

# St. James Council 12402

Serving the Chancery and St. James Cathedral

Date: Apr 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Issue: Apr Newsletter



## Grand Knight's Report



Ladies and gentlemen,

As we come together to commemorate our 25-year journey, let us rededicate ourselves to our mission: empowering Catholic men to live out their faith within the Holy Catholic Church, the Bride of Christ. Through our steadfast commitment, we strive to strengthen families and parishes, fostering a deeper connection with Christ within our community. It's an honor to reflect on the remarkable journey we've undertaken together. From our humble beginnings with 38 founding members to our present-day roster, we've upheld the values of charity, unity, and fraternity with unwavering dedication.

Tonight, we pay tribute to the exceptional leadership that has guided us over the years. Bob Wilson, George del Campo, John Rice, George Olson, Steve Gertel, and Cody Pitre—each Grand Knight has left an indelible mark on our council's legacy, steering us towards excellence and distinction. I've brought the list of Grand Knights with me this evening if you would like to view it.

As we celebrate our past achievements, let us also acknowledge the enduring commitment of our founding members, seven of whom remain integral parts of our council today. Their steadfast support and dedication have been instrumental in shaping our council's identity and fostering a spirit of camaraderie that endures through the years. Specifically, I'm happy to be able to spotlight a distinguished member who has stood as a pillar of our community and council: Dan Wallace. His presence among us tonight serves as a reminder of the enduring bonds forged through shared experiences and shared goals. Dan's contributions, whether through his leadership, mentorship, or tireless efforts behind the scenes, have left an indelible mark on our council's history.

Through the highs and lows, our commitment to Christ, to humble service, and to brotherhood has remained steadfast, thanks in no small part to the resilient leadership of individuals like John Rice. Under John's guidance, we navigated the unprecedented challenges brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating resilience, adaptability, and an unwavering dedication to our mission. His leadership during these trying times has been nothing short of exemplary, inspiring us all to persevere in the face of adversity.

Moreover, as we celebrate tonight, we find ourselves amidst another chapter of transformation and renewal, with our council temporarily displaced due to renovations at the St James Cathedral social center. Yet, even during this disruption, our spirit remains undaunted, fueled by a shared commitment to our principles of unity, fraternity, and charity.

Together, we've achieved remarkable milestones, earning accolades such as 4 Double STAR Council Awards, 6 STAR Council Awards, and even the prestigious FL Council of the Year Award under the stewardship of George Olson.

Here's to 25 years of brotherhood, service, and excellence. Thank you all for being part of this extraordinary journey.

Vivat Jesus! Chris Ewing, Current Grand Knight

## In Memoriam

Sir Knight Edsel Butler



Sir Knight Edsel (Ed) Butler passed away on Sat, Mar 9, 2024 at the age of 88. Brother Ed and his lovely wife, Dorothy, celebrated their 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last Nov 16<sup>th</sup>. They met in the military as Brother Ed served 14 years in the US Navy and 6 years in the US Army where he worked as a Chief Hospital Corpsman, Bio-Tech Equipment Technician, and a Chief Warrant Officer. Brother Ed joined the K of C in Mar 1989 and later became an active 4<sup>th</sup> degree and was active in many K of C activities. Several years ago, they re-located to Littleton, CO to be closer to their 2 daughters, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Brother Ed will be sorely missed. RIP faithful servant of Jesus Christ.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Firebirds Wood Fired Grill – 3/14/24

40+ members and spouses celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a council at Firebirds Wood Fired Grill in Orlando. St. James Council #12402 came into existence on Mar 25, 1999 with 38 members. Seven of the original 38 are still members of our council. Over the past 25 years our council has achieved Double STAR Council 4 times and STAR Council 6 times which are clear indicators that we have an active council and a growing membership. Congrats on this milestone. More pictures in the back of this newsletter.



## Feeding the Homeless

Christian Service Center – 4/1/24



A big thanks to Brother Miguel Kaled and his mom, Ivone, and Tim Regan who worked the 1<sup>st</sup> shift. Brother Les & Camille Castro, Gilberto Martins, and Fernando & Winifred Pinhal worked the 2<sup>nd</sup> shift. Brother Brian Kirwan was also in attendance. Thank you all so much. A job well done as usual.

# Life Director



Brother Knights,

The 40 Days for Life Campaign concluded on March 24th with 656 cities around the world participating. The last reported figure is 266 babies saved. The final numbers will be reported on April 16th.

The Florida Supreme Court has yet (as of this writing) to rule on the proposed ballot amendment allowing abortions in Florida up to "viability" which is generally accepted to mean 24 weeks. The Court is scheduled to rule by April 1st. 26 states now allow abortions and several additional states will have similar amendments proposed on their November ballots.

