



*Knights of Columbus*

*Council 2505*

*St. Joseph's Church*

*Lakeland, FL*

*March 2024*

*Celebrating 100 Years of Service 1924 - 2024*

## *A message from the Grand Knight*



Worthy Brothers,

There are some great things going on in March which you can become involved in.

First, our Lenten Fish Fry is now in the third week. The first two weeks have been a success because of our volunteers. Brother Knights and their wives and the Columbiettes have been volunteering their time to bring our church community and other communities the best fish fry in Lakeland. We could use more Knights, especially in the dining room serving our guests. We have great help from the Columbiettes and wives but need to have more Knights visible. Other Knights of Columbus Councils are running Fish Frys with just Knights. I know our Council could do this also if we wanted to. Come on out for a Friday or two. The compliments you get from our guests are great!

On Tuesday nights at 6:30 in the Parish Hall is a five part series on the Eucharist. The first two weeks have been very interesting. It brings readings from the Old Testament with the Gospel to show you where the history of today's Eucharist came to be in our Mass. Brother Knights Jay Bice and Daniel Wagner are leading this series which is sponsored by the Knights. Many Catholic leaders including our own Bishop has declared that this year we should focus on the Eucharist and its meaning. This is a great way to do just that. Just because the first two weeks are over doesn't mean you can't attend. Each week new topics are discussed. Again, this is on Tuesday nights, starts right at 6:30 and ends by 8:30. Refreshments are provided by the Knights.

The 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of March is the second weekend of The Tootsie Roll Drive. If you haven't signed up, email Bob Renna to volunteer. We are the only council in Lakeland doing this event. Why do we do this every year? Every penny we collect goes to Special Olympics and ROAR (formerly known as Noah's Ark). Both these organizations do a fantastic job working with special needs children and adults. ROAR is right here in Lakeland and is an incredible organization. Again, every penny that we collect goes to these two organizations. Our Council also donates to what is collected. A couple of hours of your time could make a big difference to a special needs child or adult. When people come out of a Publix store they are happy to help in this cause. We don't ask you to twist anyone's arm to donate.

One last thing that has been rolled out last month is our new website. Our name is KOFC2505.org. We are just getting it rolling. Things you can see and do right now: see over 300 pictures of our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, view Council Officers and email them, there will be a library of newsletters, a calendar of upcoming events, and, in the members only section, you can see members' birthdays, email any member in our Council, record your volunteer hours after every event so you don't have to try and remember them at the end of the year, nominate a Family of the Month, and much more. I ask you to please visit the website and browse through it. If you have any questions about it or would like to see something added to it please email me. I believe this could be a very important tool to communicate to all members and for all members to communicate to anyone in our council.

Vivant Jesus,

Mark Sagen



### Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney Prayer

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, You called Your priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow Your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling His commandment of charity and building up His Body, which is the Church. Let the inspiration of Your servant prompt us to greater confidence in Your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that You glorify Your venerable servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of Your holy will.

Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (*here make your request*), through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## ***Considering a 4th Degree?***



Hello Brother Knights of Council 2505: This message is for those of you whom have not yet attained your 4th Degree. Please see below the schedule of 4th Degree Exemplifications scheduled in 2024 here in Florida.

**May 11th, 2024** (Saturday) Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Naples, Fla. Naples is about a 2 1/2 to 3 hour drive from Lakeland. It is just south of Ft. Myers.

**June 15th 2024** (Saturday) Church of the Little Flower in Coral Gables, Fla; Coral Gables is near Miami.

**August 25th 2024** (Saturday) San Juan del Rio Catholic Church in St. John, Fla (St. John is just south of Jacksonville, Fl and is about 190 miles from Lakeland (about a 3-4 hour drive).

The Exemplification is now open for wives and family members to attend the exemplification ceremony.

If you are interested in progressing and making your 4th Degree in our Order, ***or learning more about the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree***, please contact Charlie Stokes by phone at 863-899-6005 to discuss.

## ***Lectio Eucharist -- An update from our program leaders***

***Jay Bice and Daniel Wagner***



**Lectio:  
Eucharist  
Videos by Dr.  
Brant Pitre**

- *Presented consecutive Tuesdays at 6:30 PM for 5 weeks beginning February 20<sup>th</sup>*
- *Saint Joseph Lakeland Parish Hall*
- *Small group discussions follow videos*
- *Snacks and light refreshments will be provided*

*Hosted by Knights of Columbus Council #2505*



The first Sessions of "Lectio: Eucharist" were attended by over two dozen people on February 20, 2024 at Saint Joseph Parish Hall, Lakeland, Florida. Hosted by the Knights of Columbus, Council #2505, the attendees were Knights, the Saint Joseph Columbiettes, Saint Joseph staff, Parishioners, and even a brief visit by our Brother, Father Luis Salazar. The inspiring videos by Dr. Brant Pitre prompted some profound discussions, insights and even some entertaining levity. Light refreshments and snacks were provided.

