



***Knights of Columbus  
Council 2505  
St. Joseph's Church  
Lakeland, FL  
December, 2025***

***Continuing Our Second Century of Service  
2025***

***A message from the Grand Knight***



Hello Worthy Brothers,

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. We are now fully into the holiday season. We just celebrated Thanksgiving, and I want to express my gratitude to all of you. We have a fantastic team of men working together, and we have already accomplished a lot this year. As we look forward to Christmas, I want to say thanks for all that you do for our Council and our church family.

I also want to share my wish that all of us have a wonderful Christmas and a Joyous New Year. We are celebrating the season on Sunday December 7th at 4pm in the parish hall. Please join us for our Council Christmas dinner. Of course, our amazing Columbiettes are invited, and families as well. We hope to see everyone there

May all the blessings of the season come to each of you and your family, and may God bless you all.

Vivat Jesus,

Scott

### **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.

***Please speak this prayer aloud as you read it.***

## **Volunteers Needed**

### **A Call For Volunteers**

Saved to this PC

***Worthy Brothers, there are many opportunities to join your brother Knights this season in working together in Knights' events. Contact Brian or Bill***

***Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Cooking at Christmas Parade in the Church Parking Lot 3PM – Brian***

***Dec 7<sup>th</sup> Breakfast with Santa – Kitchen support for Columbiettes 8AM – Brian***

***Dec 7<sup>th</sup> Holiday Dinner – Various needs 3PM – Brian***

***Nov 29<sup>th</sup> – Dec 21<sup>st</sup> Keep Christ in Christmas Sale – After each Mass on Saturday and Sunday during the Advent Season. Bill***

***Jan 17<sup>th</sup> March for Life Luncheon Support 10AM Parish Hall – Brian***

***Brian can be reached at 301.676.5681 [VBKROLAK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:VBKROLAK@GMAIL.COM)***

***Bill can be reached at 863.899.3019 [BILLTHOMP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BILLTHOMP@GMAIL.COM)***

Christmas Season is a very busy time for our Council and parish. There are numerous opportunities to serve St. Joseph and Lakeland community families. ***Send Brian or Bill a note or simply show up!***

***These are very convenient events for new Knights to get to know your Brothers and for long term Knights to get to know our new Brothers!***



## *Council 2505 Accepts the Sacred Heart Icon*



The Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon was accepted from DD SK Billy Antley and was presented in the front of St. Joseph Church from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of November. Pictured above are DGK SK Ken Dauphinais, DD SK Billy Antley and GK Scott Philips of Council 2505.

Through the Pilgrim Icon Program, Councils organize a [Sacred Heart Holy Hour](#) featuring an icon depicting the most famous image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, painted in 1767 by Pompeo Batoni and now venerated in the Church of the Gesù in Rome. The reproduction bears the blessing of Pope Francis, through the Papal Almoner, and is one of more than 300 icons traveling across the world, from Council to Council, for veneration and use in prayer services.

The Sacred Heart Holy Hour includes readings from Sacred Scripture and reflections from Pope Francis on the Sacred Heart, as well as the Divine Mercy Chaplet, prayers to the Sacred Heart and time for silent prayer. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament may also be included. Following the holy hour, families are encouraged to enthrone the Sacred Heart in their homes by placing an [image of the Sacred Heart](#) in a place of honor and conducting an [enthronement ceremony](#).

Since the first traveling pilgrim icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1979, more than 191,000 Council and parish prayer services with some 23 million participants have been held.

- Contributed by Ken Dauphinais

## *Important Info from the Parish's Weekly Bulletin*

### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

#### Vespers

Every Saturday 3:30 pm

#### Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Masses (Holy Day of Obligation)

December 8 12:00 pm, 5:30 pm, 7:00 pm Spanish

#### Communal Penance Service

December 11 7:00 pm Bilingual

#### Our Lady of Guadalupe Masses

December 12 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm Spanish

#### The Vigil of the Nativity Masses

December 24 4:00 pm, 6:30 pm Spanish

\*Christmas pageant will begin at 3:30 pm

\*Christmas Concert will begin at 11:15 pm

#### The Nativity of the Lord Masses

December 25 Midnight, 9:00 am, 11:00 am

#### Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Mass

(Holy Day of Obligation)

