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HAIL, HOLY QUEEN,
MOTHER OF MERCY, OUR
LIFE, OUR SWEETNESS
AND OUR HOPE!

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Grand Knights Report

MARY AS THE PINNACLE OF SACRIFICE -

Michelangelo's famous Pieta this ideal sacrifice in the visual form might well be regarded as the female equivalent of the crucifix. The sculptor carved this masterpiece which now occupies a place of honor in St Peter's Basilica in Rome, from a single block of marble when he was twenty-three years of age. It represents Mary, our eternal Mother, contemplating in peace and humility the broken body of her crucified son. What is the meaning of this unforgettable work? It is the good mother offering up her child to be broken by the terrible world. Is it not just as painful for a mother to give up her child to the world as it is to offer herself to fate and destiny? Is there any love greater than the love willing to offer a child in sacrifice to what is truly the highest offering? This is of course is true for father as it is for mother. It reflects the unbreakable bond between parent and God in navigating the secular world.

This bond offers the opportunity for each of us as parents or grandparents to participate in God's plan for our family. This means that the single most important task we have before us is to teach our children and grandchildren to pray — in union with the Church and Mary.

This is the essence of our spiritual mission as Knights of Columbus. More than just attending to our children's physical needs, our role is to be the provider of spiritual guidance to prepare them for their personal sacrifice in the secular world. So, how can we do this? To be authentic teachers of prayer and to reflect the love of God the Father, we need to spend time in personal prayer every day.

We should also pray with our families, leading them in prayer. This means, most importantly, bringing them to Mass every Sunday, as well as teaching them the ancient and beautiful prayers of the Church.



Praying together before meals and celebrating feast days and liturgical seasons can foster awareness of God's presence. A family rosary — or even just a decade, depending on the circumstances — can bring Mary's peaceful intercession to your family, and it will equip your children and grandchildren with a powerful tool of prayer as they face their own personal challenges.

Prayer is more than an exercise; it's a living relationship with our Lord. Leading your family in spontaneous prayers from the heart — prayers of petition and thanksgiving — can be especially powerful. If your children hear you pray in this way, it becomes natural for them to do so as well — and prayer becomes a personal encounter with God.

With Mary as our example, how could it not be that the willingness to sacrifice even what is most dear to that which is even better serves as the antithesis of the resentment that embitters and corrupts in the secular world. The greater the demands that are upon us; the more our wives and children depend on us and the greater need we have for prayer. This is our mission as Knights.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, who pondered all these things in her heart (Lk 2:19), intercede for us as we strive to keep our families ever more united with her Son, Jesus Christ.

Vivat Jesus!

Grand Knights Report

KNIGHT'S MASS-

On April 2nd we had our monthly "Knight's Mass" at the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Chapel with Father Daniel as the celebrant. The rosary was prayed before the Mass starting at 7:30 a.m. with Adoration following the Mass 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 Brothers Neil Corrado and Tom Reed. Please join your Brother Knights and their wives for the "Knight's Mass" this month on Wednesday, May 7th,

WEBSITE UPDATE -

Our #7826 website is updated each month with the latest information on awards that have been distributed. The list includes our Knight/Family of the year, Knight/Family of the Month, Citizens With Disabilities Funds Presented, Altar Servers of the Year Awards, and our Choir Appreciation Dinner.





CRUISE RAFFLE -

May is our final month to sell Cruise Raffle tickets as the drawing is scheduled for May 19th after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Brothers Dan Bulinski and Steve Melchiore, with the support of Gary and Margot Ellis and others, have sold 1072 tickets. There are only a few week remain until the May 19th drawing. Let's finish strong and sell the few remaining tickets over the next 2 weeks.



STM K of C WEBSITES -

The 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**. 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 activities.

STONEYBROOK SOCIAL & CHECK PRESENTATION -

On the 30th of March our social was held at the Stoneybrook CC. During the social we disbursed the money raised during January and February from our Citizens with Disabilities (Tootsie Roll) Campaign.

Thanks to the organization skills of Steve and Carol McElroy and the leadership of Scott Deahna and Cory Devito and the many volunteers who spent hours in front of 4 Publix stores and at the STM weekend, we were able to present checks in the amount of \$8,500 each to Connie Taft of St. Mary's Academy and Sean Donovan of Oak Park School.







Connie Taft was overwhelmed and overcome with gratitude after receiving a check in the amount of \$8,500 from Brother Corey Devito.



Pictured above, she is addressing the members and their wives to thank everyone for their hard work and outstanding success during the Tootsie Roll Campaign this year.

