

THE PATRIOT'S CALL: *United in Faith & Freedom*

ASSEMBLY 1818

Volume II Issue I August 2026



Faithful Navigator Tony Hopfinger	412-496-6776
Comptroller George Barbiero	203-885-8238
Captain Darwin Reeck	941-541-9657
Admiral Tony Salvucci	617-320-1759
Purser Vinny Gelsomino	815-409-2385
Pilot Rick Anderson	321-303-8172
Scribe Joe Macarelli	941-340-9477
Inner Sentinel Chuck Woodrum	304-282-8733
Outer Sentinel Bill Blanchard	732-841-6074
One Year Trustee Richard Kunzier	973-903-1226
Two Year Trustee Kevin Szopinski	630-277-1367
Three Year Trustee Bernie Lanza	941-441-8892
Faithful Friar	Rev. Janusz

Following Mary's Example: Faith, Humility, and Service

Mary's Assumption reminds us that a life rooted in faith and humility leads us closer to God. Her journey taken body and soul into heaven shows us the destiny promised to all who follow Christ with trust and devotion. Mary's quiet strength, her love for family, and her unwavering service reflect the very ideals our Assembly strives to uphold.

We see her example alive in the charitable works carried out by our Assembly: supporting veterans, assisting parish ministries, helping families, and standing proudly as Catholic men committed to service. Your generosity continues to bless our community in ways both seen and unseen.

As we honor Our Lady, let us renew our commitment to the practices that strengthen our mission: attending Mass faithfully, praying the Holy Rosary, and inviting other Catholic men to join the Knights of Columbus. A simple invitation can open the door to fraternity, purpose, and deeper faith.

May Our Lady of the Assumption watch over you, your wives, your children, and your grandchildren. May her intercession bring peace to your homes and strength to your service.

Blessings to you and your families .

Vivat Jesus!



SK George Barbiero

To the Sir Knights of Assembly 1818

A challenge has been presented to our Assembly: the future of our V4V Fundraiser.

Our past V4V fundraisers have been a success. However, we now are at a crossroad. Our venue, San Prado Social Hall, is limited in number per fire regulations; our audience has grown that exceeds the Hall count; the fundraiser was staffed by volunteers—mostly the same volunteers over the years and they are saying “is there another way”; and our champion and lead over the years Sir Knight Mike Malik and his spouse, Katy, have decided to take a pause—a pause rightly earned.

So, what is the path forward?

There seems to be a consensus to continue; the cause is a good one; the past success tells us “Go for it”; and the V4V fundraiser matches our Patriotism call. A group got together to critique our last V4V and to think out of the box.

The idea is to continue; to keep the V4V concept; to alter the fundraiser from a Diner-Dance to something akin to a Gala; to expand into a larger setting; to “be served” vs “being the server; and to have a guest speaker; as well as keeping the recognition of Honorees, dancing, and the raffles.

In doing so the ticket price would be higher; the target audience would be open to a larger audience, e.g., Sir Knights & friends, Council Knights, and the public.

Keep the fun and enlarge the proceeds.

Victory for Veterans Gala
Plantation Golf and Country Club
March 6, 2027

The group believes that this is a “winner” and the Officers are for it.

So what do you think?

The only concept that does not change is the word “change”

Tony Hopfinger,
Your Faithful Navigator

Fraternal Communion Mass

Brothers,

Our Assembly was blessed this past Sunday. For the first time, Sir Knights and their wives gathered for our Fraternal Communion Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center. It was a morning filled with prayer, fellowship, and the joyful spirit of unity that defines our mission. Your presence made this inaugural celebration a resounding success, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who joined us.

This beautiful gathering reminded us of the strength we share as Catholic men of faith, and of the grace that comes from walking this journey alongside the wonderful women who support and inspire us. Because of your enthusiastic participation, this event will now become a cherished tradition that we will proudly continue every fraternal year.