December 31 6:00 pm Vigil Mass

January 1 12:00 pm, 5:30 pm, 7:00 pm Spanish

#### Epiphany Mass

January 6 12:00 pm



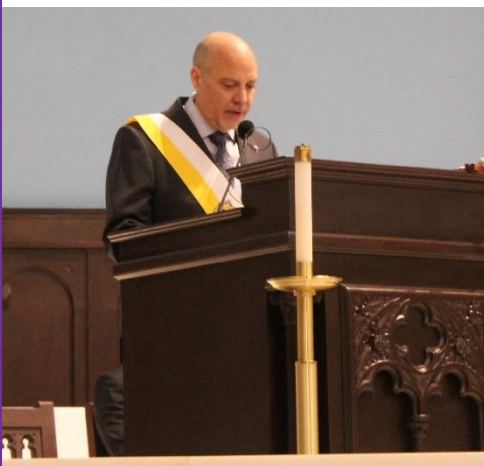
# *November Exemplification Adds 2 New Knights and Elevates a Long Term Brother to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree*

Brothers Fr. Valentine Ihim and Michael Ruhl received their 3<sup>rd</sup> Degrees as new Knights while Brother Jim Stevens was elevated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree in November 20<sup>th</sup>'s Exemplification ceremony.

Fr. Ihim, a recent immigrant to the US, is currently assigned to the Chaplaincy program at Watson General Hospital. Father holds a PhD in Societal Ethics and was ordained in his native country of Nigeria.

Michael is a local attorney and long-term parishioner at St. Joseph.

Rick Stevens is a long-time parishioner of St. Joseph whose extensive work in protecting life is shared with his wife Maryanne.



GK Scott Philips opens the Exemplification Ceremony



Fr. Ihim, Rick Stevens, and Michael Ruhl take the Knights' oath



DD SK Billy Antley welcomes the new Knights and encourages them to participate as Catholic men.



## **Council 2505 Knights**

R1 center to right in photo:

Fr. Ihim, M. Ruhl, R. Stevens, SK D. Cooper

R2. 2<sup>nd</sup> from left: Tim Taylor, GK Scott Phillips, PGK SK S. Jones, FN SK R. Pezanowski, ?, DD PGK SK Billy Antley

R3: DGK SK K Dauphinais, PGK SK R. Renna., B. Krolak, S. Patton



# *Multiple Councils' Knights Participate in Special Olympics*

Eighteen Knights and four spouses participated in the Florida Special Olympics held at Disney World on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The participants were assigned to score and retrieve on approximately 100 pickle ball matches for the Special Olympians whose skill levels stretched from novice to expert.

The Special Olympics has long been an important part of Council 2505's Charity and Community work with our brother Knights supporting past events at the Sport Center every Fall and Spring.

No one leaves these events unmoved by the participants, their parents and guardians' dedication to inclusion in sport and in assisting the event organizers in many ways.



Photos courtesy of Billy Antley

## *Century Pins Are Still Available*



Special thanks for PGK SK Bob Renna for acquiring large lapel pins memorializing our Council's 100<sup>th</sup> year of service to St. Joseph Parish and the Lakeland Community.

Pins are being distributed to member Knights at our business meeting and at all of our events, including the last business meeting, the recently past Ministry Fair, and the Open House.

*Getting a pin for yourself is easy – come to our next business meeting or volunteer to serve at any of our events this month.*

## *Protecting the Unborn is Every Season's Work – Consider joining in the effort.*

### *Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life*

Vigils outside of Lakeland Women's Health Center

4444 S Florida Ave, 7AM to 8PM Wed – Fri

Contact Don Schluender: 863.797.7696

[Lakeland40daysforlife@yahoo.com](mailto:Lakeland40daysforlife@yahoo.com)



