



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

BISHOPVEROT COUNCIL # 5845



ICCC
MELBOURNE BEACH

March 2026

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Mike Fischer

Trustee (1 year)
Dr. Robert Krenzer

From the Grand Knight



For college basketball fans March Madness includes conference championship play and the NCAA tournament. For the Knights, it included two sold out events, a 'Not Your Ordinary Fish Dinners' and for the first time in seven years, an HNJ St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance.

Two hundred+ guests attended our March 6th Lenten Fish dinner. BK Rod Holtzworth and his band of merry helpers prepared a dinner of baked crab stuffed haddock, buttermilk fried fish, double baked potatoes and more and received rave reviews from those in attendance. Those who helped set up and decorate the Life Center Hall, those who plated and served the food and drinks and those who also collected dinner tickets and sold the 50/50 drawing tickets also deserve a hearty, 'a job well done!'



Also on March 6th, Sk Tom Fair lead the first Friday rosary in the Community room.



From the Grand Knight Continued



On March 17, St Patrick's day, SK Brad Asiaf and volunteer Knights prepared Corned Beef and Cabbage, Cottage Pie and other goodies for another well satisfied sold out crowd.



SK Tom Fair and a dozen knights and wives helped as runners and servers, while SK Tom G. and SK Jamey and their ladies kept the wine, beer, and Irish coffee flowing.





From the Grand Knight Continued



Prior to the event, Joan Crabtree, and volunteers, beautifully set up the Life Center Hall that made it stand out beyond what you would get at other establishments on this day. The efforts of Michi, who sold 50/50 tickets, Frank and Joe, who manned the door, and Jeff, who had our sound system up and running also should be recognized.



Irish step dancers from the Montgomery Frank dance academy, HNJ elementary school singers, and Don Alexander and the Alley-Gators band, along with a group of Knight crooners, entertained us from 5:00 pm till 9:00 pm.





From the Grand Knight Continued



Taking a step back, on February 24, at our exemplification ceremony, we brought on four new members to our council: Dr. James Parker, Leo Tocco, Dr. Lee Tosi and Thomas Broom and upgraded Stephen Kidd to the Brotherhood degree (formally 3rd degree). In addition, David Torissi and Bill Scott transferred into our council.



 Lenten Dinners



A big thank you to the Knights who came forward to sell tickets for the past two dinner and for the upcoming, March 27th fish dinner.





From the Grand Knight Continued



On February 26th the Knights assisted Live4More to put on a Men's Night with speaker Joe McGivney, a distant cousin to our Blessed Father Michael McGivney. Joe's witness was powerful and he introduced us to a charity, endorsed by Supreme K of C, that celebrated its 70th years of helping Catholic Priests, Deacon, and religious Sisters, and Brothers with addiction problems. You will be hearing more about this over the next few months.



On March 1st, we were blessed to receive the Silver Rose. This icon, started 60 years ago by a youthful group of Knights in Mexico City was meant to pay honor to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patron Saint of the Americas and the Knights. Today there are eight Silver Roses being taken across Northern America from Mexico to Canada by 'Knights on Bikes'.

Our Council was one of four in Brevard County that displayed the Silver Rose.





From the Grand Knight Continued



At the March business meeting, BK Dustin Woodbury was presented with the Knight of the Month Award. Dustin is one of those quiet Knights who seems to be at every event we have, helping in one way or another. Christ Renews Us, Parish Picnic, and Back to school BBQ's, Live4More breakfasts and dinners, new members Recruiting weekends, Prayer Card distributions, Coffee and Donuts Sundays, United in Thanksgiving, Fraternal Benefit night, Keep Christ in Christmas sales, Bibles on Parade, Christmas tree sales, HNJ science fair, Event ticket sales, and Lenten Fish dinners.



SK Michael and Joanne Fischer were awarded the March Family of the Month award.

Mike is another one of our brothers who consistently signs up to volunteer for a variety of Knight activities. He helps with parish ministry BBQs, Prayer card distributions, United in Thanksgiving parking, Quonset hut installation and removal, Christmas tree sales, FIT dinners, new members recruit weekends, HNJ science Fair, event ticket sales, Bibles on Parade, Poster Contest, and Lenten Fish dinners.

