



St. Thomas More Council 7826

December 2021 Newsletter



Welcome to the St Thomas More Council December Newsletter

Grand Knight Report

Every month I talk about the strength of our Brotherhood & Sisterhood, with our spouses and significant others in this Council, and how it provides a solid foundation for all we do as a Council. I want to give you a midyear update on our progress to make Star Council. Our membership goal was 10 new members. After our December 16th Exemplification we will have 7 new members. On the required programs to achieve Star Council, over half of those programs are complete, and the remaining programs are in progress. Through all of your hard work, our council is well on its journey to achieve Star Council once again. I can say unequivocally, having attended meetings where other councils are present; there is no officer group, and no council, more dedicated to the service of their council, parish, and community than STM Council 7826. I am humbled and honored to be the Grand Knight of this council, and your partner in all we do. All of you have made a stellar contribution to the success of our council. Thank you for your time, your fraternity and your unity. Thank you for all your hard work and patience these last few weeks preparing for the parish Christmas party. It was amazing to watch our fellow parishioners enjoy the fruits of our labor. I also want to extend these same sentiments to your spouses and significant others, who not only allow us to do what we do, but support us in so many ways in all we do. Thanks to our Pastor, Fr. Gordon and our Chaplain, Fr. Lawton for their support and allowing us to use St. Thomas More as our home base.

The Officer Team, Beth, and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. Travel safe if you are leaving to visit with family and friends this Christmas season.

The highlight of December was the parish Christmas party. It was a wonderful experience to see so many happy faces in the same room again. Thank you to all who assisted in so many ways to make this a success. The Christmas tree pictured was our own tree in the Chelsea Center. The tree was donated in 2019 by Brothers Hank Peppard & Jim Meyd in memory of their sons. It is a showstopper even in a room as large as the Chelsea Center. We had our own Santa, Al Ferrigno, who didn't really need to change too much to play the part.

Brother and Sacristan John Koitsch also produced a fabulous video collage of pictures of the party. Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/97IJraCbu20>. Copy, paste, and enjoy! Thank you John!

A few photos are on the following pages. Thank you to the many volunteers!





December was another busy month for the Council. We held our Council Meeting on December 9th. The Council presented our Pastor, Fr. Gordon, a check for \$1750 as part of our commitment to assist our parish to meet its financial obligations. Through our Parish Baby Bottle Campaign and Council donation, we collected \$6,000 that will benefit My Choice Pregnancy Center. We held an Exemplification of Charity, Fraternity, and Unity on December 16th. We welcomed three new members, Ray Santelli, Jim Alexander, and Ken

Keating. In addition, Brother Richard Lamb also took his 3rd Degree. Please welcome and congratulate our new 3rd degree Knights. Our Christmas social took place on December 17th at The Meadows Country Club. The social had 70 people in attendance for a great turnout. Our Chaplain Fr. Lawton Lang and our seminarian Alejandro were also present for the evening. It was great to see Brother Larry Faeth and Joyce Faeth back at our social. Thanks to Brother Dave & Sue Bracy for a wonderful evening of fraternity and brotherhood. Once again, Brother Ted & Karla Kovacic were our gracious hosts for the evening. Thank you to all who attended. We also continued our prayer walk on December 23rd for the unborn.

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











January Social

The next Council social event will be held at The Italian Grill at 8620 S. Tamiami Trail on Wednesday, January 12th at 5:30 pm. The menu includes: a garden salad with balsamic dressing; your choice of 1) chicken parmigiana, 2) eggplant parmigiana, or 3) lasagna; and cannoli for dessert. The cost is \$36 per person which includes tax and gratuity. Separate cash bar.

To reserve, please mail a check (payable to KofC Council 7826) along with names and entree choices to Larry Hall, 4097 Cascina Way, Sarasota, FL 34238 by January 5th. There is no Council meeting prior to this event so don't delay in sending in your reservation.

December Knight of the Month

This Brother Knight has been involved in so many parish and Council activities. He is a Hospitality Minister. He is involved in every Council activity. Even major surgery can't keep this Brother down for long. Our December Knight of the Month is Brother Tom Nate.



Brother Max Streibel was unable to attend the November meeting and received his November Knight of the Month certificate.



December Family of the Month

Another active family in our Council assists with the Hospitality Ministry and many Council activities. They assisted with the Christmas tree setup and party. They are active with Coffee & Donuts in season. Our December Family of the Month is John & Kathy Malloy.



Also at the December meeting, Brother Juan Rodriguez received his Knighthood Degree certificate.