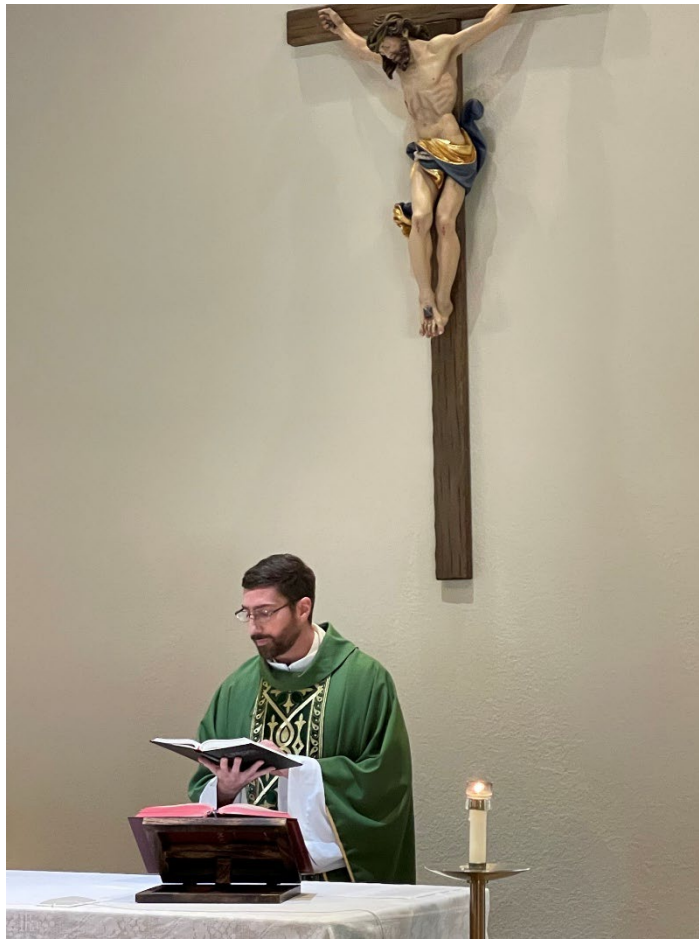
We offer our sincere thanks to Father Greg and Father Leland for welcoming us. Their hospitality created an atmosphere of reverence, peace, and renewal in the beautiful chapel and surrounding grounds.

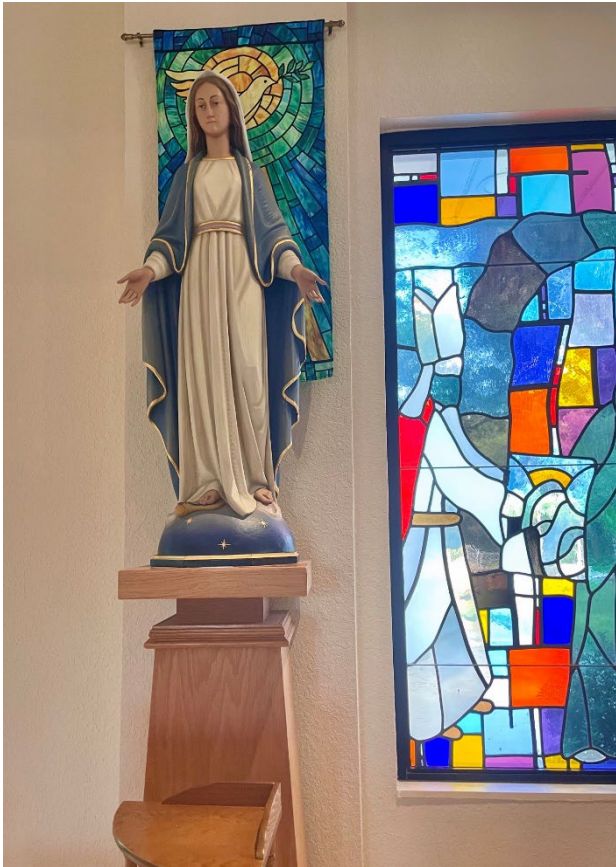
A special word of appreciation goes to the dedicated staff of OLPH for the delicious continental breakfast that followed our Mass. The care, professionalism, and attention to detail shown in preparing and serving our breakfast made everyone feel warmly welcomed. Their gracious service added a wonderful touch to our morning and helped make the day complete.

