



Knights of Columbus®

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826



Welcome to the St Thomas More Council August Newsletter

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, dedicated a statue of Blessed Michael McGivney at St. Margaret Shrine, saying the founder of the Knights of Columbus was a “testimony to the difference that one can make” who should be a role model for priests everywhere.

“Consider the effects this one man had in founding the Knights of Columbus. Consider all the years, all the good works, all the charity, and the outreach to the sick, the homeless and those in need.”

As Grand Knight, I ask you to consider the impact each of us can, and do make, when we volunteer to be part of our Council events and fundraisers. Our Council has a very extensive plan that will affect the lives of so many of our most

vulnerable and needy. This is the reason we joined the Knight of Columbus. Our Council is strong. It continues to grow, and it is dedicated to serving others as Fr. Gordon would say, “from the womb to the tomb”.

With 21 new members from last fraternal year, we stand poised to make a huge difference in the lives of others. Our Council’s main fundraisers and events are just around the corner. Our Fraternal Plan has been sent to you for this year. Be Ready! Be Prepared! To be successful, our Council needs everyone to follow in the footsteps of our founder, Blessed Michael J. McGivney.

Grand Knight Report

STM Council 7826 kicked off our fraternal year with pancake breakfasts on July 17th and August 14th. Our Council has made a decision to continue pancake breakfasts through the fall and winter seasons to reach as many parishioners as possible. The Council will return to coffee and donuts through the summer season. Thank you to all Brother Knights, their spouses, and significant others who have been so generous with their energy, and their time, in support of the breakfasts.

Our Council has much in store for the upcoming months. Our Council Membership Drive, “Baby Bottle” Drive, Coats for Kids, Right to Life activities, and of course our annual support of the parish by hosting this year’s Christmas party.

The Grand Knight and Officers, thank you in advance for your support in making these events a success.





Faith in Action

STM Council held a Coffee & Donut Farewell party for our seminarian, Alejandro, on Sunday, August 7th. As you know, Alejandro's seminarian class will be going on a trip to the Holy Lands in December. Thanks to your and the parish's generosity, we raised over \$4000 in donations to make this possible. Alejandro will now be able to achieve his dream of this journey, and the funds raised will enable him to also return home to visit his parents in Columbia who are ill. The Grand Knight wishes to thank all who contributed donations and/or their time in making this possible. This is truly our **Faith in Action**.





Please continue on to the next pages to see more photos and also consider clicking on the link below to view a special slideshow presentation of Alejandro's time at St. Thomas More prepared by Sacristan and Brother John Koitsch.

<https://plus.smilebox.com/play?g=4bb7b82d-1c95-41ff-a21d-f504cc478dea&sbid=3466>









August Knight of the Month

Brother and Worthy Three Year Trustee, Al Ferrigno, is our August Knight of the Month. Brother Al is involved in so many ways in our parish and our Council. Al is a constant as an alter server at any mass where he is needed. Al was the first to volunteer to serve, as soon as Covid relaxed its grip, and in-person masses were resumed. Since transferring into the Council, Al is present at all our fundraising events, and it is hard to imagine having one without his special touches. Whether it is bringing one of his fabulous collection cars, his special bargain raffle sales, or just bringing his high energy to each event, Al makes his presence known. Let's not forget, Al is also our Christmas Party Santa. Recently Al, based on his workshop skills, was asked to build a cabinet for the Council Officer jewels. As you would expect, Al's workmanship was second to none. In addition, Al recently took his 4th Degree and became a Sir Knight.





August Family of the Month

Our Family of the Month was a large part of our success with our Inaugural Golf Outing. They are both constant volunteers at pancake breakfasts, coffee and donuts, and any event where they are needed. They are a constant at the Council socials and anytime we gather as a Council. The Family of the Month for August is Roy and Deanne MacGillis.



Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori Monthly Challenge

For the month of July, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori challenges you to pray every day as an individual or as a family, asking the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney, to live in a more prayerful home, perhaps using his prayer for his canonization.

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 through your weekly contributions, and through your continued volunteer efforts. As a Council will have begun the process of looking into how we can assist the parish with this huge task.

If you are not attending daily mass, please consider attending at least one daily mass each week. It is a great way to start your day with prayer and you will find it becomes a great way to come closer to God.

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 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. 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 the opportunities we have available.

Our Council is also looking for a chairman of the Christmas Party committee. If you are interested please contact GK Jim Meyd, DGK Ralph Neller or Chancellor Chris Pariseau.