During her appreciation speech, she announced that she will be joining our STM parish and her significant other, Nelson, will be transferring into our Council 7826 as soon as possible.

Welcome Connie & Nelson!

OAK PARK SCHOOL CHECK PRESENTATION -

Following the presentation to Connie Taft, Brother Scott Deahna made the check presentation to Sean Donovan, Principal of Oak Park School.



This is the 1st year for Sean Donovan as the new Principal at Oak Park School and he was extremely grateful for our donation of \$ 8,500 to Oak Park.



Pictured above, Sean Donovan thanking our members and their wives for their hard work and the continued support of Oak Park School. Further, he invited everyone in our Council to a personal tour of the school to see the work being done with the funds we have donated to the school.

FR. NICK - STM CHECK PRESENTATION -



As part of the festivities, the Grand Knight presented Fr. Nick with a check for \$ 2,000 for the STM CFA. Fr. Nick is seen expressing his appreciation for the contribution and the service and dedication of the Knights at STM for all the work and support of our parish.



Worthy Charlie Culkin also took the opportunity to thank those members and their wives who worked the Oriole Spring Training games. This was the 14th year of both STM and Incarnation Councils working together to support the charitable work of both councils. According to Worthy Charlie, we made more money in tips than in commissions and it was the - BEST YEAR EVER! Thanks to Dr. Steve, Theresa and Worth Charlie Culkin!

APRIL EXEMPLIFICATION -



During April we added two new members to our Council - Brother Richard Lawler and Brother Paolo Landayan. Both Richard and Paolo took their 3rd Degree Exemplification online.

Below Richard Lawler is being presented with his 3rd Degree Certificate, rosary and pin of the Order by the DGK. Scott Deahna.







Above: Paolo Landayan receives his 3rd Degree Certificate, rosary and pin from the GK.



Brother Frank Moeslein was the "Honoree" for the last Exemplification held in March. Frank is a leader in our Council and serves our parish and community through the Right to Life Committee. Also, he and his wife, Imelda led our 2023 Baby Bottle Campaign.

CHOIR APPRECIATION DINNER -

This year's Choir Appreciation Dinner was held on Saturday, April 26th. The menu consisted of Italian sausages, baked beans, potato salad, and sauerkraut with a selection of cookies for dessert.

Many thanks to our STM K of C members and their wives, surviving spouses, and all who volunteered to cook and serve the meal on the 26th. Although Alex was away to visit his parents in Las Vegas, he prepared a note of appreciation to the choir which was read before the meal. THANK YOU STM Choirs!



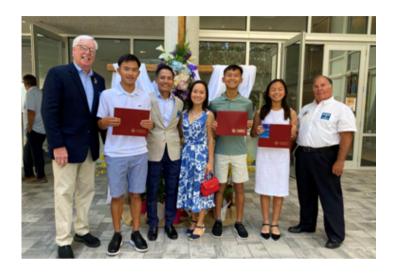








ALTAR SERVERS OF THE YEAR AWARDS -



This year's STM "Altar Servers of the Year" awards were presented to the Alex, Will, and Lauren Dang after the 10:00 am Mass on April 26th. Pictured above left to right: the GK, Alex, Bill, Levon, Will, and Lauren Dang, and the DGK.

The Dang children were presented with the Altar Servers of the year for their dedicated service to our parish and the community. Alex, Will, and Lauren are outstanding individuals who excel in both their athletic and academic pursuits. Congratulations to the entire Dang family!



OUR LADY OF CHARITY ASSEMBLY #3089 -



4TH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION:

The latest 4th Degree Exemplification was held on April 26th in Bradenton. With the latest Exemplification we now welcome 3 new 4th Degree "Sir" Knights to our Council.

Congratulations to: Sir Knight Richard Lamb, Sir Knight Kevin McGuire, and to our DD, Sir Knight Jon Engel. We are proud of your achievement in taking the next step with the Patriotic Degree.

The next Assembly meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's Parish. If you're interested in becoming a 4th Degree "Sir" Knight please contact Dr. Steve Wyer, Charlie Culkin, Steve McElroy or the GK for details.



THE DEATH OF POPE FRANCIS -

Our beloved Pope Francis passed away early on Easter Monday at the age of 88. He will be remembered as an exceptional leader of the Catholic Church with his outspoken views on social justice, the role of women in the church, and his life of service, humility, mercy, and a profound love for all of creation. Rest in Peace!



Another legacy of Pope Francis is the beginning of a comprehensive restoration of the Baldacchino (canopy) over the high altar in St. Peter's Basilica. that is being funded by the Knights of Columbus. This project, the first since 1758, is being undertaken by the Fabbrica di San Pietro. The Knights are also supporting the restoration of Bernini's bronze statues surrounding the Chair of St. Peter.



