



Knights of Columbus®

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826

INDEX

Grand Knights Report Page 2

Faith In Action Page 4

Parish News Page 9

Committee Corner Page 10

Council Good of the Order Page 15

Council Birthdays / Officers Page 16

Council Upcoming Events Page 17

Insurance Advisors Letter Page 18

Calendar Page 19



The Empty Tomb -

Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They said, “Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back . . . and they were amazed.

For they did not yet understand the scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

(Mark 16: 3-5 & John 20: 9)

Grand Knights Report

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY - ASH WEDNESDAY TO HOLY THURSDAY



As our journey of Lent begins, we Catholics, like Christians everywhere, prepare to commemorate the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Just a few short weeks ago, we celebrated his birth, and now the church begins our preparation to join Him on His journey to Calvary. The church scene becomes somber, more intense, and such terms as contrition, conversion, penance, almsgiving, fasting and abstinence dominate the liturgy.

Fasting and abstinence are church-imposed penitential practices that deny us food and drink during the Lenten season. These acts of self-denial allow us to free ourselves from worldly distractions and focus our attention on our own spiritual growth and resurrection.

Our Founder, Blessed Michael McGivney provides us with a guideline for our Lenten journey through the 3 Principles of our Order: Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. CHARITY boils down to Almsgiving, with UNITY as Prayer, and FRATERNITY as Fasting and Abstinence. The practice of these 3 Principles can lead us to a more meaningful Lenten experience.

As an example, the last of these principles is FRATERNITY. As Knights, we value the brotherhood and solidarity that each of us share with our families. We know that sustaining that spirit of solidarity may require patience and forbearance. Sometimes, we need to abstain from a hasty word or an angry remark. Often, we need to make room in our hearts for a Brother Knight with whom we disagree. In other words, we need to “fast” from a disparaging remark which would undermine our FRATERNITY.

Another example of FRATERNITY during Lent is found in denying ourselves food and drink. This sacrifice will also help us to make more room in our hearts for one another, as well as for those in need, and ultimately for our risen-Savior.



Holy Week starts with Palm Sunday when Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem. This week leads us through the Last Supper, His crucifixion, and ends on Easter Sunday with His resurrection. This is the basis of Christianity, His sacrifice launched the New Covenant God promised to us and to all Christians throughout the world.

Grand Knights Report

KNIGHT'S MASS -

On February 14th (Ash Wednesday) we had our monthly "Knight's Mass" at the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the main church and it was also a Holy Day of Obligation. Father Daniel 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 Ed Plankey. Please join your Brother Knights and their wives for the "Knight's Mass" this month on Wednesday, March 13th.



CRUISE RAFFLE -

March 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 March. Please volunteer to help them with ticket sales and support this major Council fund raiser during the month!



CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES - \$16,880 TOTAL!!!

Our Council #7826 set a new record for donations during the CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES Campaign at the 4 neighborhood Publix stores over 2 weekends and 1 weekend after the Masses at STM. The total raised was \$16,880!

To everyone who generously volunteered to collect during this campaign - THANK YOU!. A special thanks to Brothers Corey DeVito, Scott Deahna, Larry Hall, and to Steve and Carol McElroy for their hard work and leadership over the course of the three weekends. The money raised will be shared between St. Mary's Academy and Oak Park School. We plan to make this presentation during our April Social at the Stoneybrook CC.



Faith In Action

FEBRUARY PANCAKE BREAKFAST -

Our 1st Pancake Breakfast in 2024 was held on February 18th in the Chelsea Center after the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Masses. It was a grand success.

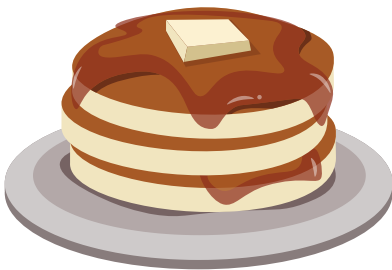
Although it was a rainy Sunday morning we had a record setting crowd. We received over \$700 in donations at the breakfast and Steve and Debbie Melchiorre sold over \$300 of Cruise Raffle tickets to many of the parishioners.