Our Council is beginning its preparation for this year's Cruise Raffle. The Council needs three members who will assist Brother Gary Ellis in conducting this year's raffle. Volunteers are needed to help distribute and collect tickets at the monthly meeting and to assist after masses when we do our after mass drives, usually during February and March. Brother Gary cannot do this by himself and doesn't require a huge time commitment if we have enough volunteers. This is a great opportunity for some of our new Brother Knights to get involved. Please see the Grand Knight to volunteer before he comes to you. Brother Gary will be glad to answer any questions you might have.

In order to reach more parishioners, the Council has made a decision to continue with Pancake Breakfasts through the fall and winter seasons. The Council will return to Coffee & Donuts during the summer months. This will help us to better reach our parishioners and to give us an ample volunteer force. The Council will hold Pancake Breakfasts in September, October, November, January, February, and March. Due to the Parish Christmas Party and Easter, we will not hold breakfasts in December or April. The Council will hold Coffee & Donuts in the months of June, July, August, & September in 2023.

Please plan to volunteer as the calls go out for volunteers. We will need all hands on deck. Thank you for your support and hard work.

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 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 # 941-993-1520. 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.

The recent ruling by the Supreme Court returns 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.

This is where we need your support. Brothers Neil Corrado and Brian Harkins have done fabulous work in building our Right to Life program. Despite their efforts, we continue to have the same Brother Knights at our monthly prayer walks. Thank you to Neil, Brian & Maureen Harkins, Frank & Imelda Moeslein, Charlie & Jeannete Baldelli, Ted Kovacic, Ed Plankey, Greg Sokolik, Phil Arsenault, Ken Berberich, Johnnie Turner, and Dan Bulinski for being part of our constant prayer warriors.

The GK recently received a very inspiring video, where former Planned Parenthood Director Maya Rodriguez, shared her experiences, and how a 40 Days for Life campaign changed her life. Attached is the link to the video that I think will be very inspirational. Just copy and paste the link into your browser to view the video. Please take the time to watch the video by clicking on the link below and consider joining us the 4th Thursday of every month for just one hour.

https://yh125.keap-link004.com/v2/click/45fd6444986a6d3d843d045abf1563b7/eJyNkNEKgkAQRf9lniXdKKuFCAsJsYKInmPTCRdtXdYxsfDf2yJ6Kuh17pkz3LkDoRKKohQ4tBnrD8EBg4nUEhUtSkUieYX-hPnDgQOFVPnSILUGfv-2-8mfU-b5Y2_kALUaLbPfBYs42iyPq2gTW1YLY4_8J2KsP5h8TOE6iFbQdT_VeJEUXq29Ak6mxmepVNpidDCF5TMIXXHXbZqm15Y11SfsJeXfbQQI2ew6Pe238-DG1gcvtzahNar0_Y0YW-BnUVTYPQBromaW



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**. Let me first state this. **We will make Star Council again this 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. or his telephone # 443-994-7397. 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 Chris Pariseau. The new parishioners are Christopher Brosky, John Harbulak, Christopher Nigro, Kenneth Peifer, Russell Pigot, Jim La Marca, and John Reardon.

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 will continue to hold 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 Chancellor Chris Pariseau at his email pariseau314@outlook.com, or his telephone #443-994-7397.
- **We are asking all 3rd Degree Knights to consider accomplishing your 4th (Patriotic) degree – and join the Our Lady of Charity Council 3089.** This is a separate degree ceremony and must be scheduled with FL State/ District. If you are interested in obtaining your 4th degree, please contact GK Jim Meyd greygoose1@frontier.com, or his telephone 941-923-7517.

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

The 4th (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 our next Council Meeting on September 8th at 7:00, in the Spirit Center.
- We will hold our next Pancake Breakfast of the year on September 18th after the 8:00 & 10:00 masses. We still need volunteers to make this a success. Please contact GK Jim Meyd, greygoose1@frontier.com, if you have not already signed up and are interested in volunteering. New members this is a great opportunity to get involved in the Council.

- Assembly 3089 will hold the September meeting on September 12th, at Incarnation. STM SK's please plan on attending this meeting and let's have a good showing from our Council.
- 40 Days for Life 365 will be held on September 22nd, from 9:00 – 1:00, at Planned Parenthood. Please plan to continue our efforts to save the lives of the unborn.
- Preparation is beginning Knights of Columbus 11th Annual Veterans Day Mass at Sarasota National Cemetery on Friday, November 11th. There will be a need for volunteers for chair setup on Thursday, November 10th, and on November 11th for setup and parking assistance. There will also be a need for Color Corps members. There will be a signup sheet at the September and October Council meetings. Please see Grand Knight Jim Meyd to volunteer.

