility. Thanks to our Brothers for participating on our day to pray. We have a large Council and we could use your support. With all that has happened these last two years, our rights are constantly under attack. Remember this: **Without the Right to Life, the rest doesn't matter.** Come help us protect and pray for the unborn.

Many of you are familiar with the Community Pregnancy Center just around the corner from Planned Parenthood. They are a worthy partner in our Right to Life activities and allow the use of their facilities during our walks. The Council makes a donation to them every year in appreciation. In addition to pregnancy counseling, they also provide after birth items to support the mother and baby. Please consider making a cash donation, gift cards (WalMart, Target, Publix), or donating any of these items. Diaper cream, 2T-3T-4T pullups, shampoo, lotion, pacifiers, wipes, sleepers (boy & girl), other outfits up to 2T, infant car seat, pack n play with bassinet, and bath towels

There was no prayer walk in November as the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday fell on Thanksgiving Day. We will resume our normal participation on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Special Nationwide Two-Day Prayer Vigil**

On December 1, the Supreme Court will hear arguments for Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health, the Mississippi case, the case that could overturn Roe v. Wade. This case is our best chance to reverse Roe in decades! With lives at stake, pro-lifers across the nation will gather for an unprecedented two-day campaign of prayer and fasting, community outreach and peaceful vigil Tuesday, November 30 and Wednesday, December 1. You can help make history--and make abortion history—participate in this two-day prayer campaign to reverse Roe v. Wade outside of Sarasota Planned Parenthood, 736 Central Ave, Sarasota FL. We are hoping to have 20 people each hour, from 8am to 6pm, praying outside the place where they kill the most innocent among us, the unborn. Please sign up for vigil hours at [40daysforlife.com/Sarasota](https://40daysforlife.com/Sarasota) and click on the “Sign up for Vigil Hours” button. Would you pray an hour or two with us? For more info: Rich at 941-923-0752 or email [40DFLSarasota@gmail](mailto:40DFLSarasota@gmail.com) or Brian Harkins, STM Knights of Columbus at 908-451-7454 / [bjharkins1@gmail.com](mailto:bjharkins1@gmail.com)

### **Golf Committee**

Our St Thomas More Council 7826 will be hosting a Golf Tournament on May 9, 2022 at Legacy Golf Club, Bradenton at Lakewood Ranch. The event will include a light breakfast, BBQ lunch, gift basket raffle, goodie bag for all golfers, sale of mulligans, longest drive, and closest to the pin awards. Additionally, there will be a hole-in-one prize. There will be other “surprises” at the event. The cost of the event is \$100 per golfer and 4somes (team) \$400.

We are looking for Hole Sponsors at \$100, Corporate Sponsors \$500 - \$1000 levels. We need restaurant and business gift certificates for our raffles. The event is “filling up fast” and we will be limiting the outing to 25 4somes (100) golfers. Single Golfers and 2somes are welcome. Male and female golfers are welcome at the event.

We need Knights and their “significant others” as volunteers at the outing. We need ALL KofC Knights to support the golf outing. Proceeds from the event go to our Council’s operating plan, and is a major part of our 2021-2022 budget. Please contact any of our Golf Committee Members. Our committee member are PGK Ken Berberich (Chairman), Ralph Neller, Greg Sokolik, Ed Plankey, Charlie Ballschmeider, Rob Carver, Joe Tiffany, Al Ferrigno, Ted Bogusz, John Malloy, Gary Ellis, Max Streibel, and Richard Lamb.

Thank you for your help on the Golf Tournament!!!

