



# Knights of Columbus®

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826

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## ***The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family***

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***Mary and Joseph took the Infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem forty days after His birth to complete Mary's ritual purification after childbirth, and to perform the redemption of the firstborn son, in obedience to the Torah (Leviticus 12, Exodus 13:12-15, etc.).***

## Grand Knights Report

The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family. During this month, as we contemplate the colder weather and sometimes feel the isolation that winter brings, we should reflect on the example of family love shared in the everyday lives of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. There has arguably never been a more important need for the strength, unity and grounding that a strong family unit provides in today's society.

The very foundation of family life has been shaken by the failure of so many marriages. For this reason the devotion to the Holy Family of Nazareth takes on a new meaning and a new importance. To live a good, Christian family life requires sacrifice, the renunciation of one's own wishes, and a devotion to others. If it is to be perfect, it requires complete victory over self-love. It requires a high degree of virtue, deep piety and living faith, much prayer, and a closer union with God.

***“...the Holy Family is the icon of the domestic Church, called to pray together. The family is the domestic Church and must be the first school of prayer....pray”***  
**Pope Benedict XVI**



February also begins the Season of Lent. A time for penance and prayer, to retrace our steps, contemplate our past ways and amend our lives to come into closer union with God. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday, March 28th. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection.

As Knights, we can also share our time and talents to offer as a personal sacrifice during Lent. With so many volunteer opportunities available: Citizens with Disabilities, Cruise Raffle, and Spring Training Baseball that provide us with personal growth.

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### FAST AND ABSTINENCE DURING LENT

*Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, and Good Friday, March 29, 2024, are days of fast and abstinence. Fridays of Lent are also days of abstinence from meat. Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics between the ages of 18 years and 59 years (inclusive). On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent.*

*Note: If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self-denial that are suitable to their condition.*

## Grand Knights Report

### KNIGHT'S MASS -

On January 10th we had our monthly "Knight's Mass" at the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the main church with approximately 45 Knights and wives in attendance. Fr. Gordon was the celebrant and the rosary was prayed before the Mass starting at 7:30 a.m. with Adoration following the Mass both in the Chapel. The rosary and the Mass were dedicated to those on the Good of the Order list with a special intention for our PGK Johnnie Turner. Please join your Brother Knights and their wives for the "Knight's Mass" this month on Ash Wednesday, February 14th.



### CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES CAMPAIGN -

We had record donations during the last weekend in January (26th-28th) as we began our CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES Campaign at the four neighborhood Publix stores. The weekend of February 2-4 we will be collecting after each of the Masses at STM. The following weekend, February 9-11th we will again be at the four Publix stores to end the campaign.

THANK YOU to everyone who generously volunteered to collect during this campaign. A special thanks to Brothers Corey DeVito, Scott Deahna, and to Steve and Carol McElroy for their hard work and leadership over the course of the three weekends. The money we raise will help the handicapped children and young adults attending St. Mary's Academy and Oak Park School.



### CRUISE RAFFLE -

February continues our sale of Cruise Raffle tickets at church and with our Council members. It is a major fund raiser for our Council. Brothers Dan Bulinski and Steve Melchiorre with the support of Gary and Margot Ellis and others will be selling tickets after the weekend Masses during February. Please volunteer to help them with ticket sales and support this major Council fund raiser during the month!





## Faith In Action

### JANUARY SOCIAL -

Our Council January Social was held at Miguel's on Siesta Key with nearly 60 Knights, their wives and significant others in attendance to celebrate the beginning of a New Year!



### 2024 CFA CONTRIBUTION CHECK -

Our Council congratulated Fr. Gordon for making the parish CFA Goal for 2023. We started the 2024 CFA Campaign with a \$ 2k check presented to Fr. Gordon at the January Social.



## Faith In Action

### January Exemplifications -

During January we added one new member to our Council - Brother Dave Paben. The addition of this new member brings our YTD total to 10! We have now reached our goal of 10 to qualify for STAR Council.



The January Exemplification Honoree was Jack Rodman in recognition of his many outstanding contributions to our Council. Congratulations Jack!!!



### DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT OPENING -

Our Council is looking to fill the Officer position of Deputy Grand Knight as Worthy Charlie Culkin's term expires at the end of June '24. If you are interested in serving as an Officer in our Council, please contact DGK Charlie Culkin or GK Ralph Neller, at [rneller65@outlook.com](mailto:rneller65@outlook.com) to discuss this important role in our Council.

### OUR LADY OF CHARITY ASSEMBLY #3089 -

The next Assembly meeting is scheduled for February 12th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas More. If you're interested in becoming a 4th Degree "Sir Knight" please contact Dr. Steve Wyer, Charlie Culkin, Joe Tiffany or the GK for details.

### STM K of C WEBSITES -

The STM parish web page and our STM Council #7826 website have been updated to ensure current information and events are available in a timely manner to all members. Our Council website address is [www.kofc7826.org](http://www.kofc7826.org). Check out our FACEBOOK page at ***Knights of Columbus Council 7826 St. Thomas More.***

Please use these websites 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.





## Faith In Action

# KNIGHT / FAMILY OF THE MONTH

### KNIGHT OF MONTH - DAN BULINSKI -

Worthy PGK Dan Bulinski was awarded this month's Knight of the Month given his leadership with the "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnet sales and for his work with the Cruise Raffle this year!

### FAMILY OF MONTH - MARCIA & JOHN VOORHIS -

Our January Family of the Month is Marcia and John Voorhis for their dedication and hard work with the decorations and arrangements at the Parish Christmas Party.



## Parish News



### CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS -

Special thanks to those Knights and their wives who helped with the breakdown and storage of the Christmas trees and the decorations in the church and the Chelsea Center. Thank you all for your support!

### CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL (CFA) -

St. Thomas More reached its CFA goal for 2023! Thank you to all those Knights and their families who have contributed to the CFA. Together, with your contributions, our Council donations, and the support of our parish, STM was able to reach and exceed our goal of \$285,000!



### FOOD PANTRY -

Thank you to all 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 still have 75-100 families in need every week.

The weekly bulletin lists the items we critically need. Your donations are greatly appreciated by the pantry and those families we serve.



### MINISTRIES -

St. Thomas More is in need of Hospitality 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. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you to those who have responded to this call.





## Committee Corner



Thank you to those of you who turned out to pray at Planned Parenthood on Thursday, January 25 for our monthly 4th Thursday prayer vigil. It was especially moving to walk and pray with Fr. Daniel Scanlan!

### Key Dates for the STM Respect Life Team include:

- CPCI's "A Legacy of Life" in Sarasota Dinner Event at Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club is Saturday, February 3, 2024. There is no cost to attend. Seating is limited. Please sign up via this link - [https://supportcpci.com/sarasota-2024-dinner-event/?blm\\_aid=15241217](https://supportcpci.com/sarasota-2024-dinner-event/?blm_aid=15241217) . Currently 10 Knights and Spouses are attending.
- 40 Days for Life Spring vigil kick off at St. Patrick's RC Church on Saturday February 10 from 8am-3pm. Please register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sarasota-40-days-for-life-781470879437>. Registration closes Saturday February 3rd. Ramona Treviño, Outreach Director for 40 Days for Life is the afternoon keynote speaker. Ramona is a wife, mother, and grandmother. She is the author of *Redeemed by Grace: A Catholic Woman's Journey to Planned Parenthood and Back*.

(continued . . .)

- The 40 Days for Life SPRING Vigil runs from Ash Wednesday, February 14th thru Palm Sunday, March 24th. St Thomas More Parishioners and 7826 Knights of Columbus are invited to SIGN UP FOR ONE HOUR for our semiannual full day commitment from 7AM - 5PM. Please plan to join us on Thursday, February 22 from 9 to 1 for one hour. Any questions or to join us please contact Brian Harkins @ 908-451-7454 / [bjharkins1@gmail.com](mailto:bjharkins1@gmail.com) or Neil Corrado 941 993 1520 / [fdny0261@gmail.com](mailto:fdny0261@gmail.com)
- MOST IMPORTANTLY - Please join in praying from January 30 - February 7. The political committee behind a proposed constitutional amendment that would legalize abortion up until birth in Florida has surpassed the petition signature requirement for placement on the November 2024 ballot.

