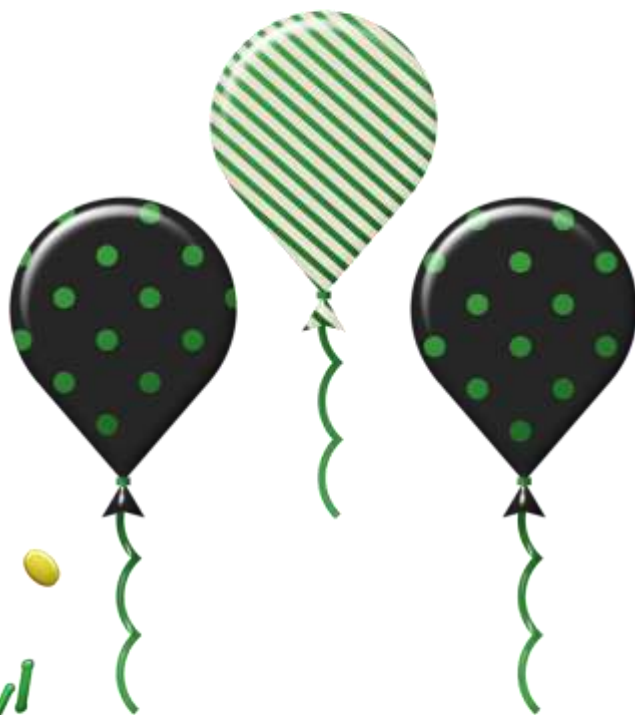




St. Thomas More Council 7826

March 2022 Newsletter



 *Happy
St. Patrick's Day!*



Welcome to the St Thomas More Council March Newsletter

Happy St. Patrick's Day

I hope everyone had a Happy St. Patrick's Day. What a different place the world is since our last newsletter. Our Brothers and Sisters in Ukraine are in a battle for their lives, and their freedom, from the invasion of Russia. Gas prices are at an all-time high, and we continue to battle food shortages worldwide. Our country remains deeply divided. Truly the "enemy" is making its presence known. Now is the time to remain strong in your faith and renew your commitment to God and Church. Lent, and the Easter season, provides us with the perfect opportunity to recommit to our faith. The newsletter calendar lists all the events scheduled at St. Thomas More to close out the Lenten season and prepare for the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This starts with the Lenten Penance Service on April 2nd. There is no more solemn time than Holy Week. There is nothing scheduled on the parish calendar during Holy Week except activities that keep us focused on this most important week of the liturgical year. Starting with Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for us with His crucifixion on Good Friday, and ending with His joyous Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Please review the calendar of events and make your plans to attend the services available this week. Let us commit ourselves as Knights of Columbus to set an example this Easter season.

Grand Knight Report

This month there were many Right to Life activities in which members of our Council were active participants. Our Council attended the full day Prayer Vigil March for Life at Planned Parenthood. Thank you to all Brothers, spouses, and parishioners for your dedication. Thank you to Co-Chairmen Neil Corrado & Brian Harkins for all they do to make our Right to Life Program an active part of what our Council does. Our Council also filled two tables at the SMPC Life is Beautiful 20th Anniversary Gala.

On March 10th we held our Council Meeting with guest speaker Brian West from Publix. Brian did a great job speaking and answering questions from our members. We also found how closely we are aligned with Publix and the charities that we both support, as well as, holding our successful Citizens with Disabilities campaign.

Prior to this month's Council Meeting, our Lecturer, Jim Clark, based on business constraints, had requested to step back at this time. The Grand Knight wishes to express his, and the Council's thanks, for his many years as Lecturer in service of the Council. Brother Jim has agreed to maintain the Council Facebook page. We look forward to Jim's return when time allows. In his stead, Brother Derek Noll has agreed to accept the position of Lecturer. Brother Derek, along with Brother Mark Lawrie, will continue to oversee our well received Speaker Series. We thank and celebrate Brother Derek in his new position.

On March 15th, the Lawandus Agency held an Open House for all Brother Knights, STM parishioners, and friends and guests. Both Brian Lawandus and Brian DeBlauw gave an interesting presentation on the benefits of joining the Knights. It was also a successful recruiting night for our Council as we had five candidates interested in joining our Council. Three of those candidates took their Exemplification on March 28th at Incarnation as a joint council event.

