

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

ASSEMBLY 1818

Volume I Issue XI May 2026



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Mary's Example of Devotion: A Call to the Patriotic Degree

During the month of May, Our Holy Mother Church pays special honor to the Blessed Virgin Mary, recognizing her as the first disciple and the model of faithful service. For the Knights of Columbus, and, particularly for the Fourth Degree, this devotion carries profound significance. Mary's steadfast obedience to God, her courage in the face of suffering, and her unwavering fidelity to her Son reflect the very virtues we pledge to uphold as the patriotic arm of the Order.

As Mary nurtured and protected the Savior, we are called to defend the principles upon which our nation stands: faith, dignity, and the common good. Her example reminds us that true patriotism is rooted not merely in love of country, but in a deeper commitment to God's will and the service of others.

By honoring Mary throughout the month of May, we also renew our own dedication as Sir Knights striving to serve God and country with integrity, humility, and devotion, thus following the path she so perfectly set before us.

Vivat Jesus!



SK George Barbiero

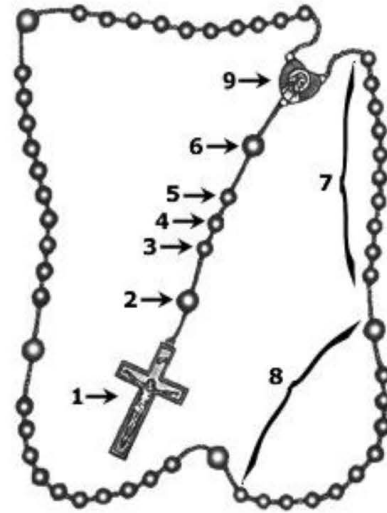


THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is recited using ordinary rosary beads of five decades. The Chaplet is preceded by two opening prayers from the Diary of Saint Faustina and followed by a closing prayer.

How to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy:

- 1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross**
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- 2. Opening Prayers**
You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole word and empty Yourself out upon us.
(Repeat three times)
O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of Mercy for us, I trust in You!
- 3. Our Father**
Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.
- 4. Hail Mary**
Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.
- 5. The Apostle's Creed**
I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.
- 6. The Eternal Father**
Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.
- 7. On the 10 Small Beads of Each Decade**
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
- 8. Repeat for the remaining decades**
Saying the "Eternal Father" (6) on the "Our Father bead and then 10 "For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion" (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.
- 9. Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)**
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
- 10. Optional Closing Prayer**
Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion-inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to You holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.



(resource from <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet>)



Divine Mercy Sunday: A Celebration of Christ's Endless Compassion

Divine Mercy Sunday, celebrated on the Sunday after Easter, is a feast that draws the Church into the heart of God's boundless compassion. Established by Pope John Paul II in 2000, this day honors the message entrusted by Christ to St. Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, which is a message of mercy for the entire world. In her visions, Jesus appeared with red and blue rays streaming from His Sacred Heart, symbolizing the blood and water that flowed from His side. He asked that devotion to His mercy be spread to all people. He also promised extraordinary graces to those who venerate His image, receive Holy Communion, and go to confession on this feast.

A central devotion of the day is the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, traditionally prayed at 3:00 PM, the Hour of Mercy, recalling the moment of Christ's death on the cross. Across the world, parishes mark this feast with Mass, Adoration, and the recitation of the Chaplet. In 2026, Divine Mercy Sunday fell on April 12, with celebrations taking place at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy and in local parishes everywhere.

At Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, the celebration was especially moving. The Third and Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, together with the Fourth Degree Color Corps, were present in full fraternity and devotion. Color Corps members stood guard in solemn honor beside the image of Our Lord as each person came forward to venerate the Divine Mercy image at the altar. One by one, every person in attendance approached with reverence, creating a powerful and prayerful procession that filled the church with a sense of peace, unity, and grace.

It was a quiet and solemn celebration that touched hearts reminding all present that Christ's mercy is not only a message, but a living gift offered to each of us.





CALENDAR 2025-2026 Our Assembly is excited to present a calendar filled with opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth, and service. We encourage all members to review the upcoming schedule and participate as actively as your time and talents allow. We look forward to seeing you there.