You will not find Joanne's name on our sign-up sheets but if you look around our Church campus you will see her in a variety of activities. Joanne is a Eucharistic Minister and also brings the eucharist to the home bound and Zon assisted living facility. She is one of the "shop angles" who run the HNJ gift shop. She is the Treasurer for Hearts Out to Haiti. She helps with the set up at Knight's events, like our Christmas dinner and Lenten fish dinners. And, she helps with counting the week-end Mass donations.

All of these good works qualify Mike and Joanne for Family of the Month but their compassionate work with those less fortunate and in need make them stand out. For years they assisted Monsignor Paige with outings and meals, Joanne visits and provided needed assistance for two elderly women with Alzheimer's while Mike took it on himself to organize Knights to assist Brother Knight Stan, while Sister Fran was hospitalized and undergoing physical therapy for a knee replacement.



From the Grand Knight Continued



March 7th was a busy day with Laps for Life and the State level Basketball Challenge, both taking place at Melbourne Central Catholic High School. Thousands of dollars were raised at the Laps for Life event which will go towards the purchase of ultrasound machines, a great weapon in the fight against the killing of unborn babies. Our own HNJ Lifers team, composed of Lynn Mallak, Randy and Eileen McClure, and Michi Davis came in behind Council 6145 in money raised. Our own Michi Davis came in first in the individual categories of laps walked and money raised.



On the evening of March 7, SK Jamey Reeves, our recorder and head of our social committee, arranged an event at Cadillac Cove beachside bar and grill in Satellite Beach. With over 40 Knights and wives, we had a great time.





From the Grand Knight Continued



In addition to the above, the following activities were accomplished during this month:

The SK Bob Krenzer led Knights, prepare another delicious spaghetti dinner for students at Florida Institute of Technology on March 11th.

The Knights under SK Carl Oehman served coffee and donuts after all of the third Sunday (March 15th) Masses.

Vivat Jesus!

Peter Gioia
Grand Knight
Council 5845



March Events

March	1	All Masses	Sell tickets to Lenten Fish Dinners/St Pat's Day	Atrium
	1	11:30am	Silver Rose-Life Rosary by Inborn Monument	Chapel
	3	7:00 pm	Business Meeting	Rm 101
	6	5:30-7:00pm	1st Lenten Fish Dinner	Life Center Hall
	6	7:00pm	1st Friday Rosary	Community Room
	7	10:00am	Basketball Challenge State Level	MCC Gym
	7	9:00am	Laps For Life	MCC Field
	7/8	All Masses	Sell tickets to Lenten Fish Dinners/St Pat's Day	Atrium
	7	5:00pm	Council Social	Cadillac Cove
	14/15	All Masses	Sell tickets to Lenten Fish Dinners/St Pat's Day	Atrium
	15	All Masses	Coffee and Donuts	Community Room
	17	5:00 pm	St. Patrick's Day Diner/dance	Life Center Hall
	21	10:30am	Christ Renews Us-BBQ	Pavilion
	21/22	All Masses	Sell tickets to Lenten Fish Dinners/St Pat's Day	Atrium
	22	11am-2pm	HNJ Carwash Fundraiser	Friendly's Restaurant
	27	5:30-7:00pm	2nd Lenten Fish Dinner	Life Center Hall
	29	6:30pm	Fifth Sunday Rosary	Chapel



Insurance



Fr. McGivney – The Vision Of A Saint

The funeral was over. Another one.

Father Michael McGivney stood in the cemetery dirt, watching another widow try to figure out how she'd feed her children tomorrow. Her husband had died in a factory accident. No insurance. No savings. No help coming.

This was the third funeral this month. Always the same story.

The woman looked at him with desperate eyes. "What do I do now, Father?"

He had no answer. Not a real one anyway.

Michael had grown up watching this happen. His own father worked brutal hours in a brass mill, breaking his body for pennies. When Irish families like his came to America fleeing starvation, they found a different kind of hell waiting.

"No Irish Need Apply." The signs were everywhere.

Catholics couldn't get decent jobs. Couldn't get insurance. Couldn't get help when tragedy struck. And tragedy struck constantly in those dangerous factories and rail yards.

Every week, Michael buried someone. A father crushed by machinery. A mother dead from disease. Children who never had a chance.

After each funeral came the same heartbreak. Families destroyed overnight. Widows sent to poorhouses that were basically prisons. Children scattered to orphanages or left on the streets.

Michael couldn't sleep anymore. He'd walk the dark streets of New Haven, seeing families huddle in cold tenements, knowing that one accident, one illness, one bad day would destroy everything they had.

