



The Pinta Log

Bishop Thomas J. Grady Council 5618 · Altamonte Springs, FL



Grand Knight's Message to the Council

By Grand Knight, Joseph Pocius



Dear Brother Knights,

October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary and is a special time to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. On October 7, we celebrate the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Beginning in October, our council will host a Holy Hour on the first Friday of every month from 6:00–7:00 p.m. This is a beautiful opportunity to step away from the busyness of our lives, spend time in the presence of our Lord in the Eucharist, and give thanks for all the blessings He has given us.

It is also an opportunity to pray the Holy Rosary and reflect upon each prayer and mystery as we seek God's mercy and forgiveness. I encourage each of you to bring your personal intentions, your families, and those who may be in need of our prayers.

As St. Francis of Assisi reminds us:

"We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way."

Through prayer, fellowship, and service, let us continue to support one another and answer the call to serve our parish, our families, our community, and those most in need.

God Bless you and your families.

Vivat Jesus!

Joseph Pocius, Grand Knight

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Important Dates – Looking Ahead

Fri Oct 2	– First Friday Holy Hour 6:00 pm
Sat Oct 3	– Virtual Vocations Fundraiser Begins
Tue Oct 6	– Officers' Planning Meeting 7:00 pm
Wed Oct 7	– Clean the World 1:00 pm
Sat Oct 10	– Sharing Center 9:00 am
Sun Oct 11	– CCW Communion Breakfast 8:00 am
Mon Oct 12	– Assembly #1667 Meeting 7:00 pm
Tue Oct 13	– Council Meeting 6:30 pm (Guest Speaker)
Fri Oct 16	– Family Movie Night 7:00 pm
Sat Oct 17	– Rosary 4 Life 8:45 am
Sun Oct 18	– Parish Picnic 1:00 pm
Fri Oct 30	– Virtual Vocations Fundraiser Ends

Photo Contributors: Roger Copeland, Tom Poppell, Tom Weninger & Tom Przybyla
Editor: Nick Leon

Council website: www.kofcbishopgrady.org
 Pictures from Council events on our
[Facebook page](#)



We Are Called by Faith to Act!

By Deputy Grand Knight, Nicholas Leon



Worthy Brothers,

For October, our focus is on streamlining event logistics, strengthening our leadership team, and keeping our records up to date. I also want to welcome and thank Chris Kane, our new Chairman for the Veterans Family Communion Group.

Please join us on October 6 for our Virtual Officers' & Directors' Planning Session to review our upcoming calendar and goals.

October 6: Officers' & Directors' Planning Session

October 11: CCW Communion Breakfast

October 13: Council Meeting with guest speaker Joe McGivney

October 18: Parish Picnic (volunteers needed)

We now have **14 volunteers** helping with the October 11 CCW Communion Breakfast. Thank you! We are still looking for more volunteers, so please check your email for the [sign-up link](#).

We also look forward to welcoming guest speaker Joe McGivney at our October 13 council meeting.

The Parish Picnic is coming up on October 18, and **we are looking for volunteers**. We hope to have the Men's Group and our council help out together. More details will be coming out soon.

Directors & Chairs, please make sure your Safe Environment compliance is current, especially before volunteering at parish events. And please keep working with your Faith in Action chairs to track event hours and metrics for our end-of-year forms, and submit all event receipts promptly so our financials stay balanced.

Thank you to all our directors and chairs for keeping our programs running smoothly behind the scenes.

Vivat Jesus,

Nicholas "Nick" Leon

Deputy Grand Knight & Program Director
Council 5618



FAITH



COMMUNITY



FAMILY



LIFE



From Our Life Director

By James Taglia



Brothers,

October is Respect Life Month, which is why you'll notice the banner in the rear corner of the Altar. We must remember that LIFE, guaranteed under the Declaration of Independence, begins at Conception. I'm happy to share that we now have several brothers assisting in this program. It is no longer just Larry and myself.

