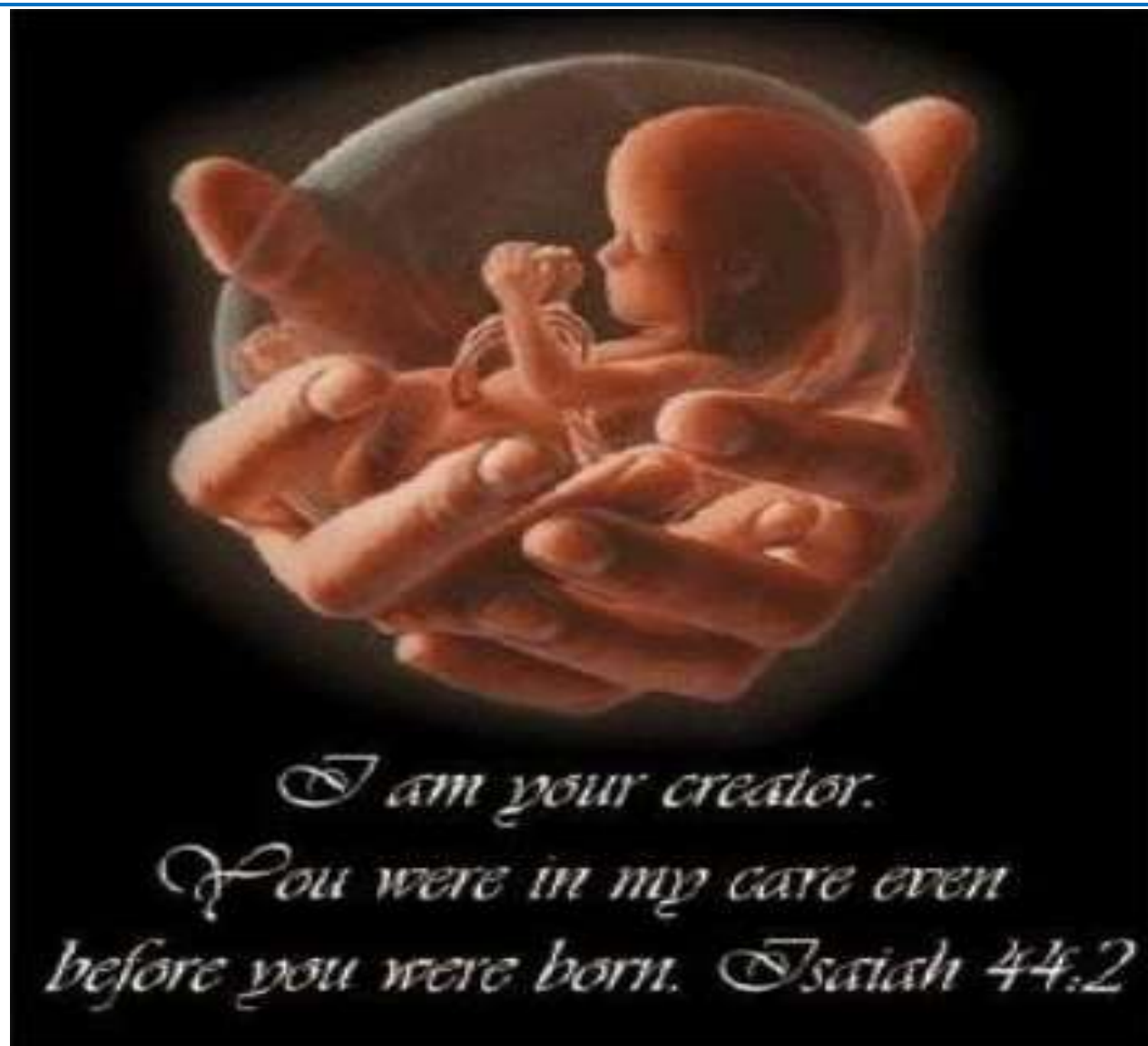




St. Thomas More Council 7826

January 2022 Newsletter



Welcome to the St Thomas More Council January Newsletter

Equality Begins in the Womb

We are entering a crucial moment for life. My intentions were always to emphasize this time in our lives, in regard to fight for the right to life, in this month's newsletter. After reading the most recent edition of Columbia, I knew I was on the right track. I am so grateful for the Right to Life program in our Council. The Council has two great leaders in Brothers Neil Corrado and Brian Harkins, along with his wife Maureen. The Council is blessed by the number of prayer warriors we have in our fight to protect the most precious gift that God has ever given us. Mother Teresa declared "Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion." As Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly well said "This is a hopeful year for all of us who cherish the dignity of human life". Imagine a future in which every woman has the freedom, care, and resources she needs to choose life, where mothers and their children have the care and resources they need to thrive. The Knights of Columbus is uniquely positioned to make this vision a reality. Our/your leadership in the pro-life cause has made a remarkable difference. Please take a moment and read the plan Brothers Neil and Brian have laid out as our plan for Q1 2022 that was emailed to you after January's Council meeting. Thank you to all who dedicated themselves this month in all the Right to Life activities that occurred. Please keep in mind this Month's Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori's challenge. This month, you are challenged to offer one decade of the rosary each day, individually or as a family, for the intention of life. Vivat Jesus!