Thank you, Brothers and Ladies, for making this first Communion Mass a celebration worthy of our Assembly's spirit. May it continue to inspire us in faith, service, and fraternity. For those who were unable to join us for this wonderfully uplifting event, we hope that you join us next summer.

Enjoy some of the pictures of the day.















ASSEMBLY 1818 - 2026 / 2027 FRATERNAL CALENDAR

July

3rd	Friday	Officer Meeting	1:00PM	OLOL	Officer Orientation
8th	Wednesday	No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony	8:30AM	SNC	Second Wednesday of every month
10th	Friday	Officer Meeting	2:00PM	OLOL	Monthly
16th	Thursday	Assembly Meeting	6:45PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	5:30 Rosary; Dinner 5:45 every Third Thursday Includes Spouses \$30/person - Annual Event
19th	Sunday	Fraternal Communion	10:00AM	OLPH	

August

12th	Wednesday	No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony	8:30AM	SNC	Second Wednesday of every month
14th	Friday	Officer Meeting	2:00PM	OLOL	Monthly
20th	Thursday	Assembly Meeting	6:45 PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	5:30 Rosary; Dinner 5:45 every Third Thursday
28TH	Friday	CC Practice	1:00PM	OLOL	Fourth Friday of every month

September

9th	Wednesday	No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony	8:30AM	SNC	Second Wednesday of every month
11th	Friday	Officer Meeting	2:00PM	OLOL	Monthly
13th	Sunday	Blue Mass	12:00PM	OLOL	Color Corps Requested
17th	Thursday	Assembly Meeting	6:45 PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	5:30 Rosary; Dinner 5:45 every Third Thursday

October

9th	Friday	Officer Meeting	2:00PM	Officer Meeting	Officer Meeting
14th	Wednesday	No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony	8:30AM	SNC	Second Wednesday of every month
15th	Thursday	Assembly Meeting	6:45 PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	5:30 Rosary; Dinner 5:45 every Third Thursday
15th	Thursday	Guest Speaker - TBE	6:45PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	PART OF THE MONTHLY MEETING
30th	Friday	CC Practice	1:00PM	OLMC	Fourth Friday of every month

November

TBE		Veterans Memorial Mass	12:00PM	SNC	Annual Event
11th	Wednesday	No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony	8:30AM	SNC	Second Wednesday of every month
13th	Friday	Officer Meeting	2:00PM	Officer Meeting	Officer Meeting
19th	Thursday	Assembly Meeting	6:45 PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	5:30 Rosary; Dinner 5:45 every Third Thursday

December

9th	Wednesday	No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony	8:30AM	SNC	Second Wednesday of every month
11th	Friday	Officer Meeting	2:00PM	Officer Meeting	Officer Meeting
12th	Saturday	Feast of Our lady of Guadalupe	11:15AM	OLPH	Honored Feast of K of C an Annual Event
TBE	Saturday	Wreath Placement	7:30AM	SNC	Annual
19th	Saturday	Assembly 1818 Christmas Dinner	5:00PM	VG&RC	In lieu of Assembly Meeting Annual Event

January

TBE	Saturday	Wreath Removal	7:30AM	SNC	Annual
13th	Wednesday	No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony	8:30AM	SNC	Second Wednesday of every month
15th	Friday	Officer Meeting	2:00PM	Officer Meeting	Officer Meeting
21st	Thursday	Assembly Meeting	6:45PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	5:30 Rosary; Dinner 5:45 every Third Thursday
21st	Thursday	Renewal of Obligation	6:45PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	PART OF THE MONTHLY MEETING
29th	Friday	CC Practice	1:00PM	SP	Fourth Friday of every month