Faith in Action

Our council held its Coats for Kids event on December 22nd at Stillpoint Mission. We provided 32 lightweight winter jackets and assisted in giving over 100 additional coats and 50 gift cards for those unable to receive a coat in their size. Thank you to Deputy Grand Knight Phil Arsenault, Chancellor Ralph Neller, Brother Richard Lamb, and Brother Jamie Holahan for participating with the Grand Knight. It was a great way of helping others, but really emphasized to all of us the great need for assistance in our community.





Parish News



Thank you and congratulations to St. Thomas More parish as it reached and exceeded the Catholic Faith Appeal goal!! Fr. Gordon asked and we responded. This was a great effort by the entire parish.

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. 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. As we begin a new year, please consider your weekly financial support of the parish. Our council ended the year on a high note by presenting Fr. Gordon with a check for \$1750 in support of the parish. We also raised an additional \$1200 by way of the gift basket raffle at the Christmas Party. As always, Sue Bracy did a fabulous job of putting together beautiful baskets with lots of goodies.



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. Beginning the New Year, the parish is also in need of Lectors for the Saturday Vigil Masses with the addition of a second mass during the winter season. 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

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 4th 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 or telephone # 908-451-7454 or Neil Corrado at fdny0261@gmail.com 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

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 Bereberich (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*

PGK Ken Berberich presented Brother Richard Lamb a Certificate of Appreciation for his leadership and financial support for the STM Golf Outing.





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 three new members take the degree this month. Great work was done by the membership team. We still need **3** 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 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 there 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
- **Website** - St Thomas More Council 7826 website is available to all members. The **website address is 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 1st and 2nd degree members **to achieve the new, Charity - Unity - Fraternity degree (3rd degree)** as well as candidates/new members to participate in the (3rd degree) ceremony. If you are interested in participating, please contact Ralph Neller, Chancellor at his email rneller65@outlook.com, or his telephone #513-708-0528.
- **We are asking all 3rd Degree Knights to consider accomplishing your 4th (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 4th degree, please contact GK Jim Meyd greygoose1@frontier.com, or his telephone 941-923-7517.

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

The 4th (Patriotic) Degree is requesting donations for Veterans at Bay Pines. Items consist of underwear, socks, t-shirts, toiletry items, game books, etc. and a collection box will be available at each Council Membership meeting. You can also make a cash/check donation which will be used to purchase needed items or canteen cards at the VA hospitals. Please see Brother Steve McElroy to find out how you can help.

Upcoming Events

- A reminder our January social will be on Wednesday, January 12th at The Italian Grill. Our next Council meeting will be on January 13th in the Spirit Center.
- We will hold an Exemplification of Charity, Fraternity, and Unity degree ceremony on January 20th, in the Spirit Center. All Brothers are welcome to attend. We encourage brothers who have yet to become a 3rd Degree Knight to join us in taking the degree.
- We will hold Right to Life 365 prayer walk on January 27th at Planned Parenthood from 9:00-1:00.
- We will begin our annual Citizens for Disabilities Campaign (Tootsie Roll) starting the weekend of January 28-January 30. We will continue the following weekend of February 4-6th. Please help us continue with our good work for a worthy cause. We will be back to three days at each store and will need everyone to assist to make this a success.
- 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 it 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)
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)
Tom Nate
Nancy Risbano (wife of George Risbano)
Stan Jakubiak (brother of Jan Jakubiak)

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 - Jim Meyd, Grand Knight, or I may be reached at 941-923-7517.



January Birthdays

Please join in recognizing the following Knights - celebrating birthdays in January:

January 1 – Jan Jakubiak
1 – Robert Burkhead
1 – Dick Hoffend
1 – Roy Rasmussen
2 – James Lawless
2 – Robert Sorge
4 – Derek Noll
5 – Leon Leroux
6 – Steve Baerwalde
10 – Gilberto Talero
11 – Wilson Pava
17 – Ted Kovacic
19 – John Cesare
20 – Dave Bracy
22 – Cecilio Fernandez
22 – Jeffrey Pick
25 – Fr. Jim Simko
27 – Ralph Neller
30 – Richard Calo
31 – Tom Kelly

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 or email brian.deblauw@kofc.org.

SEE JANUARY CALENDAR ON NEXT PAGE FOR YOU TO PRINT

January 2022



SC-Spirit Center
CC-Chelsea Center
C- Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday 1 New Year's Day
2	3	4	5 Officer's Meeting SC Social Reservation Due!	6	7	8
9	10 Assembly Meeting 7:00 St. Patrick	11	12 Social Italian Grill 5:30	13 Council Meeting 7:00 SC	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Degree Ceremony 7:00 SC	21 March for Life Washington DC	22
23	24	25	26	27 Walk for Life 365 PP 9:00-1:00	28 Tootsie Roll Drive @ Publix	29 Tootsie Roll Drive @ Publix
30 Tootsie Roll Drive @ Publix	31					