

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

ASSEMBLY 1818

Volume I Issue III September 2025



Faithful Navigator
Bernie Lanza 941-441-8892

Comptroller
George Barbiero 203-885-8238

Captain
Tony Hopfinger 412-496-6776

Admiral
Tony Salvucci 617-320-1759

Purser
Vinnie Gelsomino 815-409-2385

Pilot
Rick Anderson 321-303-8172

Scribe
Vince Hagerty 609-805-7704

Inner Sentinel
Chuck Woodrum 304-282-8733

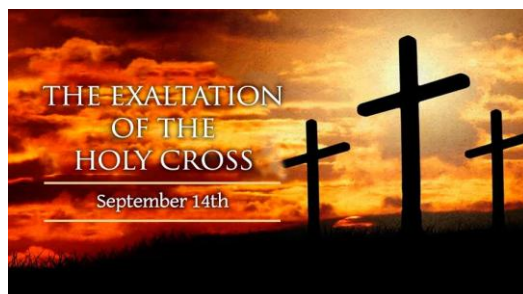
Outer Sentinel
Bill Blanchard 732-841-6074

One Year Trustee
Ed Farrell 941-223-6321

Two Year Trustee
Richard Kunzier 973-903-1226

Three Year Trustee
Kevin Szopinski 603-277-1367

Faithful Friar Rev. Januszc



Greetings, Brother Knights:

The month of September brings us the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14th. This powerful commemoration provides us with the opportunity to reflect on our own mission as Knights of Columbus.

Just as the Holy Cross stands as a symbol of sacrifice, love, and redemption, so too are we called to embody these virtues in our lives and in our work. Our principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism are deeply rooted in the very sacrifice Christ made on the Cross. We are called to bear our own crosses in service to others, to uplift those burdened by hardship, and to be instruments of God's love in a world that so desperately needs it.

Let us carry the spirit of the Holy Cross into all our endeavors this September, renewing our commitment to living out our Catholic faith through service and brotherhood.

Vivat Jesus!

SK George Barbiero





A Message from our Faithful Navigator



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ASSEMBLY 1818

Sir Knights:

I pray this Newsletter finds my Brother Knights in good health. While the last few weeks have been somewhat quieter, I would like to report that we have had our first Color Corp monthly training.

As summer is passing by all too quickly, we will be looking forward to September when we will be gearing up for what promises to be a busy start to fall. The Blue Mass will take place on September 14 at the 12pm Mass. I am encouraging all 4th Degree members to come to the Mass to support our First Responders. The Blue Mass is usually well attended.

Our Faithful Friar has requested our Color Corp to participate in the dedication ceremony of the statue of St Michael the Archangel on Sept 28th. Our regular meeting is scheduled for September 18th, and Color Corp Training is set for September 25th.

I would like to welcome our newest members to the Assembly: Wayne Smith, Salvatore Filosa, Joe Ferreira, Mark Callahan, Brian Blanchfield. Please consider becoming involved and participate in our many committees and activities.

I am looking forward to working with each of you in the coming months. Thank you for being a member of Assembly 1818, 4th Degree Knight of Columbus.

Below you will find a list of the committees and chairs for this year.
For God and Country, God Bless you All

SK Bernie Lanza

Faithful Navigator
Bishop Charles McLaughlin
Knights of Columbus Assembly 1818
941-441-8892
majlanza@icloud.com



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 734-623-1046
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

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.

SEPTEMBER 2025

- **Wed, Sept 10** – Sarasota National Cemetery @ 8:30 AM
- **Sun, Sept 14** – Blue Mass @ Noon (OLOL)
- **Thurs, Sept 18** – Assembly Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 - Rosary @ 5:30 PM - Dinner @ 5:45 PM
- **Thurs, Sept 25** – Color Corps Drill Practice @ 2 PM (OLOL)

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 @ Noon (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
- **TBD** – 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 @ 6:45 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, September 18, 2025, at 512 Substation Road, Venice, Florida.**