The bishops invite you to join in a 9-day novena to defeat this proposed amendment and specifically to pray for the justices of the Florida Supreme Court as they prepare to hear oral arguments on the validity of the amendment language on February 7, 2024. Please pray for these judges that Our Lord may direct their actions!

For Life,  
Brothers Neil and Brian





## Committee Corner



**Special Olympics**

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS -

Volunteers are the backbone of the Special Olympics organization. Volunteers range from coaches, unified partners, mentors, officials, and event coordinators. Volunteers are needed for bowling, swimming and winter competitions. We are in search of incredible individuals who are willing to volunteer as Coaches.

Sports: Register for upcoming Sport events  
Basketball, Tennis, Athletics, Cycling, and Soccer (January - May)  
Bowling (May - September)  
Swimming (May - October)  
Flag Football, Pickleball, Powerlifting, and Softball (July - November)  
Golf (August - December)  
Equestrian (January - April)



If you are interested in becoming involved in Special Olympics please reach out to Brother John Cesare for details at [johncesare1@verizon.net](mailto:johncesare1@verizon.net)

### MEMBERSHIP -

Our New Member Goal this fraternal year is ten New Members. With the January Exemplification of Brother Dave Paben , we now have a total of 10 new members! This 10th new member qualifies us for STAR Council again this fraternal year. Thank you all for helping us to achieve our goal. Let's keep it going and shoot for DOUBLE STAR Council!

New Members must be a practicing Catholic, 18+ years of age. We need your help to reach out to K of C "prospects". You can 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 our Council.

### WEBSITE UPDATE -

Our #7826 website has had a facelift. Our previous design was one continues page which required a long scrolling process to view all the section of the website. We now have seven discreet pages that can be viewed by using the main menu bar at the top of the webpage. More changes will be coming as we solidify our design.



## Committee Corner

### BALTIMORE ORIOLES SPRING TRAINING SEASON BEGINS THIS MONTH -

After four months of planning, the Baltimore Orioles 2024 Spring Training Season will begin in three weeks. The Orioles will play a 16-game schedule at Ed Smith Stadium. The season begins on Saturday, February 24th and ends on Saturday, March 23rd.

**SARASOTA BALTIMORE ORIOLES SPRING TRAINING 2024 SCHEDULE**

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
							BOS
	PIT	TB ATL	DET	MIN	PIT	ATL	NYN
	PIT	MIN	PHI	PIT		DET	ATL
	TOR TOR	NYN	TB	ATL	PIT	TB	BOS
	ATL DET		TOR	PHI	BOS	PIT	TOR TB
	MIN						

**FEBRUARY/MARCH** (vertical text on left)

**HOME** (orange square) **AWAY** (white square)

For the 13th consecutive year, the St. Thomas More and Incarnation Councils will be working a concession stand together. The Councils will operate the Outdoor Patio Grill, where they have worked the past three years. As of now, the menu will be hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs and sausage peppers & onions; peanuts, popcorn and chips; and draft beer, bottled water, assorted bottled soda and Gatorade.

It will take 12 volunteers to operate the concession stand – an average of six volunteers from each Council per game. There was great interest in working the 2024 Spring Training Baseball Season!



All 16 games were overbooked. As a result, many volunteers were not assigned all the games that they requested. On average, volunteers will work about 50 percent of the games that they requested.

At the St. Thomas More Council Membership Meeting on Thursday, February 8th and the Incarnation Council Membership Meeting on Tuesday, February 13th, I will be distributing the parking passes as well as the hats and shirts to volunteers who ordered them. I request that all volunteers please attend their respective membership meetings to pick up their supplies. I must distribute these supplies to 43 volunteers. Please make my job easier by attending the membership meetings to receive your supplies.

I look forward to working alongside all the volunteers during the upcoming Spring Training Season, especially all our new volunteers.

See you at the Ball Park!!

