

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

ASSEMBLY 1818

Volume I Issue IV October 2025



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Greetings, Brother Knights:

October is a month deeply cherished in our Catholic faith as the Month of the Most Holy Rosary. This devotion, given to us by Our Lady, is not merely a series of prayers, but a profound meditation on the life, passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a spiritual source of peace, and a pathway to deeper contemplation.

For us, as Fourth Degree Knights, dedicated to the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism, the Rosary serves as a powerful guiding light. It reminds us that our service to God, Church, and country is rooted in a deep and abiding faith. Just as the beads of the Rosary connect us to the mysteries of Christ, our shared prayers strengthen the bonds of our fraternity and fortify our resolve to defend our faith and uphold the values that make our nation great. In a world that often challenges our beliefs, the Rosary provides solace, clarity, and the courage to stand as true men of faith and loyal citizens.

I encourage each of you to embrace this special month by dedicating time to this powerful prayer, individually and with your families. Let us also renew our commitment to the charitable works, fraternal support, and patriotic endeavors that define Assembly 1818. Your active participation is vital as we continue to serve our parishes, our community, and our nation, always striving to exemplify what it means to be a "Patriotic Knight."

May God bless you and your families.

Vivat Jesus!

SK George Barbiero





Many of our Brother Knights have attended Bible Study led by Brother Knight Dean Waladt and his wife Linda at OLOL. It is a wonderful program that runs from October to June. OLOL Director of Faith Formation Elisa Darcey announced that this Bible Study will resume on Tuesday evening, October 7th at 6:00 PM. The program will meet every Tuesday in the Parish Center.

Brother Knights, their spouses and friends are encouraged to participate in this journey of faith. This season, the scripture is the Acts of the Apostles. Here is a message from Brother Knight Dean Waladt.



The popular film series The Chosen is already filming Season 6, portraying the trial and Crucifixion of Jesus. Season 7 is due to be released in 2027, portraying the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. But what happens next? Is the real action and the important events over? Absolutely not!

That is where the rest of the story begins. It is a story about houses the shake with the holy wind of God's Spirit, thousands converted in one day, the lame walking, the blind seeing and the dead raised. It is a story about arrest, beating, jailbreak, stoning and beheading at the hands of Jewish tribunals, Roman governors and vigilante mobs. It is a story about dreams, visions, angelic messengers and Greek philosophers. It is story about storms at sea, shipwrecks and confrontations with what many thought to be the greatest power in the world, Imperial Rome.



Through it all, the Gospel is preached; the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church grows; and the Kingdom of God is established.

Join us as we walk through the incredible story of the Acts of the Apostles each Tuesday evening at 6:00pm in the Parish Center beginning on Tuesday October 7th. Of course, there will be plenty of pie and coffee. Hope to see you there.

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.

OCTOBER 2025

- **Wed, Oct 8** – SNC @ 8:30 AM
- **Tue, Oct 14** – Officers Meeting @ 9:00 AM (OLOL)
- **Thurs, Oct 16** – Assembly Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 - Rosary @ 5:30 PM - Dinner @ 5:45 PM
- **Thurs, Oct 30** – Color Corps Drill Practice @ 2 PM (MC)

NOVEMBER 2025

- **Tue, Nov 11** –Veterans Day Mass @ 3:00 PM (SNC)
- **Wed, Nov 12** – SNC @ 8:30 AM
- **Thurs, Nov 20** – Assembly Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 - Rosary @ 5:30 PM - Dinner @ 5:45 PM

DECEMBER 2025

- **Wed, Dec 10** – SNC @ 8:30 AM
- **Tue, Dec 9** – Christmas Assembly Dinner Meeting
- **Sat, Dec 13** – Placement of Wreaths @ SNC @ (TBD AM)

JANUARY 2026

- **Sat, Jan 3** – Removal of Wreaths @ SNC @ 8:00 AM
- **Tue, Jan 13** – Officers Meeting @ 9:00 AM (OLOL)
- **Wed, Jan 14** – SNC @ 8:30 AM
- **Thurs, Jan 15** – Assembly Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 - Rosary @5:30 PM - Dinner @ 5:45 PM
 - *Renewal of Obligation*
 - *Guest Speaker Presentation*
- **Thurs, Jan 29** – Color Corps Drill Practice @ 2 PM (SP)