We concluded our parish Cruise Raffle ticket sales this past weekend. The Grand Knight wishes to express his sincere thanks to Brother Gary Ellis and Margot Ellis for their untiring commitment to make this fundraiser a success. Without Gary & Margot's commitment to this fundraiser, this event would not have enjoyed the results that came from this fundraiser. Thank you to those of you that have picked up your tickets, and special thanks to those who have already sold theirs and returned the money. Thank you to everyone that participated after masses to sell tickets. There are many Brother Knights who have yet to pick up tickets at meetings, and many others who did not assist in sales after masses. There is still time to pick up your tickets from Gary Ellis. When you joined the Knights of Columbus, you pledged to live the Christian virtues by means of the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. Our Council is dedicated to do more than attending a meeting once a month, and enjoying a social hour after the meeting. St. Thomas More Council 7826 has always held itself to a high standard of involvement in our parish and our community. As a Council, we support our parish by living in accordance with the precepts of the Catholic Church. We attend mass, and we take the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion regularly. We support our parish financially, and volunteer our time to our parish ministries, that keep our parish vibrant and assist our communities. As Knights, we were founded to

assist those in need. To do this, we hold fundraisers to raise money to contribute to a wide range of charities that help someone in need. To do this **successfully**, we follow the principles of Unity and Fraternity, and join together to make these events a success. Unity and Fraternity is not just attending a monthly social, sometimes it takes a little work. In many cases, no more than 15 minutes of your time at a mass you are already attending. This is what Charity, Unity, and Fraternity mean to a STM Knight of Columbus 7826. Our fundraisers for this fraternal year have ended. Please consider how you can assist in our fundraising events and charities next fraternal year. The Council continues to grow, and we need that to translate into broader participation from across the Council. This is necessary in order to not place undue burden on the committed and loyal few.

There will be an in person Patriotic Degree Exemplification on April 23rd. Please see GK Jim Meyd or Brother Steve McElroy if you would like to become a 4th degree Knight.

As you heard at the March Meeting, we have several openings on our Officer Team for the next fraternal year. Have you ever considered becoming an officer in our Council? We currently have no candidates for Deputy Grand Knight and Chancellor. If anyone is interested in, or would like more information on either position, please reach out to the Grand Knight directly. The future of our Council depends on filling these positions. With 160 members, it is hard to imagine we don't have two people willing to assist in keeping the Council alive and active.

STM Council will also host the April Assembly meeting on April 18th. All Council SK's should plan to attend the meeting. Let's have a great showing from our Council. Brother Hank Peppard is preparing a great menu for the meeting.

Due to Holy Week, our next Council Meeting will be on April 21st in the Spirit Center.

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 and successful.



March Knight of the Month

This Brother Knight has been a Knight since 1949. This Brother Knight worked every day of the Publix Tootsie Roll Drive. When I spoke to him to thank him for all he contributed, his only comment to me was "I can't do a lot of things at my age now, but I can do this to help the Council and the kids." What a great attitude and a great contribution he made to our campaign. The March Knight of the month is Brother Ken Gaasch.





March Family of the Month

This family was the “secret sauce” of our extremely successful Citizens with Disabilities Campaign. Brother Steve, and his wife Carol, compiled the schedule of volunteers, made all the calls confirming their attendance, reaching out and filling the slots whenever there was a cancellation. Commitments like these are what made this fundraiser a success. Our March Family of the month is Brother Steve and Carol McElroy.



Faith in Action

Our Council will also be partnering with the Women's Club & the Youth Ministry to hold a food drive which will benefit STM 12 Baskets Food Pantry. We are currently in the planning stages. We will need volunteers to pass out bags after masses the weekend of April 23-24, and will need volunteers the following weekend of April 30-May1, to handle the bags as they are returned.

Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori Monthly Challenge

For the month of March, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori challenges Knights to withdraw from their normal routine each day to spend time alone with God's word by reading and reflecting on the Gospels. Second, he challenges Knights to assist their council in participating in the Spiritual Reflection program. Our Council accomplished this in November, 2021 of this fraternal year.

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 costs to run and maintain our facilities continues to rise. There will be a capital campaign coming soon to address the roof and HVAC issues. Please be mindful of this as you look for ways to support our parish financially, and through your continued volunteer efforts. As a Council we have begun the process of looking into how we can assist the parish with this huge task.

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 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. Thank you to those who have responded to this call. Once we return back to our "off season" schedule, I will keep you informed of any new needs that arise.

Committee Corner

We have needs on many of our committees. To our new members, this is a great way to become involved in our Council activities. Please see the Grand Knight to learn the opportunities we have available.