St. Peter's Basilica Restoration -



Baldacchino Restoration:

The Baldacchino, a 10-story bronze, marble, and gilded wood structure, was commissioned by Pope Urban VIII and completed in 1633. It's a masterpiece by Gian Lorenzo Bernini and stands over the tomb of St. Peter. The Knights of Columbus are funding the restoration in preparation for the 2025 <u>Jubilee Year of Hope</u>.

Restoration Significance:

This restoration is seen as more than just preserving art; it's a reflection of God's love and the Church's foundation upon St. Peter. The Knights of Columbus are contributing to the preservation of these important sites within the basilica.

Our Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly said, "The Baldacchino brings together two realities, the reality that God comes to dwell with us, and the reality that we are called to raise our hearts and our minds to him in prayer and in gratitude."



KNIGHT OF MONTH - BRIAN HARKINS

Brother Brian Harkins is recognized as our "Knight of the Month". Brian is our "Respect Life" chairman and was a leader with Fr. Daniel with the Silver Rose delivered by the Knights on Bikes for the ceremony to honor our Blessed Mother Mary.



FAMILY OF MONTH - MYRON & MILLI FEDECKY

Our "Family of the Month" is Brother Myron and his wife, Milli, Fedecky for their many volunteer hours during the Citizens with Disabilities (Tootsie Roll) Campaign. Together they filled numerous time slots during the campaign.



Parish News



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 still in short supply.

Given today's economy, we 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.



STM NEW FACILITY SUPERVISOR - ERIC KERN

My name is Eric Kern. I've been a resident of Sarasota Co. since 1977. I met my wife, Nanette at Cardinal Mooney HS. We were married by Fr Gerry Finegan and are celebrating 40 years in December. We were blessed with one son, Benjamin. He is married to Alexandra and we are now in Grandparent Heaven!

Roman 2.5 yrs and Mila 5 weeks old. My hobby is being with my family. For 22 yrs we owned Suncoast Engraving and Awards in Venice. We did work for the Diocese and multiple KofC Councils. I'm very aware of the work you all do for the community and look forward to helping make events at the church go smoothly. I'm excited to be here, and grateful for this opportunity.



Committee Corner

RIGHT TO LIFE MINISTRY -

Defenders of Life.

The Summer is upon us! Many of us head to cooler climates and thankfully a few dedicated prayer stalwarts remain to help cover our monthly 40 Days For Life 365 Commitment on the 4th Thursday of every month for one hour from 9-1. Our most dedicated leader is Neil Corrado throughout the entire year and as we pray for Neil's swift and complete healing, we can go to Planned Parenthood and continue to peacefully for the Mom's, Babies and Families.

Our May date is Thursday, May 22nd. Please call or email Brian (908-451-7454 / bjharkins1@gmail.com) to let me know if you can make it. Brian will also be gone for the summer but will join you spiritually.

Thanks to you what at times may feel like unsung efforts, bells routinely ring out at Community Pregnancy Clinics in Sarasota, Florida, to inform 40 Days for Life participants on the sidewalk that their prayers helped save a baby!

And those bells are ringing a lot, as the pregnancy center reports that 97% of expectant mothers who walk through its doors choose life. Community Pregnancy Clinics can't reveal the names or details of the saved moms and babies...but the bells send a powerful message to prayer warriors: their prayers are being answered.

RIGHT TO LIFE





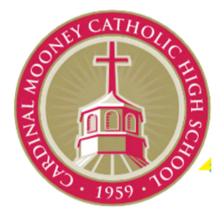


See for yourself how pairing a pregnancy help center with a 40 Days for Life vigil saves countless lives in this ENCOURAGING new video: You will recognize some familiar faces too. youtube.com/watch?v=3AMcJnghC24

For Life, Neil and Brian

Committee Corner





SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE -

Scholarship Committee – 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 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 for this year's program is May 2, 2025. Please contact Brother Steve McElroy, at mcelroyfs@verizon.net or 941-539-4263 with any questions.

Mark your calendar now for June 10th when we will conduct our Scholarship Awards Program in the Spirit Center to award at least \$8,000 in scholarships to some very deserving students. More details to follow.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS -

Below is scheduled certification training for Council members interested in becoming a Swimming coach. It will be held in Fort Meyers on Thursday May 9th.



