



# Knights of Columbus®

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826

## Memorial Day

THEY GAVE THEIR TOMORROWS

\*\*\*\*\*

FOR OUR TODAYS



Welcome to the St Thomas More Council April Newsletter

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2023 will occur on Monday, May 29. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season. The origins of the holiday can be traced back to local observances for soldiers with neglected gravesites during the Civil War. The first observance of what would become Memorial Day, some historians think, took place in Charleston, S.C., at the site of a horse racing track that Confederates had turned into a prison holding Union prisoners. Blacks in the city organized a burial of deceased Union prisoners and built a fence around the site. Then on May 1, 1865, they held an event there including a parade. Blacks who fought in the Civil War, participated in spiritual readings, songs, and picnicking. A commemorative marker was erected there in 2010.

One of the first Decoration Days was held in Columbus, Mississippi, on April 25, 1866 by women who decorated graves of Confederate soldiers who perished in the battle at Shiloh with flowers. On May 5, 1868, three years after the end of the Civil War, the tradition of placing flowers on veterans' graves was continued by the establishment of Decoration Day by an organization of Union veterans, the Grand Army of the Republic. General Ulysses S. Grant presided over the first large observance, a crowd of about 5,000 people, at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on May 30, 1873. The orphaned children of soldiers and sailors killed during the war placed flowers and small American flags atop both Union and Confederate graves throughout the entire cemetery.

The day that we celebrate Memorial Day is believed to be influenced by Illinois U.S. Representative John A. Logan, who was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as a Democrat in November 1858, and served as an officer during the Mexican War. It is said that Logan, a staunch defender of the Union, believed Memorial Day should occur when flowers are in full bloom across the country. Congress passed an act making May 30 a holiday in the District of Columbia in 1888. Now Memorial Day is observed as the last Monday of May. In 2000 the National Moment of Remembrance Act, which created the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance, encourages all to pause at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence and was signed into law by Congress and the President.

## Grand Knight's Report

Welcome to spring as we are closing in on the end of this fraternal year. As you will read and see in our Faith in Action section, our Council continues its mission of Charity, Fraternity, and Unity. The Grand Knight thanks everyone in the Council for your support not only at these recent events, but for all your work in volunteerism and fundraising that make all this possible. Our Council completed some of the most successful fundraisers in the history of our Council. STM Council received a record \$15,600 from the proceeds of Spring Training Baseball. Imagine how many people in need we will be able to assist this coming year.



As the Grand Knight stated, the fraternal year is quickly coming to a close and we have begun the process of reading our new officers for the next fraternal year. Thank you to John Cesare for leading the committee and we have developed an excellent slate of officers to lead STM Council into the future. You will see several new officers this year that will provide continued great leadership of our Council. I am honored to list the slate of officers running this year.

- **Chaplain – Fr. Lawton Lang - Appointed**
- **Grand Knight – Ralph Neller**
- **Financial Secretary – Larry Hall – Term expires in February**
- **Deputy Grand Knight – Charlie Culkin**

- **Treasurer – Ken Berberich**
- **Chancellor – Chris Pariseau**
- **Warden – Dave Bracy**
- **Recorder – Dan Bulinski**
- **Advocate – Joe Tiffany – Appointed**
- **Lecturer – Derek Noll – Appointed**
- **3-Year Trustee – Corey DeVito**
- **2-Year Trustee – Al Ferrigno**
- **1-Year Trustee – Scott Deahna**
- **Inside Guard - Charlie Ballschmeider**
- **Outside Guard – Hank Peppard**

At our next Council meeting in May, we will have our second reading of the slate of officers. Following the reading, we will hold our election and confirmation of officers. Please plan to attend and take part in this important election.

If all that wasn't enough, we received the notice shown below that STM Council 7826 was awarded the Columbian Award. Once again we have met all the qualifications and have achieved Star Council.