September Social

We will hold our September social at Waterfrontoo on September 16th at 5:30. This will be an order off the menu dinner. Please contact Brother Dave or Sue Bracy at 941-966-7692 to reserve your place.

Good of the Order



Please include the following individuals in need of our prayers:

Fr. Jim Simko
 John Maier
 John McAlonie
 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
Stan Szafranski
Kay Maier (wife of John Maier)
Charlie Baldelli
John Spinale
George Risbano
Chris Berberich (son of Ken Berberich)
Judy Moore (wife of Joe Sommer)

For our departed Brothers Dominic Caledonia, Cecilio Fernandez, Jr, Joseph (Bob) Kempton, Larry Faeth, Elizabeth Meyd, mother of Jim Meyd, Gail Assaff, wife of Jean Paul Assaff, 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.

*Please continue on to the next pages for the Birthday List,
Fraternal Benefits Update and a printable September calendar.*



September Birthdays

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

- September 2 – Stephen Zavada, Jr
- 3 – Steven Kepecz
- 6 – Stephan Cerjan
- 6 – Stephen Tasch
- 9 – Kenneth Russo
- 9 – Pablo Londono
- 11 – Christopher McDevitt
- 11 – Gary Garvin
- 12 – John Spinale
- 12 – John Koitsch
- 14 – John Ladowicz
- 15 – Daniel Flynn
- 17 – Michael Piscopo
- 17 – Eric Dudley
- 19 – Daniel Borgmeyer
- 22 – Dennis Armstrong, Jr
- 23 – Jon Engelbrektson
- 23 – Kenneth Levanti
- 24 – Thomas Flaminio
- 26 – Ronald McCluskey
- 26 – Jeb Kingseed
- 27 – John Solum
- 28 – James Alexander
- 29 – Allen Hillman III

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 see my monthly update on the following page.

Every September a non-profit organization known as Life Happens coordinates the Life Insurance Awareness Month campaign. This campaign is dedicated to informing people about how important life insurance is to protect their families. Life insurance is a cornerstone of a family's future financial security.

Blessed Michael McGivney certainly knew how important life insurance was to a family. But many members don't understand how involved Fr. McGivney was in developing the Order's insurance program. According to Christopher Kauffman, the author of the centennial history of the Order, Faith and Fraternalism, The History of the Knights of Columbus 1882-1982, one of Fr. McGivney's two main reasons for founding the Order was "the need to protect families during sickness and death" (pg. 17). Kauffman goes on to say that Fr. McGivney "spent his energy in promoting the insurance feature." (pg. 35) Originally, when the Order was founded, there was no such thing as an "associate member." Everyone was insured; that was one of those two primary reasons for joining.

While the Order is now well known for its charitable works and strong advocacy for the most vulnerable, strengthening men in their faith and protecting them and their families with life insurance were twin catalysts in forming the Order. While young Catholic men still seek to strengthen their faith, we know families still need protection from untimely death. This mission remains just as important today.

In an attempt to make every member and every eligible Catholic man aware of how important life insurance is, the Order has made a substantial investment. The Order has provided me with a high-tech, state of the art financial needs analysis platform that can help us determine where you stand today. It can help me formulate a strategy for you and your family and offer meaningful insurance and financial solutions....a strategy specific to your family and your situation.

Please keep this in mind for your whole family, not just you and your wife. Think of your children and grandchildren. Even if they are not Knights, I will help each and every family that needs my help. Who knows, maybe by meeting with me, they may even decide it's a noble cause to join.

What can life insurance provide? Peace of mind, security, knowing that a family will be able to manage staying together in the horrible event of an early and untimely passing. Help me in helping your families stay protected.

Thank you and God bless,



September 2022

SC – Spirit Center
CC – Chelsea Center
C - Church



Knights of Columbus®

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8 Council Meeting 7:00 SC	9	10
11	12 Assembly Meeting 7:00 Incarnation	13	14	15	16 September Social Waterfrontoo 5:30	17
18 Pancake Breakfast CC	19	20 Exemplification 7:00 SC	21	22 Prayer Walk Planned Parenthood 9-1	23	24 Fine Scotch & Cigars @ Maduro's 5:00
25	26	27	28	29	30	