Faith In Action

PANCAKE BREAKFAST (continued . . .) -

A special “thank you” to Brother Chris Pariseau and his team leads: Jack Rodman, Sue Bracy, and John Caesare, and all those who volunteered to work at the breakfast. Together we DO make a difference!



Faith In Action

FEBRUARY SOCIAL -

Our Council February Social was held at WATERFRONT II with 67 Knights, their wives and significant others in attendance.

It was a great night of fellowship and fraternity for the Council, with our brother Knights and their wives or significant others.

Thank you again Dave and Sue Bracy for choosing such a great venue!



Faith In Action

FINANCIAL SECRETARY - LAWRENCE HALL



(LtoR: GK, Ralph Neller, FS, Larry Hall, PGK, Jim Meyd)

After 3 years of dedicated service to our Council as Financial Secretary, Brother Larry Hall's term ended in February. In recognition of his outstanding work, his experienced leadership, and his dedication to our Council, the GK, Ralph Neller and the PGK, Jim Meyd presented him with an Appreciation Plaque from the Council.

Brother Steve McElroy will be assuming the duties as our Financial Secretary beginning on March 1st.



OUR LADY OF CHARITY ASSEMBLY #3089 -

The next Assembly meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 11th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's. 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.



DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT OPENING -

Our current Deputy Grand Knight, Charlie Culkin, will complete his term at the end of June '24. This is a great opportunity for a Brother Knight to become a leader in our Council as the Deputy Grand Knight. If you are interested in filling this position or becoming an Officer in our Council, please contact DGK Charlie Culkin or GK Ralph Neller, at rneller65@outlook.com to discuss this position in our Council. We need you to step up and become a leader!

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. 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.

Faith In Action

KNIGHT / FAMILY OF THE MONTH

KNIGHT OF MONTH - LARRY HALL -

Brother Larry Hall was awarded this month's Knight of the Month given his leadership, dedication, and commitment to our Council as Financial Secretary!



FAMILY OF MONTH - GARY & MARGOT ELLIS -

Our February Family of the Month was Gary and Margot Ellis for their generous volunteer work with the Cruise Raffle and so many of our Council charities.



Parish News



Pictured left to right: Ed Carthew, Terry Saunders, Ellie Gibeau, Jim Meyd, Ginny Cheatham, Lance Ness, and Henry Miyares.

FOOD PANTRY -

Our Council #7826 presented a \$1K check to the leaders of the Food Pantry last month. These funds will go a long way to support those in need and allow our STM Food Pantry the flexibility to purchase the necessary food supplies for the families they serve.

Thank you to all the Food Bank volunteers and spouses for their personal participation and monetary support. Given today's economy, they will serve between 75-100 families in need every week.

The weekly bulletin lists the items that are critically needed.



Committee Corner



40 DAYS FOR LIFE -

40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses.



(continued . . .)



CPCI APPRECIATION DINNER -

This year's CPCI Appreciation Dinner was held at the Lakewood Ranch CC. Frank and Imelda Moeslein are pictured above presenting the final installment of \$793 to Patty Madsen of CPCI from our STM 2023 Baby Bottle Campaign.

This brings our total CPCI contribution to \$12k!!!



Those STM Council 7826 attendees were: Brian & Maureen Harkins, Michael Mazur & Nancy Brand, Frank & Imelda Moeslein, Neil Corrado, and Ralph & Carol Neller.

Committee Corner



RIGHT TO LIFE MINISTRY -

Thank you for your prayers and support of our Respect Life ministry! On February 22, about 14 Knights and spouses collectively prayed for 10 hours at Planned Parenthood during the 40 days for Life Spring Vigil.