40 Days for Life runs September 23 through November 1 (Larry Scotchie). Have you registered to pray in front of All Women's Clinic? We need you. We pray the rosary anyway, and it is even stronger when we pray together. Step up and register at 40daysforlife.com/en/altamontesprings/sop. On October 17, the Knights will pray our monthly rosary in front of All Women's Clinic. Join us as we pray for all those inside, especially the children being aborted and the women who are hurting.

Sep 23 – Nov 1: 40 Days for Life

October 17: Knights Monthly Rosary

January 16, 2027: Ave Maria March for Life

January 22, 2027: National March for Life

March 6, 2027: Laps4Life

Looking ahead, the National March for Life will be held in Washington, DC on January 22, 2027. If we want to send a group, we will need to arrange transportation and housing, so please tell me if you'd like to attend. The 6th Annual Ave Maria March for Life (Ave Maria, FL) is January 16, 2027, and we would need a bus or overnight housing. Its keynote speaker is Sr. Dede Byrne, OSC: surgeon, retired Army Colonel, and Mother Teresa's former personal physician.

On March 6, 2027, Central Florida Laps4Life takes place at Bishop Moore Catholic High School. Join Team Easy Ed and raise funds for the Ultrasound Initiative, which has funded over 75 machines, more than any other group of Knights globally. All hands on deck that day! Brother Pat Cavanaugh will sing the National Anthem.

Life must be respected from Conception to Natural Death. Since the start of 2026, Governor DeSantis has signed 18 death warrants, after a record 19 executions in 2025. Please pray for all involved, including the prosecutor, the Governor, the defense attorney, the defendant, and ALL the families. (Joe LoFaso)

We also support The ARC, led by Director Nate Obit, which includes Special Olympics, Day at the Ball Park, Day at the Track, and Morning Star School.

The rosary is even stronger when we pray together. Step up and join us.

Vivat Jesus,

James J. Taglia

Life Director

Bishop Grady Council 5618





Fraternal Benefits Advisor

By Eric Monte



Brothers, nearly half (47%) of adults say they would have trouble paying living expenses within six months of their primary wage earner's death.¹ No one wants to think about tragedy striking their family, but planning ahead is an important part of caring for those you love. Your decisions today have a direct impact on your family's financial future.

When Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882, he saw firsthand the precarious situation widows and orphans faced when a father died. He sought to relieve their burdens and care for those in need. Today, we proudly continue that tradition of guarding what matters most to our members: their families and their faith.

Income replacement through life insurance can be one part of that protection. As your circumstances change, I'm here to help you consider whether your coverage still aligns with your goals and priorities. That's why every year we ask for an update on any big life changes, such as buying a home, having a baby or retiring. This annual survey helps my team provide the personalized, faith-based service you deserve, and shows us how well we're fulfilling our mission.

Complete your Financial Protection Survey online: survey.kofc.org

Our mission hasn't changed in more than 140 years: to help Catholic men grow in faith, serve others and financially protect their families.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful response. I truly appreciate the opportunity to serve you and your family.



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¹ LIMRA & Life Happens, 2025 Insurance Barometer Study



Upcoming Events

October 2026

Ongoing through November 1 – 40 Days for Life. Register to pray in front of All Women's Clinic. We pray the rosary anyway, and it is even stronger when we pray together. Register at 40daysforlife.com/en/altamontesprings/sop

OCT
2
Fri

Holy Hour

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Beginning in October, our council hosts a Holy Hour on the first Friday of every month. Step away from the busyness of life, spend time with our Lord in the Eucharist, and pray the Holy Rosary.

OCT
3
Sat

Virtual Vocations Fundraiser Begins

The fundraiser begins this day.

OCT
3/4
Sat–Sun

Celebrate Life Month

Celebrate Life Month begins.

OCT
6
Tue

Officers' & Directors' Planning Session

Virtual, 7:00 pm. We will review our upcoming calendar and goals. Please check email for link.

OCT
7
Wed

Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

October is the month of the Holy Rosary, a special time to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary.