February

10th	Wednesday	No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony	8:30AM	SNC	Second Wednesday of every month
12th	Friday	Officer Meeting	2:00PM	Officer Meeting	Officer Meeting
18th	Thursday	Assembly Meeting	6:45PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	5:30 Rosary; Dinner 5:45 every Third Thursday
18th	Thursday	Guest Speaker - TBE	6:45PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	PART OF THE MONTHLY MEETING

March

6th	Saturday	Victory for Veterans Gala	5:00PM	Plantation Golf Club	
10th	Wednesday	No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony	8:30AM	SNC	Second Wednesday of every month
12th	Friday	CC Practice	1:00PM	OLOL	Fourth Friday of every month

April

14th	Wednesday	No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony	8:30AM	SNC	Second Wednesday of every month
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16th	Friday	Officer Meeting	2:00PM	Officer Meeting	Officer Meeting
22nd	Thursday	Assembly Meeting	6:45PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	5:30 Rosary; Dinner 5:45 every Third Thursday
22nd	Thursday	Guest Speaker - TBE	6:45PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	PART OF THE MONTHLY MEETING
22nd	Thursday	Presentation of the Slate of Proposed Officers	6:45PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	PART OF THE MONTHLY MEETING

May

12th	Wednesday	No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony	8:30AM	SNC	Second Wednesday of every month
14th	Friday	Officer Meeting	2:00PM	Officer Meeting	Officer Meeting
20th	Thursday	Assembly Meeting	6:45PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	5:30 Rosary; Dinner 5:45 every Third Thursday
20th	Thursday	Election of Officers	6:45PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	PART OF THE MONTHLY MEETING
TBE	Saturday	Placement of Flags	7:30PM	SNC	Annual Event
28th	Friday	CC Practice	1:00PM	OLMC	Fourth Friday of every month

June

TBE	Saturday	Removal of Flags	7:30PM	SNC	Annual Event
9th	Wednesday	No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony	8:30AM	SNC	Second Wednesday of every month
17th	Thursday	Assembly Retreat	8:30PM	OLPH	Annual Event
22nd	Tuesday	Awards Banquet	5:00PM	OLPH	In lieu of Assembly Meeting Annual Event

NOTES COLOR CORPS Additional Color Corps practices may be called by CCC for newer members.



Knights of Columbus
**FOURTH
DEGREE**
Patriotic degree of the Order.



Bishop Charles McLaughlin Assembly 1818

July 11, 2026

The Most Rev. Emilio Biosca Agüero, OFM Cap.
Bishop of the Diocese of Venice
1000 Pinebrook Rd
Venice, FL 34275

Greetings Your Excellency:

I wish to introduce you to the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Assembly 1818. Our Assembly is composed of Sir Knights from Epiphany Cathedral, Our Lady of Mt Carmel in Osprey, Our Lady of Lourdes in Venice and San Pedro in North Port. Members of the Knights pledge to the principles of Charity, Fraternalism, and Unity. The Sir Knights of Fourth Degree Assemblies also pledge to the principle of Patriotism.

Assembly 1818 sponsors a Color Corp which is the most visible arm of the Knights. In the past, the Color Corp participated in various events at the request of the Bishop of Venice, e.g., Ordinations, Veterans Day Mass, the annual Blue Mass, etc. I make available to you, Assembly 1818's Color Corp for events as you choose. We would be honored to serve.

We are looking forward to meeting you and if you wish to discuss further how our Assembly may assist you.

Vivat Jesus,

Sir Knight Anthony H Hopfinger
Faithful Navigator Assembly 1818
412.496.6776
ahhopfinger@gmail.com
189 Bella Vista Terrace, Unit B, Venice, FL 34275



VISION:

Rooted in our Catholic faith and guided by charity, unity, fraternalism and patriotism, Bishop Charles McLaughlin Assembly 1818 serves as an exemplary model of faithful service and sets the standard for Knights of Columbus Assemblies.