Scholarship

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. Scholarship guidelines and application forms are now available for the school year starting August 2022.

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. The Special Olympics USA games will be held in Orlando, June 5-12. This is a great volunteer opportunity. 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. Thank you to Brothers Max Streibel, Richard Lamb, & Al Ferrigno for volunteering their time and energy.

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.

STM Council had great support for our all day Prayer Vigil on March 24th. We also fielded two tables at the SMPC 20th Anniversary "Life is Beautiful" Gala. Our Council made a direct donation as did many of our council Members. Thanks to our Co-Chairmen Neil Corrado & Brian Harkins. The Grand Knight would also like to thank Neil Corrado, Brian & Maureen Harkins, Greg & Deb Sokolik, Ed & Fran Plankey, Phil & Judy Arsenault, Frank & Imelda Moeslein, Charlie & Jeannette Baldelli, and Beth Meyd for attending the gala. We all had a great time for a great cause. We continue to hear stories from mothers whose babies we have saved by our presence and our prayers for the unborn. Slowly, but, surely, we are winning this battle for preserving the lives of the innocents.





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 K of 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 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, Jack Spinale, and Richard Lamb.

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

PGK Ken Berberich

See Golf Flyer on the next page



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. We are currently at 14 new members. Great work has been done by our membership team. As we talked earlier, the Council has met and exceeded its membership goal and we have several candidates still waiting to take their degree. Let's keep this going. Our Council can make "Double" Star Council with just one more push. This would be the first time for our Council to achieve this status. Thanks to the entire Council for their hard work in bringing in active new members. New Members must be a practicing Catholic, 18+ years of age. We need your help to reach out to K of C "prospects". You will be assisted by our Membership Development Committee. Please provide the name of an individual that may/has an interest in K of C and our St Thomas More Council. Please contact Chancellor Ralph Neller, at his email rneller65@outlook.com or his telephone # 513-708-0528.

Welcome to new Brother Knights Henry Rauche, Jr, Jonathan Genz, and Tom Maniuszko in taking the Exemplification Degree of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity on March 28th, at Incarnation, in a joint ceremony. Let's give them a big welcome at this month's Council Meeting. Our Council has planned our next Exemplification for April 28th, at 7:00, in the Spirit Center.





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 Kenneth Ahlers, Brian Bergmann, Pasquale Guadagno, Bryce Hurley, Anthony Kolakiewicz, Phillip Knight, Albert Lewicki, Angelo Madrid, Timothy O'Leary, Patrick Ormsby, Anthony Roback, James Smith, Dave Spiewak, Victor Varghese, Richard Wimsatt, and Frank Zeukas.

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 Brother 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.

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.

Upcoming Events

Our next Council Meeting will be on April 21st at 7:00 in the Spirit Center.

On April 24th we will have a Corporate Communion at the 10:00 Mass followed by a social event. At the social we will also have representatives from Oak Park School and St. Mary Academy attending. The Council will present the proceeds from our “Tootsie Roll”, Citizens with Disabilities campaign to both schools. They will share with us their mission and how these proceeds are used to assist the schools achieve their goals.

Corporate Communion @ 10:00 am Mass @ St. Thomas More

Followed by

Brunch starting @ 11:15 am @ Stoneybrook Country Club

Brunch Price \$26.00 per person includes:

Omelet station, Waffle station, Eggs Benedict

Bacon & Sausage, Bagels & Toast, Sticky Buns

Coffee or Tea

(Note: Does not include Bloody Mary or Mimosa)

**Complete your brunch reservations by April 18th to
Larry Hall, 4097 Cascina Way, Sarasota, FL 34238 with
check payable to Knights of Columbus Council 7826.**

Dress Code

**Corporate Communion: Council shirt and dress pants
with coat optional, not required**

Brunch: Coat optional, not required

We will hold an Exemplification of Charity, Fraternity, and Unity degree ceremony on April 28th, 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, also on April 28th at Planned Parenthood.

Donation Request – K of C Assembly 3089 – Our Lady of Charity Assembly

The 4th (Patriotic) Degree is requesting donations for Veterans at Bay Pines to include underwear, socks, t-shirts, toiletry items, game books, etc. 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.

Our Lady of Charity Assembly 3089 Fundraiser

Our K of C Assembly is also holding as art auction at the nearby Finengan Center at Incarnation Catholic Church on April 22nd and April 23rd with the proceeds going to support our veterans. Please plan to attend and support the Assembly.

