



**St. Thomas More Council 7826**

**May-June 2022 Newsletter**



**Welcome to the St Thomas More Council May-June Newsletter**

## **Grand Knight Report**

The Grand Knight wishes to express to the Council, my family's sincere thank you for your thoughts and prayers on my mother's passing. Your prayers, cards, thoughts, and kind personal words, meant so much to us during this difficult time. Being away for the month of May made it impossible to produce the May newsletter. I will do my best to recap both May and June in this newsletter.

Well here we are at year's end. Who would have thought it would fly by so quickly. The year started by losing our Deputy Grand Knight so quickly. Brother Phil Arsenault stepped up and decided he wouldn't let the Council or his friend continue alone, raised his hand to volunteer and accepted the challenge that lay ahead. With a strong, experienced officer group, and a Council eager to get back to work after Covid, we accomplished many great things together.

The Grand Knight found a strong partner in his Financial Secretary Larry Hall, who gave the Council a great financial plan and guidance, that would be prudent, given the uncertainty of our environment, but allow us to continue our charitable work until the ground beneath us steadied and allowed us to do more, and do more we did.

With the help of every member in this Council, our year was a success on every level. Our membership goal was 10 new members, but our membership team of Chancellor Ralph Neller and Advocate Joe Tiffany, challenged themselves to do more. Together, they combined their effort to recruit 21 new members. Due to their efforts, our Council will achieve Double Star Council. Not an easy task for a seasoned Council with so many members. Our Council received three awards for membership and insurance at this year's state convention. We reestablished our Degree Team under PGK Dan Bulinski and held an in-person Exemplification nearly every month this fraternal year.

Every fundraiser this Council held exceeded all expectations. Our lucky number became \$10,000. DGK Phil Arsenault and his Tootsie Roll volunteers collected over \$10,000 in donations. Brother Gary Ellis and Margot Ellis, and the Council members led a cruise raffle, that we weren't even sure would happen based on circumstances, to gross \$10,360.

PGK Ken Berberich and his committee started our first ever Council golf outing fundraiser. The outing was planned and executed perfectly, and we also netted close to \$10,000 for the Council.

In addition to our pass through events of Baby Bottles and Tootsie Rolls, we made an additional \$20,000 in donations to our parish and other charities we support.

Along with our brothers from Incarnation, we worked the concession stand at spring training baseball, where each council received almost \$9,000.

We supported the parish youth groups as always, and then found new ways we hadn't done in the past.

We led a parish ministry food drive along with the Women's Club, Food Pantry, and the youth groups to collect over 3,000 lbs. of food to feed the needy.

Our Council assisted in bringing parish events back to normal by leading the Parish Christmas Party, and soon to be restarted pancake breakfasts.

Our Speaker series team lead by Lecturer Derek Noll and Brother Mark Lawrie continued to bring us interesting speakers to our meetings. Wait until you see how this program will grow this coming year.

With Brothers Neil Corrado and Brian Harkins, and all our prayer warriors, STM Council has one of the strongest Right to Life groups in Sarasota, if not the state. With their leadership, and the Council's support, we received the Silver Sponsor award for Pregnancy Center Support at the state convention.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Brother Steve McElroy and the scholarship committee presented \$7,000 in scholarships to Cardinal Mooney High School.

Brother Hank Peppard and his team worked hard every month to make our after meeting social, and so many other events, enjoyable for everyone. No matter what the notice or event, Hank and his team were there. The month of June is a great example of how much they mean to this Council's success.

Brother Dave and Sue Bracy gave us another fabulous year of socials. What a great time we all had attending these fun nights!

We also lost a few Brothers this year in passing, and we learned how important our friendship and commitment to each other mean to each of us. Remember our watchword "Tempus Fugit, Memento Mori." "Time flies. Remember Death."

We learned how strong the Power of One is. Look at what we can accomplish when we act as one in the name of God. There is nothing we can't accomplish.

As they say in the business world, that was yesterday, what have you done for me today? We have another great year in store for us. Please take a moment to read the Faith in Action Plan and Budget for our next Fraternal Year. Our Council is not done doing great things.

Thank you for your support and all you do.