March promises to be another fruitful month of prayer and presence. First, 40 Days for Life continues until Palm Sunday (March 24th) and people are welcome to sign up one hour between 7AM - 5PM by signing here: www.40daysforlife.com/sarasota. You will meet prayer warriors from other parishes and faith communities including your brother Knights.

Please join Bishop Frank J Dewane on Tuesday, March 5th for the Annual Sarasota Prayer Walk For Life. It commences with 8:30 Mass at St. Martha's Church on 200 North Orange Avenue but you are welcome to come anytime between 9-12! A free bus shuttle will be provided after Mass to Planned Parenthood for peaceful prayer and witness. The bus will do round trips between Planned Parenthood and St. Martha's. Light refreshments will be available at Community Pregnancy Clinics on 7th street. For questions or to volunteer, contact Jeanne at 941-374-1068 or Berdeaux@dioceseofvenice.com or Brian Harkins at 908-451-7454.

On Thursday, March 21st, the STM Knights will once again be sponsors of the Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center's Annual Pro Life Gala. We are hosting 2 tables of 10. We still have 2 seats available, please contact Brian Harkins before March 14th if you are interested in attending.

Stay tuned for details that are being planned for a Mass for the Unborn after Easter in early April at St. Thomas More.

Lastly but perhaps most urgently, throughout the month of March whether you participate in any of the aforementioned events or not, please keep praying and fasting that the Florida Supreme Court makes the right decision (on April 1st) for life and prohibits the misleading and dangerous pro-abortion amendment from being on the November ballot. If it is approved to be on the ballot, then our prayers have to be even more intense between April and May because if it passes in November. It would enshrine abortion up until 9 months in Florida and completely undermine what our Florida government leaders have proposed which is a ban on abortion past 6 weeks.

For Life,

Brothers Brian and Neil

Committee Corner



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE -

Our Council offers a Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School scholarship program for children and grandchildren of parents and grandparents who are registered parishioners. We have started the cycle for the scholarships to be awarded for the school year beginning in August 2024. There are currently five scholarships available to be awarded ranging in amount from \$1,000 up to \$2,500.

Application forms and guidelines are available by email request or at the Parish Office. The deadline for submitting completed applications is May 3, 2024. To receive a packet by email or if you have any questions, please email Steve McElroy, Scholarship Committee Chairman, at mcelroyfs@verizon.net or call 941-539-4263.

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.

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

MEMBERSHIP WEEKEND -

The weekend of March 2-3rd has been designated as "MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY" for recruiting new members to our Council.

Although we have met our Membership Goal for this fraternal year, we will continue to recruit for new members as they represent the future success of our Council. New Members must be a practicing Catholic, 18+ years of age.

We ask your help to reach out to potential K of C candidates. You can contact Chancellor Chris Pariseau, at his email pariseau314@outlook.com or his telephone # 443-994-7397. .

WEBSITE UPDATE -

Our #7826 website has had a facelift. Our previous design was one continuous 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

2024 SPRING TRAINING BASEBALL SEASON GETS OFF TO A GREAT START!

On Saturday, February 24th, the Baltimore Orioles opened their 2024 Spring Training Season against the Boston Red Sox. And St. Thomas Council 7826 and Incarnation Council 15332 began their 13th consecutive year jointly operating a concession stand at Ed Smith Stadium.

What an Opening Day! The weather was sunny and bright, and Ed Smith Stadium was filled with a sellout crowd of 7,920 fans. To make the day a success, the Orioles won the game with a walk-off 2-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning for a 4-3 victory.

St. Thomas More and Incarnation Councils also had a great day at their Outdoor Patio Grill Concession Stand. For the fourth year, the stand sold hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, sausage with peppers and onions, draft beer, soda, water, popcorn, potato chips, cracker jacks and peanuts. And sell they did! During a four-hour period, the stand served 501 customers and generated \$12,748.75 in sales. At the end of the day, the stand earned \$1,181.98 in commissions and \$1,461.94 in tips for a total of \$2,643.92. What a great start to the 16-game schedule.

