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Lent is a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As Catholics and as Knights, it's an opportunity to grow closer in our relationship with Jesus Christ so we can better lead our families and serve our parishes and communities



And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

Matt 6:16

Grand Knights Report

THE SEASON OF LENT -

Like Advent, where we prepare for Jesus's birth at Christmas, Lent is also a liturgical season of preparation, as we get ready for Easter—the Church's greatest celebration. And just like our weather seasons have unique characteristics, so too do seasons within the Church.

In contrast to Advent and Easter, Lent is more solemn. The sacrament of reconciliation–where we ask God for forgiveness–becomes more popular. It's a time when Christians and Catholics discover how to confess–and the power of God's forgiveness.

The first day of Lent is always Ash Wednesday, in which we use ashes on our forehead in the shape of a cross to remember our own mortality and begin our journey of penance. Three key pillars characterize the Lenten season: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (charity). During Lent, "we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting." Lent includes Palm Sunday, which presents its own unique liturgy, featuring a procession of the congregation into the church along with, of course, the distribution of palms. It is during this service that the entire Passion story is read aloud as we begin Holy Week.

Lent technically ends on Holy Thursday as we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper, remembering Jesus's final meal with his disciples in which he institutes the Eucharist. The next day is Good Friday. Holy Saturday, the day of waiting for the joy of the Resurrection, completes what is known as the Triduum: the three days leading up to Easter Sunday.



Grand Knights Report

COUNCIL REPORT -

There are three months remaining in the 2024 – 2025 fraternal year. As we begin the planning process for the next fraternal year, we reflect on the current fraternal year's performance. By all accounts, the Knights of Columbus St. Thomas More Council # 7826 had another stellar year. The Councils planned fund raisers have all exceeded expectations.

Three new Knights attended their Exemplification held on March 18th. The addition of these new Knights completed the fraternal year's requirement of 11 new members to qualify our council for a star council award. In addition to the recruiting requirement, our council will complete our Faith in Action Program Goals.

As we prepare for the next fraternal year, we will nominate and elect the next council officer team. This process will occur during the April and May council meeting.



The council officer team will be reviewing the current Faith in Action plan to determine if any changes are recommended. If any council member would like to recommend the addition of an organization, they would like the council to consider supporting, please provide a summary of your recommendation to the Grand Knight.

After the Faith in Action Plan is approved by the council officers, the 2025-2026 council budget will be developed and presented to the council for approval.





KNIGHT'S MASS -

On March 5th we had our monthly "Knight's Mass" at the 8:00 a.m. Father Nick 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 Brother Neil Corrado and Tom Reed. Please join your Brother Knights and their wives for the "Knight's Mass" this month on Wednesday, April 2nd.

APRIL SOCIAL -

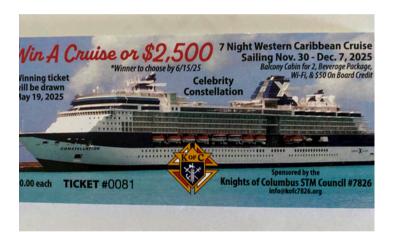
The April Social will be held on Sunday, March 30th at the Stoneybrook Country Club. The brunch will begin approximately 11:20 a.m. following the 10:00 a.m. Corporate Communion Mass.

This year, the Councils Citizens with Disabilities campaign raised \$16,460. At the Stoneybrook social, representatives from St. Mary's Academy and the Oak Park School will be present to receive the Council's donation checks.



CRUISE RAFFLE -

April 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 Melchiore, with the support of Gary and Margot Ellis and others, will be selling tickets after the weekend Masses April 26th and 27th. Pease volunteer to help them with ticket sales and support this major Council fund raiser during the month.





EXEMPLIFICATION -

Welcome to our three new members who attended their exemplification ceremony on March 18th.

Karl Gigante: Age 59, Married to Teresa, Lives in Nokomis, Retired, Sponsor is Tom White

Dave Spiewak: Age 71, Married to Roseann, Lives in Sarasota, Sponsor: online applicant.

Arthur Tan: Age 53, Married to Nancy, Lives in Sarasota, Works at PWC, Sponsor is Bill Dang

STAR Council -

With the new members we have now achieved STAR Council for fiscal year 2025 which ends in June. Congratulations to Kevin Deady and all the members that recruited new members to our dynamic Council.