MAY 2026

- **Sat, May 23** – Placement of Flags @ SNC @ 7:30 AM
- **Wed, May 13** – SNC @ 8:30 AM
- **Thurs, May 21** – Assembly Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 - Rosary @ 5:30 PM - Dinner @ 5:45 PM
 - *Election of Officers*
- **Thurs, May 28** – Color Corps Drill Practice @ 2 PM (OLOL)
- **Sat, May 30** – Removal of Flags @ SNC @ 7:30 AM

JUNE 2026

- **Wed, June 10** – SNC @ 8:30 AM
- **Thurs, June 18** – Award Presentation & Dinner @ 6:00 PM



[Knights on Bikes Venice Chapter](#)

Knights on Bikes: Faith, Fellowship & the Open Road

We encourage you to explore this link for the latest information about Knights on Bikes.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT OUR DIOCESE

1984

Diocese of Venice is Created

July 17, Pope John Paul II erects the Diocese of Venice in Florida from parts of the Archdiocese of Miami, the Diocese of St. Petersburg and the Diocese of Orlando, naming Archdiocese of Miami Auxiliary Bishop John J. Nevins as the first bishop; Oct. 25 Bishop John J. Nevins is installed as first Bishop of the Diocese and Epiphany Church was dedicated as the Cathedral of the Diocese; Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. founded; Diocese has 116,495 registered parishioners. 11 schools; first chancery of Diocese in rented building in Capri Isles area of Venice.

1985

Father Arthur William Hannaway is first priest ordained in the Diocese of Venice on May 25; St. Thomas More Parish dedicates new church; Council of Catholic Women founded for Diocese.

1986

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Venice, St. Vincent de Paul Parish in North Fort Myers and Saints. Peter and Paul, the Apostles Parish in Bradenton founded as parishes; Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities established in Fort Myers.

1987

The first six men ordained into permanent diaconate; Our Mother's House, a home for single mothers with young children opens in temporary home in Bradenton; Catholic Center dedicated in Venice; St. Alfonso Chapel dedicated in Zolfo Springs.

A Special Moment of the Evening

At our April meeting, we celebrated **SK Wayne Smith**, of Our lady of Lourdes Parish and a newly inducted member of the Color Corps. His induction included the solemn blessing of his sword and baldric; fifteen members of the Color Corps bore witness to Waynes's comment to this powerful ceremony. It is a powerful reminder of the honor, discipline, and devotion expected of every Color Corpsman.







KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
**FOURTH
DEGREE
EXEMPLIFICATION**

Patriotic Degree of the Order



One Nation, Under God

Looking Ahead: May 9, 2026 – Naples, FL

Our next exemplification will be hosted at St. John the Evangelist Church in Naples, Florida on May 9, 2026. We are proud to announce that seven brothers will become Sir Knights that day.

- Cosmo Cordialini
- Michael Ochoa
- Horatio Hoggard
- Gregory Kirwan
- Anthony Leone
- Edward Martinez
- Michael Day

If you know a third-degree brother who would like to become a member of our assembly, encourage him to contact Membership Chairman SK Steve Vacca at 941-310-6061 or stevac58@yahoo.com. Steve is happy to answer all questions and begin the application process. Together we will exemplify the values of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

Brothers,

Your Faithful Comptroller is pleased to share that the Bishop Charles McLaughlin Assembly 1818 website **kocasembly1818.org** is now up and running. Many of you have already begun using it, and I hope it continues to serve as a helpful way to stay aligned with the life and mission of our Assembly.

The site is steadily taking shape. Each month I continue adding new Fourth Degree resources, Assembly information, and updates on upcoming events. There is much more to come, but the foundation is strong and already proving useful.

In addition to the website, our Assembly has expanded its communication tools to keep every Sir Knight connected and informed. We are now using **Constant Contact** for email and messaging, along with **Sign-Up Genius** to help organize participation in upcoming events. These platforms give us greater flexibility, clearer communication, and a more reliable way to reach all our members.

Please make it a habit to check your email regularly, read the messages sent through these systems, and respond to event invitations when you are able. Your engagement helps strengthen our unity and ensures the success of our activities.

If anyone needs assistance navigating the website, Constant Contact, or Sign-Up Genius, I am always available to help. No brother should feel left behind, we grow stronger when we stay connected.