OCT
7
Wed

Clean the World

Join us every 1st Wednesday of the month, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Sort and pack recycled soap and amenities for global NGOs like [The WASH Foundation](https://www.thewashfoundation.org/). Families and teenagers needing service hours are welcome!

OCT
10
Sat

Serve Saturdays at the Sharing Center

Our Council participates with Serve Saturday at the Sharing Center every 2nd Saturday of the month, serving from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Noon. If you can attend our next event, please sign up by emailing Tom Przybyla.

OCT
11
Sun

CCW Communion Breakfast

We have 14 volunteers so far and are still looking for more. Please check your email for the [sign-up link](#).

OCT
12
Mon

Assembly #1667 Meeting

7:00 p.m., with food and fellowship. They meet at the Council #5357 hall in Sanford, FL. Check email for details.

OCT
13
Tue

Council Meeting

Join us for our council meeting at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria, with special guest speaker Joe McGivney.



Upcoming Events & Programs

October – November 2026

Ongoing through November 1 – 40 Days for Life. Register to pray in front of All Women's Clinic. We pray the rosary anyway, and it is even stronger when we pray together. Register at 40daysforlife.com/en/altamontesprings/sop

OCT
13
Tue

Celebrating Catholic Heritage Ends

The social media program ends that day.

OCT
16
Fri

Family Movie Night – David, The Untold Story (animated), Rated PG

Movie night starts at 7:00 pm in the PLC. This is rated PG for some fight scenes. Come join us!

OCT
17
Sat

Monthly Rosary (Rosary 4 Life)

In front of All Women's Clinic. Join us as Knights and pray for all those inside, especially the children being aborted and the women who are hurting.

OCT
18
Sun

Parish Family Picnic

We are looking for volunteers! We hope to have the Men's Group and our council help out together. More details coming soon.

OCT
30
Fri

Virtual Vocations Fundraiser Ends

The fundraiser ends this day.

NOV
3
Tue

Officers' & Directors' Planning Session

Virtual, 7:00 pm. We will review our upcoming calendar and goals. Please check email for link.

NOV
4
Wed

Clean the World

Join us every 1st Wednesday of the month, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Sort and pack recycled soap and amenities for global NGOs like [The WASH Foundation](https://www.thewashfoundation.org/). Families and teenagers needing service hours are welcome!

NOV
6
Fri

Holy Hour

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Beginning in October, our council hosts a Holy Hour on the first Friday of every month. Step away from the busyness of life, spend time with our Lord in the Eucharist, and pray the Holy Rosary.

NOV
7/8
Sat-Sun

Recruitment Membership Drive Weekend – Tentative

Art & Ricardo will have more details regarding our tentative planned membership recruitment opportunity weekend. Stay tuned on this as we will need help and coverage at all Masses once approved.

NOV
8
Sun

VFCG Communion Mass

Our VFCG have their communion Mass scheduled right around Veterans Day weekend. They will be attending the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday and we invite any vets and their families to come join us.



Knight/Family of the Month Spotlight

Congratulations Council 5618 Knights on your achievements!

Knight of the Month – David Weisman

David Weisman was the co-chair of the August Parish Breakfast event. He helped organize the breakfast, shop for supplies, move supplies to the PLC, and coordinate the breakfast activities from 10 am until completion, moving the supplies back to the Annex. David is part of the SMM Technical team, he is a Eucharistic Minister, chairs the Council's Exemplification Team and the Deceased Knight's Mass. He is organizing the upcoming Movie Night for the parish and is planning a new Chili Cookoff event. David helps Tom Poppell with Helping Hands projects. He participates in the Council's Sharing Saturday events at the Sharing Center. He is also involved with parish Pro-Life events. David is always willing to help brother Knights with their projects and events. He is one of the very few Council Knights who volunteers to chair events and is seen as a true servant leader.