Charlie Culkin,  
Director, Spring Training Baseball



## Council Good of the Order

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

John Baldelli (son of Charles Baldelli)  
 Alec & Shirley Berardinelli  
 Ted Bogusz  
 Ed Plankey  
 Dave Bracy  
 Erin McAlonie Brady (daughter of John McAlonie)  
 Pat Cesare  
 Gary Ellis  
 Pat Guadagno  
 Jerry Hayes  
 Janek Jakubiuk  
 Don & Jeanne Leonard  
 Sheree Levanti (wife of Ken Levanti)  
 John & Kay Maier  
 Jon McAlonie  
 Ron McCluskey  
 Jim Meyd  
 Judy Moore (wife of Joe Sommer)  
 Thomas Nate  
 Kevin Noccioli (brother of Jeff Noccioli)  
 Mary Ann O'Brien (mother-in-law of Jeff Noccioli)  
 Christopher Peppard (son of Hank Peppard)  
 Nancy Risbano (wife of George Risbano)  
 John & Craig Spinale (John's son)  
 Joe Tiffany  
 Johnnie Turner  
 David and Donna Woodford (wife of David Woodford)  
 Dr. Steve Wyer  
 Fr. Gordon Zanetti

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Please keep our recently departed Brothers and their families in your prayers: Jim Beck, George Risbano, Leon Leroux, Jack Shaw, Lee Dusoe, and Dan Borgemeyer.

**Lord, grant healing to those in pain. Through Your grace, bring peace to their hearts, body, and soul. May Your love restore and renew them. Amen**



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 (Ralph Neller, Grand Knight) at his email address [rneller65@outlook.com](mailto:rneller65@outlook.com) or my mobile 513-708-0528.

### STM K of C WEBSITES –

The STM parish web page and our STM Council 7826 website have been updated to ensure current information and events are available in a timely manner to all members. Our Council 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.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Brothers James Alexander and Dan Martin for their kind assistance with this Newsletter!

## Council Birthdays

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



February 5 - Larry Hall  
 February 7 - KenBerberich  
 February 7 - Wayne Head  
 February 9 - Stuart Christensen  
 February 10 - Johnnie Turner  
 February 14 - Robert Manghillis  
 February 17 - Janusz Kostecki  
 February 18 - William Lucke  
 February 18 - George Thanas  
 February 19 - Joseph DeVito  
 February 21 - Salvatore Perri  
 February 23 - Thomas Reed  
 February 24 - Ferdinand Zava  
 February 26 - Michael Pitoniak  
 February 28 - Dan Bulinski

### K of C #7826 OFFICERS

Fr. Daniel Scanlan - Chaplain  
[frdaniel@stthomsmoresrq.org](mailto:frdaniel@stthomsmoresrq.org)

Ralph Neller - Grand Knight  
[rneller65@outlook.com](mailto:rneller65@outlook.com)

Charlie Culkin - Deputy GK  
[cinandchas@verizon.net](mailto:cinandchas@verizon.net)

Larry Hall - Financial Sec.  
[hallorhall@gmail.com](mailto:hallorhall@gmail.com)

Ken Berberich - Treasurer  
[berberichken@yahoo.com](mailto:berberichken@yahoo.com)

Chris Pariseau - Chancellor  
[pariseau314@outlook.com](mailto:pariseau314@outlook.com)

Dan Bulinski - Recorder  
[danb6002@comcast.net](mailto:danb6002@comcast.net)

Dave Bracy - Warden  
[dsbracy@comcast.net](mailto:dsbracy@comcast.net)

Joe Tiffany - Advocate  
[iav82@yahoo.com](mailto:iav82@yahoo.com)

Derek Noll - Lecturer  
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Corey Devito - 3yr Trustee  
[cmdevito@kaighnco.com](mailto:cmdevito@kaighnco.com)

John Spinale - 2yr Trustee  
[jtspin912@gmail.com](mailto:jtspin912@gmail.com)

Scott Deahna - 1 yr Trustee  
[scott34465@yahoo.com](mailto:scott34465@yahoo.com)

Charlie Ballschmieder - Inside Guard  
[cjball01@verizon.net](mailto:cjball01@verizon.net)

Hank Peppard - Outside Guard  
[hakp7916@gmail.com](mailto:hakp7916@gmail.com)



## Council Upcoming Events

**Thank you for your support of these future events!**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- The Citizens with Disabilities (Tootsie Rolls) is scheduled for the weekend of February 3-4th at STM after all the Masses and at the 4 Publix stores the following weekend of February 9-11th.
- The Officers' Meeting is scheduled for February 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- The Council Business Meeting is scheduled for February 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center
- Our Lady of Charity Assembly Meeting (4th Degree) will be held on Monday, February 12th at St. Thomas More Church in the Spirit Center starting at 7:00 p.m.
- Our monthly "Knight's Mass will be on Wednesday, February 14th (ASH WEDNESDAY) at the 8:00 a.m. Mass. We will pray the rosary prior to the Mass beginning at 7:30 a.m. with Adoration to follow the Mass for approximately 1 hour.