# Important Dates

Member Birthdays			
<i>Name</i>		<i>Birthday</i>	<i>Age</i>
Mr John W Williamson		12-01-1968	57
Mr Timothy F Riordan		12-02-1954	71
Mr James C Tucker		12-04-2002	23
Mr Timothy S Brigman		12-06-1996	29
Mr Edward S Kubik Jr		12-08-1959	66
Mr Jeffrey G Trottier		12-09-1942	83
Mr Jesse J Outlaw		12-22-1997	28
Mr Charles L Battle		12-27-1938	87
Mr Travis Cole Maydish		12-27-1997	28
Mr Larry D Holmes		12-28-1944	81
Wife Birthdays			
<i>Member's Name</i>		<i>Wife's Name</i>	<i>Birthday</i>
Mr James E Schmidt		Helen Schmidt	12-12
Mr William J Thompson		Jasmine Thompson	12-18
Mr Gregory L Thomas		Kathleen Elizabeth Thomas	12-19
Mr David Pagán		Ruth Pagán	12-20
Mr Brian Anthony Krolak		Vickie Krolak	12-21
Mr Steven W Lannon		Peggy Lannon	12-22
Mr James E Manning		Donna Manning	12-31
Member Wedding Anniversaries			
<i>Member's Name</i>		<i>Date</i>	<i>Wife's Name</i>
Deacon Jason Bulman		12-20-2008	Rachel Bulman
Mr Charles L Battle		12-24-1958	Linda (Myra) Battle
Mr Ian M Caauwe		12-29-2012	Shannon Caauwe
Mr William E Phalen		12-29-1956	Virginia M. Phalen
Mr Manuel Velazquez		12-29-2018	Bethany Velazquez
Mr Juan Guillermo Casasnovas		12-31-2004	Maria Isabel Martino



## ***A Knight's Service Comes in Many Forms***

Recognizing the ongoing need to support Catholic Charities, particularly in this holiday season, the Knights donated \$2,500 to bolster the seasonal distribution of turkeys and other foods during one of November's weekly food distribution days.



Presenting the gift are three of our brother Knights, SK DGK Ken Dauphinais, Jim Schmidt, a long time Knight and volunteer at the food pantry, and Tim Taylor, also a weekly volunteer assisting the food distribution.

Accepting the donation for Catholic Charities of Central Florida is Raiza Torres (in red), the Food Facility Assistant Manager, along with a platoon of volunteers from St. Joseph Womens Emmaus and the St. Joseph Columbiettes.

## Busy Month(s) Ahead for Council 2505

<b>December Calendar</b>			
<b>Dec 1st</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Officers' Meeting</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>Nov 30<sup>th</sup> – Dec 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Evening Vespers</b> <b>Volunteers needed to read.</b> <b>Call Doug Cooper 954.589.9446</b>	<b>Before 4:00 PM Mass</b> <b>@ 3:30PM</b>
<b>Dec 5th</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Holy Hour – Vespers</b> <b>First Friday Liturgy</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Dec 7th</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Breakfast with Santa</b>	<b>After 9 AM Massf</b>
<b>Dec 7th</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Christmas Dinner</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
<b>Dec 6th – 21st</b>	<b>Saturday</b> <b>Sunday</b>	<b>Christ in Christmas Fundraiser</b> <b>Volunteers needed</b> <b>Call Bill Thompson</b> <b>863.899.3019</b>	<b>Before and After Mass</b>
<b>Dec 8th</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Council Business Meeting</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Dec 15th</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Degree Meeting</b> <b>@ St. Joseph</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 2026</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March for Life</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>



# *A New Study Series Announced*

## **Come Holy Spirit, Come!!**

*by Rick Stevens*

The Knights of Columbus will be presenting a parish wide 14 Part series commencing on January 6th 2026 entitled “The Wild Goose”, (Celtic phrase for the Holy Spirit) in the Parish Hall.

In the first episode of the series, Father Dave Pivonka, standing in front of the roaring Niagara Falls, observes that there may come a day that the waters no longer flow over the falls. Yet, there will never be a day that the Holy Spirit does not pour forth His love into each of our hearts.

“How much gratitude can we have in our hearts for the Holy Spirit that loves us beyond measure, no matter what we have done in our lives and no matter what we have failed to do?”

It is a profound thought to know that the Holy Spirit has helped in shaping our lives in good times and in bad, in times of health, in times of suffering, and in times when life does not make sense or in times of darkness. The Holy Spirit has been our light, past, present, and future.

Each of us have stories and remembrances to tell and share with our fellow Catholics at St Joseph in order to further appreciate the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Each part of the 14 series is beautifully crafted and centered on the Holy Spirit by Fr. Dave and opens the door to small group sharing.

Please pray for a renewal in our Church as we invite the Holy Spirit deeper into our hearts.