The other priests told him this was just how things were. The rich took care of the rich. The poor suffered alone.

But Michael refused to accept that.

Late one night in 1882, he had an idea that seemed almost too simple. What if Catholic men banded together? What if they pooled their money? When one of them died, his family would get help from everyone else.

It wasn't charity. It was brotherhood.

He started gathering men in St. Mary's basement. Factory workers with calloused hands. Shop clerks earning barely enough to survive. Immigrants who spoke broken English but understood perfectly what it meant to struggle.

"We take care of each other," he told them. "When your family needs help, we'll be there. When mine needs help, you'll be there."



Insurance Continued



They called it the Knights of Columbus. The name meant something. Columbus was Catholic. Catholics belonged in America just as much as anyone else.

The first meetings were small. Maybe a dozen men sitting on wooden crates, planning how to save each other's families.

But word spread through the immigrant neighborhoods. Here was something different. Here was hope.

Michael threw himself into the work like a man possessed. He already worked eighteen-hour days as a priest. Celebrating Mass at dawn. Visiting the sick all day. Hearing confessions until midnight.

Now he added this. Recruiting members. Organizing meetings. Handling paperwork. Traveling to other cities to start new groups.

Friends begged him to slow down. He looked skeletal. His hands shook from exhaustion.

"There's no time," he'd say. "Another family is suffering right now."

The Knights grew. Slowly, then faster. When a member died, his widow received money that let her keep her home. His children stayed fed. The system worked.

Michael never stopped pushing himself. Never took a break. Never said no when someone needed help.

By 1890, his body was failing. He could barely stand through Mass. His cough wouldn't go away.

Then pneumonia hit New Haven. As always, Michael went out to the sick. Gave them last rites. Comforted dying families. Breathed their infected air.

He caught it himself.

His friends carried him to bed. For the first time in years, Father Michael McGivney had to stop working.

On August 14, 1890, two days after his 38th birthday, he died. Worn out. Used up. Gone.

He never got to see what he'd built.

When Michael died, the Knights had maybe three thousand members. Small. Hopeful. Nothing more.

He died thinking he'd helped a few families. Made a small difference. Maybe.

He had no idea.

Today, the Knights of Columbus has two million members worldwide. They've given billions to charity. They provide life insurance to millions of Catholic families. They run programs in dozens of countries.

Every dollar donated traces back to that exhausted priest who wouldn't stop working.



Insurance Continued



In 2020, the Catholic Church declared him Blessed Michael McGivney, one step from sainthood.

But here's what gets me about his story. He never got his victory moment. Never saw the crowds. Never received the applause. Never knew his work mattered on this scale.

He just kept going until his body gave out. Trusting that somehow, helping one family at a time would add up to something bigger than he could imagine.

Most of us want to see our impact. We want results we can measure. Recognition we can feel.

Michael McGivney got none of that. He just worked himself to death for people he'd never meet, creating something he'd never see.

And maybe that's the most powerful kind of service there is. The kind that asks for nothing back except the faith that somewhere, somehow, it matters.

Vivat Jesus!

Best Regards,

John Barfield, CLTC, FICF

(Cell) 407-433-5421 – (Office) 321-294-3086

Email: John.barfield@kofc.org



Bishop Verot
Council # 5845
Holy Name Of Jesus Catholic Church

Knight of the Month for February
Dustin Woodbury

Family of the Month for February
Micheal & Joanne Fischer




John Barfield, CLTC, FICF
Assistant General Agent
Office: 321-294-3086
john.barfield@kofc.org
1900 S. Harbor City Blvd., Suite 321
Melbourne, FL 32901





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Knights of Columbus



In Service To One,
In Service To All

Upcoming Events:

- April 4th-Easter Sunrise Mass Setup at Canova Beach
- April 5th- Easter Sunrise Mass at Canova Beach
- April 7th-Business meeting, 7:00pm at Room 101
- April 12th-K of C Corporate Communion 10:30am at Church
- April 19th- Coffee & donuts after all morning masses, at community room
- April 19th/20th-Recruit Weekend, All masses, Atrium
- April 21st-Planning Meeting , 7:00pm at Room 101
- April 22nd-FIT Spaghetti Dinner, 6pm at FIT Chapel
- April 28th-Exemplification, 7:00pm at church