



St. Thomas More Council 7826

April 2022 Newsletter



Welcome to the St Thomas More Council April Newsletter

Grand Knight Report

Once again, this was a very busy month for our Council. As a Council, we participated in all Holy Week services as Hospitality Ministers, Eucharistic Ministers, and as parishioners. What a great week we had as a parish, being able to celebrate fully, all the events without restrictions for the first time since 2019. Attendance at the Easter masses was tremendous and it was great to see our parish so full of life and energy.

We held our Officer's meeting on April 6th and our Council Business Meetings on April 21st. We read in our slate of Officers for the 2022-2023 Fraternal Year. We still have openings for the Deputy Grand Knight and Chancellor positions. The Grand Knight has spoken often and openly about the need for our Brother Knights to step up and volunteer to become an officer. This is important for this fraternal year, as well as, for the future of our Council. If you are proud to be a Knight of Columbus, or more importantly, if you are proud to be a St. Thomas More Knight of Columbus, then now is the time to be bold and daring. The Council needs new officers to remain current and vibrant. You will receive great support from your fellow officers and from the general Council. Everyone is here to help you and our Council be successful. If you are waiting for the next guy to step up, he is not coming. The Council needs you to consider becoming an officer in our Council. Please contact Grand Knight Jim Meyd if you have an interest or a question about any of the positions. The Grand Knight's contact information is greygoose1@frontier.com and can also be reached at 941-923-7517.

Our 2022 Council Golf Outing planning, under the leadership of PGK Ken Berberich, continues with 25 foursomes registered to play. We have several corporate sponsors and many hole sponsors. Thank you to PGK Ken Berberich and the committee for all your hard work on this fundraiser. This looks like it will be great fun and a great new fundraiser for our Council.

Our cruise raffle is winding down for this year. Brother Gary Ellis & Margot Ellis have done a fantastic job to make this a success. Please bring your **sold** tickets to our next Council Meeting on May 12th. The drawing will be held on May 30th after the 8:00 mass. Good Luck!!

Once again, the Grand Knight wishes to recognize Chancellor Ralph Neller, and Advocate Joe Tiffany, for their great work in membership recruitment this

fraternal year. As you know, our goal was 10 new members. After our Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity on April 28th, we now have 17 new members. Pleased welcome our new Brother Knights, Corey DeVito, Daniel Flynn, and Anthony Madaio. Brother Chris Pariseau was also accepted into our Council as a transferred Knight. Only 3 new members are needed before June 30th for the Council to achieve **Double Star Council**. Our Council asks that everyone, including our newest members, to reach out to someone you know who will make a great STM Brother Knight. We can do this!

STM Council held an Exemplification of Charity, Unity, & Fraternity on April 28th. Our new candidates received their degree. (Photos on following pages)

PGK Ken Berberich was named Honoree for the Exemplification (photo below).







Our Spring Training Baseball concession stand was another great fundraising success for STM and Incarnation. Despite a strike shortened season, we had great financial results. Our shares of the proceeds were \$8,438.89. Thank you to all who volunteered and worked so hard at each and every game.

We held a Corporate Communion on April 24th at 10:00 mass. In addition to celebrating our faith together, we also recognized the STM Altar Servers of the Year, Wyatt Liott, and Brother Jim Corso. (Photos on following pages).





In addition, we held our Council May Social after mass at Stoneybrook Country Club. There were 72 in attendance at one of our favorite venues. Thank you to Brother Dave Bracy and Sue Bracy, for giving us another great event of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. We presented checks to St Mary Academy and Oak Park School. With your great work, we presented checks in the amount of \$5050.00 to each school. Connie Taft and Nicole Mio gratefully accepted their check for their respective schools. What a great day that was from beginning to end. Such an inspirational day to be a STM Knight of Columbus and be part of this moment of giving.















STM Council participated along with STM Women's Club, STM Twelve Basket Food Pantry, and the STM Youth Group to hold the first STM Parish Ministries Food Drive to support our parish food pantry. The drive was held on the weekends of April 23-24 and April 30-May1. Thank you to all who participated. We collected 3112 pounds of food in a time when so many are in need.

(Photos on following pages).









There was an in person Patriotic Degree Exemplification on Saturday April 23rd. Our Council had six Brothers take their 4th Degree. Ralph Neller, Joe Tiffany, John Spinale, Charlie Baldelli, Al Ferrigno, and John Koitsch. Congratulations to our new Sir Knights.

Our commitment to 40 Days for life 365 continued on April 28th. We had a strong showing from our Council, but we can always use more support.





Our next Council Meeting will be on May 12th here 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.

April Knight of the Month

This Brother Knight came to our Council as a “Snowbird” guest Brother Knight for several years now. He has been coming to our meetings, attending our socials, and working all our outreach & fundraising events. His skills at pouring beer at the ballpark have become legendary. This year he made the decision to transfer to our Council. Our May Knight of the Month is Ray Paleczny. Ray has recently had a medical issue that required surgery. He will receive his certificate when he feels a little stronger, so we have no picture at this time.