The abortion drug mifepristone is now being sold in a handful of states by CVS and Walgreens. Both organizations plan to expand into other states where abortion is legal. Since the overturning of Roe v Wade chemical abortions have gone from 40% to an estimated (by some reports) 63% of all abortions. Telemedicine has made it easier and faster for patients to obtain the drug and self-abort. The US Supreme Court is scheduled to rule on access to mifepristone by June. If the court overturns a lower court ruling, mailing of the drug would be banned.

Also, states allowing abortions have seen increases of 50-70% as abortion seekers travel from border states where abortion is illegal.

As Canada is one of the country's leading the way with Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) laws, Catholic hospitals are being sued as they do not perform the procedure. The Archdiocese of Vancouver is pushing back as St. Paul's hospital is being targeted. The British Columbia government expropriated land from St. Paul's to build a euthanasia center next door to the hospital. In Oregon physician-assisted death prescriptions increased by 30% in 2023.

The JMJ Pregnancy Center held its monthly Hope Visit on March 16th. They provided items to 24 clients in need of support for their newborn babies. For 2023 the centers served 2219 clients, performed 341 ultrasounds resulting in 703 women choosing life. In addition, the Lifting Lives Center served 434 clients and distributed nearly 14,000 items including cribs, car seats, strollers, diapers, clothing and food. The revenue for the year was \$647.7K. Volunteers contributed 7000 hours in various activities.

Les Castro  
Life Director

## Officer Nominees (2024-2025)

Position	Candidate	E-mail
Grand Knight	GK Chris Ewing	<a href="mailto:profcewing@gmail.com">profcewing@gmail.com</a>
Dep Grand Knight	Gilberto Martins	<a href="mailto:gilmart411@aol.com">gilmart411@aol.com</a>
Chancellor	Jay Lemmen	<a href="mailto:mjlemmen@icloud.com">mjlemmen@icloud.com</a>
Treasurer	Patrick Hayes	<a href="mailto:Phayes36@cfl.rr.com">Phayes36@cfl.rr.com</a>
Recorder	Jeff Conklin	<a href="mailto:jeff.conk14@gmail.com">jeff.conk14@gmail.com</a>
Warden	Matthew Steiger	<a href="mailto:matthewsteiger@icloud.com">matthewsteiger@icloud.com</a>
1st Year Trustee	PGK George Olson	<a href="mailto:golson255@gmail.com">golson255@gmail.com</a>
2nd Year Trustee	PGK John Rice	<a href="mailto:Johndrice1@gmail.com">Johndrice1@gmail.com</a>
3rd Year Trustee	Thomas Jensen	<a href="mailto:thomasjames2480@msn.com">thomasjames2480@msn.com</a>
Advocate	Kraig Johnson	<a href="mailto:knjohnson509@aol.com">knjohnson509@aol.com</a>
Inside Guard	Ron Gulasa	<a href="mailto:rdgulasa@gmail.com">rdgulasa@gmail.com</a>
Outside Guard	Chris Marquette	<a href="mailto:christophmarquette@gmail.com">christophmarquette@gmail.com</a>
<b>Assigned by GK</b>		
Chaplain	VR Miguel Gonzalez	<a href="mailto:mgonzalez@stjamesorlando.org">mgonzalez@stjamesorlando.org</a>
Financial Secretary	Ken Siders	<a href="mailto:kennethsiders@att.net">kennethsiders@att.net</a>
Lecturer	Les Castro	<a href="mailto:camlescastro@gmail.com">camlescastro@gmail.com</a>

Elections are planned for Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, at the membership meeting. Nominations will also be accepted in advance or at the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

# Laps for Life

Bishop Moore HS – 3/2/24



The Laps for Life fund raiser has brought in \$94.5K. Our team brought in \$5125 which placed St James Knights in 5<sup>th</sup> place. PGK George & Joanne Olson raised \$3750, Kim del Campo raised \$525, Cheryl Gulasa \$500, and PGK John Rice \$350. Our team exceeded last year's donations by \$679. We also had several walkers – Ron & Cheryl Gulasa, Gilberto & Elaine Martins, PGK John & Ruth Rice, Kraig & Amber Jade Johnson, PGK George & Joanne Olson. Well done team.

## Homemade Baked Goods

Bishop Moore HS – 3/2/24



Our wonderful spouses, pictured above are Joanne Olson, Liz Zeitler, Ruth Rice, & Amber Jade Johnson, have done another tremendous job with homemade baked goods sales at the Laps for Life fund raiser. Camille Castro, Kim del Campo, and Janet Lemmen also contributed their time and/or talents. Thank you ladies.