- Date: Thursday, May 8th
- Time: 5:30 PM 8:00 PM
- . Classroom Portion Location: Karl Drew Community Center @ San Carlos Park Pool
- . Water Portion Location: San Carlos Park Community Pool
- · Address: 8208 Sanibel Blvd Fort Myers, FL 33967
- . Sport Clinician: Sue Mellentine

Schedule

- 5:30pm 6:30pm General Orientation/Classroom Portion
- 6:30pm 7:00pm- Break/change into swim gear
- 7:00pm 8:00pm Water Portion

Important Information:

- The classroom portion will be held at Karl Drew Center, right next to the pool.
- . The water portion will follow the classroom portion at San Carlos Park Community Pool.
- Please bring a swimsuit, flip flops, towel, and a change of clothes for the water portion.

Sign Up Link:

https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/abb1fec815a94035842ddf9ebfbaf7eb

Contact Information:

If you have any questions about the SUP Coaches Training on April 19th, please contact Chad Weber, Sports Training & Competition Manager for Area 7 South or Clinician Sue Mellentine

- Email/Phone: chadweber@sofl.org / (239) 470-2241
 Sport Clinician's: Sue Mellentine
- Fmail: Supmellestine@refl or
- Phone: (239) 478-6297

If you are interested in this Training Session for Special Olympics please refer to the website and link listed.

Should you have any questions or need additional information please let me know.

Fraternally,
John Cesare
johncesare1@verizon.net

Committee Corner

2025 SPRING TRAINING BASEBALL THANK YOU COOKOUT -



For the 14th consecutive year, St. Thomas More Council 7826 and Incarnation Council 15332 operated a concession stand at Ed Smith Stadium during the 2025 Spring Training Baseball Season. For the 15-game schedule, the gross profit for the STM and Incarnation stand was close to \$38,000.

The success of the 2025 Spring Training Season was due to the volunteers. To celebrate all their hard work, Incarnation Council hosted a "Thank You Cookout" on Thursday May 1st at Incarnation Parish outside the Finegan Center. The menu was hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, with cold beer and wine. Thank you to all the volunteers for making this the best year ever!

What made this cookout special was those in attendance. This year all current and past volunteers were invited to attend the cookout. Several former Council volunteers were present: Dan Bulinski, Joe Sommer, Hank Peppard and several others.

It was a perfect evening! After the meal, the Spring Training Baseball Director Charlie Culkin presented Grand Knight, Ralph Neller, with the check for \$17,202 which is our Council's share of the Spring Training revenue after expenses.





At the conclusion of the check presentations, Dr. Steve and Charlie recognized those volunteers who made extraordinary contributions during this season as well as those from past seasons with a special THANK YOU!

See You at the Ball Park Next Season!!

Charlie Culkin
Director, Spring Training Baseball



Council Good of the Order

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

Charley Baldelli

Ken Berberich

Ted Bogusz

Dave Bracy

Pat Cesare

Neil Corrado

Ed Cox

Cindi Culkin

Judy Deady

Jean DeVito

Gary Ellis

Ken Gaasch

Madeleine Garvey (wife of Gary)

Anne Hayes (wife of Jerry)

Jerry Hayes

Jan Jakubiuk

John Koitsch

Ted Kovacic

Don Leonard

Roy MacGillis

John & Kay Maier

Ron McCluskey

Carol McElroy

James McNamara

Thomas Nate

Margie Noll

Hank Peppard

Christopher Peppard (son of Hank)

Ed Plankey

Thomas Reed

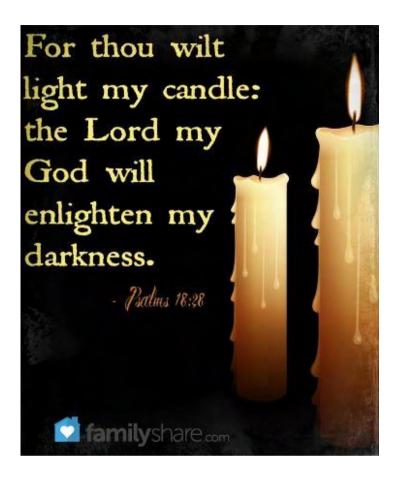
John Regan

John & Craig Spinale (John's son)

Johnnie Turner

Kim Wojtyna

Donna Woodford (wife of David Woodford)



Please keep our recently departed Brothers and their surviving spouses in your prayers: Stephen Fenner, John McAlonie, Tony Picozzi, and Victor Ferrulli.

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.



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

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

Council Birthdays

MAY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



May 9 - Charlie Ballschmieder

May 12 - Gerard Archambault

May 12 - David Rancourt

May 14 - Thomas Maniuszko

May 15 - Richard Lamb

May 17 - Jim Meyd

May 18 - Joseph Avellino

May 19 - Charles Turnwald Jr.