MISSION:

Bishop Charles McLaughlin Assembly 1818 is a Catholic volunteer brotherhood of Sir Knights pledged to the guiding principles of **Patriotism, Charity, Fraternalism, and Unity**. We are steadfast in our commitment to strengthening our Catholic faith, supporting our Assembly and its members, assisting our state leadership, and honoring the veterans and country. As members of the **Color Corps**, we proudly offer our service to the Church and to our Bishop whenever called upon. We stand ready to support worthy causes and uphold the dignity of our Order. Together, we strive for the betterment of our faith, our community, and our country.



Upcoming Discussion Topics August 20, 2026, Monthly Meeting

Brothers,

As we gather for our next monthly meeting of Bishop Charles McLaughlin Assembly 1818 on **Thursday, August 20, 2026**, we step forward together into a new Fraternal Year filled with purpose, unity, and renewed commitment to our mission. Our Faithful Navigator, Tony, looks forward to an evening of thoughtful conversation as we chart the course for the months ahead.

Please take a few moments before the meeting to reflect on the following topics. If you feel comfortable, share your thoughts or build upon the ideas offered by others so that our collective wisdom can guide our Assembly with strength and clarity.

Topics for Discussion

- **Welfare Committee** How can we ensure seamless, timely communication when a brother is ill, hospitalized, or in need of prayers? Let's explore ways to strengthen our care for one another.
- **Vision Statement:** Are there areas where our Vision Statement can be expanded or refined to better reflect who we are today and where we are called to serve?
- **Mission Statement:** Likewise, does our Mission Statement fully capture our purpose and identity? Are there elements we should clarify or enhance?
- **Budget Review & Suggested Donations** We can review our current budget again if needed and discuss how suggested donations from the meeting floor should be handled to ensure transparency, fairness, and good stewardship.
- **Admissions Protocol:** Let's review and establish a clear admissions protocol that reflects our values and maintains the dignity of our Assembly.
- **New Fundraising Ideas** What creative, meaningful fundraisers can help us expand our charitable reach and strengthen our giving power throughout the year?
- **Boosting Attendance** Let's share ideas on how to increase participation at our monthly meetings and events ensuring that every brother feels welcomed, valued, and inspired to be present.

A Positive Note as We Begin This Fraternal Year Brothers, our Assembly is strongest when every voice is heard and every member feels encouraged to contribute. This year, let us recommit ourselves to unity, charity, fraternity and Patriotism. Your suggestions, large or small, help shape the future of our Assembly. Together, we can build a year filled with purpose, fellowship, and faithful service.

No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony

We are pleased to announce that the **No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony** will be on:

Wednesday, August 12th, 2026.

We ask all participants to meet by 8:45 AM. We head to the Internment Shelter at Sarasota National Cemetery at 8:50 AM, with the service beginning at 9:00 AM. Please wear your assembly shirt, and invite your spouses, friends and neighbors to join us as we stand together to remember the legacy of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.



RANK	VETERANS NAME	BRANCH OF SERVICE
PFC	Thomas S. Dingle	US Marine Corps - Vietnam
A1C	Robert A. Kilmer	US Air Force
LTJG	Edwin A. Kiernan	US Navy – World War II & Korea
AMN	James W. Muhlbauer	US Air Force
A2C	Arnold T. Herbert	US Air Force - Vietnam
SA	Eric L. Olmstead	US Navy - Vietnam









Father & Son in Service to Our Country



Service has always been a shared calling for the Frech family. Nine years ago, SK Joe Frech and his son, Joe Frech Jr., volunteered side-by-side in the Civil Air Patrol/Air Force Auxiliary a moment captured in the photo of father and son in uniform. Another photo shows Joe Jr. rendering a crisp salute during Wreaths Across America at Arlington National Cemetery, an annual tradition with more than 100,000 volunteers honoring our nation's fallen heroes.

SK Joe continues to serve faithfully in the Civil Air Patrol as an instructor teaching Character Development to cadets in both Sarasota and Venice. He has been a member for over 18 years and plans to retire in two years with the satisfaction of a life spent in service. His military career spans four years of active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps, ten years in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, and ten years in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, retiring in 2003.