My hope is that these tools continue to support our mission of keeping every Sir Knight informed, engaged, and walking together in faith, fraternity, and patriotism



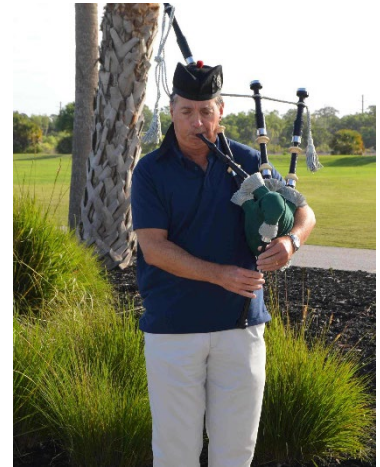
**UPDATE YOUR INFO
STAY CONNECTED**

No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony

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

Wednesday, May 13th, 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
SR	Dale R. Melvin	US Navy
PV1	Wayne F. Posson	US Army - Vietnam
SP4	Michael J. Miller	US Army
A3C	Charles E. Frantz Sr.	US Air Force
AB	Leonard J. Kendall	US Air Force







Honoring Commitment - As we begin a new quarter of fraternal service, it is fitting that we pause to honor the men whose dedication, discipline, and quiet strength continue to elevate the mission of our Assembly. The Color Corps stands as the visible arm of the Fourth Degree an embodiment of reverence, patriotism, and unity. Today, we joyfully recognize those Sir Knights celebrating their Color Corps anniversaries in the months of **January, February, and March.**

COLOR CORPS MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

MONTH	MEMBER	Years
JANUARY:	SK Rick Kuertz	14
	SK Rick Miller	13
	SK Mike Milak	9
	SK Edward Farrell	6
	SK Bernie Lanza	5
	SK Chuck Woodrum	5
	SK Bob O'Brien	4
	SK Richard Anderson	4
	SK Bill Blanchard	4
	SK Stefano Ragozzino	4
	SK Richard Kunzier	3
	SK Mark Schaefer	3
	SK Jeff Curtis	2
MARCH	SK Tony Hopfinger	2
	SK Lou Nagy	2
APRIL	SK James River	3
	SK Chuck Donelson	2
	SK Vinny Gelsomino	1

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.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Name	Date	Age
Scott Hiltgen	3	76
Edward Farrell	4	87
Brian Blanchfield	7	74
Gregory Bothe	8	88
Donald Crandell	9	80
Richard Kuertz	9	55
Keith Chasse	11	56
Vincent Hagerty	11	64
George Bevis	12	75
Dennis Pavlock	14	79
Robert Kraszewski	15	83
Joseph Calderaro	18	96
Rev. Saji Ellickal	20	52
Kenneth Conroy	23	94
Bernard Lanza	25	78
Msgr. Robert Cannon	30	74
Michael Cleary	31	53

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Years
Robert Fonseca	40
Kenneth Ebers	36
John Yaglenski Jr.	36
Tony Doljs	27
Frank Dumaine	24
David Smith	24
Jan Andrew Young	18
George Counes	14
James Worth	13
Sam Caliri	13
Bruce Crisman	10
Deacon R. Frohmiller	10
Mark Schaefer	4
George Barbiero	2
Kevin O'Brien	2
Dean Redmond	2



Prayer
Request

SK Rick Miller	Bonnie Smith
SK Armand Padula	Pam Russell
Marvin Reis	Margaret Jagenow
Bonnie Reis	Carol Samuel
SK Derek Baiz	Jon White
SK Jim Martin	Anita Hemseri
Andy Danbom	Linda Waldt
SK Ed McManus	SK Mike LaVecchia
Agnus Festa	All Knights of Columbus Brothers
Carol Samuel	Patrica Christensen
Rosa Gance	Sheila Farrel
Terry Gance	SK Thom Gardner
SK Mark & Susan Crews	SK Gerry Scannell (RIP)
Nicholas Crews (Passed)	SK Michael Iacampo (RIP)
Christina Calabro	Liliana Grace Russo
Mark Hanrahan	George J Barbiero Sr.

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
Vice Color Corps Commander	Darwin Reeck	941-451-9657
Cemetery Activity Coordinator	Rick Anderson	321-303-8172
Membership Chairman	Steve Vacca	954-655-1110
Retention Chairman Bereavement /Birthdays Anniversaries	Charles Woodrum	304-282-8733
Valentines For Veterans Chairman	Tony Hopfinger	412-496-6776
Football Commissioner	Richard Kunzier	973-903-1226
Welfare	Vinny Gelsomino Deacon Rich	815-409-2385 914-388-4389
Admissions Chairman	Anthony Salvucci	617-320-1759
Knights on Bikes	Bill Blanchard	732-841-6074
Newsletter & Webmaster	George E. Barbiero	203-885-8238

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](#)



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.