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

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

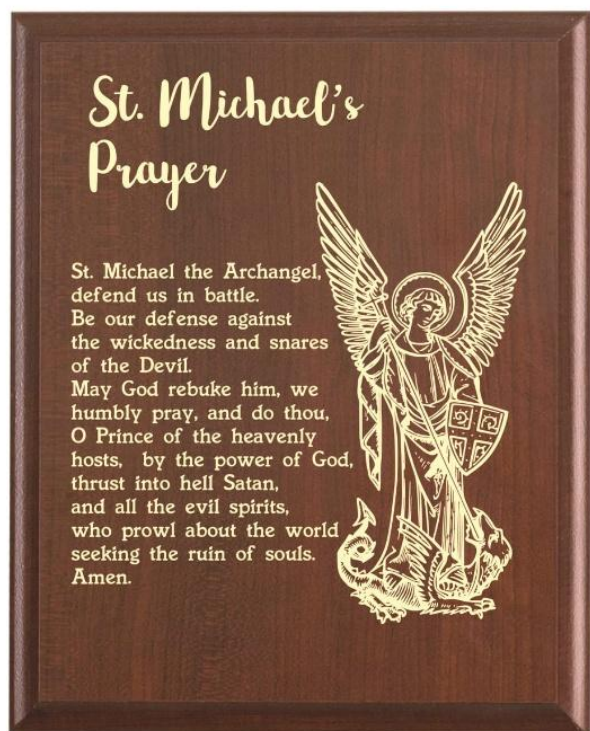
When you arrive, please **SIGN IN** printing your name clearly and legibly. A **Prayer List** will be available for sign-up. In the spirit of Christian charity and brotherhood **kindly print the names of those who need our prayers clearly and legibly.** Through our collective prayers, we can offer support 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, September 10, 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.

September 28th Dedication to Saint Michael the Archangel



For the Sir Knights of the Fourth Degree, the figure of Saint Michael the Archangel stands not only as a holy leader but as an excellent symbol of our sacred duty. He is the defender of the Church, the protector against evil, and the leader of Christ's army. In his unwavering courage and readiness to serve, we find the very spirit that gives life to our order and guides us in our mission to serve the faith and our fellow man.

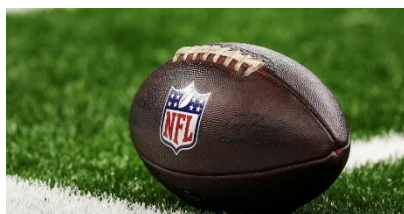
This year, that spirit will be given a new, beautiful home at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Outside the memorial garden entrance, a new statue of Saint Michael will be placed, a permanent sentinel standing watch over our parish community. This statue is more than just a piece of art; it is a testament to our faith, a silent prayer of protection,

and a constant reminder of the spiritual struggle in which we are all engaged. It is a symbol that resonates deeply with the core principles of the Knights of Columbus.

The formal dedication of this new statue will be a moment of great faith and fraternity. A special ceremony will be held this September 28th after the 10 o'clock mass at the entrance to the Memorial Garden at Our Lady of Lourdes. Assembly 1818's Color Corps will be present standing as a visible sign of our commitment to the Church and our devotion to our protector, Saint Michael.

This is a time for all Knights to come together. While the Color Corps will be present to represent our assembly formally, the presence of every member is essential. Your attendance will not only show camaraderie with your brother Knights but will also be a public statement of your faith and your support for Our Lady of Lourdes Church. It is an opportunity to stand together, united in our mission to serve God and others out of love and gratitude, as we dedicate this powerful new symbol of our faith. Let us all mark our calendars for September and ensure we are present for this wonderful occasion.

Charity Football Pool



We're thrilled to share that all 200 books for this year's Charity Football Pool have been sold! Your enthusiastic response and generous support have made this initiative a resounding success.

Thanks to your participation, we've raised \$5,000 to fuel our charitable programs proof that when we come together in faith and fellowship, we can truly make a difference. Every Monday night this season will now be a celebration of community, compassion, and a little friendly competition!

A heartfelt thank you to SK Richard Kunzier for his leadership and dedication in organizing this effort. And of course, thank you to each and every participant your cheerful giving reflects the spirit of 2 Corinthians 9:7: "God loves a cheerful giver."