FEBRUARY 2026

- **Wed, Feb 11** – SNC @ 8:30 AM
- **Sat, Feb 14** – Valentine for Vets Dinner/Dance
 - Starts at 5:30 PM San Pedro Social Hall

MARCH 2026

- **Wed, Mar 11** – SNC @ 8:30 AM
- **Thurs, Mar 19** – Assembly Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 - Rosary @ 5:30 PM - Dinner @ 5:45 PM
 - *Missing Man Table Remembrance*
- **Thurs, Mar 26** – Color Corps Drill Practice @ 2 PM (MC)

APRIL 2026

- **Wed, Apr 8** – SNC @ 8:30 AM
- **Tue, Apr 14** – Officers Meeting @ 9:00 AM (OLOL)
- **Thurs, Apr 16** – Assembly Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 - Rosary @ 5:30 PM - Dinner @ 5:45 PM
 - *Presentation of Slate of Officers*
- **Thurs, Apr 30** – Color Corps Drill Practice @ 2 PM (OLOL)

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 (OLOL)

Upcoming Events: Join Us in Fellowship and Service

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming monthly meeting of Assembly 1818. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 16, 2025**, at **512 Substation Road, Venice, Florida**. The schedule for the evening is as follows:

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

- **5:30 PM:** Rosary
- **5:45 PM:** Dinner
- **6:30 PM:** Meeting

Upon arrival, a **Prayer List** will be available for sign-up. In the spirit of Christian charity and brotherhood, please add the names of those in need of our prayers when you sign in. Through our collective prayers, we can offer support and solace to those who are suffering or in need of divine grace. We will also be holding a **50/50 drawing**, so come prepared to participate!



The **No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony** will take place this month on **Wednesday, October 8, 2025**. 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.





No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony

This month we would like to share the list of Veterans we honored

RANK	NAME OF VETERAN	BRANCH OF SERVICE
SP3	George Loukides	US Army
PFC	Edward Gedrimas	US Army
SP4	Melvin White	US Army
A2C	James Cullinane	US Air Force
SP4	Richard Boucher	US Army
L CPL	Bradford Lambert	US Marine Corps
LCDR	Alan Kent	US Navy
A2C	James Jacobs	US Air Force
PV2	Jeffrey Perez	US Army
SGT	Paris Spreeman	US Army
CPL	Bradley Evans	US Marine Corps
PV2	Hugh McCullough	US Army
PFC	Walter Shacklett	US Army
CPL	Donald Lyons	US Army
1 ST LT	Roland Ficken	US Army
SSGT	Keith Ballerstadt	US Air Force



Knights on Bikes Faith, Fellowship & the Open Road

The Knights on Bikes turned out in full force to the Blue Mass at OLOL on September 14, 2025. Well done, Brothers! [Knights on Bikes Venice Chapter](#)



The History of the Fourth Degree & Its Evolution in Florida

The Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus, known as the "Patriotic Degree," has a compelling history rooted in the Order's commitment to both faith and country. Its evolution in Florida mirrors this national development, adapting to the unique needs and growth of the Catholic community in the Sunshine State.



Origins of the Fourth Degree

The Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney in New Haven, Connecticut, primarily as a mutual benefit society for Catholic immigrant families, offering financial security and fostering fraternity. While its initial principles were Charity, Unity, and Fraternity, the late 19th century saw a growing need for Catholics to assert their loyalty and patriotism, particularly in a society where anti-

Catholic sentiment sometimes questioned their allegiance to the United States.

To address this, the Fourth Degree was established on February 22, 1900, with its first exemplification (initiation ceremony) held in New York City. This new degree specifically added Patriotism as a core principle. The aim was to demonstrate that faithful Catholics could, and indeed should, be faithful citizens of their country. Members of the Fourth Degree, known as Sir Knights, were called upon to defend the faith, uphold the principles of democracy, and serve their communities and nation with a visible commitment.