## Free Throw Contest

St. James School – 2/28/24

A big thanks to Brothers Tim Regan, Patrick Hayes, Les Castro, and Ken Siders for spearheading the annual free throw contest at St. James School. Our team fed over 75+ students hot dogs, chips, and drinks. Well done.

## Upcoming Events

### Apr

Mon, Apr 1 – Feed the Homeless – Christian Service Center, 11:30 am  
 Tues, Apr 2 – Fraternal Benefits Night, 8 pm <http://tinyurl.com/KofCApril2>  
 Fri, Apr 5, 12, 19, 26 – That Man Is You – St. James School, 6:30 am  
 Sun, Apr 7 – Divine Mercy Sunday  
 Mon, Apr 8, 15, 22 – Serve Breakfast – Christian Service Center, 8:45 am  
 Thurs, Apr 11 – Membership Meeting, Bishop Grady Room, 7:00 pm  
 Sun, Apr 21 – Mass for Brother Edsel Butler – St. James Cathedral, 9 am

### May

Wed, May 1 – Feast of St. Joseph the Worker  
 Thurs, May 9 – Membership Meeting – Bishop Grady Room, 7:00 pm  
 Mon, May 13 – Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

### Jun

Mon, Jun 3 – Feed the Homeless – Christian Service Center, 11:30 am  
 Thurs, Jun 13 – Officer Induction Ceremony & dinner – TBD

## Sponsors

Sign-up to be a sponsor for the next 6 months; 50/50 drawing will be held at the Jul Meeting. As of right now there is \$150 in the drawing; \$75 to the winner. The cost is only \$5 per month to sponsor a newsletter.

Members	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	2024
Les Castro	x	x	x	x	x	x	+6
George & Kim del Campo	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Chris Ewing	x	x	x	x	x	x	
John Rice	x	x	x	x	x	x	+1
Brian Schanen	x	x	x	x	x	x	+6

# Financial Benefits Advisor



We spend six weeks each year during Lent fasting, praying and almsgiving. We hope to unite our fasting and praying with Jesus' 40 days of fasting and praying in the desert, to focus on preparing both our inner and outer selves to celebrate the great Easter feast. We give alms to identify with that great sacrifice of God giving His only begotten Son. With Easter on March 31 this year, I hope this finds that you had a very blessed celebration of this central Christian feast! Easter certainly brings thoughts of newness and renewal. We hope our fasting, praying and almsgiving renews our closeness to God.

As Spring settles in, I observe the many rituals of the season. I think of newness and renewal. Outside beds are prepared for new planning. I see the new blossoms on trees and flowers reaching full bloom, lengthening of daylight, and a rush of sounds and sights not seen for many months. Schoolchildren begin to count down the days to summer vacation. Parents do the same counting down...perhaps without the joy of the children!

Spring seems to elicit looking forward.

As I look forward this Spring, I am renewed in my mission to meet with my members. I want to keep you apprised of any changes you might want to consider in your insurance program. I hope you will keep me apprised of any changes in your circumstances. Adjustments can be made to make sure that you are on the path to reach your goals.

The Order offers a diverse array of products and services to help you do that. Together we can complete or update your financial needs analysis. This can show where you stand and helps discover any gaps in protection you might have. Our products: life insurance, retirement annuities, long-term care insurance and disability income insurance, are our core products to help protect you and your family.

I'll call on you soon to see if it makes sense to arrange for a meeting.

Vivat Jesus!

## Prayers

- For the repose of the soul of Sir Knight Edsel Butler and for Dorothy and their family during these challenging times.
- For a successful hip replacement surgery for Brother Troy Collins.
- For the healing of Jaime Klein as she begins her cancer treatment.
- For Kevin O'Donnell, brother-in-law of Brother Michael Torres, as he is having a major struggle with his faith.
- For Asoyi Rivas, sister of Brother Michael Torres, as she is trying to turn a new chapter in life; pray that the Lord starts to be more a focus for her moving forward.
- For the vocation of marriage; that it is constantly strengthened by Jesus Christ.
- For Brother Mark Zeitler as he prepares for his diaconate ordination on Jun 8<sup>th</sup>.