**Come Holy Spirit, Come!!**

*For additional series regarding our Catholic faith and teachings - <https://wildgoose.tv>*



## *January Exemplification*



## Knights of Columbus

# FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION

### REACH YOUR HIGHEST POTENTIAL

The Fourth Degree is a group of outstanding Knights, dedicated to promoting patriotism enlightened by their Catholic faith. These Knights, distinguished by exemplary deeds for God, for country, and the Order, are united by the Fourth Degree to support religious, civic, and charitable causes.

Fourth Degree members belong to local units called assemblies. Each assembly is involved in a wide range of public patriotic activities.

Each assembly maintains a Fourth Degree Color Corps and Honor Guard. Uniformed members wearing the Official Uniform, and swords participate in special civic and religious ceremonies. For this reason, the Fourth Degree is often called the visible arm of the Knights of Columbus.

### ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for the Fourth Degree, one must:

1. Be over 18 years of age.
2. Be a member in good standing with your Council.
3. Be a practical Catholic.

**CHARITY★UNITY★FRATERNITY★PATRIOTISM**

Contact Charlie Stokes

[Cstokes9@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Cstokes9@tampabay.rr.com)

For more info

**Jan.  
31,  
2026**

St. Mark the Evangelist Church  
9724 Cross Creek Blvd  
Tampa, FL 33647

Registration at 9:00 AM  
Exemplification at 11:00 AM  
Banquet at 2:00 PM  
Mass at 4:00 PM

\*\*\*All applications for membership for the Fourth Degree and banquet reservations must be received by January 17



## *In Brief*

- Bob Renna reports that more than 40 **Veterans' Star Cards** were distributed this month. These cards recognize the service our Veterans gave to our country. If you are a veteran or know a veteran, Bob has extra cards for you. The Veteran need not be a Knight to receive a card. Contact Bob.
- The **Catholic Men of Lakeland** (formerly Men of St. Joseph's) hold monthly meetings to share in matters of the Catholic faith in social settings in Lakeland. All men are welcome to attend.

For more info on the "Catholic Men of Lakeland", please contact  
J. J. Niekro at 1-813-365-0519.

***Keep in mind, we're all recruiters of Catholic men.***




Knights of  
Columbus




**Why *you* should  
become a Knight**

If you're interested in helping those in need,  
serving our parish, growing in your faith,  
or having exclusive access to top-rated  
insurance protection for your family,  
then the Knights of Columbus is the  
organization for you.



Knights of  
Columbus

**Why Join?**



We have plenty of hand out materials describing our principles as Knights as well as materials describing our Faith in Action programs. Please reach out to me, Doug Cooper, our Financial Secretary, Charlie Stokes, or our Grand Knight, Scott for materials, referrals, or coaching. in your recruiting efforts.

# An Advent Prayer from Our Brother

Deacon Jason Bulman

† Fill me with Advent peace, Lord Jesus.

*"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" (Ps 122:1)*

*In the second chapter of Ephesians, St. Paul tells those to whom he writes at Ephesus that they are "fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God." We understand this to be true of us as well: We belong to the household of God, the Church. How often do we truly rejoice in this amazing truth? The Church, like Christ, is both human and divine. With the Holy Spirit as her center, the Church is called to stand as a source of unity and consolation in a world tragically divided. In her deepest nature, the Church is not primarily administrator or judge, but mother. As such, she offers a safe haven. She beckons us to come and find comfort in her arms as we lay our heads in her lap. Mother Church washes us clean in the waters of Baptism and feeds us with bread of the finest wheat. She listens to us and offers us healing as she reminds us that we are her beloved children. She will inspire and encourage us to take our places among the holy ones, becoming the saints we are called to become by offering our gifts for the salvation of the world.*

*[Rest for a bit in silence with the Lord. Write down a list of all the ways in which you have known the Church as a loving mother. Rejoice and give praise for these precious gifts.]*

*"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"*

† Fill me with Advent peace, Lord Jesus. Amen



What came to be through Him  
was life,  
and this life was the light of  
the human race;  
the light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not  
overcome it. (John 2:3-5)

*Wishing our brother Knights and their families a  
Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Holy New Year*



*Many of our Brothers have contributed their thoughts and photos to the newsletter. It's easy to share successes and anecdotes as well.*

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