**Knights of Columbus  
Florida State Council**

**2021-2022**

*Pregnancy Center Support*

*Silver Sponsor*

*St. Thomas More  
Council 7826*

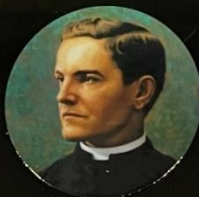
*James G. Meyd  
Grand Knight*

*Excellence in Membership  
and Insurance Growth*

**FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL**

**Council 7826  
James G. Meyd  
Grand Knight**

**For achieving 100% of Supreme Council  
Membership and Insurance goals by the  
end of the Third Quarter**



**2021 - 2022**



## **Council News**

At our June meeting, our Council completed our 2022-2023 Election of Officers. I am pleased to announce our Officers for the 2022-2023 Fraternal Year.

- **Grand Knight – Jim Meyd**
- **Financial Secretary – Larry Hall**
- **Chaplain – Fr. Lawton Lang**
- **Deputy Grand Knight – Ralph Neller**
- **Chancellor - Chris Pariseau**
- **Recorder – Dan Bulinski**
- **Treasurer – Greg Sokolik**
- **Lecturer – Derek Noll**
- **Advocate – Joe Tiffany**
- **Warden – Dave Bracy**
- **Inside Guard – Charlie Ballschmeider**
- **Outside Guard – Hank Peppard**
- **Trustee for One Year – Jack Rodman**
- **Trustee for Two Years – Ken Berberich**
- **Trustee for Three Years – Al Ferrigno**

The Grand Knight wishes to thank all the Officers carrying over from last year, and for those that stepped up to take new positions for this year. The Grand Knight sincerely thanks Brother Jon Engelbrektson, for his interest in running for Three Years Trustee, and looks forward to his continued interest in joining the officers of this Council.

In addition, we had our reading in of the 2022-2023 Faith in Action Service Program Plan and Budget. Attached is a link to both documents. Please take a moment to open and review those documents. We will be voting to accept them at the July Council Meeting. Click on links below to view.

**[2022-2023 Council Program Plan](#)**

**[2022-2023 Council Budget](#)**



## May-June Knights of the Month

For all their hard work and extra effort this year in assisting at all our Council meetings, prayer walks, and fundraising events Brother Ted Kovacic was named May Knight of the Month and Brother Jim Walsh was our June Knight of the Month.







### **May-June Family of the Month**

Joe and Madalyn Tiffany are part of the backbone of our Council and were named our May Family of the Month. They provide strong support and encouragement in all our Council events and both serve as Eucharistic and Hospitality ministers and volunteer at many parish and Council events.

And for all their hard work in volunteering and donations to our 2022 Inaugural Golf Outing, Brother John Spinale and Sandi Dombeck were named as our June Family of the Month.

In the third photo following Rob Carver accepted the Family of the Month for April after he was able to return to a Council meeting in June.





### **Faith in Action**

We hosted an Ice Cream Social for the Religious Education students and First Communicants on May 1<sup>st</sup>. 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. STM Council also provided 20 Children's Bibles, one for each of our First Communicants.

### **Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori Monthly Challenge**

For the month of June, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori challenges you to show your love for Christ by serving the poor and needy in a concrete, tangible way. Second, he challenges you to keep the commandment to love one another by participating in the Faith in Action Global Wheelchair Mission programs, Habitat for Humanity program, our Helping hands Program, and our own parish food pantry.

## **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 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 Hospitality Ministers for Sunday 12:00 mass. If you are a current Minister, please consider changing to assist in covering this mass. This is a great way to volunteer your time to assist our parish and increase the visibility of all we do as a Council. You are already attending mass, and this really adds to the spirit of the day. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested in volunteering. 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 Deputy Grand Knight Ralph Neller and Chancellor Chris Pariseau to learn about the opportunities we have available.

## **Cruise Raffle**

We held our annual Cruise raffle drawing on May 30<sup>th</sup> after the 8:00 mass. Fr. Gordon selected the winning ticket that was held by parishioner Joe Seek. Joe bought his ticket at one of the after mass drives. Joe decided to take the \$2000 cash prize.