PARISH PICNIC -

The Parish Picnic was held at St Thomas More Church on Sunday, March 2nd, 2025. Fr Nick thanked all in attendance and volunteers for the event. Volunteers and ministry persons numbered about 100+ individuals and including the volunteers, over 700 persons attended the event. One of the purposes of the picnic was a "ministry fair" and 20 ministries had "tables" with literature and information on the ministry/organization. At lunch was served grilled burgers, hot dogs and Italian sausages with potato salad, baked beans, chips and cookies. Beverages consisted of water, lemonade and iced tea. On site, was a popcorn machine, snow cone machine and dunking booth. The youth ministry provided fun, games, face painting and other for the children. The event had DJ music and social time for all who attended. The "hit" of the event was Fr Nick, Fr Daniel and Fr Gordon getting "dunked" in the dunking booth. A video of the picnic has been posted on the STM website. The picnic was "free" to all who attended save the dunking booth, with proceeds to the CFA. Responses from all who attended was - this was a wonderful event and a chance to get to know Fr Nick and Fr Daniel and reminisce with Fr Gordon. Further, to socialize as Catholic families and "make new friends at the church.









PARISH PICNIC CON'T -













KNIGHT OF MONTH -

Brother Jan Jakubiuk was awarded March Knight of the Month in recognition of his work at the Parish Picnic. Jan was not available to receive his award at the March council meeting.

FAMILY OF MONTH -

The Family of the Month award in the month of March was awarded to Bill and Levan Dang for their outstanding work in supporting the Parish Picnic. Bill was not available to receive his award at the March council meeting.

FACTORS WHEN SELECTING A KNIGHT/FAMILY OF THE MONTH -

- Does the member have a robust prayer-life that goes beyond weekly mass attendance?
- Has the member made significant contributions to the parish and church community?
- Is the member active in serving his local community?
- Is the member a true Catholic gentleman? Does he serve as a model man to his brothers?



St. Joseph: Our Spiritual Father

Parish News

FOOD PANTRY DONATION-

St. Thomas More Twelve Baskets Food Pantry continues to assist 80-100 clients weekly, helping them to support their family's food needs. Each and every week, the pantry goes from full to empty in less than 3 hours. With that, their needs have increased to supply healthy sources of protein, as the availability and price of eggs continue to be an issue. Your help is needed.

In conjunction with STM Knights of Columbus Council 7826, STM Food Pantry will hold our annual "40 Cans for Lent" food drive. They will also be holding an "Open House" at the pantry after each mass the weekend of April 5-6. They welcome you to visit the pantry and observe the operation, ask any questions you may have, or inquire about volunteer opportunities. In addition, we appreciate your monetary and gift card donations to help us provide the necessary nutrients for the families who depend on us. During our "40 Cans for Lent", our food suggestions are: Canned Tuna Canned Chicken Canned Ham Sardines Spam Shelf Stable Whole Milk Please consider donating these items either when you attend mass each week or they can be brought to the next Council meeting on April 10th. The STM Food Pantry very much appreciates your continued generosity to our ministry.



SILVER ROSE -

A Knights of Columbus District 51 "Silver Rose" Mass was held on March 1st at STM. Fr. Daniel Scanlan presided. 56 Knights were in attendance including 5 "Knights on Bikes" who delivered the Silver Rose to STM. The ceremony was well received by parishioners. Approximately 50 stayed for the follow on Rosary. The event was a great success.









SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE -

Scholarship Committee – PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD that our Council offers a Cardinal Mooney High School scholarship program for children and grandchildren of parents and grandparents who are registered St. Thomas More parishioners. The value of the scholarships currently available range from \$1,000 up to \$3,000. Application forms and guidelines are available by email request from Steve McElroy or at the Parish Office. The deadline for submitting applications is May 2, 2025.

It is a very rewarding feeling to participate in this committee and award scholarships to very deserving students. We are looking for new members to join this committee. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Brother Steve McElroy, at <u>mcelroyfs@verizon.net</u> or 941-539-4263.





COUNCIL OFFICER OPENINGS -

Our Council is looking to fill several Officer positions for next fraternal year. The available positions are: Deputy Grand Knight, Advocate, Warden, both Inside and Outside Guard, Recorder, and 3rd Year Trustee.

If you are interested in serving as an Officer, please contact John Cesare or GK, Ralph Neller, for more information on these positions.

The preliminary list of officer candidates are as follows. The first "read in" will be conducted at the April Council meeting.