## April Birthdays – Members

1 Apr	Michael Laughlin	20 Apr	Henry Skowronski
12 Apr	Jerry Richardville	21 Apr	Troy Collins
14 Apr	Dan Witucki	24 Apr	Thomas Jensen
16 Apr	Paul Mylod	26 Apr	Denney Caberto
20 Apr	Fred Jonassen	29 Apr	David Bessette
20 Apr	Ken Siders		

## May Birthdays – Members

1 May	GK John Rice	13 May	Jim Turner
5 May	Dr. Greg Coffman	17 May	Craig Livingston
6 May	Mike Ciappetta	24 May	Michael Batista
6 May	Wes Powell	28 May	Fernando Pinhal
7 May	Frank Terrizzi	29 May	Tim Galvin
11 May	John Forester		

## Apr/May Birthdays – Spouses

3 Apr	Alison Kerestes	2 May	Celena Brown
4 Apr	Elizabeth Simpson	9 May	Yaritza Santana-Bajana
11 Apr	Carmen Wilson	10 May	Carolyn Yonfa
15 Apr	Becky Gold	11 May	Kelli D'Amato
25 Apr	Alvida Groom	12 May	Sherry Herring
		14 May	Lokelani Vasse
		19 May	Kim del Campo
		22 May	Adriana Kirwan
		22 May	Amanda Schanen

## Apr/May Anniversaries

2 Apr	Raul & Katherine Rodriguez (8 years)
14 Apr	Rob & Jennifer Owen (12 years)
25 Apr	Albert & Carolyn Yonfa (15 years)
26 Apr	Dr. Brian & Amanda Schanen (16 years)
30 Apr	Matt & Tammy Helenthal (8 years)

2 May	Mark & Liz Zeitler (26 years)
3 May	Les & Camille Castro (50 years)
4 May	Denney & Mariko Caberto (12 years)
13 May	Gary & Mercy Eelman (29 years)
13 May	Tim & Marsha Norton (35 years)
18 May	Mike & Lei-Lee Ciappetta (21 years)
20 May	Lynn & Evelyn Hinson (57 years)
21 May	PGK George & Joanne Olson (46 years)
25 May	Santos & Elizabeth DeLeon (24 years)
26 May	Leonard & Teresa Romano (34 years)
27 May	Mark & Irene Gumula (8 years)
28 May	Gilberto & Elaine Martins (41 years)
29 May	GK Chris & Melissa Ewing (20 years)
30 May	Ed & Becky Gold (25 years)
31 May	David & Tamara Larocque (21 years)

## Ordination Anniversaries

23 May	VR Miguel Gonzalez (26 years)
29 May	Rev Andrzej Wojtan (41 years)
30 May	Rev Philius Vilaire (15 years)

## Years of Service

Date	Member	Years	Date	Member	Years
15 Apr	David Miller	25	17 Apr	Chuck McNulty	6
19 Apr	Rev Andrzej Wojtan	18	23 Apr	Stephen Puckett	6
18 Apr	Michael Leo	17	25 Apr	Fernando Hurtado	6
12 Apr	Yebrail Brennan	16	27 Apr	Nathan Aleskovsky	6
11 Apr	Lynn Hinson	15	8 Apr	Steve Kerestes	5
2 Apr	Paul Mylod	13	16 Apr	Patrick Furino	4
11 Apr	Ryan Koren	13	16 Apr	Jim Hutcherson	4
15 Apr	Michael Schwartz	11	30 Apr	Ivan Campos	4
11 Apr	Mark Ashman	6	27 Apr	Craig Greene	1
Date	Member	Years	Date	Member	Years
27 May	PGK George del Campo	27	17 May	James Fyffe	10
21 May	Gary Herring	22	5 May	Mark Zeitler	8
21 May	Leonard Romano Jr	22	5 May	Bidionel Jacquet	2
19 May	Deacon Pat McAvoy	20	11 May	Gilberto Martins	2
12 May	Ron Jozwiak	16			

# Remembering Sir Knight Ed Butler



# 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



# Vocation's Fund Raiser – 5/18/24



The Florida State Deputy's  
Scotch, Bourbon and Cigars For Vocations Event  
Saturday May 18th 2019 3pm-7pm

Hosted By  
St. Cloud/Kissimmee Council 6624

2000 Neptune Rd.

Kissimmee FL 34744

407.847.8549

\$50. Donation Per Worthy Taster

6 Premium Spirits and 2 Premium Cigars

Wine Social For the Ladies !

\$25. Per Knights First Lady

Please Contact DD David Lestage Or DD Lou Ortiz for Tickets

## **Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge**

**“By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”**

(Gospel for April 28, Jn 15:8)

Have you noticed the progression in the challenges over the past months? If we recognize who Jesus truly is, we must listen to him and serve him. We have St. Joseph as a true model of that faithful service and discipleship. Now we are told that the Father is glorified through our discipleship and the fruit we bear. By being faithful disciples of Christ, may we bear much fruit and so glorify the Father.

### **Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:**

This month, I challenge you to prayerfully ask yourself if you are bearing much fruit as a disciple of Christ and then identify and undertake one way you can be more fruitful.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

What fruit do you currently bear — in your marriage and family, in your relationships at work or among friends, and in the broader community? Are you mindful of the needs of those around you and the opportunities they present to bear fruit? Are there things you can do to become still more fruitful in your Christian witness?

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