In the last week of February, the Orioles played the Tampa Bay Rays, Detroit Tigers and the Pittsburgh Pirates. March starts off with a game against the New York Yankees, which should be a sellout. The Orioles will also play the Atlanta Braves, Boston Red Sox, Detroit Tigers, Minnesota Twins, Philadelphia Phillies, Pittsburgh Pirates, Tampa Bay Rays and Toronto Blue Jays. The season concludes on Saturday night, March 23rd.

The April Newsletter will provide a wrap-up of the 2024 Spring Training Season.



See You at the Ball Park!!

Charlie Culkin
Director, Spring Training Baseball

Committee Corner



TO



GOLF COMMITTEE UPDATE -

Our 3rd Annual K of C Council 7826 Golf Outing - to be held on May 6th of 2024 has a change of venue!

We have been advised that Legacy GC is in the process of being sold to the Heritage Golf Group (they also own TPC Prestancia) and will become a private club. It is anticipated the course will close in early-mid March for a period of time to allow the new owner to bring the course up to their standard. Our golf outing originally scheduled at Legacy GC has been moved to Sereona GC.

WGK Ralph Neller has negotiated with the principal of Serenoa Golf Course (sister course to Legacy GC), as to change our venue and to maintain the date of May 6th of 2024. Our golf outing will now be held at the Serenoa GC.

As of this writing, we are collecting all monies from the major sponsors, hole sponsors and golfers. We have advised all the golf teams / golfers of the change of venue, and we do anticipate some dilution of these golfers / teams. As of now, we are at full capacity of 28 teams or 112 golfers. We will respond to any change, if needed, due to the change of venue.



The Golf Committee has done a yeoman's job re: hole sponsors, major sponsors, golf teams et al as well as items for the goodie bags, raffle baskets and auction items.

Volunteers for the event have been confirmed, however, they too, have been notified of the venue change.

Simply said - we will need ASAP to work with the Serenoa administration on all aspects of the outing. As you can imagine we will have a lot of work to do between now and May 6th to make this a successful event. Yet, we have the full cooperation and capacity of Serenoa GC and its staff - and our golf outing has been well received by this group as to proceed on our behalf.

We still need all Brother Knights to consider being a hole sponsors - you or a business that you know, in your family's name, in memory of or any other recognition that is desired - to be placed on the golf course as a hole sponsor sign - donation is \$100 per sign.

I am very confident that our 3rd Annual K of C Council 7826 Golf Outing - will be a success. "Pray" for good weather for the event.

Please join me in thanking all the Members of the Golf Committee, our donors and supporters and volunteers of the event.

Ken Berberich

Chair - STM / K of C Council 7826 Golf Committee

Council Good of the Order

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

John Baldelli (son of Charles Baldelli)
 Alec & Shirley Berardinelli
 Ted Bogusz
 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)
 Ed Plankey
 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

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.

PGK Johnnie Turner thanks the Council for the prayers and support. Prayers work!



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.

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.

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

MARCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



March 5 - Joseph Tiffany

March 8 - Matt Leonardi

March 13 - Richard Griffith

March 23 - Vincent Grillo

March 25 - Andres Martinez

March 26 - Hank Peppard

March 26 - Anthony Kolankiewicz

March 29 - Thomas Nate

March 31 - Charles Tranter

K of C #7826 OFFICERS

Fr. Daniel Scanlan - Chaplain
frdaniel@stthomsmoresrq.org

Ralph Neller - Grand Knight
rneller65@outlook.com

Charlie Culkin - Deputy GK
cinandchas@verizon.net

Larry Hall - Financial Sec.
hallorhall@gmail.com

Ken Berberich - Treasurer
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Chris Pariseau - Chancellor
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Dan Bulinski - Recorder
danb6002@comcast.net