Grand Knight - Scott Deanna Deputy Grand Knight – Philip Arsenault – Temporary Financial Secretary - Steve McElroy - Appointed Treasurer - Ken Berberich Chancellor – Kevin Deady Warden – Steve Melichiore Recorder – Ed Powers Advocate – Dan Bulinski Lecturer - Derek Noll - Appointed Trustee 3 Year – Larry Hall, John Spinale Trustee 2 Year - Joe Dean Trustee 1 Year - Cory DeVito Candidates for Inside/Outside Guard (2) Open Positions: Nick Macelletti, John Regan, Joe Pelletier, Lynn Quartermaine, Jonathan Genz, Tom White, David Woodford.



40 Days for Life -

Thank you for your presence on Thursday, March 27th at Planned Parenthood (PP). We had 15 from STM and met several other prayer warriors from St. Paul in Arcadia (the early crew) and Our Lady of Angels in Lakewood Ranch (mid morning crew). (PICS Below) We are missing the pic of fellow Knight - Jeff Noccioli who came by at Noon and had an opportunity to visit, learn and be uplifted by the wonderful team at CPCI.

In the first picture you can see Ted Kovacic proudly displaying the framed portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which we received as a gift for our Silver Rose Service in February from Carlos Garcia, a parishioner at St. Judes RC on 17th Street and also an active. Ted Kovacic hasn't missed a 4th Thursday in all the years we have been doing 40 Days for Life.

We saw several potential clients go into PP and we were able to peacefully and gently give them information about the services at CPCI next door. We also had some very positive interactions with a door dash delivery driver and several of the homeless folks who walk by from town. They almost universally compliment pro life our efforts.....without seeking money. We do have drinks and snack bars to offer them if they are seeking something or extra rosary beads that we have from our Silver Rose Service last month.







40 Days for Life Con't -

I think it is safe to say that ALL of us find joy and satisfaction in being there to pray and enjoy each other's fellowship. You never know by our mere presence how Our Lord and Our Lady are working in the hearts of the workers at PP or the potential clients....

Again, thanks to all of you that prayed in abstentia for a fruitful day and for those on our team struggling with health issues.

The most notable events in April is Our next 40 Days for Life 365 gathering for 4th Thursday commitment in Thursday, April 24th from 9-1. Also, since 40 Days for Life in the Spring ends on Palm Sunday, April 13th anyone is welcome to stop by from 9-5 until then by signing up or just showing up.

. (https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/sarasota).







IThe Gospel of Life

"In sharing in the lowliest and most vulnerable conditions of human life- even death on a cross-Jesus shows us that life is always good."

2025 SPRING TRAINING BASEBALL SEASON IS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER -

For the fourteenth consecutive year, St. Thomas More Council 7826 and Incarnation Council 15332 operated a concession stand at Ed Smith Stadium during the 2025 Baltimore Orioles Spring Training Baseball Season. And for the fifth season, the Councils operated the Outdoor Patio Grill Concession Stand – AND WE DID VERY WELL!!

Operational Results:

The original schedule called for 15 games, but only 14 were played as one game was a rainout. For those 14 games, Orioles drew 100,516 fans, 7,180 per game. We served 7,099 customers for an average of 507 per game.

The Councils operated a successful concession stand because of the commitment, dedication and hard work of the Brothers and Sisters from St. Thomas More and Incarnation who volunteered to work the stand. St. Thomas More Council provided 28 volunteers – Denny Armstrong, Ken Berberich, Dick Calo, Rob Carver, Scott Deahna, Gary and Margot Ellis, Jon Engel, Millie and Myron Fedecky, Richard Lamb, Kevin Maguire, Tom Maniuszko, Hope Myers, Ralph Neller, Jeff Noccioli, Ray Paleczny, Chris Pariseau, Ed Powers, Mara Linscott Powers, Paul Procopio, Lynn Quartermaine, John Regan, Dan Martin, Jack Rodman, Max Streibel, Mike Vignola, and Dr. Steve and Teresa Wyer. So what did the Outdoor Patio Grill Concession Stand "grill up? For the 14-game season, Head Chef Dr. Steve Wyer and his great grill staff cooked 4.340 hot dogs, 2,643 hamburgers/cheeseburgers, 1,033 sausages, and 1,083 Philly cheesesteaks – a new item – for a total of 9,099 sandwiches. The busiest game was the New York Yankees – which had an attendance of 8,498 – where the grill staff prepared 966 sandwiches!

Because of the great product cooked and the service provided by the St. Thomas More and Incarnation volunteers, they received many compliments from the fans, stadium employees and Orioles staff. Some fans even wrote the Orioles that the concession stand operated the best stand in the stadium. In fact, we were voted the best concession stand in the Grapefruit League for the third consecutive year.