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. January has been no exception.

Our council held its Officer's meeting on January 5th and our business meeting on January 13th. At the January Council meeting we continued our Speaker Series with Sarasota County Sheriff Kurt Hoffman. Sheriff Hoffman gave us great insight into our Sheriff's Office's operations. We quickly realized we are lucky to have him leading our county's law enforcement. While other cities struggle to find the right balance, our county is run effectively, holds themselves to very high standards, and by far, sets an example of having law enforcement be a fair and effective

partner in our community. Many of the newly recommended police reforms are practices the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office already follows and has been doing for years.

Our January social was held on January 12th at the Italian Grill with 45 in attendance along with our Pastor Fr. Gordon. Thank you again to Brother Dave & Sue Bracy for continuing to make our social program a success.

This month there were many Right to Life activities that members of our Council were active participants. Our Council attended the prayer vigil to kickoff March for Life week in Sarasota. We participated in the 9 Days of Prayer for Life Novena, and continued our support of 40 Days for Life 365 on January 27th. Thank you to all who joined in and to our Right to Life Chairmen, Brothers Neil Corrado & Brian Harkins.

We held our first weekend Cruise Raffle drive the weekend of January 22-23rd. We had a great opening weekend collecting \$2100 in raffle sales. Thank you to Brother Gary & Margot Ellis, and all who participated in selling tickets, for getting this up and running again this year. Fr. Gordon gave us a great kickoff after the 8:00 mass and his support really translated into sales.

We started our annual Citizens for Disabilities Campaign on the weekend of January 28 -30th. Thank you all who braved the cold and wind to make this weekend a success. Special thanks to our unsung heroes. DGK Phil Arsenault for setting this up, and his wife Judy, who traveled from store to store setting up and taking down each day. In addition, Brother Steve & Carol McElroy for their assistance in getting everyone scheduled. Carol McElroy, for her constant contact with all volunteers, scheduling them, and then confirming their time, and filling in time slots when call outs occurred. Carol's dedication to making this program a success is unmatched. FS Larry Hall and Inside Guard Hank Peppard, for their dedication to making frequent stops throughout each day, securing and counting all the donations. Thank you for all you do.

STM Council was also the host for the K of C Region 5 Regional Meeting on January 29th in the Spirit Center. After the regional meeting, there will be a Virtual Patriotic Exemplification watch party. Our Council Treasurer, Brother Greg Sokolik, will be taking his Fourth Degree.

This is an important time for our Council's fundraising activities. I ask all Brother Knights to consider how you can assist in addition to what you have done in the past. This year will be very challenging and we need everyone to be part of making this season a success. It is essential to our current and future charitable works.

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





February Social

The next Council social event will be a dinner at Phillippi Creek Oyster bar on Friday, February 25th at 5:30pm. It will be order off the menu with separate checks. Call Dave & Sue Bracy at 941-586-2666 or 941-966-7692 to reserve a space.

January Knight of the Month

This Brother Knight is involved in so many parish and Council activities. He is an Altar Server and was one of the primary servers when the parish reopened for in-person mass. This Brother Knight is always willing to step up whenever needed, both with his time, and financially, when the time arises. He is a member of our Retention Committee, the Golf Outing Committee, he was Santa Claus for the parish Christmas Party, he is active with Cruise raffle, Tootsie Rolls, and has volunteered to help restart coffee & donuts. Our January Knight of the Month is Brother Al Ferrigno.



January Family of the Month

Another active family in our Council assists with the Hospitality Ministry, Eucharistic Minister, Food Pantry, Resurrection House, and Cruise Raffle just to name a few. They assisted with the Christmas tree setup, take down, and party. January Family of the Month is Brother Gary & Margot Ellis.



Also at the December meeting, Brother Richard Lamb received his Knighthood Degree certificate.