*PGK Ken Berberich*





1ST ANNUAL ST.THOMAS MORE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

# GOLF TOURNAMENT

**MON** 2022  
MAY 9TH

SIGN UP DEADLINE  
**APRIL 5TH**

\$400 PER FOURSOME (\$100 PER PLAYER)  
\$100 HOLE SPONSOR

WHERE

**LEGACY GOLF CLUB**

8255 LEGACY BLVD  
LAKEWOOD RANCH, FLORIDA

INCLUDES CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & BBQ BUFFET LUNCH  
JOIN US FOR FUN AND PRIZES

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT ST.THOMAS MORE K of C COUNCIL 7826

## Membership

Our New Member Goal this fraternal year is **ten (10) New Members**. We had two new members take the degree this month. Great work was done by the membership team. We still need **6** new members to reach our goal. New Members must be a practicing Catholic, 18+ years of age. We need your help to reach out to KofC “prospects”. You will be assisted by our Membership Development Committee. Please provide the name of an individual that may/has an interest in KofC and our St Thomas More Council. Contact Chancellor Ralph Neller at his email [rneller65@outlook.com](mailto:rneller65@outlook.com) or his telephone # 513-708-0528. Membership growth is essential to the success of the Knights of Columbus. With the addition of each new member, the Order can better serve the Church, local communities and particularly those in need. But it isn’t just the Order that benefits from a new member. Each new Knight benefits also. Since its beginnings, the organization has promoted the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. Knights contribute to the welfare of their parishes and communities, and seek to help the needy through financial and volunteer support. In addition to the fellowship and faith development that Knights enjoy through their affiliation, the Knights offer a top-rated and competitively priced insurance program for the security of member families.

Recently, the parish has been blessed with several new members. We are trying to reach out to the new parishioners to introduce them to the good works our council does for the parish and their community. Perhaps one of them has become a new neighbor. Please review the list of names, and if you are aware of how to contact them, please pass this information to Chancellor Ralph Neller. The new parishioners are Anthony Calvino, James Andrien, Daniel Flynn, Steven Griffen, Michael Hurney, Paul Jimenez, Michael Loparco, Carlos Maramag, Erik Popham, Jonathan Summerlin, and Paul Szuts.

**Our Council has attempted to stay in touch with our Members via Facebook, Website, Emails, Telephone contact and “Good of the Order”.**

- **Facebook – “KofC Council 7826”** – Please contact Lecturer Jim Clark if you need assistance to sign up on our Facebook account or to post information - contact Jim Clark at his email address [jclark1@gmail.com](mailto:jclark1@gmail.com)
- **Website** - St Thomas More Council 7826 website is available to all members. The **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.*

- **We returned to live, in-person Exemplifications.** They are intended for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree members **to achieve the new, Charity - Unity - Fraternity degree (3<sup>rd</sup> degree)** as well as candidates/new members to participate in the (3<sup>rd</sup> degree) ceremony. If you are interested in participating, please contact Ralph Neller, Chancellor at his email address [rneller65@outlook.com](mailto:rneller65@outlook.com), or his telephone #513-708-0528.
- **We are asking all 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Knights to consider accomplishing your 4<sup>th</sup> (Patriotic) degree – and join the Our Lady of Charity Council 3089.** This is a separate degree ceremony and must be scheduled with FL State/ District. If you are interested in obtaining your 4<sup>th</sup> degree, please contact GK Jim Meyd [greygoose1@frontier.com](mailto:greygoose1@frontier.com), or his telephone 941-923-7517.

### **Donation Request – KofC Assembly 3089 – Our Lady of Charity Assembly**

Thank you for the generous support with the collection of clothing and hygiene items for the veterans at Bay Pines along with several cash donations at the last Council meeting. Three very full boxes with over 80 items were collected, ranging from a large variety of underwear, socks, joggers, shirts, a vest, a jacket, and even a blanket along with hygiene items and a puzzle. These items will all be delivered in December along with canteen cards purchased from the cash donations.



If you still have items, a collection box is always available at any Council or Assembly meeting and another large collection will be scheduled in the spring. Please see Brother Steve McElroy to find out how you can help.

