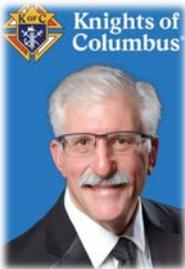




The Shield

Grand Knight's Message



Knights of
Columbus

Tom Krivchenia, PFN
Grand Knight
GrandKnight7109@gmail.com

Worthy Brothers & Ladies,

I hope everyone enjoyed the Valentine's Day weekend. Our one and only dinner dance was a great success and enjoyed by all. Thank you, Fr. Eric and your True Blues Band for providing warm and wonderful music for dancing. Now, we are starting our Lenten journey through the desert. Every year, the Lenten season helps us to pause, to remember and to reflect on Christ's sacrificial love for us. Christ's love for us is amazing, unconditional and everlasting. May gratitude and humility fill our hearts. Let us fulfill the three pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. As March begins, we will move into daylight savings time. So, don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 8th. We will continue to have our Fish Fry Fridays throughout the month. During this month of March, we honor and celebrate several important feasts. Holy St. Joseph, blessed spouse of the Virgin Mary, chosen by God to be the foster father of Jesus occurs, on March 19. Let us pray to him to help us imitate his humility, obedience and courage as he fulfilled the Will of God.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. It is the day that we celebrate the "wearing of the green" whether we are Irish or not!

The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on March 25. Let us also invoke her help in

Issue 03, March 2026

Next Council Meeting
Thursday, March 12 @ 7:00 pm
in the Parish Center

View the Newsletter online at:
www.safetyharborkofc.org

Visit the State Website at:
www.floridakofc.org
Visit the Supreme Website at:
www.kofc.org

following the Will of the Father in obedience, humility and grace.

We started off the month with a Tootsie Roll Drive on the weekend of the February 7th & 8th. We collected \$1,100 for the children with learning challenges. Thank you to Mike Engelmann for organizing this event. Thank you to all of you who stood by the doors and handed out Tootsie Rolls and collected donations. I apologize for the names that I missed.

Tom Harkins Frank McEwen Vince Cristiano
Jack Strehle Tom Wozniak Tom Krivchenia
Matt Sunski Jean Wozniak Tom Fitzpatrick

Our Dinner Dance on Valentine's Day was attended by about 95 people. As I mentioned before, Fr. Eric Peters' band provided entertainment. I was thrilled to see so many people out on the dance floor having a good time. We had a variety of winners for our eight gift baskets provided by the Ladies Auxiliary. Congratulations to Richard LeClerc for winning the 50/50 and the Lotto Tree raffles. It was such a treat to have John Ruckart with his photo booth taking great Valentine pictures for us to take home. I want to thank Paul Harvey for making his roast pork tenderloin for which I heard nothing but great compliments on how tender and delicious it was. This dance would not have been so successful without the help of Council Members and the Ladies Auxiliary and two student volunteers.

Kathy Flynn	Ann LeClerc	Richard LeClerc
Paul Harvey	Gene Jajuga	Tom Fitzpatrick
Ken Seguin	Karen Jajuga	George Inderwies
Ed Amador	Gabby Seguin	Cathy Schaeffer
JJ Coyne	Liz Thomas	Margaret Krivchenia
Tom Stanko	Frank McEwen	Tom Krivchenia
Jack Strehle	Doug deWolfe	Paige Golden
Bernadette Miles		

Our First Fish Fry was a huge success! What a great way to start our first Fish Fry of the season. We had Spirit FM Radio broadcasting and giving out merchandise. We also had a DJ playing music in the background for everyone's enjoyment. We served a record-breaking 524 meals. The next closest was 510 meals back in 2020. The second week has historically been busier than the first week; but for the inclement weather, we may have topped 600 meals. That is our goal for Week 3 of Fish Fry Friday! The Ladies Auxiliary provided desserts and once again the cannolis were a big hit. We had great teamwork between the kitchen staff, food runners, line servers, the takeout station, and the fish fryers. Our student volunteers did an awesome job of keeping the dining hall cleaned and helping carry trays of food for our guests. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked this event and for making it a huge success.

Ed Amador	Kay Strehle	Peggy Gohman
Santo Loparo	Jack Strehle	John Gohman
Tom Harkins	Betsy Clarke	Karen Jajuga
Matt Sunski	John Clarke	Gene Jajuga
Tom Stanko	JJ Coyne	Chris Coyne
Kathy Flynn	Ken Seguin	Margaret Krivchenia
Patrick Flynn	Gabby Seguin	Tom Krivchenia
Paul Harvey	Chris Kearns	Frank McEwen
Don Reed	Brian Kearns	Tom Fitzpatrick
Phil Farney	Shirly Drake	Betty D'Amelio
Pat Nocerino	Terry Drake	Joe D'Amelio
Roe Resler	Mario Zaccaria	Richard Leclerc
Rich Resler	Doug deWolfe	Claire Inderwies
Bill Krajeski	Rita Wolanin	George Inderwies
Garret Phoebe	Mark Feldman	Robin LaChance
Bill Gallant	Jean Wozniak	Cathy Schaeffer
Frank Cayer	Tom Wozniak	Sue Engelmann
Rob Pickard	Dan Brandon	Mike Engelmann
John Ruckart	Jacob Burnett	Adel Nammour
Lara Custin	John Papa	Irving Hernandez
Jerry Custin	Gerard Lobo	