April Family of the Month

This family works quietly behind the scenes in so many parish and Council activities, and all while still working. Patty Carver is always on the scene at 10:00 mass and so many other special events. Brother Rob is here, there, and everywhere seemingly all at once. Whether he volunteers to be on a schedule, or hears the call for help and just appears out of nowhere to assist. Our May Family of the Month is Rob & Patty Carver. Unfortunately, Rob was having a little battle with the COVID bug and was unable to attend the meeting. He will receive the certificate at the next meeting.

Faith in Action

If that wasn't enough, we hosted an Ice Cream Social for the Religious Education students and First Communicants on May 1st. Thank you to Brothers Larry Hall & Hank Peppard for leading and organizing, and for all those who helped make this a big day for kids and their families.



Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori Monthly Challenge

For the month of May, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori challenges you to pray the rosary every day and meditate intently on its mysteries to know Jesus better, and become ever more attuned to his voice. Second, during this month of Mary, I challenge you to join your council in holding the Faith in Action Rosary program.

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. 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 will have begun the process of looking 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. 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. Summer schedule changes always present new opportunities to volunteer. Thank you to those who have responded to this call.

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 Committee

Each year we donate over \$6000 in scholarships for students attending Cardinal Mooney High School. Please reach out to our 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 will be busy over the next couple of months with our Scholarship Awards Presentation scheduled for June 23rd, at 7:00pm, in the Spirit Center. Please plan to join us and celebrate our awardees.

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. 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.

Hot off the Press!!

STM Knights of Columbus has been awarded the silver winner of the Knights of Columbus Florida State Council Pregnancy Support Service Award!!! This is a big deal for our Council, especially for one our size.

To: Jim Meyd
Cc: Steve Wyer, Ed Sedillo
Wed, May 4 at 1:56 PM

Worthy Grand Knight James G. Meyd,

This email is to advise you that the Saint Thomas More Council 7826 has been selected as one of the three finalists for the following Program and State Service Awards:

- Pregnancy Center Support - Silver

These awards will be presented during Saturday morning's session. If you are the First Place Awardee, when your Council number is announced, please go to the front of the room to have your photograph taken with the State Deputy and the Supreme representative; after the photograph is taken you should proceed to the Awards table to pick up your Award. Second and Third Place winners will have the opportunity later to pick up their trophies and have a photograph taken with the State Deputy. This procedure should expedite the presentation process without taking away from the recognition of the work done by all the Councils of our Jurisdiction.

On behalf of our State Deputy Robert Urrutia and the Florida State Council Board of Directors, I congratulate you and all the members of Saint Thomas More Council 7826 for your achievements.

Vivat Jesus,
Kris Elliott
Programs Director
Florida State Council

Golf Committee

Let's Get Ready to RuuuMmmmBbbLE !!!



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 17 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 a great accomplishment for this Council. 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 Corey DeVito, Dan Flynn, and Tone Madaio, in taking the Exemplification Degree of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity on April 28th in the Spirit Center. Let's give them a big welcome at this month's Council Meeting. Our Council will hold an Exemplification in May. The date is to be determined. 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 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, Victo 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.

Upcoming Events

- Golf Tournament on May 9th at Legacy Golf Course.
- Assembly 3089 Meeting on May 9th, at 7:00, at St.Patrick's.
- Council meeting on May 12th at 7:00 in the Spirit Center.
- Social on May 19th at Pinchers starting @ 5:30. RSVP to Dave Bracy.
- KofC Florida State Convention May 13th-May 15th.
- 40 Days for Life 365 will be held on May 26th, 9: 00 – 1:00, at Planned Parenthood.
- Cruise Raffle Drawing on May 30th at St. Thomas More.

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
Fr. Gordon Zanetti
Lucy Koitsch
Ray Paleczny
Larry Hall
Stan Szafranski

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.



May Birthdays

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

- May 9 – Charlie Ballschmeider
- 12– Gerard Archambault
- 12 – David Rancourt
- 13 – Alex Lucchesi
- 14 – Thomas Maniuszko
- 15 – Richard Lamb
- 17 – Jim Meyd
- 18 – Joe Avellino
- 19 – Charles Turnwald
- 22 – Ed Plankey
- 24 – Robert Bremer
- 25 – Steve Fenner
- 25 – Tom White
- 30 – Jack Rodman
- 30 – Gary Ellis
- 31 – Brian Harkins

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
May calendar which you can print for quick reference.***



May 2022

SC-Spirit Center
 CC-Chelsea Center
 C- Church

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------|--|---------|--------------------------------------|--|--------|----------|
| 1 Food Drive C & SC | 2 | 3 | 4 Officer's Meeting 7:00 SC | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 Golf Outing @ Legacy Assembly Meeting St. Patrick's 7:00 | 10 | 11 | 12 Council Meeting 7:00 SC | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 May Social Pinchers's | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Ascension of The Lord Prayer Vigil @ PP 9:00-1:00 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 Memorial Day Cruise Raffle Drawing | 31 | | | | |