Family of the Month – Rey and Katie Curva

Katie and Rey are active in their three daughters' school activities at SMM Catholic School and parish events like WinterFest. Katie is a Sacristan serving at Noon Masses. She is active and helps organize SMM Catholic school events and activities. She is a member of the Pastoral Council. Rey actively supports his wife's activities and is a new member of the SMM Finance Council. The family participates in many school activities and parish events. They participate in soccer games and tournaments with other parish families. Katie was a team member helping organize the recent Theology of the Body 3 day seminar presented by Fr. John Antony.



Leave No Neighbor Behind – Helping Hands Program

If you know of a brother Knight, Men's Club member or SMM parishioner who needs the labor to help with a small project, such as yard work, pressure washing, or small repairs, and they have purchased the needed supplies, please contact our Helping Hands program chair Tom Poppell (407-920-2497) or Tom Przybyla (407-460-8109). We need at least 2 weeks of lead time to make arrangements for the project.



Florida State Council Charity Raffle Is Back Again!

2026 / 2027 Charity Raffle



\$25,000 TOP PRIZE

**Florida State Council
Knights of Columbus**

**2026 / 2027
Charity Raffle**



FIRST PRIZE - \$25,000
2nd Prize: \$5,000 3rd Prize: (2)- \$1,000 each

Brothers, at our last council meeting, District Deputy Shaw presented us with an opportunity to raise funds for our council. Florida State KOFC Charities (with assistance from Florida State Council) is holding a raffle with the drawing to be held May 28th at the Florida State Convention. Each raffle book contains four tickets. Suggested donation is \$3.00/ticket or \$10.00 per book. There is also a solicitor ticket at the end of each book (Solicitor must be an individual so you cannot name the Council as a solicitor). This allows the solicitor of the tickets to be eligible for a couple of early bird drawings. The first one is in December of this year (\$250) and the second one is in March of next year (\$400).

The benefit to our council is that the council needs to only submit \$5.00 per book and can retain the balance for our council projects. I have over 100 books of tickets so I would like to get them into your hands as soon as possible. Please email / text me with how many books you would like and we can work out how to get them to you. Checks should be made payable to KC 5618 and sent to me at 636 Mariner Way, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Please see the State Raffle Rules for FY 2026-2027.

Don Holzemer
Financial Secretary Emeritus
Bishop Thomas J Grady Council 5618
407-461-6446





Brothers Celebrating October Birthdays

"May God hold you in the palm of His hand and bless your path"



Martin Dercy	10-01-1958	Deacon William H O Brien III	10-19-1946
Mr Darryl Dziedzic	10-01-1971	Frank M Corso	10-20-1941
Brian G Wilkerson	10-01-1962	Gregory J Drosky	10-21-1959
Charles C Stansel	10-03-1953	Roger J Copeland PGK	10-23-1943
Rev. Edwin Cardona	10-06-1990	Joel P Huey	10-24-1963
Deacon Juan F Cruz	10-08-1951	Charles E Richardson	10-25-1931
Rev. Duberney Rodas	10-09-1977	Andrew C Betz	10-28-1975
Lorenzo P Graceffo	10-13-1963	Kevin T Nelsen	10-30-1982
Eduardo Granda Rosello	10-13-1962	Daniel R Sims	10-30-1943
Dominick Fiorentino IV	10-14-2004	Dr Mike Yurso	10-30-1956
Cesar Escobar	10-15-1995		



Happy Birthday Brother Knights!



Council Resources & Exemplifications

Faith · Community · Family · Life

Council 5618 Facebook Group *By Roger Copeland*

For all the newer Knights who are not aware of our Council's Facebook group: please feel free to share your Knight pictures on this site. That was the main reason it was created.

[K of C Council 5618 Pictures & etc.](#)

Exemplification Ceremony on Demand!

The Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity is now **available on-demand**. Any current 1st or 2nd Degree Knights can advance to the 3rd Degree at any time of the day or night, 24/7, at your convenience. To participate immediately, use the "On Demand" link and the 30-minute ceremony will start upon completion of your registration. If you know of any Brother Knight who would like to advance to the Third Degree, please pass this information on to that Brother!