Our awesome student volunteers:

Cade Adams	Vincent Valera	Natalia Rivera
Owen Smith	Landon Persang	Taylor Brannock
Kade Aldridge	Conley Spaulding	Zander Healthridge

If I have missed anybody who helped, I truly apologize.

We also had a Unified Degree Ceremony for our new Knights of Columbus members. Please welcome Gerard Lobo & Garrett Phoebe, our newest Knights.

Upcoming Events

The Fish Frys are our main activity each Friday through March 27th. If they are anything like the first two weeks were, we are in for a very active month. This year can be even better than last year. We will have sign – up sheets each week for you to volunteer. You are the reason that these Fish Frys are so successful. So, please sign up and make this a great event for the parish the community.

- Council Officers Meeting – Thursday, March 5th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Fish Fry # 3 (Veterans | Red, White & Blue) – Friday, March 6th at 4:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Rosary – Thursday, March 12th at 6:15 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Council Business Meeting – Thursday, March 12th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting – Thursday, March 12th at 7:00 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Fish Fry # 4 (St Patrick's Day | Green & White) – Friday, March 13th at 4:00 PM in the Parish Center
- **Happy St. Patrick's Day, Tuesday, March 17th**
- Pinellas Hope Food Prep – Thursday, March 19th at 9:00 AM in the Parish Center Kitchen
- Fish Fry # 5 (Good Samaritan Mission School of Uganda | Black, Yellow & Red) – Friday, March 20th at 4:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Kimberly Home Workday – Saturday, March 21st at 8:00 AM at the Kimberly Home in Clearwater
- Assembly 2474 Meeting -Thursday March 26th at 7:00 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Fish Fry # 6 (KofC Founders Day | Blue & Gold) - Friday, March 27th at 4:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Council 7109 Officers Meeting – Monday, March 30th At 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Holy Thursday Mass & Adoration – Thursday, April 2nd at 7:00 PM in the Main Church & Parish Center
- Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 5th Happy Easter!
- Program Directors Meeting – Monday, April 6th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Rosary – Thursday, April 9th at 6:15 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Coffee & Donuts – Sunday, April 12th at 8:00 AM in the St. John Bosco Center



SK Edward Amador
Membership Director
Edamador00@gmail.com

Council 7109

Holy Moments

Finishing Strong: Holy Moments in Action

Fraternal Year 2025–2026

Brother Knights, Momentum is building and it is building because Brothers are stepping forward to help in recruitment efforts such as a new Knight Patrick Flynn and a Veteran Bill Gallant who are helping with recruitment during the Fish Fry's.

I am excited to share that we have now reached **13 new members toward our goal of 15**. That places us just **two men away from achieving our fraternal year goal**. Additionally, we have one strong potential candidate preparing for the next exemplification, which could bring us to 14 very soon.

Please join me in welcoming **Brother Steve Kindrick**, who has completed all required steps and officially joined our council. When you see Brother Steve, take the time to personally greet him. A warm handshake, a conversation, an invitation to serve, these are not small gestures. These are Holy Moments.

13 of 15: Two Away

Matthew Kelly reminds us that a Holy Moment is a choice, a conscious decision to do the right thing, even when it requires initiative. Recruitment is exactly that.

There are Catholic men in our parish who are not opposed to joining, they are simply waiting to be invited. Waiting for someone to notice them. Waiting for someone to say: *"We need you."*, *"You would be a great Knight."*, *"Come serve with us."*

We are at **13/15**. The finish line is in sight. But we will not cross it unless **every Brother takes ownership** of this mission.

This is not the responsibility of one officer. It is the responsibility of the entire brotherhood.

Upcoming Opportunities to Invite

Mark your calendars and begin thinking now about who you will personally invite:

- **Open House / Orientation** on April 15 @ 7:00 PM @ ESCC Parish Center
- **Unified Degree Ceremony** on April 16 @ 7:00 PM @ ESCC Parish Center

These are not just events. They are opportunities for Holy Moments. Opportunities to bring a man into fraternity. Opportunities to strengthen our council, our parish, and our service to Christ.

The Call

Brother Knights, momentum is a gift, but it must be sustained. We are two men away from our goal. Two invitations. Two conversations. Two Holy Moments. Let us not slow down now. Pray about it. Think about it. Act on it. There are Catholic men waiting for someone to invite them to put their faith into action. Let that someone be you.