Faith in Action

Under the great leadership of our DGK Phil Arsenault, our council held its annual Citizens with Disabilities Campaign on the weekend of January 28, 29, & 30th at the Gulf Gate and Central Sarasota Publix. We will continue the campaign into February, culminating in our STM Parish drive on February 12-13th. The proceeds will be divided and go to St. Mary Academy & Oak Park School. These two schools do great work with helping children with disabilities succeed in life. Our donations assist St. Mary Academy purchase new technology for the classrooms. With this help, St Mary Academy saw great improvement in the standardized testing results. Special thanks to Brother Steve & Carol McElroy for their assistance in getting everyone scheduled.

Our Council will also be partnering with the Women's Club to hold a "40 Cans for Lent" food drive which will benefit STM 12 Baskets Food Pantry during Lent. We are currently in the planning stages and the dates will be forthcoming.

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. 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.

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 Mass' 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. Our Scholarship Committee is just starting this year's activities, so this is great time to get started on this committee.

We hope to restart our Coffee & Donut Ministry beginning in February 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. We are in need of volunteers for this committee. Spouses are welcome to join in and appreciated. Please see GK Jim Meyd or FS Larry Hall if you are interested in joining this committee.

Special Olympics

With the arrival of Omicron virus, many of the activities have been once again shut down. There are still 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.

Please review the remaining Q1 Right to Life events and plan for where you can join the fight. They are as follow:

1. **40 Days 365 For Life** – Commencing, Thursday, January 27th, STM Parishoner's and STM Knights of Columbus are asked to prayerfully consider signing up for one hour, once a month on the 4th Thursday of every month to peacefully pray outside of Planned Parenthood between the hours of 9AM-12PM. There's no limit on # of people who can sign up on each 4th Thursday of the month in 2022. We had at least 2 people per hour in 2021 but more are needed. View 40DFL 365 like other volunteer activities you have and make it regular part of your 2022 New Years resolutions. Flyers should be in the back of the Church or contact Brian Harkins ((bjharkins1@gmail.com / 908-451-7454) or Neil Corrado (fdny0261@gmail.com / 941-586-3060). VIGIL DATES: THURSDAYS in 2022 – Jan 27th / Feb 24th / Mar 24th / Apr 28th / May 25th / Jun 22th / Jul 28th / Aug 25th / Sept 22nd / Oct 27th / Nov OFF / Dec 22nd

2. **Spring 2022 40 Days For Life - How about this for a Lenten Resolution – only one hour for one day on Thursday, February 24th?** The 40 Days for Life spring Campaign is almost here! From Ash Wednesday – March 2, 2022 through Holy Saturday, April 10th our Sarasota community will unite with over 600 communities for a major simultaneous pro-life mobilization. Once again, St. Thomas More (STM) parishioners and STM Knights of Columbus are urged to join this campaign on **Thursday, Feb 24th** outside of Sarasota's Regional Planned Parenthood location on 736 Central Ave. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to pray for one hour on Thursday, Feb 24th with fellow parishioners between the hours of 7AM – 7PM. This is our 7th annual campaign, and your presence is more important than ever because there is no greater cause than the protection of the unborn - the most innocent among us. The mission of the campaign is to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity for silent prayer, fasting, and peaceful activism, with the purpose of repentance, to seek God's favor to turn hearts and that these efforts will mark the beginning of the end of abortion. Please sign up now by calling or emailing STM Knights - Brian Harkins at 908-451-7454; bjharkins1@gmail.com or Neil Corrado at fdny0261@gmail.com / 941-586-3060) or via the link at: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/sarasota>. We will also have sign-up sheets and flyers in the back of the Church.

3. **Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center** - The annual "Life is Beautiful Dinner" is taking place on March 23rd and 24th at the Sarasota Hyatt Regency Hotel. It is

usually a very large and inspiring event. The STM Knights are reserving one table on either March 23rd or 24th that would seat 8 people. All Guests of this event are asked to prayerfully consider a donation.

4. The Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge for Life - Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori: This month, I challenge you to offer one decade of the rosary each day — individually or as a family — for the intention of life. Second, I challenge you to participate with your brother Knights in the Novena for Life, March for Life, and/or Pregnancy Center Support Faith in Action programs.

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; we need just one more, Corporate Sponsors \$500 - \$1000 levels. We need restaurant and business gift certificates for our raffles. Max Streibel and his team collected over \$700 in additional gift certificates recently from Golf Gate Village businesses.

The event is “filling up fast” and we will be limiting the outing to 25 4somes (100) golfers. Single Golfers and 2somes are welcome. We currently have openings for just 6 more players. Male and female golfers are welcome at the event. If you haven't done so already, please finalize your player information and send your check to secure your reservation.