Finally, the concession stand was successful because of the leadership of Dr. Steve and Teresa Wyer and Incarnation's Dale Haas. They worked every game and made sure everything went smoothly even when they faced challenges.



2025 SPRING TRAINING BASEBALL SEASON CON'T-

Financial Results:

In a first, the Outdoor Patio Grill generated sales of \$188,026, or \$13,430 per game. After deducting discounts and sales tax, net sales were \$172,600, or \$12,329 per game. The Councils receive 10% of net sales. For the 2025 Spring Training Season, this will amount to \$17,260. In addition, the concession stand received \$18,170 in credit card tips and \$1,321 in cash tips for a total tips of \$19,491, or \$1,392 per game. The bottom line is that the concession stand generated \$36,750 in revenues for the two Councils. After deducting expenses – 5% of credit card tips for commissary workers who provided supplies for the concession stand, Orioles shirts, Council hats, stand supplies and Thank You Cookout costs – each Council should receive around **\$17,500**. The amount is an estimate until the final accounting and check is received from the Baltimore Orioles, which should be around mid-April.



Thank You Cookout:

To celebrate all hard work by the St. Thomas and Incarnation Council volunteers, a "Thank You Cookout" is tentatively planned on Thursday, May 1st from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. It will be held at the Incarnation Parish Finegan Center parking lot. It is a well-deserved thank you to the volunteers who worked this Spring Training Baseball Season.

Charlie Culkin Director, Spring Training Baseball





GOLF OUTING -

Update - 4th Annual St Thomas More / KofC Council 7826 Golf Outing - as to be held on Monday, May 5th, 2025 at Serenoa Golf Club

As of this writing, we stand at 20 golf teams on our goal of 25+ teams. Several teams that played last year, have not yet registered nor paid the fee. We are following up on these teams, which may produce 1-2 additional teams for the 2025 event. We remain looking for a couple of new teams or individual golfers that may comprise a team, if we get 4 - individual golfers to play.

We are asking for consideration to one or two additional volunteers at the event.

We have had wonderful success with major sponsors and hole sponsors, well exceeding our financial budget, on these. We have been successful, as well, on goodie bag items, raffle basket items and auction items for the event. The day of the event, we will be "selling" raffle tickets, auction items, 50/50 and mulligan sales. We have finalized the cost of the outing with Serenoa Golf Club as includes golf, light breakfast, BBQ lunch, on course drink tickets, lunch drink ticket and pro shop gift certificates for the first-place team members.

All volunteers will be entitled to the light breakfast and BBQ lunch.

Thank you to all the Golf Committee members that each, individually, has contributed to the success of this event. Our Golf Committee members are Ken Berberich, Ralph Neller, Charlie Culkin, Rob Carver, Richard Lamb, Chris Pariseau, Kevin Maguire, Gary Ellis, John Spinale, Scott Deahna, Corey DeVito, Ed Plankey, Max Streibel, Ed Powers, Paul Procopio and Joe Daley.

Let's hope - for good weather for the event.

Ken Berberich Chair - STM / KofC Council 7826 Golf Committee



SERENOA GOLF CLUB

Council Good of the Order

Charles Baldelli Ken Berberich **Ted Bogusz Dave Bracy** Pat Cesare Neil Corrado Ed Cox Cindi Culkin Judy Deady Susan DeBlauw Jean DeVito Gary Ellis Ken Gaasch Madeline Garvin Paula Garvin Anne Hayes Jerry Hayes Jan Jakubiuk John Koitsch

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ted Kovacic Don Leonard **Roy MacGillis** Kay Maier John Maier Ron McCluskey Carol McElroy James McNamara Thomas Nate Margie Noll **Christopher** Peppard Hank Peppard Jr. Ed Plankey **Thomas Reed** Nancy Risbano John Spinale Johnnie Turner Kim Wojtyna Donna Woodford



Sir Knight John McAlonie passed away on March 7, 2025. A Celebration of Life Mass was held on Saturday, March 29th.

Brother Dave "Tony" Picozzi passed away on March 19, 2025. Tony was an exemplary Knight of Columbus. Please keep Brother Tony, Pam, and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

Please keep our recently departed Brothers and their surviving spouses in your prayers: Jim Beck, George Risbano, Leon Leroux, Jack Shaw, Lee Dusoe, Dan Borgemeyer, Joe Tiffany, John Malloy, Stephen Fenner, John McAlonie, and Tony Picozzi

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 or my mobile 513-708-0528.