Provide the required information including your council number (5618). Your family and friends are welcome to observe the ceremony. We look forward to you becoming a third-degree Knight of Columbus!

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)

Weekly Exemplification Ceremonies

The Florida State Council presents weekly Exemplifications of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. Register new candidates or have your 1st and 2nd Degree members advance to the 3rd Degree. The English Exemplifications are held weeks 1-4 on Thursday and the 4th Monday at 7:00 pm. The Spanish Exemplifications are held the 3rd Wednesday and the 5th Thursday at 8:00 pm.

[English Exemplifications](#)

[Spanish Exemplifications](#)

Donations for Needful Council Knights *By Tom Poppell*

Brothers, we are assisting 3 families who are in need of food assistance by providing food and or gift cards from Publix, Winn Dixie or Aldi markets on a weekly basis. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Donations may be dropped off at Tom's Auto Repair (Proprietor is Tom Galaida) located at 151 Obrien Road. The telephone number is 407.831.8484. The food and or gift cards will be picked up and distributed weekly. Your gifts are greatly appreciated by the recipients.

Vivat Jesus, Brother Tom Poppell 407-920-2497

Shirt/Apron Embroidering *By Tom Przybyla*

Gyslaine Brasil, one of the mothers of a basketball free throw and hockey shoot-out participant, told me that she can embroider shirts and aprons with your name and logo (or whatever else you want) for a small fee:

Name: \$5

First time logo setup charge: \$50

Logo (after initial setup) and name: \$15

Logo only (after initial setup): \$10

Gyslaine's contact information: gyslainebrasil@gmail.com and 321-420-3544



Council Officers 2026 – 2027

Bishop Thomas J. Grady Council 5618

Website Link: [Officers](#)

Chaplain	Fr. Sinclair Cushmore	Advocate	Ed Gallagher
Grand Knight	Joe Pocius	Lecturer	Vacant
Deputy Grand Knight	Nick Leon	Trustee 1 Year	Tom Przybyla, PGK
Chancellor	Ricardo Diaz	Trustee 2 Year	Tom Galaida
Financial Secretary	Richard Hosler	Trustee 3 Year	George Meyer, PGK
Recorder	Tom Weninger	Fraternal Benefits Advisor	Eric Monte
Treasurer	Les Philip	District Deputy, District 24	Robert Shaw
Warden	Tom Poppell	District Warden, District 24	Vacant
Inside Guard	Patrick Cavanaugh	Outside Guard	Alan Blackmon

Faith In Action Program Directors & Chairmen 2026 – 2027

Program Director	Nick Leon	Community Director	Ed Gallagher
Faith Director	George Meyer	Life Director	James Taglia Jr
Family Director	Nate Obit	Youth Chairman	Ed Gallagher
Membership Director	Art Wright	Lenten Fish Fry Dinners Chairman	Vacant
Seminarian Chairman	Emilio Regala	Card Ministry Chairman	Wayne Fricker

Want to order your wife a Knight of Columbus name tag? You can order a name tag from **Don Holzemer** at our next business meeting or by sending him an email at amidon49@cfl.rr.com.

Wayne Fricker, our Council’s chairman of the Card Ministry, will send out cards of hope, sympathy, or condolence in our Council’s name to brothers and families who are in distress, such as when we lose a brother, or we want to cheer up a brother or their loved one who might be homebound or who is in the hospital. If you would like Wayne to send out a card, please notify him via email: wayne.fricker@gmail.com or by phone: 407-745-9247 (cell).

If you know of a Brother, or relative of a Brother in distress, contact any of your Council officers. We have many people who need your prayers as they suffer severe medical challenges. They know your prayers are a blessing. Please continue to pray for all the Knights and their loved ones who are in need of prayers, especially those people on our Council’s Prayer List, which is found on our website.



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"Sir Knight"

Roger J. Copeland P-GK
P-DGK, P-Chan., P-Trust., P-MSD
Photographer



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Eric M. Monte, FIC
Field Agent

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Mobile: 407-852-8563
eric.monte@kofc.org
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