Let's enjoy the season, cheer on our teams, and continue to uplift those in need. May this football pool be a source of joy, connection, and impact throughout the NFL season. Many blessings and good luck to all our players. The first game is on Monday September 8th.

A Vision of Warmth and Service



Last year, Father Jay cast a bold and compassionate vision: to pair every donated pair of boots for migrant workers with warm socks. Assembly 1818 rose to the challenge, rallying the strength of Council 9924. Under the steady leadership of our Sock Czar, SK Marty Reis, we surpassed all expectations—and every foot was covered in comfort and care.

Though we met our goal last year, the need continues. And so does our mission. This year, the Sock Czar proposes a streamlined and faith-driven plan centered on two special drives. The first, held in August 2025, was completed successfully thanks to your generosity. The second, scheduled for January 2026, will be our final push let's finish strong.

Ongoing donations are always welcome. We will continue accepting socks throughout the fall and winter months, with every pair helping us reach our parish goal. Father Jay continues to welcome contributions from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, and SK Marty Reis will continue purchasing socks on behalf of Assembly 1818 and Council 9924 to ensure we meet the needs.

Every pair makes a difference. Let us keep the momentum going. Pray on it. Give what you can. Your contributions are deeply appreciated, and they warm both feet and hearts. Final results will be shared in early 2026. Together, let's serve joy, dignity, and purpose.

No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony

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



RM3	Ronald Fava	US NAVY
SGT	Ronald Dey	US MARINE CORPS
SP5	Timothy Wisniewski	US ARMY
L CPL	Dennis Byrne	US MARINE CORPS
L CPL	Mercedes Fajardo	US MARINE CORPS
AB	Richard Leiser	US AIR FORCE
CPL	Randall Labadie	US ARMY
IC2	Larry Knodle	US NAVY
CPL	Ronald Holsing	US ARMY
PFC	Charles West	US ARMY
ET2	Richard Zahn	US NAVY
PFC	John Whitmore	US ARMY
CW2	Gregory Watson	US ARMY
SGT	Richard Poglajen	US AIR FORCE
SA	Joseph Mock	US NAVY
A1C	Larry Dunn	US AIR FORCE
A2C	Ronald Hover	US AIR FORCE
CAPT	Marylou Johnson	US ARMY
SFC	John De Block	US ARMY
A1C	Thomas Ford	US AIR FORCE
PV1	James Poole	US ARMY
SP4	Ronald Ambruso	US ARMY
PVT	Stuart Alcott	US ARMY

AN	Joseph Reinecker	US NAVY
PFC	Emmett Krug	US ARMY
TEC4	Richard Swartz	US ARMY
HM2	Robert McBreen	US NAVY
PFC	Barry Gold	US ARMY
SP4	George Lamirata	US ARMY
SN	Jesse Gargus	US NAVY
SP4	Eugenio Pepe	US ARMY
PV1	Kevin Smith	US ARMY
SGT	Thomas Horner	US ARMY
HM2	Robert Holbach	US NAVY
PFC	Roland Braden	US ARMY
AE3	John Lee	US NAVY



*Video Message of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV
for the 143rd Supreme Convention
of the Knights of Columbus
August 5, 2025*

Dear friends,

I am pleased to greet all of you gathered in Washington, D.C., for the 143rd Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus. I also greet those who are participating virtually in these opening ceremonies.

You are meeting during the Jubilee Year of Hope, which encourages the Universal Church, and indeed the entire world, to reflect on this essential virtue, which Pope Francis described as “the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring” (*Spes Non Confundit*, 1). I’d like to reflect briefly with you on this important virtue.

As Catholics, we know that the source of our hope is Jesus Christ and he has sent his followers in every age to bring the good news of his saving Paschal Mystery to the entire world. The Church has always been called to be a sign of hope through the proclamation of the Gospel in words as well as in actions. In a particular way during this Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind.

Your founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, understood this well. He saw the many needs of immigrant Catholics and sought to bring relief to the poor and suffering through his faithful celebration of the sacraments as well as through fraternal assistance, fraternal assistance which continues on to this day.