## Scholarship Committee

On Thursday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, STM Council Scholarship Committee presented their sixth annual scholarship awards to Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School. It was a great night for the Council, the Scholarship Sponsors, and the Awardees and their families, with \$7,000 in scholarships awarded. Fr. Gordon was in attendance and gave the invocation. Committee Chairman Steve McElroy was the Master of Ceremony and committee members included Jack Rodman, Max Streibel, Greg Sokolik, Johnnie Turner, GK Jim Meyd and Hank Peppard. Additionally Charlie Ballschmieder, John Cesare and Al Ferrigno assisted with the reception and John Koitsch served as photographer. The awardees were:

- **Richard A Schwehr Memorial Scholarship – Kiera Smith**
- **Angela Cianciulli-McAlonie Memorial Scholarship – Kiera Donovan**
- **Hank Peppard Family Memorial Scholarship – Cora Thayer**
- **Lance Corporal Patrick Ryan Adle Memorial Scholarship – Tessa Wiegand**
- **K of C Council 7826 Scholarship – Sarah White**











## Special Olympics

There are many great opportunities coming up you can volunteer to assist and participate in. 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.

## Right to life

**40 Days for Life 365 - The Knights of Columbus has begun a campaign to pray – 365 days a year – at Planned Parenthood facilities. Our Council has been requested to participate at the Sarasota Planned Parenthood facility on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month – from 9AM to 1PM.** We are asking our Members to consider a one hour shift and to **sign-up by contacting our Right to Life Co-Chairs**, either Brian Harkins [bjharkins1@gmail.com](mailto:bjharkins1@gmail.com) or telephone # 908-451-7454 or Neil Corrado at [fdny0261@gmail.com](mailto:fdny0261@gmail.com) or telephone # 941-993-1520. 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.

Great news this week from the Supreme Court, in their ruling to return the authority on abortion, back to the states. It is important for us to understand that this ruling **does not** prohibit abortions, but allows each state to decide on its own. We have taken the first step, but there are many more to go. We need to continue our prayer walks and our support of those pregnancy centers we support. Now, more than ever, we need to continue the work we are doing as a Council. Please continue to **safely and peacefully** support the work we are already doing.

Fr Gordon spoke from the pulpit this past weekend reminding us that Right to life includes caring for people from the womb to the tomb. I took the opportunity to review how we, as a Council, recognize our responsibility. While we continue to look at new opportunities to improve and support the lives of others, here are the ways we take our commitment seriously. We support three pregnancy centers,

our youth groups, the Catholic Faith Appeal, Florida State Charities, two local schools that teach children with disabilities, Coats for Kids, both St. Paul Parish and Catholic Charities in Arcadia, Habitat for Humanity, Veterans support, Cervicos Dominican Republic Ministry, Special Olympics, Wheel Chair Program, Scholarship Program, two Seminarians, and the STM Food Pantry. In addition, our Council members volunteer at the STM Food Pantry, St. Vincent de Paul, and Meals on Wheels, Resurrection House, Bethesda House, Special Olympics, and Guardian ad Litem Program. There are many who volunteer in activities outside of these mentioned, including many of our parish ministries. Please continue to look for opportunities that our Council and our members can become involved to make a difference.

### **Golf Committee**

Thank you to our Golf Committee for their successful outing. They are already in the planning stage for next year. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact PGK Ken Berberich.

### **Membership**

Our New Member Goal this fraternal year is **ten (10) New Members**. We had four new members take the degree during the months of May & June. We are currently at 21 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 now we have reached the coveted position of “**Double Star**” Council. This was a great accomplishment for this Council. Thanks to the entire Council for their hard work in bringing in active new members. Special thanks go to Advocate Joe Tiffany and Chancellor Ralph Neller for a stellar year. 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 Chris Pariseau, at his email [pariseau314@outlook.com](mailto:pariseau314@outlook.com) or his telephone # 443-994-7397.

Welcome to new Brother Knights Luigi Raso, Kevin Deady, and Daniel Martin. The Council congratulates them for taking the Exemplification Degree of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity during the months of May & June. Let's give them a big welcome at this month's Council Meeting.





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 the 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 Chris Pariseau. The new parishioners are Joseph Duda, William Guernier, Joseph Parisi, and Jorge Oquendo.