May 22 - Ed Plankey

May 25 - Anthony Madaio

May 25 - Thomas White

May 30 - John Rodman

May 30 - Gary Ellis

May 31 - Brian Harkins

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. Steve Wyer - Advocate

steven.m.wyer@gmail.comv82

Derek Noll - Lecturer

derekjnoll@msn.com

Ernest (Joe) Dean - 3 yr Trustee

ejdean99@icloud.com

Corey Devito -2yr Trustee

cmdevito@kaighnco.com

John Spinale - 1yr Trustee

itspin912@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

- May 1st Spring Training Cookout from 5:30 to 8:00
 p.m. at Incarnation Finegan Center.
- STM K of C Golf Outing will take place at Sereona GC on May 5th beginning at 7:30 a.m. All volunteers are to report by 6:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.
- Our monthly "Knight's Mass will be on Wednesday, May 7th, at the 8:00 a.m. Mass. The special intention this month will be for the Unborn. We will pray the rosary prior to the Mass beginning at 7:30 a.m. with Adoration to follow.
- The Officers' Meeting is scheduled for May 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- The May Council Business Meeting is scheduled for May 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center.





- Our Lady of Charity Assembly Meeting (4th Degree) will be held on Monday, May 12th, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church.
- Coffee & Donuts is scheduled for May 18th after the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Masses.
- The Cruise Raffle Drawing will take place on Monday, May 19th after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.
- Our monthly Exemplification Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20th beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- The monthly Right to Life Prayer Walk will be on Thursday, May 22nd between 9:00 1:00 p.m. in front of Planned Parenthood.
- The May Council Social will be held on Friday, May 23rd at Waterfrontoo beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- The Florida State Council Convention will be held between May 23-25th in Jacksonville, Florida.
- HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY May 26th!

Insurance Advisor

NEWS FROM OUR FRATERNAL FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Brothers, summer is a time of transition for many people. You may know someone who recently graduated high school or college and is now heading into the workforce. Or you may know a couple who is getting married this summer.

These are all joyous occasions that we can celebrate. At the same time, certain stress can come with any life transition.

For a graduate, entering the workforce can take some adjustment. And marrying is certainly one of the biggest life adjustments people can experience. Before long, they may be welcoming children or looking to finance a house. Any transition in your life is a good time to think about your financial situation and your loved ones who depend on you.

Though life insurance may be the last thing on a young adult's mind, it may be the perfect life stage to start preparing financially for the future.

On that note, for my brother Knights on the younger side, I have two pieces of good news. And I encourage all my brothers here to consider how this may apply to yourself or your adult children, grandchildren, and other family members.

First, the younger you are, the more affordable permanent life insurance can be, and the simpler the underwriting process is. At a younger age, you're less likely to have health or medical problems that could make coverage more expensive.

The second piece of good news is that you have options. Maybe you're not yet sure you want permanent life insurance. In this case, you might choose a term insurance policy, which is an affordable option for temporary needs.

If you should decide later that you'd prefer permanent coverage, you may have the option to convert your term insurance.

In today's day and age when so many of us may feel pressure to spend above our means, I have been heartened to talk to young people who are quite financially literate and eager to set up a responsible financial strategy for their future. Many of them grew up seeing economic problems in the world, and they want to make sure they build a strong financial foundation for themselves.

This summer, no matter where you are in your journey through life -- whether you're undergoing a life transition, or you simply feel that now is the time to think about your financial future -- I encourage you to make an appointment with me. I will be happy to discuss your options with you.

Vivat Jesus!

Brian DeBlauw



Calendar - May, 2025



SC - Spirit Center

CC - Chelsea Center

C - Church

SUN	M O N	TUE	WED	тни	FRI	SAT
27	28			1 Spring training baseball picnic Incarnation 5:30 p.m.		3
4	5 STM Golf Outing - Serenoa GC	6	7 Knight's Mass 8:00 am C Officers' Mtg 7:00 pm SC	8 Council Mtg 7:00 pm SC	9	10
11	12 4th Degree Assembly Mtg. 7:00 pm St. Pat's	13	14	15	16	17
18 Coffee & Donuts 8-10:00 am Masses C	19 Cruise Raffle Drawing	20 Exemplification 6:30 pm SC	21	22 9-1:00 pm Prayer Walk Planned Parenthood	23Council Social Waterfrontoo 5:30 pm Florida State Convention	24 Florida State Council Convention
25 Florida State Council Convention	26 MEMORIAL DAY	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7