This year's Convention has the timely theme of "Heralds of Hope," reminding all Knights of Columbus of the invitation to be signs of hope in your local communities, parishes, and families. In this regard, I commend your efforts to bring together men in your communities for prayer, formation, and fraternity, as well as the many charitable efforts of your local Councils throughout the world. In particular, your generous service to vulnerable populations, including the unborn, pregnant mothers, children, those who are less fortunate, and those affected by the scourge of war, brings hope and healing to many and continues the noble legacy of your founder.

With these brief words, I offer my good wishes for the work of the Supreme Convention, which I entrust to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, and to the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney. And may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you forever. Amen.



If you would like to watch this video message, click on this [link](#).



Knights of Columbus® Florida State Council

The Knights of Columbus Florida State Council has unveiled the new Florida State Council pin for the 2025-2027 fraternal years, a symbol of our shared faith and commitment. This beautiful pin is not merely an emblem; it is a profound message and a call to action.

Encircling the pin are the powerful words, "Open Wide The Doors For Christ." These words, first spoken by Saint John Paul II at the beginning of his pontificate, resonate deeply with our mission as Knights of Columbus. They challenge us to a new message, to welcome Christ into our hearts, our homes, our communities, assembles and our councils. As we wear this pin, let us remember that we are called to be doorkeepers for the Lord, inviting all to experience His love and mercy.



At the heart of the pin lies a truly unique and moving image: Jesus in Mary's womb. This image is an extraordinary depiction of the Incarnation, the moment when God became man. It reminds us of the profound truth that Christ's life began not in a manger, but in the most intimate and sacred space, His mother's womb.

This depiction of the unborn Christ speaks to the core of our pro-life mission. It reminds us that life is sacred from conception to natural death. The unborn Jesus is shown in a state of perfect dependence and vulnerability, a powerful testament to the sanctity of every human life. This image calls us to protect the most vulnerable among us, just as the Blessed Mother protected her Son.

May this pin serve as a constant reminder of our dual callings: to open our hearts and lives to Christ and to champion the sanctity of life at every stage. Let us wear it with pride, as a testament to our faith, our fraternity, and our unwavering commitment to the Gospel.



There is a great opportunity to support Assembly 1818 while celebrating our shared faith and fraternity. Our Faithful Comptroller has purchased 25 of the newly released Florida State Council pins featuring the inspiring theme “Open Wide the Doors for Christ” as a personal donation of \$125.00 to kickstart this fundraiser.

These beautiful pins will be available for \$15.00 each at our next scheduled Assembly Meeting. Every dollar, including the initial \$125.00 investment, will go directly into our fraternal year’s income, strengthening our ability to serve others and uphold the values we cherish.

If you feel moved to contribute more than the \$15 purchase price, your generosity will be deeply appreciated and will go even further in supporting our mission.

Let’s wear these pins with pride as a symbol of our faith, and our commitment to charity, unity, and patriotism.

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](#)

The Signal Table: A Sacred Anchor of Faith and Tradition at Assembly 1818



The Signal Table tradition within the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus traces its roots to the early ceremonial practices that emphasized visual symbolism as a means of reinforcing Catholic values and patriotic duty. While the table itself may not appear in the earliest foundational documents of the Order, its emergence reflects the evolution of ritual within the Assembly—particularly during the Ceremony for Renewal of Obligations, where the Signal Table plays a central role.

Historically, the table was introduced to visually anchor the emblems of the Fourth Degree: the Flag, Sword, and Cross. These items were solemnly placed upon the table during ceremonial proceedings to represent the Knight's dual allegiance to Church and Country. Over time, the addition of the Papal Cushion and Bible further enriched the table's theological depth, linking the Knights' civic responsibilities with their spiritual mission.

The use of colored cloths—Royal Blue, Black, or Maroon—was formalized to reflect dignity and uniformity across Assemblies. These colors not only complement the emblems but also evoke the solemnity of the Fourth Degree's purpose: to embody the virtues of patriotism, faith, and fidelity.

In ceremonies dating back decades, the Signal Table has served as a focal point for renewal, reflection, and unity. It is where Knights recommit to their obligations, standing before the sacred symbols that echoes the shape of a cross or anchor emblems of hope, sacrifice, and steadfastness.