**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](mailto:jclark1@gmail.com)
- **Website** - St Thomas More Council 7826 website is available to all members. The **website address is [www.kofc7826.org](http://www.kofc7826.org)**. *Please use this website and pass it along to your friends and associates that may have an interest in the Knights of Columbus and our St Thomas More Council.*
- **We returned to live, in-person Exemplifications.** They are intended for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree members **to achieve the new, Charity - Unity - Fraternity degree (3<sup>rd</sup> degree)** as well as candidates/new members to participate in the (3<sup>rd</sup> degree) ceremony. If you are interested in participating, please contact Chris Pariseau, Chancellor at his email [pariseau314@outlook.com](mailto:pariseau314@outlook.com), or his telephone #443-94-7397.
- **We are asking all 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Knights to consider accomplishing your 4<sup>th</sup> (Patriotic) degree – and join the Our Lady of Charity Council 3089.** This is a separate degree ceremony and must be scheduled with FL State/ District. If you are interested in obtaining your 4<sup>th</sup> degree, please contact GK Jim Meyd [greygoose1@frontier.com](mailto:greygoose1@frontier.com), or his telephone 941-923-7517.

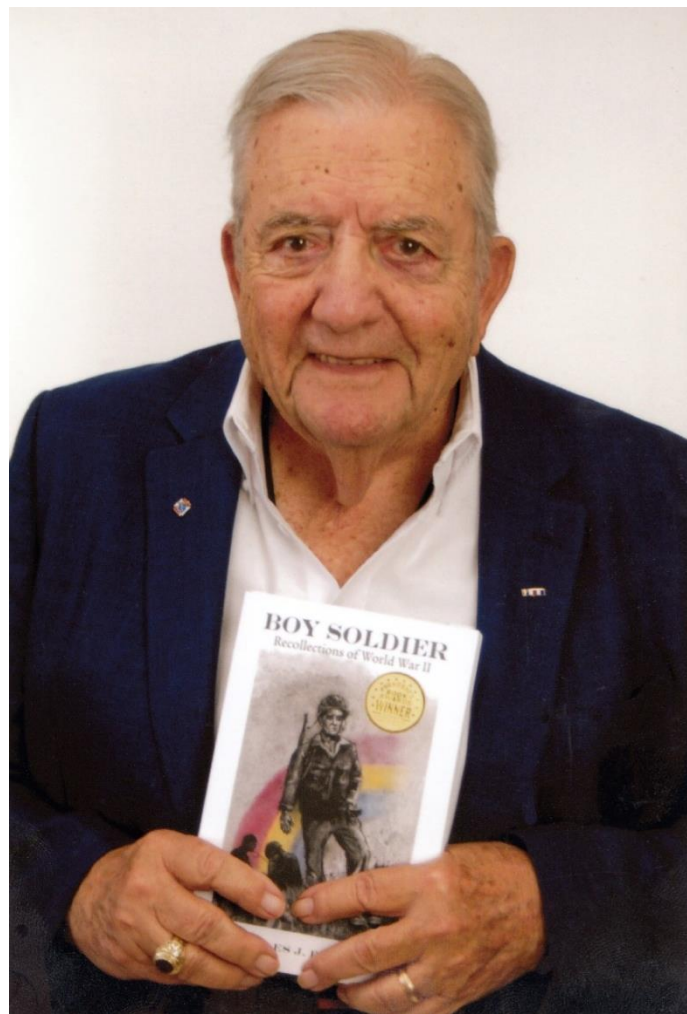
### **Donation Request – K of C Assembly 3089 – Our Lady of Charity Assembly**

The 4<sup>th</sup> (Patriotic) Degree is requesting donations for Veterans at Bay Pines. Items consist of books, tee-shirts, toiletry items, socks etc. A donation box is available at each Council meeting. You can also make a cash or check donation (payable to KofC Assembly 3089). Please notate on your check that you are a Member, STM Council 7826. Thank you for your consideration to this donation request. Please see Brother Steve McElroy to find out how you can help.

### **Upcoming Events**

We will hold a Corporate Communion on Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> at the 4:00 mass. Immediately after we will hold our Installation of Officers in the Spirit Center and all are welcome to attend. We will travel to one of our favorite venues, The Meadows CC for our July Social. You don't want to miss this day of fraternity and unity, not to mention fun.

**We will hold our July Council meeting on July 14th, in the Spirit Center, starting at 6:30 PM. Please note the earlier start time.** We will have a very interesting and worth hearing guest speaker, Chuck Palmeri. Chuck was a member of the fabled Rainbow Battalion and was one of the first to enter Dachau Concentration Camp to free the Jewish prisoners held captive. Chuck has a very compelling story to tell. *As this is a special event, we invite you to bring spouses and friends to hear the speaker. Per our Council rules, anyone not a Knight will not be able to attend the Council meeting immediately after the speaker.* We are working to keep the meeting brief and hold our usual social after the meeting. Please bear with us for this month, we believe this is worth the little extra time and effort. If you intend to bring a guest, please notify Lecturer Derek Noll at [derekjnoll@msn.com](mailto:derekjnoll@msn.com) or 941-266-8505, with the number attending, so that we have an accurate headcount to set up chairs for the meeting.