- Our first Pancake Breakfast in 2024 is scheduled for Sunday, February 18th after the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Masses in the Chelsea Center.
- The monthly Exemplification Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20th beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- The monthly Right to Life Prayer Walk will be on Thursday, February 22nd between 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. in front of Planned Parenthood.
- Our next Council social will be held on Thursday, February 22nd, at Waterfront II beginning at 5:30 p.m. Please contact Dave & Sue Bracy to make a reservation.
- Cruise Raffle ticket sales will be held on the weekend of February 24-25th after all the Masses.



## Insurance Advisor

### NEWS FROM OUR FRATERNAL BENEFITS ADVISOR

#### February 2024 Council Meeting Message

Happy Valentine's Day! I've been reading about different kinds of parties to throw to celebrate Valentine's Day. One site online listed 35 different suggestions, from a Fondue Night to a party centered on serving a heart shaped pizza. I guess Valentine's Day is another well-established holiday to celebrate and I'm also guessing that the greeting card industry is happy. (The candy companies and florists are right there with the greeting card industry.) From individual cards that adults send each other to the packs designed for school kids to give to classmates, the stores are stocked with a myriad of selections.

The celebration of love is always popular. After all, isn't love what every holiday celebration is about? Whether it's a birthday, wedding anniversary, or holiday, it's all about love! Valentine's Day, though, sees love get a spotlight. We celebrate our love for another.

Insurance is all about love. Most people buy insurance because they love someone. A husband buys life insurance because he loves his wife and children. If he's not there to provide for them he wants to make sure they can stay in the same home, enjoy the same lifestyle, provide a college education for his children. With many two income families, wives buy life insurance for the same reasons.



Long Term Care Insurance and Disability Income Insurance help protect the family from the vagaries of life: Needing care in the home or in a long-term care facility or being hurt or sick and unable to work affects the family. These products help protect the family one loves.

Even our retirement annuity products help the ones we love. With forward thinking and fiscal discipline, a retirement annuity helps spouses spend their retirement years knowing they can have a guaranteed lifetime income. Less worries for the ones we love.

All the products we have available are centered around protection; protecting the ones we love. Is your protection where you want it to be for your loved ones? Let's meet and discuss what you want. I'll give you a call or feel free to contact me.

God bless,

Brian DeBlauw



**BRIAN DEBLAUW**  
Financial Advisor  
M: 440-669-8957  
8209 Natures Way, Unit 221  
Lakewood Ranch, FL  
<https://info.kofcassetadvisors.org/Meet-BRIAN-DEBLAUW.html>





## Calendar - February, 2024



# Knights of Columbus®

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826

SC – Spirit Center

CC – Chelsea Center

C - Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29		31	2	3 Citizens with Disabilities 4:00 Mass C
4 Citizens with Disabilities 4:00 Mass - C	5	6	7 Officers' Mtg 7:00 p.m. SC	8 Council Mtg. 7:00 p.m. SC	9 Citizens with Disabilities 11:00-5:00 pm Publix Stores	10 Citizens with Disabilities 11:00-5:00 pm Publix Stores
11 Citizens with Disabilities 11:00-5:00 pm Publix Stores	12 Our Lady of Charity Assembly 7:00 p.m. - SC	13	14 ASH WEDNESDAY Knight's Mass@ 8:00 a.m. - C	15	16	17
18 Pancake Breakfast 8-10:00 am Masses CC	19	20 Exemplification 6:30 pm SC	21	22 Prayer Walk 9-1:00 p.m. Council Social at Waterfront II 5:30 p.m.	23 Cruise Raffle Sales - 4:00 p.m. C	24 Cruise Raffle Sales - All Masses C
25 Cruise Raffle Sales All Masses C	26	27	28	29		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7