The early evolution of the Fourth Degree saw the formation of "assemblies" – distinct local groups of Sir Knights. These assemblies, governed by a Supreme Master and Vice-Supreme Masters overseeing provinces, began to organize public displays of patriotism, such as parades and honor guards, particularly at civic and religious events. The regalia, including the distinctive chapeau and cape, became a recognizable symbol of their commitment.

Evolution in Florida

The Knights of Columbus established a presence in Florida relatively early in its history, recognizing the burgeoning Catholic population in the state. As councils formed across Florida, so too did the demand for the patriotic Fourth Degree.

While specific dates for the very first Fourth Degree assembly in Florida are not readily available, the growth of the Order in the early 20th century meant that Fourth Degree exemplifications would have followed shortly after the establishment of Third Degree councils. The state's unique position, with a diverse population and a history tied to both American and Latin American Catholic traditions, likely shaped the emphasis of the Fourth Degree's patriotic mission.

Key aspects of the Fourth Degree's evolution and significance in Florida include:

- **Formation of Assemblies:** As the Knights of Columbus grew across Florida, local Fourth Degree assemblies were established in cities and towns, often drawing members from multiple surrounding councils. These assemblies became centers for patriotic activity.
- **Visible Presence and Public Service:** Sir Knights in Florida have consistently maintained a strong public presence. They are frequently seen in their distinctive regalia as honor guards at Masses, particularly for bishops and priests, and at civic events such as Veterans Day parades, Memorial Day ceremonies, and flag-retirement ceremonies. Their visible participation underscores the Order's commitment to both religious devotion and civic responsibility.
- **Support for Veterans and Active Military:** Reflecting the national focus of the Fourth Degree, Florida Sir Knights have a long tradition of supporting veterans, active military personnel, and their families. This includes organizing events, providing assistance, and advocating for their needs. Given Florida's significant military presence and large veteran population, this aspect of their service is particularly pronounced.
- **Pro-Life Advocacy:** In line with the Knights of Columbus's broader commitment to defending human life, Fourth Degree Knights in Florida often play a leading role in pro-life events and advocacy, serving as honor guards and visible supporters at rallies and marches.
- **Defense of Religious Freedom and Civic Values:** The Fourth Degree's principle of patriotism extends to defending religious freedom and promoting Catholic values in the public square. In Florida, this has involved educational campaigns, supporting legislation that aligns with Catholic teaching, and encouraging active, informed citizenship.
- **Charitable Endeavors:** While patriotism is the specific focus of the Fourth Degree, Sir Knights in Florida continue to participate in and support the broader charitable works of the Order, integrating their love of country with acts of service to their community and the Church.

In summary, the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus in Florida has evolved as a vital expression of Catholic patriotism. From its origins as a national movement to instill civic loyalty among Catholics, it has grown within Florida to become a highly visible and active segment of the Order, dedicated to honoring God and country, supporting veterans, defending life, and serving as a beacon of faithful citizenship within the state's diverse and dynamic landscape.

The Emblem of the Fourth Degree



Sir Knights of the Fourth Degree, deem it an honor and privilege to carry the TRIAD EMBLEM, which features The Dove, The Cross, and The Globe.

Spiritually, the sacred symbols fashioned on the sword and lapel pin, typify the union of the Three Divine Persons in one Godhead *The Most Holy Trinity*.

- The Globe - God the Father, Creator of the Universe.
- The Cross - God the Son, Redeemer of Mankind.
- The Dove - God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of Humanity.

The Fourth-Degree sword represents the bearer's reverence for the Eucharist, the Pope, Bishops and Hierarchy of the Church. It serves as a public display of the Knight's willingness to protect his Church and priests.

Bearers of the Triad Emblem, worn on swords and lapels, are committed to conduct themselves honorably as Christian gentleman in their private and public lives and to act patriotically for the good of their nations. This emblem is a reminder to never bring dishonor to *The Most Holy Trinity*. By wearing this emblem proudly, others see the good works of the Sir Knights of the Fourth Degree and how they glorify their Catholic Faith, their Honored Order, and their Beloved Country.