*Worthy Grand Knight,*

*We have completed the evaluation of your application and are pleased to announce that your council has earned the Columbian Award for the 2022-2023 fraternal year.*

*Vivat Jesus!*

*Fraternal Mission Department*

Fraternal Operations

Knights of Columbus

**Congratulation's and well done by everyone in the Council. Mission accomplished!!**

Our next Council Meeting will be on May 11<sup>th</sup> in the Spirit Center at 7:00.

***Thank you for all you do!***

## **Faith in Action**

Thank you to the Food Bank volunteers and their spouses for your in-person participation and your monetary support. As you may know, the supply chain remains a challenge and food supplies are in still in short supply. Given today's economy, we have 75-100 families in need every week. Please continue to support the pantry with both food and monetary donations. The pantry continues to purchase additional basic items each week to supplement what we receive from All Faiths Food Bank. The weekly bulletin lists the items we critically need. Your donations are greatly appreciated by the pantry and those families we serve. If you are interested in assisting on delivery day or one of the various positions available during opening, please contact Grand Knight Jim Meyd.

This month we had so many opportunities to put our Faith in Action. Most important, was our involvement in many of the Holy Week services. There were many instances of Knights and spouses taking part as Hospitality Ministers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lecturers, Altar Servers, Choir, setting up chairs for the overflow masses, and attendees.

Our Council also held a Choir Appreciation Cookout for our fabulous choir on April 15<sup>th</sup>. STM Council held a Corporate Communion on Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, at the 10:00 mass. We also presented Altar Server of the Year awards to Ava and Genevieve White after the mass. Brother Tom and Leah White's two daughters have made an outstanding commitment as altar servers at St. Thomas More.

After the Corporate Communion mass we traveled to Stoney Brook Country club, where we held out April social. During the social we presented checks of \$6000 to each of our two schools, Oak Park School and St. Mary Academy, whose work with children with disabilities is second to none. Oak Park School Assistant Principle Brian O' Leary attended and spoke to all about their gratitude for our support. St. Mary Academy held their major fundraiser that weekend and was unable to attend. A wonderful addition to the day occurred, when Jean DeVito, wife of Brother Corey, and mother of Brother Joseph DeVito, spoke as not only a special education teacher, but as a mother, whose son attended Oak Park School. It is times like this that bring home the good work our Council does for our parish and our community.



Thank you to everyone who assisted in the fundraising and support of all these activities throughout the year.

In addition, our seminarian Alejandro took the next step in being ordained a priest. We started at a dinner in his honor. Many of us were able to attend his Ordination to the Diaconate in Boca Raton on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. What an emotional and moving experience it was for those who attended. Alejandro also bestowed a great honor on Brother Charlie Ballschmeider; by having him cut his tie off, symbolizing his transformation to his new life of service to God in the Church.



















































## April Knight of the Month

This Brother Knight has served the Council in so many ways in such a short time. He is a money counter, Lecturer, and a volunteer at the food pantry. He has been the active leader and organizer of our largest fundraiser, Spring Training Baseball, since its inception. He tirelessly worked all 17 games and was the first to come and the last to leave. He will also be our DGK next year for the Council. Our April Knight of the Month is Brother Charlie Culkin.



## April Sir Knight of the Month

In addition, our own STM Sir Knight Tom Nate was named Sir Knight of the Month for his work in Our Lady of Charity Assembly 3089.





## April Family of the Month

Our April Family of the Month has also made an immediate impact on our Council. They both worked tirelessly at this year's baseball concession, both with their planning and organization, and their commitment to working the grill for all 17 games. Anyone who worked the games this year knows this is no easy task. Our April Family of the Month is Brother Steve and Teresa Wyer.





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

This month the Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori challenge is during this month of Mary, I challenge you to draw closer to Our Lady by offering one decade of the rosary each day for her motherly aid and help. Second, I challenge you to participate in the Faith in Action Rosary program in your parish

## **Parish News**

If you are able, please consider attending at least one daily mass each week. It is a great way to start your day with prayer and the Eucharist. You will find it results in a more meaningful day as you become 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. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you to those who have responded to this call.