See Art Auction flyer and details on the next page



Fundraiser for Veterans

Silent Auction – April 22nd and 23rd

Location – Finegan Center

Time – 5:30 until 7:30

70 pieces of art of various sizes will be donated and on display by Renowned Local Artist Mara Trumbo for a Silent Auction to raise funds for our local veterans. She is a Certified Decorative and Fine Art instructor.



Mara's art works have been exhibited in Johannesburg South Africa in 1995, at the Sarasota Visual Art Center in 1996, Gulf Gate Artist Expo in 1997, Lake Placid Caladium Arts and Crafts since 2002, and Rugby and Knoxville, Tennessee from 2006 to 2014 with many of her entries winning top awards at County Fairs. Abroad Mara has exhibited at the Mostra Artistica in Bolsena Italy in 2003, 2006 and 2011, Hobby Show in Rome 2008 and 2009, and Spain in 2013, while continuing to teach wherever opportunity takes her.

Wine and an assortment of cheese, meats, nuts, and fruit will be provided for your enjoyment.

This will be a great evening to come with your friends, share in some refreshments, and view and bid on high quality artwork for a great cause.

Let us never forget our Veterans!

As you are aware, we support St. Mary Academy through our Tootsie Roll Drive. To do the work they do, St. Mary Academy needs to continue to fundraise to achieve the success they have. St. Mary will be holding a golf fundraiser on May 1st. This would be a great tune up round for those already signed up for our Council Outing on May 9th. Please consider playing in or making a donation to St. Mary Academy. The Grand Knight would be willing to be part of a foursome if anyone would be interested in joining the team. Please let me know.



ST. MARY ACADEMY
9th Annual

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sunday, May 1, 2022
Heritage Oaks Golf & Country Club
Shotgun starts at 8:30 a.m.

\$100 per person

Includes:
Golf Cart, Greens Fee, Range Balls,
Continental Breakfast, BBQ Lunch,
Drinks, Prizes, Awards, Laughs,
Principal's Auction, Silent Auction,
Best Goody Bags Ever

\$5,000 Drawing

For more information, please contact Connie Taft at (941) 366-4010 Ext. 318 or ctaft@stmarysarasota.org
St. Mary Academy is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating children with special learning needs.

Good of the Order



Please include the following individuals in need of our prayers:

Fr. Jim Simko
John Maier
John McAlonie
Larry Faeth
Erin McAlonie Brady (daughter of John McAlonie)
Alec Berardinelli
Janek Jakubiuk
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)
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)
Ted Bogusz
Dan Borgmeyer
Ruth Walsh
Ron McCluskey
Jack Rodman
Fr. Gordon Zanetti

For our departed Brother Dominic Caledonia, Cecilio Fernandez, Jr, 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.



April Birthdays

Please join in recognizing the following Knights celebrating birthdays in April.

April 4 – Thomas Meirink
10 – Max Streibel
10 – James Treloar
13 - David Mandrgoc
17– Peter Haleas
18 – Phil Arsenault
22 – Charles Wines
23 – Joe Frustaglio
24 – Victor Ferruli
27 – Antonio Cervantes
28 – Ronaldo Landayan
29 – Hanes LaRosa

NEWS FROM OUR FRATERNAL BENEFITS ADVISOR – If you have a Knights of Columbus Insurance question, or need information, 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 on to the next page which includes
the April calendar which you can print.***



April 2022

SC-Spirit Center
CC-Chelsea Center
C- Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Mary's Way of the Cross 6:30 (C)	2 Lenten Penance Service 10:00 (C)
3	4	5	6 Officer's Meeting 7:00 (SC)	7	8	9
10 Palm Sunday	11	12	13	14 Holy Thursday 7:00 (C))	15 Good Friday 3:00 & 6:30 (C)	16 Easter Vigil 8:30pm (C)
17 Easter Sunday 8:00,010:00, 12:00 (C)) 10:15 (CC)	18 Assembly Meeting 7:00 (CC)	19	20	21 Council Meeting 7:00 (SC)	22 Assembly 3089 Silent Art Auction @Incarnati on	23 4 th Degree Exemplificati on @ St. Jos. Assembly 3089 Silent Art Auction @Incarnation
24 Corporate Communion 10:00 (C) Brunch Social Stoneybrook CC 11:15	25	26	27	28 Walk for Life 365 PP 9:00-1:00 3 rd Degree Exemplifica tion - SC	29	30 Joint Food Drive Collection