Dave Bracy - Warden
dsbracy@comcast.net

Joe Tiffany - Advocate
iav82@yahoo.com

Derek Noll - Lecturer
derekjnoll@msn.com

Corey Devito - 3yr Trustee
cmdevito@kaighnco.com

John Spinale - 2yr Trustee
jtspin912@gmail.com

Scott Deahna - 1 yr Trustee
scott34465@yahoo.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

- MEMBERSHIP Sunday is scheduled for March 2-3rd after all the Masses.
- The Officers' Meeting is scheduled for March 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- Cruise Raffle Tickets will be sold after all the Masses on March 9-10th outside the church.
- Our Lady of Charity Assembly Meeting (4th Degree) will be held on Monday, March 11th, at St. Patrick's.
- Our monthly "Knight's Mass" will be on Wednesday, March 13th, 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.
- The Council Business Meeting is scheduled for March 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center



- Our March Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for Sunday, March 17th after the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Masses in the Chelsea Center.
- The monthly Exemplification Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19th beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- The monthly Right to Life Prayer Walk will be on Thursday, March 28th between 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. in front of Planned Parenthood.
- There will not be a March Social given the crowded calendar this month. Our next Council Social will be held on April 14th with a Corporate Communion at the 10:00 a.m. Mass followed by a brunch at the Stoneybrook CC.
- **HAPPY EASTER !!! - March 31st**



Insurance Advisor

NEWS FROM OUR FRATERNAL FINANCIAL ADVISOR



Easter is the very end of March, the 31st, so I will take this time to hope you conclude your Lenten observances with a celebration of the Resurrection!

March is Ethics Awareness Month for the insurance industry. Oxford Languages defines ethics as “moral principles that govern a person’s behavior or the conducting of an activity” In many professions there is an ethical code that practitioners are to observe. In medicine, we’ve boiled down the Hippocratic oath to, “First, do no harm.” Attorneys have the American Bar Association’s “Model Rules of Professional Conduct.” In psychology there are codes of conduct for both treatment and for research.

The insurance industry is no different. Here at the Knights of Columbus I think all members are familiar with our founding principles:

- Charity
- Unity
- Fraternity
- Patriotism

These have been ingrained in us. However, there are also four Core Values that all who represent the Knights subscribe to. By “represent the Knights” we include Supreme Officers, employees, independent contractors like me, and other vendors and contractors who are expected to live up to our four Core Values. From our Code of Ethics and Conduct handbook the Core Values are these:

- Integrity: Firm adherence to ethics, honesty, and a moral code.
- Professionalism: Promoting the highest standards in all we do.
- Excellence: Leading by example and constantly striving to be the best.
- Respect: Treating each other with the highest regard.

I consider it an honor to be assigned to serve your Council and I take seriously my responsibility to care for each of you members. Furthering Blessed Michael McGivney’s vision of caring for the widow and orphan is my goal.

I hope to always live up to these Core Values in all my work with the Council and with each and every one of you.

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>



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Calendar - March, 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			1	2 Membership Weekend - 4.00 p.m. Mass C
3 Membership Weekend - All Masses - C	4	5	6 Officers' Mtg 7:00 p.m. SC	7	8	9 Cruise Raffle Sales - 4:00 p.m. Mass - C
10 Cruise Raffle Sales - All Masses C	11 Our Lady of Charity Assembly 7:00 p.m. - St. Pat's	12	13 Knight's Mass@ 8:00 a.m. - C	14 Council Mtg. 7:00 p.m. SC	15	16
17 Pancake Breakfast 8-10:00 am Masses CC	18	19 Exemplification 6:30 p.m. SC	20	21	22	23
24 PALM SUNDAY	25	26	27	28 HOLY THURSDAY Prayer Walk 9-1:00 p.m. at Planned Parent	29 GOOD FRIDAY	30 HOLY SATURDAY
31 EASTER SUNDAY	2	3	4	5	6	7