## Upcoming Events

Upcoming events: Parish Christmas Party on Sunday December 5th. Thank you to so many of you who have been so generous of your time in the planning, volunteering, and participation. Brothers Hank Peppard, Charlie Ballschmieder, FS Larry Hall, and Sue Bracy have done great work in planning, purchasing, and scheduling. Thanks to Brothers Jack Rodman, Charlie Ballschmieder, Phil Arsenault, John Cesare, Gary Ellis, Janusz Kostecki, Mike Mazur, Tom Nate, Ed Plankey, Roy Rasmussen, Max Streibel, and Johnnie Turner for bringing the Chelsea Center kitchen back to life in preparation for the big day.

Our next Council meeting will be on December 9<sup>th</sup> in the Spirit Center. We are pleased to announce our Pastor, Fr. Gordon, will be in attendance as our guest. We will serve Holiday refreshments after the business meeting. Please join us for the fun!

We will hold an Exemplification of Charity, Fraternity, and Unity degree ceremony on December 16<sup>th</sup>, in the Spirit Center. All Brothers are welcome to attend. We encourage brothers who have yet to become a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Knight to join us in taking the degree.

The December Holiday Social will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup> at The Meadows Country Club. This is always the highlight of our social events for the fraternal year. Please join us for our holiday celebration. This will be a great night of fraternity and unity for our Council.

**Council 7826**

**Social Event**

**Friday, December 17th**

**at Meadows Country Club**

**3101 Longmeadow, Sarasota**

**Dinner Price \$50.00 per person**

***Gratuity included***

**Hors D'oeuvres @ 6:15**

**Crab cake with homemade remoulade**

**Bacon wrapped sausages**

**Dinner starts @ 7:00**

**Apple Pecan Salad**

**Fresh Rolls and Butter**

***Select from one of the two following entrees:***

**Grilled Mahi Mahi with a citrus sauce and rice pilaf.  
Served with chef vegetables.  
Grilled Filet with blue cheese demi glaze and rosemary roasted red potatoes.  
Served with chef vegetables.**

**Seasonal Cheesecake  
Tea and Coffee  
Cash Bar**

**Mail your dinner reservations to  
Larry Hall, 4097 Cascina Way, Sarasota, FL 34238  
*Include the name and entre choice for each reservation.  
Include check payable to Knights of Columbus Council 7826.***

**Please ensure your reservation completed by December 12th.**

**Coat and tie preferred.**

### **Cruise Raffle**

Our Cruise Raffle will be returning this year. This is one of our largest income sources. **Be Prepared!** Start thinking now about how you will sell tickets. We will need everyone's help in making the success it has always been.

If you are interested in being part of any of our committees please see me after the meeting. We have several openings in all our committees. As you can hear, we are a very active and vibrant council. Stay Active! Stay involved! We need every Knight in the Council to help keep our Council growing.





## Good of the Order



Please include the following individuals in need of our prayers:

Fr. Jim Simko  
Joyce Bulinski (wife of Dan Bulinski)  
Jack Shaw  
John Maier  
John McAlonie  
Larry Faeth  
Erin McAlonie Brady (daughter of John McAlonie)  
Gary Ellis  
Alec Berardinelli  
Steve Fenner  
Janek Jakubiuk  
Peter Barry  
Domenic Caledonia  
Craig Spinale (John's son)  
Rose Marcella (wife of Richard Marcella)  
Audrey Barry (wife of Peter)  
Kim Wojtyna (daughter of Carol & John Wojtyna)  
Shirley Berardinelli (wife of Alec Berardinelli)  
Carol Neller (wife of Ralph Neller)  
Dave Bracy  
Sheree Levanti (wife of Ken Levanti)  
John Spinale  
Donna Woodford (wife of David Woodford)  
John Baldelli (son of Charles Baldelli)  
Christopher Peppard (son of Hank Peppard)  
Phil Arsenault  
Tom Nate

For our departed Brothers Chuck Fulton, Jerry Pardo, Fred Peoni, Tony Lingrosso, Robert Giovino, Marty Goodrick, John Wojtyna, Dale Lux, Joseph (Woody) Hayes and departed family members Paula Stout (spouse of Robert Stout), John Hogge (son of Judy Sommer), Robert McAlonie (brother of John), and Jon Baldelli (son of Charles Baldelli), and the "Unborn"- let us keep them in our prayers.