Joe Jr. has carried that same spirit of duty into his own career. Now at 30 years old, he serves our nation as a Contracting Officer for the Department of the Navy in Norfolk, VA. Recently Joe Jr. earned his warrant to sign contracts up to **\$9.5 million**, a milestone that reflects both his professionalism and the values instilled by his father.

Two generations, one legacy of service, and a story that continues to inspire Assembly 1818 and all who know the Frech family.



A Note from Your CC Commander

I look forward to continued success and the ongoing betterment of our endeavors in the year ahead. I also encourage any Fourth-Degree member who is contemplating joining to reach out to me for guidance. The Color Corps is a place where your service, reverence, and patriotism can shine

[illegible]

Knights on Bikes: Faith, Fellowship & the Open Road



Bishop Charles McLaughlin Assembly 1818 July Monthly Meeting Overview

At our July Monthly Meeting, the first gathering of the new fraternal year, we were our newly installed Faithful Navigator, **SK Tony Hopfinger** introduced several thoughtful adjustments to our fiscal room layout and general meeting format, which improved the flow as we moved efficiently and purposefully through the agenda.

In addition to our regular monthly business, we reviewed the updated Assembly Chamber setup, announced our new committees and their appointed chairmen, and reflected on our Assembly's Vision and Mission statements for the year ahead. Key administrative updates included the Victory for Veterans Gala (V4V), our letter to Bishop Emilio, the submission of the Report of Assembly Officers for 2026–2027, IRS filing requirements, the Annual Assembly Audit Report, the Fraternal Calendar for 2026–2027, Star Assembly documentation, and the Assembly Budget for 2026–2027. This framework will provide a strong foundation for the year's work.

The evening concluded with a moment of profound fraternity as **SK Joseph Macarelli** was formally inducted into the Color Corps brotherhood. Father Jay blessed SK Macarelli's sword and baldric, and each knight stepped forward to ceremonially "Knight Sir Joe" in a sacred rite that reflects our unity, our tradition, and our dedication to one another as brothers in service.

In honor of America's 250th Birthday, the Color Corps lifted their swords in a proud Assembly salute, a gleaming tribute to the nation we cherish. **SK Bill Jagenow** led the heartfelt singing of *God Bless America* as our brothers' voices rose together in gratitude for the many blessings that our great country gives us.

We are reminded that patriotism is not merely a feeling, it is a daily commitment. As guardians of faith, family, and community, we are called to stand steady in a world that often shifts beneath our feet. Wisdom teaches us that a nation grows strong not only through great leaders, but through ordinary citizens who choose service over comfort, unity over division, and hope over fear.

To all who participated and supported this meaningful first meeting of the new fraternal year **thank you**. Your presence, your commitment, and your spirit of fraternity set the tone for a year filled with purpose, charity, and brotherhood. May God bless our Assembly and guide our work in the months ahead.













Gear Up, Brothers



Looking to show your Knights of Columbus pride? You may purchase shirts and caps at *Designer Tees* located at 565 Paul Morris Dr, Englewood. They may be reached at 941-272-8673. If you're looking for a wider selection of Knights of Columbus merchandise, including a variety of accessories and apparel, be sure to visit at [Knights Gear](#) online. They offer a range of items to help you display your dedication to the Order. Finally, for our esteemed Color Corps members, uniforms may be purchased directly at [Knights of Columbus | Supply Room](#) and [Home - Knights of Columbus Supplies](#)



Message from our Past Faithful Navigator:

I offer my sincerest thanks to my brothers who, during the past year and particularly in periods of stress and uncertainty, have given the benefit of their advice, the strength of their arms, and the invaluable support of their confidence. With them I have achieved whatever success has been mine in the ultimate performance of my duties.

On behalf of the officers who are retiring from their posts, I extend to our worthy successors our warmest congratulations, assurance of continued cooperation, and prayerful wishes for the most successful and productive administration. Thank you again, and please pray for our brothers who cannot be here this evening, and our brothers who are ill.