## **STM Capital Campaign**

(This section will be a new and ongoing part of our Council newsletter. I will use this section to keep you aware of progress as it becomes available.)

Update on the Capital Campaign, "Our Church ... Our Future"

The Active Phase of the campaign ended on March 31st, and as of our last count we raised \$2,293,237 in pledges across 492 donating households. Thanks to this outpouring of generosity, we are a majority of the way toward achieving our goal of \$2,500,000. These funds will help us replace the roofs in the Chelsea and Spirit Center, the HVACs across all three buildings, and support other improvements around campus to ensure the grounds are safe for our faith community.

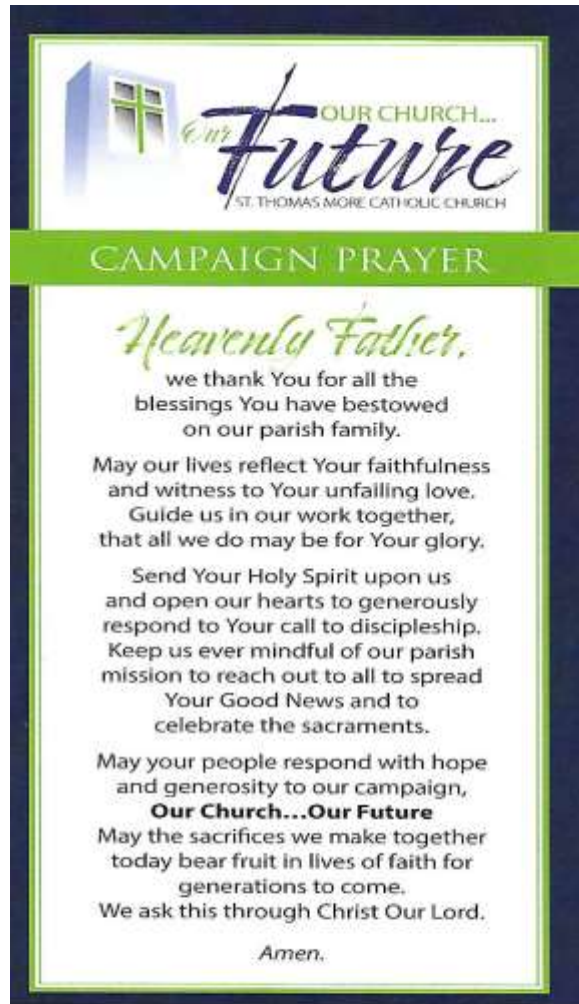
As anyone who has stepped on campus over these past few months can attest, these necessary capital improvements are well underway. Most of the re-roofing work is nearing completion, and A/C replacements and related controls upgrades continue to be installed as they become available; due to supply chain shortages, this work will continue into the summer. Painting and other structural

refurbishments continue to be performed to plan, and we are anticipating work to commence on the walkway pavers here shortly. Depending upon whether or not there is capital campaign money leftover at the end of performing the major repairs and renovations, a list of nice-to-have capital projects collected from the feedback of campaign donors may become candidate for any remaining funds. However, prioritization of such projects, let alone whether funding will exist and should be directed toward these candidate ideas, cannot begin until (a) firm and final costs are paid on the primary scope of this campaign, and (b) it is certain that campaign pledges will translate into collected monies.

To date, we have collected \$947,268 of the above noted pledge total. We are off to a fantastic start! To help us continue this progress toward our goal, and ensure we can pay off all the work being done to carry St Thomas More into the future, we are seeking volunteers to help with the Redemption Phase of the project. The time frame of the Redemption Phase is April 2023 to March 2026. During that time, the Redemption Committee will oversee the communication and outreach necessary to support receipt of periodic pledge commitments, and keep the Parish informed about our status vs goal.

In support of the administrative efforts of the Redemption Committee, the Parish has been authorized to hire a part-time 'Campaign Secretary' (a 1099-based independent contractor). This individual must be able to make at minimum an 18-month commitment to the campaign and be able to work flexible hours each week in support of the Committee's and/or pledge timeline's needs. Qualified candidates will need to be well-organized, strong users of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint), comfortable working independently, and solid communicators. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, please reach out to the Parish office for a copy of the job description, and to send your resume along with your expression of interest. Parish offices can be reached at [info@stthomasmoresrq.org](mailto:info@stthomasmoresrq.org), or (941) 923-1691.