We need Knights and their “significant others” as volunteers at the outing. We need ALL Kof C 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 members 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, Jack Spinale, 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 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 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 Brian Maher, Phil Bender, Thomas Feder, Joseph Fisher, Donald Hickey, Russell Holmquist, Dan Martin, Michael McGrail, Edward McClean, Richard Miller, James Smith, and John Zodik.

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.

Congratulations to our newest Sir Knight, Treasurer Greg Sokolik. SK Greg participated in the virtual Patriotic Degree at STM on January 29th. Greg is pictured receiving his 4th degree pin and baldric from District Deputy Dr. Steve Wyer.



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

We will hold an Exemplification of Charity, Fraternity, and Unity degree ceremony on February 17th, 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 February 24thth at Planned Parenthood from 9:00-1:00.

We will continue our annual Citizens for Disabilities Campaign (Tootsie Roll Drive) the weekend of February 4-6th at two Publix stores. Subsequently our parish Tootsie Roll Campaign will be held after all masses on February 12-13th. Please help us continue with our good work for a worthy cause.

Our Cruise Raffle has returned this year. We will need volunteers to sell raffle tickets on March 5-6, March 19-20, and March 26-27. This is one of our largest income sources. Please see Gary Ellis at the February Council meeting to pick up your tickets if you haven't already done so. Please return any sold tickets at the Council meetings also. **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.

Our next Council Meeting will be on February 10th at 7:00 in the Spirit Center. We will also host the February Assembly Meeting on February 21st in the Chelsea Center at 7:00.

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
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)
Cecilio Fernandez Jr.
Ted Bogusz
Dan Borgmeyer

We were saddened in January to have lost Past State Deputy, Former Master, and Former Supreme Master Robert Anderson on January 9th.

For our departed Brother Dominic Caledonia, and the "Unborn"- let us keep them in our prayers.

There will be an Internment service for departed Brother Jerry Pardo on February 4th at 10:00 at Sarasota National Cemetery. There will be a funeral service for Brother Domenic Caledonia on February 19th, at STM Church, at 9:00am. The Color Corps will be in attendance. Please plan to attend these services.

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.



February Birthdays

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

February 4 – Christopher Stevens

5 – Larry Hall

7 – Ken Berberich

10 – Johnnie Turner

14 – Robert Manghillis

17 – Janusz Kostecki

18 – Bill Lucke

18 – George Thanos

21 – Salvatore Perri

24 – Fred Zava

26 – Michael Pitoniak

28 – Dan Bulinski

28 – Frederick Wert

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.

Please continue to the next page

Field Agent Update

Use your retirement money while you are living. Don't save it for your children. There are better ways to leave money behind, which will be more beneficial to your family. Most people will leave behind some portion of their estate. Sometimes is property, sometimes its checking and savings account, brokerage accounts, life insurance, annuities and sometimes it's IRA's. If you knew there was a way to limit taxes and the government interference, wouldn't you want to reduce or eliminate this? The question becomes how to do this in the most effective manner possible? This is what estate planning is all about. How does my family pay as little in taxes as possible? How does my family access the funds and money after I pass the quickest and easiest way? Will anything get caught up in probate court or will it pass efficiently?

There isn't a one plan for all when it comes to Estate Planning. A good plan will be created by your team, including a good accountant, estate planning attorney, investment advisor, life insurance advisor, and a good overall financial planner to tie it all together. From my opinion, there isn't a better place or company to do this than the Knights. Most people just don't know how to access the information and solution. As I have always mentioned, the Knight of Columbus Insurance company is YOUR insurance company. It's YOUR financial services company. You gained access to it when you became a Knight. I am here as your servant and am here to help you gain as many benefits out of the company as you can. If there is anything that I can do for you, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

There will be some more and exciting topics in March's newsletter, and I look forward to seeing you and hearing from you in the near future. Until then, may God bless you and your families.

Yours in Christ,
Brian DeBlauw, FIC
Knights of Columbus
Brian.deblauw@kofc.org
Cell: 440-669-8957

SEE FEBRUARY CALENDAR ON NEXT PAGE FOR YOU TO PRINT



February 2021

SC-Spirit Center
CC-Chelsea Center
C- Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday 1	Wednesday 2 Officer's Meeting 7:00 SC	Thursday 3	Friday 4 Tootsie Rolls 10-4 Publix	Saturday 5 Tootsie Rolls 10-4 Publix
6 Tootsie Rolls 10-4 Publix	7	8	9	10 Council Meeting 7:00 SC	11	12 Parish Tootsie Roll after masses
13 Parish Tootsie Roll after masses	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17 Exemplifi cation Degree 7:00 SC	18	19
20	21 Assembly Meeting STM CC 7:00	22	23	24 Prayer Walk PP 9-1	25 February Social Phillippi Creek 5:30	26
27	28					