Assembly 3089 will hold the July meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> at St. Patrick's at 7:00pm.

40 Days for Life 365 will be held on July 28th, from 9:00 – 1:00, at Planned Parenthood.

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.

### July Social

On Saturday, July 9th, Council 7826 will conduct a Corporate Communion at the 4:00 PM, followed by the Officer Installation Ceremony in the Spirit Center, and then followed by the monthly Social Event at the Meadows Country Club at 6:30 PM. This will be a fun evening for our Council as we embark on the journey of the new Fraternal Year.

There is no need to RSVP for the Corporate Communion or Officer Installation Ceremony, however, **reservations are required for the Social Event to include pre-payment with entree choice.** The cost for the Social Event is \$40.00 per person with cash bar. Your reservation is **due by 7/3** to Financial Secretary Larry Hall with check payable to KofC St. Thomas More Council 7826 at mailing address Larry Hall, 4097 Cascina Way, Sarasota, FL 34238. Remember to include from the menu below the entree choice for each person in your reservation.

Dinner Menu and Entree Options for Meadows Country Club:

- **Plated Salad** with dressing choice on table (Ranch and Balsamic)
- **Warm Dinner Rolls**
- **Entree Choices**
  - **Braised Short Ribs** with natural jus and seasonal mushrooms; served with chef vegetables and garlic mashed potatoes
  - **Chicken Boursin** stuffed with Boursin cheese, sundried tomatoes, spinach, mushrooms, balsamic drizzle; and served with garlic mash and chef vegetables
  - **Pan Roasted Salmon** with Saffron Risotto and roasted red pepper cream sauce; and served with haricot vert.
- **Dessert** - Chocolate Lava Cake

## Good of the Order



In follow-up to our previous announcement on the passing of Brother Larry Faeth on 6/12/2022, a funeral Mass will be held at St. Thomas More Catholic Church on July 9th, 2022 at 10:30 am. He was an active Parish and Council members and a friend to many so this will be an opportunity for us to pay our respects. Please continue to keep Joyce Faeth in your thoughts and prayers. The Grand Knight requests your presence at the funeral for our departed Brother.

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  
Carol Szafranski

For our departed Brothers Dominic Caledonia, Cecilio Fernandez, Jr, Joseph (Bob) Kempton, Larry Faeth, Elizabeth Meyd, mother of Jim Meyd, and the "Unborn"- let us keep them in our prayers.

If you know of any Brother Knight in need, let us know, and we will make sure that he is contacted. If you have any questions or needs, please contact me at my email address [greygoose1@frontier.com](mailto:greygoose1@frontier.com) - Jim Meyd, Grand Knight, or I may be reached at 941-923-7517.



## June - July Birthdays

Please join in recognizing the following Knights - celebrating birthdays in June and July.

June 2 – John Van Shoor

4– Edward Cox

7 – Juan Rodriguez

9 – Greg Sokolik

16 – Ron Faille

17 – Steve McElroy

20 – Ray Santelli

24 – Rob Carver

25 – Anthony D’Souza

26 – Eugene McNany

26 – Jim Venter

July 1- Donald DiRuzza

1- Roy MacGillis

11- Donald Leonard

14- Alec Barardinelli

14- Mitchell Mauer

15- Jamie Holahan

16- Richie Marcella

18- Thomas Kennedy

22- Julio Menendez

23- Al Ferrigno

23- Joseph Mizii

27- Mark Lawrie

27- George Risbano

**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](mailto:brian.deblauw@kofc.org).

# July 2022



SC-Spirit Center  
CC-Chelsea Center  
C- Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Independence Day	5	6 Officer's Meeting 7:00 SC	7	8	9 Corporate Mass 4:00 C Installation of Officers SC Social Meadows CC
10	11 Assembly Meeting St. Patrick's 7:00pm	12	13	14 Council Meeting & Guest Speaker 6:30 SC	15	16
17 Pancake Breakfast 8:00 & 10:00 mass	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Prayer Walk 9-1 Planned Parent	29	30/31