And remember, if you have yet to support the campaign, please know that it's never too late to participate. We encourage our new families to learn more about this exciting project by checking out the Capital Campaign page on our Parish website. We also encourage our established families who might not have been able to contribute to it in the past to reconsider a gift to the Campaign; your participation will make a difference.



### Committee Corner

We have the need on many of our committees for new members. 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.

### Special Olympics

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

Current Outlook: During the last two years during COVID, Special Olympics went through some changes that affect the way we volunteer. This was due to a realignment of management, retirements, etc. which resulted in a consolidation of areas. I just want to bring you all up to date so that you are aware of the opportunities to volunteer. Be it a coach, which is more of a commitment. or be it one individual event for a day or a week. Sarasota County is now part of Area 7 which is comprised of 14 counties in the western part of the state. It comprises of the counties that report out of Bonita Springs. Stanley Sylverain is our contact relative to opportunities. He is responsible for Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto, Highlands, and Charlotte counties. Lee, Collier, and Monroe counties are managed by a different person out of the same Bonita office. The other western counties are: Citrus, Sumter, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, and Hillsborough, all of which report out of Tampa. There is some overlap when regional or state tournaments take place and a call goes out for volunteers. The sports tentative scheduled dates are as follows: Tennis – Jan- May, Cycling, Soccer – Jan-May, Stand-Up Paddle –May-August, Bowling – May-Sept, Basketball-Oct.-Feb, Equestrian – Jan-April, and Swimming May-Oct. I receive a report monthly, which at time arrives with a reasonable amount of lead time to plan for a volunteer's time, and sometimes not enough lead time to make plans. Steve and I will keep you abreast of opportunities to volunteer so that you don't waste time in driving or showing up and have to leave because there are enough volunteers. It is important that you register on the on line portal and secure your volunteer selection. There are situations like bowling in which Al Ferrigno has embraced and has worked with person/persons that have made commitments to extend seasons. That is an exception. However, his position which is coaching requires class A status (fingerprinting, online training, and concussion protocol), and is a status that is ongoing. Single event volunteers do are not required to provide this as you can register for an event and sign up at arrival or online. I appreciate your involvement in Special Olympics and thank you for your help.

John Cesare

### **Right to life**

More and more families are suffering economic hardships and consequently more pregnant women are in need of the life-saving services and support provided by My Choice and Community Pregnancy Centers. As Knights we are dedicated to the sanctity of life. The **"40 Days for Life 365"** campaign provides each of us the



opportunity to participate 365 days a year. 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 at [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.

While amazing things happen every year in the blessed work of helping women and saving babies, the *Dobbs* decision from the Supreme Court and the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* has resulted in the need to help more pregnant women considering abortions. Florida recently passed a 6 week ban. It will take effect only if the state's current 15-week ban is upheld in an ongoing legal challenge that is before the state Supreme Court. The 15 week ban is currently in place in Florida, but abortions have actually increased this past year as our state has become an abortion destination. Most abortions occur prior to 15 weeks and our border states have tighter restrictions which means more women are coming to Florida for an abortion. For this reason, there is now a greater need to continue our prayer walks and our support of those pregnancy centers we now support. Please continue to **safely and peacefully** support the work we are already doing. **Please remember that in accordance with K of C guidelines you cannot handout materials or confront someone entering Planned Parenthood unless you are approached by the person first for information. You are allowed to greet them and pray for them, but do not go beyond that unless they reach out to you.**

A special "thanks" to Brothers Neil Corrado and Brian Harkins and their outstanding work in building our Right to Life program. We encourage you to join us on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month in front of Planned Parenthood. 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, Max Streibel, and others who supported our prayer walk, and for being part of our constant prayer warriors.