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 me at my email address [greygoose1@frontier.com](mailto:greygoose1@frontier.com) - Jim Meyd, Grand Knight, or I may be reached at 941-923-7517.



## December Birthdays

Please join in recognizing the following Knights - celebrating birthdays in September.

- December 2 – Jerry Zaback
- 3 – Russell Ritirato
- 5 – John McAlonie
- 5 – Robert Nogueira
- 5 - Richard Hull
- 5 – Dennis Franks
- 8 – Ken Gaasch
- 9 – Ted Bogusz
- 11 – Nicholas Russo
- 14 – Bill Huber
- 17 – Neil Corrado
- 19 – Edward Wolfe
- 24 – Jim Walsh
- 26 – Larry Faeth
- 28 – David Woodford
- 31 – Michael Dressel

**NEWS FROM OUR FRATERNAL BENEFITS ADVISOR –** If you have a Knights of Columbus Insurance question or need, please contact the Lawandus Insurance Agency – **Field Agent – Brian DeBlauw**. He may be reached at his cell # 440-669-8957, office # 941-363-1678 or email [brian.deblauw@kofc.org](mailto:brian.deblauw@kofc.org).  
Knights of Columbus, One Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

**MY MISSION:** *“To provide professional, expert, and industry leading financial service, with uncompromising ethics and compassion to all our members and their families!”*

Please see monthly update starting on the next page:

With holidays approaching we get busier and busier and right through to the end of the year, it seems nearly non-stop with family gatherings, holiday shopping, special programs at the parish and at schools. Everybody gets busy! From what I've read about shipping and trucking delays of getting shelves restocked it looks like Christmas shopping will need to start even earlier for many.

As busy as you are, here is one item that needs your attention: If you have not yet completed the Annual Survey, please take just a few minutes and respond. It's easier than ever; it can be done online at [www.KofCSurvey2021.org](http://www.KofCSurvey2021.org). Your responses help me understand your current situation better. That in turn allows me to be of better service to you. For some of you, that means referring you or a family member to one of our many fraternal benefits. For others it may mean updating important contact or family information. Still others may benefit from a comprehensive look at their current insurance plans. With our new financial needs analysis tool and a few minutes together I can give you an accurate picture of where you stand when it comes to your family's protection. With our full suite of products, life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability income insurance and retirement annuities, I can help in most any situation.

Our financial needs analysis allows me to gather information from you and make fact-based recommendations based on your wants, needs, and desires. With the help of computer modeling, we can look at a variety of scenarios and help ensure you are on the right track regardless of what lies ahead.

Now, before things get too busy, I am always available for each and every Knights member, and their families to link you to the benefits you have in your insurance company. We build comprehensive financial plans to help families mitigate risk of death, disability and taxes while building wealth.

Thank you to the many brothers who have met with me so far this year. I've been very fortunate to be of service to all of you and your families. This vocation for me has many rewards, but none of them as special as the relationships that I have built with all of you along the way.

Thank you and God bless,  
Brian DeBlauw, Field Agent

"So always treat others as you would like them to treat you; that is the meaning of the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12)

***The best form of a compliment is a referral and yours is always appreciated!***

# December 2021



SC-Spirit Center  
CC-Chelsea Center  
C- Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Officer's Meeting SC 7:00pm	2	3	4
5 Parish Christmas Party CC 5:00-7:00pm	6	7	8	9 Council Meeting SC 7:00pm	10	11
12	13 Assembly Meeting Incarnation 6:00pm	14	15	16 Degree Exemplifica tion SC 6:00pm	17 December Social Meadows CC 6:15pm	18
19	20	21	22	23 Planned Parenthood Prayer Walk 9:00-1:00	24	25 Merry Christmas
26	27	28	29	30	31	