Arranged with purpose and care, The Signal Table transforms the hall into a sacred space. Positioned front and center, it draws the eyes of all in attendance.

Each item finds its right place. The Bible resting atop the Papal Cushion speaks of loyalty to both Church and Word. The Cross commands our allegiance to Christ. The sword speaks of readiness to defend truth. The flag reminds us of honor and service to our country.

Assembly 1818 continues to uphold the Signal Table not only as a historical practice, but as a visual affirmation of our Fourth-Degree values of patriotism, courage, unity, and faith. The Signal Table is a solemn reminder of our mission, deeply rooted in the legacy of Catholic brotherhood.

Assembly 1818 Annual Budget Overview FY 2025–2026

Income Sources

Description	Amount
Member Dues	\$5,400.00
Donations	\$2,000.00
Exemplification Fees	\$2,000.00
Football Ticket Sales	\$5,000.00
50/50 Raffle	\$800.00
Petty Cash	\$600.00
Total Income	\$15,800.00

Operating Expenses

Description	Amount
Assembly Dinners	\$2,900.00
Football Ticket Payouts	\$2,200.00
Exemplification Costs	\$2,000.00
Hall Rental	\$900.00
General Supplies	\$800.00
Relief Funds	\$500.00
Officer Salaries	\$338.00
Awards & Recognition	\$300.00
Office Supplies	\$200.00
Special Occasion Dinners	\$200.00
Color Guard Support	\$100.00
Miscellaneous	\$100.00
Christmas Florals	\$75.00
Postage	\$43.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$10,656.00

Program & Event Funding

Description	Amount
Guest Speakers & Programs	\$1,000.00
Sarasota National Cemetery Wreaths	\$800.00
Annual Convention	\$450.00
Veterans Mass	\$250.00
Officer Installation	\$100.00
Advertising	\$100.00
Total Program Expenses	\$2,700.00

Summary

Category	Amount
Total Income	\$15,800.00
Total Expenses	\$13,356.00
Projected Surplus	\$2,444.00

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. Please join us in offering congratulations and prayers for these these esteemed members.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Name	Date	Age
Michael Milak	1	73
Michael Sellner	2	49
John Wilkinson	4	95
Bernard Louis Sponsel	5	74
Kevin Collins	9	86
Martin Mosteller	9	86
Dennis Putman	11	77
Keith Caka	12	53
Daniel Lanktree	13	80
Rev. Thomas Carzon	15	57
Peter Casamento	15	66
James la Mar	15	85
John Kesich	16	63
William Vondette	18	83
Richard Frohmiller	20	84
Isabelo Sanchez	22	90
George Mccolgan	24	75
Thomas Reno	25	85
Paul Krause	26	77
Jan Andrew Young	29	72



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Years
Anthony Amorose	34
Francis Bruno	14
Robert Crowley	7
John Temel	39

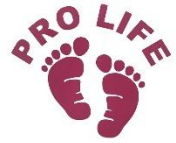


This prayer list is a testament to our commitment to one another, a space where we can place the names of our fellow knights, cherished family members, and dear friends. Whether facing health issues or grappling with personal challenges, each person needs our heartfelt prayers.

Rick Miller	Teddy Repose
Ginny Spagnuolo	Robert Cloutier
Paul Cacciatore	Ken Burroughs
Marvin & Bonnie Reis	Mike Milak
Kevin Wolak	Tony Salvucci
Olivia Wolak Russo	George Counes
Susan Crews	James Atty
Christy Scott	Diane & Terry B.
Linda Montemarano	Kylee Herman
George J. Barbiero Sr.	Emily
Nancy Mehos	Mindy
Larry Fannell	Nancee & Pat
Armando	Karen
Pam & Jim Russell	Jim Orr
Connie & Jerry Smith	Anita & Turk Hemsari
Ellen (RIP)	Don Bohensky
Ralph Kuebler (RIP)	Tom Festa
Victor Zunim (RIP)	Richard leutchau
Kathie M (RIP)	Teddy Repose
Tim Kunzier	Willard
Rick Kuertz	Costello
Charlie O'Donnell & Family	



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.