## **Golf Committee**

The 2nd Annual St Thomas More / Knights of Columbus Council 7826 Golf Outing is scheduled on May 8, 2023 at Legacy Golf Club at Lakewood Ranch.

As of this writing, we have confirmed 22 Golf Teams or 88 golfers. Our goal is to have 25 Golf Teams or 100 golfers, such that we remain looking for 3- 4somes to complete our outing. We have asked the 18 members of the Golf Committee to look for the additional teams as well as Legacy GC is posting our Golf Flyer in the Men's and Women's locker rooms as many members of Legacy GC are looking for charity fundraising golf events to play in and support. We need our Council's members support, as well, to find 3 teams to complete the event. Time is of the essence to fill-up the golf outing with 25 teams.

We have confirmed, 54 Hole Sponsors. This an increase of 15 Hole Sponsors as compared to last year's event. There are, now, 3 Hole Sponsors at each of the 18 tee-off boxes and is a major contributor to the net proceeds of the event.

We have committed, now 6, Corporate Sponsors. This, too, is a major contributor to the profitability of the event.

We will have 3 major Raffle Baskets and 3 major Auction Baskets - representing over \$2500+- of donated value to the event. These items (baskets) will either be raffled or auctioned off at the event.

We have a wonderful "goodie bag" for each of our golfers.

There are 18 Golf Committee members working on the event and we have 24 Volunteers for the event.

We have met with the management of Legacy Golf Club and were advised that they wholly support our outing and STM KofC. We are one of their preferred golf events.

A light breakfast and BBQ lunch will be provided at the event.

We will be selling mulligans and 50/50 tickets at the event.

We have a Hole-in-One Insurance Policy - for winner at \$25,000.

Thank you! to all the Golf Committee members, Sponsors of the event, Volunteers and the management of Legacy GC - for making this an outstanding golf event. Reserve the date - May 6, 2024, for the 3rd Annual STM / KofC Council 7826 Golf Outing.

Ken Berberich  
Chair - STM / KofC Council 7826 Golf Committee

### **Membership**

Our New Member Goal this fraternal year was **ten (10) New Members. We have made our Membership goal for this year!!** We currently have **(13)** new members. Congratulations to the Council and thank you to our Chancellor Chris Pariseau, and our Advocate Joe Tiffany.

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. 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 Chris Pariseau. The new parishioners are Edward Becker, Jack Bonacci, Michael Brake, Richard David, Pete DeMichele, Mike Failne, Edward Flock, Eric Greenhill, Mark Morse, Christopher Muller, Timothy Tunney, John Tynan, and Stephen Weiss.



**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, 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 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 Chancellor Chris Pariseau at his email [pariseau314@outlook.com](mailto:pariseau314@outlook.com), or his telephone #443-994-7397.
- **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) used to purchase needed items. Please notate on your check that you are a Member, STM Council 7826. Thank you for your continuing support. Please see Brother Steve McElroy to find out how you can help.

**Upcoming Events**

- Our cruise raffle is coming to a close. Please see Gary Ellis or Jonathan Genz at the May Council meeting to return your sold tickets. This is one of our major fundraisers and we will need every Knights help in making this a success. Our drawing will be after the 8:00 mass on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

- STM Council will host the May Assembly meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the Chelsea Center. All STM SK's should plan to attend
- We will hold our next Council Meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00, in the Spirit Center.
- STM Council will hold an Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity on 16th, at 7:00pm, in the Spirit Center. All our welcome to attend, and if you aren't a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree Knight, it is a great time to do so. Please contact Grand Knight Jim Meyd if you would like to take this degree.

***Thank you for your support in these futures events!***

### **May Social**

The next Council social event will be a dinner at Phillippi Creek Oyster Bar at 5353 S. Tamiami Trail on Thursday, May 18th, at 6:00 pm. Order off the menu with separate checks. Call Dave & Sue Bracy at 941-586-2666 or 941-966-7692 by May 15th to reserve a space.