The series of "Lectio: Eucharist" sessions are continued for the next four Tuesdays in Lent at Saint Joseph Parish Hall at 6:30 pm until about 8:30 pm. ***All local Catholics and non-Catholics adults*** are invited to come and learn more about Eucharist at these fulfilling presentations.

## ***Why do we pray?***

Unfortunately, we too often see requests for prayers in eMails and in our Facebook page for our Brother Knights and their families who are facing serious illnesses and death.

But, why do we pray?

God invites us into a relationship with Him that is both personal and communal. He speaks to us through His Son, Jesus Christ, the Word-made-flesh. Prayer is our response to God who is already speaking or, better yet, revealing Himself to us. Therefore, prayer is not merely an exchange of words, but it engages the whole person in a relationship with God the Father, through the Son, and in the Holy Spirit.

The Conference of Catholic Bishops, in reminding us of the Spiritual Work of Mercy *“Praying for the Living and the Dead”*, teaches us that prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can support others. Joining together in prayer for the living and the dead entrusts us all into God's care.

Closely related to *“Praying for the Living and the Dead”* is the Spiritual Work *“Comforting the Sorrowful”* which we can practice by

- Lending a listening ear to those going through a tough time
- Write a letter or send a card to someone who is suffering
- Consider obtaining a Mass Card from the Parish Office for the living or the deceased

A few moments of your day may make a lifetime of difference to someone who is going through a difficult time and will make a lifetime of difference in ***your*** life as well.

(For more information regarding **Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy** follow these links



<https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/jubilee-of-mercy/the-corporal-works-of-mercy>  
<https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/jubilee-of-mercy/the-spiritual-works-of-mercy>. )

(Source: United States Council of Catholic Bishops)



# ***March Call for Volunteers***

**Tootsie Roll Drive Dates**  
**Volunteers Are Needed !!!**

**March 9th and 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Contact Bob Renna 863-646-0129**



February started well in spite of the rain. We are seeking additional volunteers for the tootsie roll drive that is scheduled for **March 9th and 10th**. We will be at three (3) different Publix stores that weekend.

***Please call SK Robert Renna at 863-646-0129 if you are able to volunteer.***

***Lenten Fish Fry – A great time to give a little time and work with your brother Knights: Fridays at 4PM Our first 2 weeks' results are in.***

KofC Fish Fry 2024			
	Items Sold		
	Week 1	Week 2	Total
Item Name	16-Feb	23-Feb	Sales
Baked Fish Dinner with Fries	4	10	14
Baked Fish Dinner with Baked Potato	15	12	27
COMBO Dinner with Baked Potato	14	17	31
COMBO Dinner with Fries	11	14	25
Fried Fish Dinner Baked Potato	31	30	61
Fried Fish Dinner with Fries	19	17	36
Shrimp Dinner with Baked Potato	7	11	18
Shrimp Dinner with Fries	13	8	21
Total Dinners Sold	114	119	233
Baked Fish A LA CARTE	1	4	5
Clam Chowder	17	12	29
Fried Fish A LA CARTE	5	4	9
Salad Bar	4	3	7
Shrimp A LA CARTE	4	2	6
Total A LA CARTE ITEMS Sold	31	25	56
Tip	0	3	3
Tips	19	17	36
Total Tips	19	20	39
Total Transactions	164	164	328

As always, we would like *all Knights* to assist in our weekly Friday Lenten event. Consider joining the effort on one of the Fridays for part of the evening, greeting and serving our parishioners, their friends, and guests a meatless dinner.

*Invite your friends to the best fish fry in Lakeland.*

*A special tip of the hat to Brother Richard Miller, Council Treasurer, for providing updates on our progress in the above chart and the many Brother Knights and Columbiettes who participate in our Fish Frys*





## *Two new Knights added to Council – Exemplification Feb 12*

Council 2505 welcomed two new Brother Knights (Tim Taylor and Santos Nwachukwu) in our exemplification ceremony on Monday the 12th of February. Our Grand Knight Mark Sagen officiated the service with Knights Scott Phillips (DGK) Bill Thompson, Bob Renna, and District Deputy Billy Antley presenting. Our Brother Father Francois Charles led us in prayer and gave all attending a closing blessing.



## *Protecting the Unborn*

Volunteers *are still needed* to support the 40Days For Life Vigil Prayer Chain.