Council Birthdays

APRIL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



April 1 - Dr Thomas P Meirink April 10 - Max K Streibel April 10 - James D Treloar April 13 - David W Mandrgoc April 17 - Peter E Haleas April 18 - Philip J Arsenault April 22 - Jordan Borkholder April 24 - Victor J Ferrulli April 26 - Jeb B Kingseed April 27 - Antonio G Cervantes April 27 - John M Regan April 27 - Fernando R Villalta

April 28 - Ronaldo Landayan

K of C #7826 OFFICERS

Fr. Daniel Scanlan - Chaplain frdaniel@stthomsmoresrq.org

Ralph Neller - Grand Knight rneller65@outlook.com Scott Deahna - Deputy GK scott34465@yahoo.com Steve McElroy - Financial Sec. mcelroyfs@verizon.net Ken Berberich - Treasurer berberichken@yahoo.com Kevin Deady - Chancellor kevingdeady@gmail.com Dan Bulinski - Recorder danb6002@comcast.net

Dave Bracy - Warden dsbracy@comcast.net Dr. Steven Wyer - Advocate steven.m.wyer@gmail.comv82 Derek Noll - Lecturer derekjnoll@msn.com Ernest (Joe) Dean -3yr Trustee ejdean99@icloud.com Corey Devito - 2yr Trustee cmdevito@kaighnco.com John Spinale - 1 yr Trustee jtspin912@gmail.com Charlie Ballschmieder - Inside Guard cjball01@verizon.net Hank Peppard - Outside Guard hakp7916@gmail.com

Council Upcoming Events

Thank you for your support of these future events!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The monthly Knight's Mass will be held on Wednesday, **April 2nd**, at the 8:00 a.m. Mass.
- The Officers' Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- The Council Business Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 10th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center
- Our Lady of Charity Assembly Meeting (4th Degree) will be held on Monday, April 14th at Incarnation.
- The monthly Exemplification Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, **April 15th** beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Spirit Center.



- Good Friday: April 18th.
- Easter: Sunday, April 20th.
- The monthly Right to Life Prayer Walk will be held on Thursday, April 25th between 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. in front of Planned Parenthood.
- A Choir Appreciation Dinner will be held on Saturday April 26th beginning at 5 pm in the Chelsea Center.
- Cruise Raffle Tickets will be sold after all the Masses on **April 26th** outside the church.
- Alter Server of the Year Presentation will be held at the 10 am mass on Sunday **April 27th**.

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH · SARASOTA

Insurance Advisor

NEWS FROM OUR FRATERNAL FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Brothers,

Are you on track to reach your financial goals?

Are you unsure how to begin setting those goals? As your agent, I'm dedicated to helping you find the right insurance solutions, no matter your stage of life. Whether you are in your working years with young kids, living paycheck to paycheck, or knocking on the door of retirement, I'm excited to help you protect what matters most and build financial security with insurance-based solutions tailored to meet your priorities.

The first thing to consider is whether your family would be financially taken care of if something happened to you. Would they struggle to meet the mortgage payments or to pay off other debts?

Term life insurance can be an affordable option to give you protection in case of the unexpected. You'll also have the option to convert to a permanent plan in the future without additional underwriting. Terms and conditions may apply. Second, start preparing for retirement, no matter how far away it may seem. The Knights of Columbus offers annuity solutions to help provide you with retirement income you can't outlive, guaranteed.

Finally, disability income insurance. For many men, regardless of their phase in life, protecting their income is their greatest financial need. What would you do if you were no longer able to work? Don't overlook how disability income insurance may be able to help you.

I understand that your financial needs are not just unique but change over time. I'm here to help you find the right solutions today and to walk with you as your insurance needs evolve.

If you have any questions, please come chat with me and we can schedule a time to meet.

God bless,

Vivat Jesus!

God bless, Brian DeBlauw, Financial Advisor



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 - April, 2025



SC – Spirit Center

CC – Chelsea Center

C - Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Knight's Mass <u>8:00 am C</u> Officers' Mtg. 7:00 pm SC	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Council Mtg. 7:00 pm SC	11	12
13	14 4th Degree Mtg. I7:00 pm Incarnation	15 Exemplification 6:30 pm SC	16	17	18 Good Friday	19
20 EASTER	21	22	23	24 RTL Prayer Walk- Planned Parent 9 am - 1 pm	25	26 Choir Appreciation Dinner 5:00 pm CC
27 Server of the Year Award 10:00 am Mass C	28	29	30			