### **May Birthdays**

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

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

## Good of the Order

Please include the following individuals in need of our prayers:



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)  
Kim Wojtyna (daughter of Carol & John Wojtyna)  
Shirley Berardinelli (wife of Alec Berardinelli)  
Sheree Levanti (wife of Ken Levanti)  
Lee Dusoe  
Donna Woodford (wife of David Woodford)  
John Baldelli (son of Charles Baldelli)  
Christopher Peppard (son of Hank Peppard)  
Nancy Risbano (wife of George Risbano)  
Ted Bogusz  
Dan Borgmeyer  
Ruth Walsh  
Ron McCluskey  
Fr. Gordon Zanetti  
Kay Maier (wife of John Maier)  
John Spinale  
Judy Moore (wife of Joe Sommer)  
Deane MacGillis (wife of Roy)  
Gary Ellis  
Pasquale Guadagno  
Don Leonard  
Jeanne Leonard (wife of Don Leonard)  
Chris Pariseau  
Dr. Steven Wyer

For our departed Brothers, George Risbano, Christopher Berberich (son of Ken Berberich), Robert Lang (brother of Fr. Lawton Lang), 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.

### **NEWS FROM OUR FRATERNAL BENEFITS ADVISOR**

Council Meeting Message April 2023 Easter greetings! As we roll through the first full month of spring we celebrate Easter with thoughts of gratitude for the gift of new life. The Resurrection and thoughts of our Savior's sacrifice and triumph over death are fresh in our minds and hearts. The dreariness of winter and Lent fade away with April rains that seem to have their own scent. All nature seems in bloom. Trees barren not long ago are now budding and flowers begin to poke through the warming soil. For many, it's their favorite season of the year.

Along with everything else going on in April, it is also Autism Awareness month. The Autism Speaks website ([www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)) contains much more information that I can give you here. Autism has been more widely discussed and better understood in recent years. Although the TV show "The Good Doctor" portrays a doctor who has autism, those with Autism Spectrum Disorder exhibit a broad range of characteristics. Many have much less functionality than the doctor portrayed on the show. I mention this because many of us know of someone who is on this autism spectrum. If diagnosed early in childhood and intervention begun, those with autism may still live a relatively normal life. However, many with autism struggle and have other complicating medical or psychological issues and need much support during their lives. That's where the Knights of Columbus Family Fraternal Benefits may be able to help. The Family Fraternal Benefits cover a number of situations. One benefit addresses the child who is older than 60 days and younger than 18 and is uninsurable according to our ordinary underwriting practices. Many children with autism as a primary or secondary diagnosis fall into this category...uninsurable. For those children, the Order has a special family fraternal benefit that allows the issuing of an ordinary permanent life insurance policy on this uninsurable child. Some members may be unaware of this benefit, but it's great news for any parent with a child who does not qualify for life insurance. There are some other qualifiers for the parents and any other children in the family, including that the father must be a member in good standing in his council. I won't go into the others here, but this is a very worthwhile benefit, not only for those children with autism, but for any child who may be uninsurable.

If you know of a Catholic family that may have a child with autism or any family with a child who is uninsurable, please reach out to me. They may be unaware of this benefit. I will be happy to contact them explain this valuable protection that is available. If you prefer, give my name and contact information to that parent so they can contact me at their convenience. As always, there is never any requirement to purchase any product, but a consultation about this benefit may bring them some small comfort. As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve you, my members.

Enjoy your spring!

Vivat Jesus!

Yours in Christ,



***Don't miss the printable Council Calendar on the next page.***

***Still lots to do during May!***

# May, 2023

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 Officer's Meeting 7:00 SC	4	5	6
7	8 Golf Outing  Assembly Meeting STM 7pm CC	9	10	11 Council Meeting 7pm SC	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15 Deadline for May Social RSVP	16 Exemplifi- cation SC 7pm	17	18 Ascension of the Lord  May Social 6pm	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Wall for Life Planned Parenthood 9-1	26 State Convention	27 State Convention
28 Pentecost Sunday	29 Memorial Day Cruise Raffle Drawing	30	31			