God Bless you all.

SK Berine Lanza, PFN

Milestones of our Brother Knights - This month, we extend our warmest wishes to those brothers observing a birthday, and we also recognize those who are celebrating an anniversary of their commitment to the Fourth Degree.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Name	Date	Age
Dominick Ferraro	2	88
Robert O'Connor	4	88
Deacon Paul Consbruck	5	65
Fr. Krzysztof Piotrowski	5	38
Dr. Stefano Ragozzino	8	52
Kyle Hill	10	66
James Delgaudio	12	70
Robert Mathiau	12	63
Dr. Victor Deloach	15	70
Mark Uebelacker	15	30
Denise Charles	17	80
Mike S. Ochoa	20	81
Michael Renzulli	20	64
Anthony Amorose	22	83
Kenneth Ebers	24	77
Charles F. Glomb	25	70
Anthony Davis	26	84
Robert Fonseca	26	87
Vince Gelsomino	26	65
Edward McManus	30	92
Louis Magyar	31	74
David G. Smith	31	60



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Years
Jeffrey Curtis	3
Joseph Della Penna	11
Thomas Doherty	13
John Paul Chiumento	22
William Donnellan	21
Frederick Englert	11
Denis Pavlock	11
John Riebel	17



SK Rick Miller	SK Kevin Szopinski
SK Armand Padula	SK John Meyer
SK Mike LaVecchia	SK Amado Verona
SK Ed McManus	Micky Fucco
SK Derek Baiz	Honey Stroker
SK Jim Martin	Peter & Ginny Spagnuolo
George J Barbiero Sr.	Linda Waldt
Mark Hanrahan	Jean Richardson
Cassie Wentworth	All Knights of Columbus Brothers
Connie Smith	Father Jay's Sister
Pam Russell	Renee McPhail
Nicole Slater	Jennifer Miller
Camilla Popham	Frank Bruno

This prayer list is a testament to our commitment to one another, a space where we can place the names of our fellow knights, cherished family members, and dear friends. Whether facing health issues or grappling with personal challenges, each person needs our heartfelt prayers.



ASSEMBLY 1818 APPOINTED POSITIONS



Color Corps Commander	Martin Reis	209-480-6043
Faithful Friar	Father Jay Jancarz	
Cemetery Activity Coordinator	Rick Anderson	321-303-8172
Membership Chairman & Committee	Steve Vacca Jim Lakatos Tony Salvucci Joe Frech	954-655-1110
Retention Chairman	Charles Woodrum	304-282-8733
Victory for Veterans Gala Chairman & Event Coordinator	Darwin Reeck	941-541-9657
Football Commissioner	Richard Kunzier	973-903-1226
Welfare Chairman	Paul Caccatore	913-378-4931
Admissions Chairman & Committee	Deacon Rich Frohmiller Steve Vacca Tony Salvucci George Moesch	914-388-4389
Knights on Bikes	Bill Blanchard	732-841-6074
Photographer	Mike Mauti	978-807-0421
Assembly Rosary Leader	Bob O'Brien	732-606-3738
Newsletter & Webmaster	George E. Barbiero	203-885-8238
Relief Committee	Tony Hopfinger George Barbiero Vinny Gelsomino	412-496-6776 815-409-2385
AD HOC Committee for Bylaw Review	Mike Milak Kevin Szopinski Darwin Reeck	941-380-7248



Council Updates & Family and Pro Life News



Below you will find the websites for each of the third-degree councils that contribute to our Assembly. Although each Council is unique, they all share the core values of charity, unity, and fraternity. We encourage you to explore each website as well as Deacon Rich's *Family and Pro Life News*.



[Click here](#) for Council 7997 San Pedro.



[Click here](#) for Council 15821 Our Lady of Mount Carmel.



[Click here](#) for Council 9924. Our Lady of Lourdes.



[Click here](#) for Council 7052 Epiphany Cathedral.



[Click here](#) for the monthly *Family and ProLife News Briefs* from Deacon Rich.