Dear Brother Knights,



Meeting Reminder

Our next monthly meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 16, 2025**, at 512 Substation Road, Venice, Florida. At our last meeting, we voted to begin meetings at **6:30 PM**, so we kindly ask everyone to arrive promptly. Your timeliness helps us start united and make the most of our time together.

We encourage those who haven't joined us in recent months to return and reconnect. Your presence enriches our fellowship, and we look forward to sharing good food, camaraderie, and meaningful conversation with you.

Please remember to bring your 3rd and 4th Degree membership travel cards to present to our Faithful Inner and Outer Sentinels. This small step helps uphold the integrity and tradition of our meeting bylaws.

As attendance grows, we're excited to see fresh ideas take root and our shared faith continue to inspire. Let's keep building something meaningful together.

SAVE THE DATE REVISED

We'd like to clarify that our earlier "Save the Date" notice was incorrect, and we truly regret any confusion it may have caused. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Please mark your calendars with the correct date below:

Tuesday, December 9th, 2025

Further details will follow shortly, including accurate event information and logistics. Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we work to keep our communications clear and timely.



Milestones of our Brother Knights We extend our warmest wishes to those brothers celebrating a birthday or an anniversary of their commitment to the Fourth Degree. Please join us in offering congratulations and prayers for these esteemed members.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Name	Date	Age
Robert P. Ott	1	57
Robert J. Smith	1	88
John N. Cappel	2	87
Thom R. Gardner	2	64
Joseph P. Fogerty	6	83
Paul N. Grieco	6	87
Josh Mihm	8	49
Mark Piazza	12	65
William L. Jagenow	14	85
Msgr. Patrick Dubois	15	54
Mr. Jean F. Milord	16	47
Willard F. Straub	17	89
John F. Yagienski	18	84
John S. Calkins	21	82
Ernesto A. Castillo	21	75
Mark Edward Crews	24	71
Manny A. Delgado	24	44
David J. Mulvaney	28	86
Gerard Grabowski	31	83
Kevin G. Staas	31	53

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Years
Charles E. Hall	67
Howard Schneider	29
Robert F. O'Connor	27
Philip T. Omdahl	23
Robert Louis Smialek	22
William Vondette	22
Richard A. Kunzier	16
Deacon Peter Casamento	15
Scott J. Hiligen	13
Frank William Mayle	13
Rick R. Miller	12
Michael J. LaVecchia	12
Larry V. Middendorf	8
James S. Campbell	8
Leo J. Shuzdak Jr.	7
Matthew F. Ukleja	6
Rev. Patrick Dubois	4
Patrick J. Keigher	4
Luis A. Montalvo	4
Dr. Andres O. Soriano	4
John S. Calkins	2

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.



Sir Rick Miller & Laura Miller	Sir Peter & Ginny Spagnuolo
Kathy Lanza	Sir Rick and Laura Miller
Sir Rick Kuertz	Connie Smith
Sir Mike Milak	Pam Russell
Bill Solomn	Dan Ianktree
Dan Stanley	Bob Broderdorf
Sir Bill & Margaret Jagenow	Katherine Bluik
Sir Steve Vacca	Sheila Farrell
Linda Montemarano	5 Police Officers
George J. Barbiero Sr.	Sir Bill Jagenow & Margaret Jagenow
Nancy Mehos	Charlie Kirk Family
Sir Mark Schaefer	
Kathleen Englert (RIP)	

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 941-272-8672. 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](#)



ASSEMBLY 1818 APPOINTED POSITIONS



Color Corp Commander	Martin Reis 209-480-6043
Cemetery Activity Coordinator	Rick Anderson 321-303-8172
Meeting Communications Coordinator	Michael Cleary 941-445-7580
Membership Chairmen	Martin Reis 209-480-6043 George Barbiero 203-885-8238
Retention Chairman/Bereavement/ Birthdays /Anniversaries	Charles Woodrum 304-282-8733
Valentines For Veterans	Tony Hopfinger 412-496-6776 Mike Milak 941-380-7248 Martin Reis 209-480-6043
Football Commissioner	Richard Kunzier 973-903-1226



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.