This very visible and effective effort is significant in our community in bringing attention to the ongoing practices of abortion clinics in Lakeland.

Please consider contacting [Lakeland40daysforlife.com](http://Lakeland40daysforlife.com) to join in prayer to protect the unborn and help bring an end to abortion.



With God's help here are the results

**Over 20,000 babies saved**

**Over 200 abortion workers converted**

**Over 100 abortion clinics closed**

**Join the Vigil Feb 14 – Mar 24**

***Learn More - Contact us at***

**[Lakeland40daysforlife@gmail.com](mailto:Lakeland40daysforlife@gmail.com)**

**[40daysforlife.com/lakeland](http://40daysforlife.com/lakeland)**



## *A Night to Remember – Columbiettes present a Night in Tuscany*

The Columbiettes outdid themselves again with a terrific Tuscan themed dinner dance with a contingent of Council 2505 Knights assisting with music, in the kitchen, and generally joining the fun. This first *"Night in Tuscany"* event is a major fundraiser for the Columbiettes who sold out 80 tickets to the dinner, the menu of which included spaghetti and meatballs, Italian sausage, salads and desert. Dancing included the musical stylings of our very own Grand Knight Mark Sagen, who kept the party moving with standards and line dancing (Electric Slide), Chicken Dance and YMCA.

Thought to be a total success, the Columbiettes will be repeating this event as part of their fundraising repertoire next year.



## Dates to Remember

Member Birthdays		
March		
Name	Birthday	Age
Mr Gregory L Thomas	03-06-1956	68
Mr Gerald F Karels	03-15-1935	89
Mr Brandon R Payne	03-16-1990	34
Mr Daniel P Charland	03-17-1970	54
Mr John J Barrett	03-21-1981	43
Mr Joseph R Buckler	03-21-1936	88
Mr Bobby J Brigman	03-26-1966	58
Wife Birthdays		
March		
Member's Name	Wife's Name	Birthday
Mr James M Palmer	Diane Palmer	03-01
Mr Charles James Stokes	Mary Stokes	03-16
Mr Juan Guillermo Casasnovas	Maria Isabel Martino	03-21
Mr David A Reilly	Michelle Reilly	03-24
Mr Magnus C Nwachukwu	Maryjane A. Nwachukwu	03-25
Mr Thomas A Waller	Eleanor Waller	03-28
Mr Daniel F Pilka	Cindy Hardin - Pilka	03-30
Member Wedding Anniversaries		
March		
Name	Date	Wife's Name
Mr Billy W Antley	03-02-1990	Elisa Antley
Mr Clyde Joseph Gengler	03-11-1960	Ina Gengler
Mr Jason M Troller	03-11-2011	Iris Beltran-Ruiz
Mr Mark T Sagen	03-14-1981	Jeri Sagen
Mr Dakota William Trull	03-27-2021	Karlie Trull



## March Important Dates

March 1st (and the following 3 Fridays)	Friday	Knights Fish Fry (Prep 4:00) (Service begins 4:30 PM)	4:30 PM
March 5th (and the following 3 Tuesdays)	Tuesday	Lectio: Eucharist (with discussion and refreshments)	6:30 PM
March 7th	Thursday	Knights' Business Meeting (Rosary at 6:00 PM) (Meeting at 6:30 PM)	6:00 PM
March 18th	Monday	Assembly 2546 Meeting St. Joseph	7:00 PM

*A follow up from Lori Edwards - Be sure to Vote on March 19th! Look after our Brothers and their families in assisting them in getting to the polls.*

**Be Neighborly on Election Day!**

**March 19th**

Getting to the polls to vote can be a challenge for people with no transportation. Please remember your friends & neighbors who could benefit from a ride to your precinct on Election Day.



**SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS**  
POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
**Lori Edwards**

[PolkElections.gov](http://PolkElections.gov) (863) 534-5888

**Vote in the Comfort of Your Home!**

To request a Mail Ballot visit our website **PolkElections.gov** or call **534-5888**



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*Brothers – please take a few moments  
to remember our Brother Knights*

*Deacon Ray Sakowski  
Eric Thomas  
Bob Hoffman*

*And their families in your  
Prayers for the Sick.*



*Thanks to our contributors this month:*

*Bob Renna*

*Barbara Duncan*

*Mary Jones*

*Jay Bice*

*Charlie Stokes*

*Have something to share, an idea for an article or leading an event?*

*Contact Doug Cooper [Dougstjoe@gmail.com](mailto:Dougstjoe@gmail.com) to have your contribution  
included in next month's newsletter.*

*"Be anxious about nothing, but in all things by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God which passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." **Phillipians 4:6-7***