Let us finish this fraternal year strong, together.

Vivat Jesus!



SK Edward J. Amador

Chancellor, Captain, Director of Membership
Barney Gonyea Council 7109
Espiritu Santo Assembly 2474



Unity - Strength in Numbers

Informational Open House Schedule

2026
Apr 15 | Jun 16

Unified Degree Ceremony Schedule

2026
Apr 16 | Jun 18

Look for more information from our Grand Knight



Council Membership Report

Total Membership	338
Insurance Membership	126
Honorary Life Members	63
Honorary Members	08
2025-2026 Membership Growth vs Goal	12/15
2025-2026 Insurance	02/02

Assembly Membership Report

Total Membership	127
Honorary Life Members	14
Honorary Members	01
2025-2026 Membership Growth vs Goal	03/06



Council Officers 2025-2026

Grand Knight	Tom Krivchenia, PFN	727.366.5422
Chaplain	Fr Michael W. Cooper, SJ	727.644.5544
Deputy Grand Knight	Mark Feldman	727.366.5959
Chancellor	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Recorder	Bill Krajieski	727.784.2817
Financial Secretary	Tom Harkins	727.772.0607
Treasurer	Jerry Custin, PGK, PFN	727.244.6464
Lecturer	Paul Harvey, PFN	727.286.7171
Advocate	Richard Resler	727.472.1651
Warden	Jim Lankford	813.455.2292
Inside Guard	Paul Cooper	727.736.6837
Outside Guard	Mark Peterman, PFN	727.403.5993
Guard Alternate	Brian Annis	727.204.7490
Trustee Three Year	Gene Jajuga, PGK, PFN, FFA	727.403.3261
Trustee Two Year	JJ Coyne, PGK	901.832.7332
Trustee One Year	Ken Seguin, PGK, PFN	727.331.7278
Regional Administrator	John Papa, PGK, PFN	727.482.3734
District Deputy	Alan Gauzens, PGK	727.483.8250
Fraternal Benefits Advisor	John Ruckart	813.855.5111
Special Assistant to the Council	Vincent Cristiano	
Special Assistant to the Council	Gary Murphy	

Happy Birthday Brothers! Many Happy Returns!

Tim Bruggeman, Francis Cayer, Joseph Celic III, John Clarke, Joseph Cortese, James Daniels, Terry Drake, Philip Farney, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Eric Flores, Patrick Flynn Sr, Robert Gwinner IV, Timothy Hartle, David Heezen, Gregory Juedes, William Krajieski, Brian Lapointe, Milton Levine, Mark Lewalski, Amaro Lionheart, Kevin McCullagh, Patrick Milewsky, George Paradise, Miguel Perez I, Joseph Pernice, Mark Peterman, John Sager, Kenneth Seguin Sr, Robert Shafer, Julius Silva, James Stanley

Prayers for the Sick

Marie Bishop, Sean Michael Cook (d), Tim & Barbara Rush, Ken Seguin, Susanne Papa (d), Ward Griffin, Elizabeth Inderwies, Linda Cooper (d), Bob Ehrman, Antonia Rosin (d), Frances Hamacher (d), Jacqueline Barry (d), Mary Branham (d), Mary Williams (d), Frank Schuster II (d), Kennedie McFadden, George Smith (d), Pauline Sager (d), Vicki Nolan (d), Steve Gorey (d), Felice D'Elia (d), Stanley Kwiatowski (d), Ethan Griswold (d), Dick LaLuzerne (d), Fr Rich Rosin (d), Mary Duell (d), Tony Doyle (d), Mary Frances Lowe, Dwight Rochester, Jim & Pat Nolf, Frank Diaz (d), Ed Warticki (d), Jack Mills (d), Bob Justiana, Kathleen Griffin, Evely Harvey (d), Jack Greenwald (d), Don Bishop (d), Frank Nunziata (d), Dave Weber (d), Nicholas Burriesci (d), Anthony Burriesci (d), Tania Carnet, Thomas Ziegler (d), Thomas Barrett, Chuck Friesema, Jerry Custin, Nicholas Neubauer, Paul Harvey, Lillian Lenehan, Don Borbath, Tammy Harrison, Sal Burriesci (d), John Salesses (d), Ed Pagnott, Zoe dufour (d), Gobind Sujanani, Maurice Chin, Betty D'Amelio, Jim Slattery, Kenny p-SIL, Pushpa Sujanani, Margie Waters, John Papa, Don Puchalski, Ed Fucillo (d), Anne Harkins, Kyle LaChance

Please pray for all our sick and deceased Brothers, Ladies, and family members. Please report illnesses and deaths to Sir Knight Paul Harvey, Lecturer, at 727.286.7171 or pharvey10@verizon.net

Support Our Vocations Fund



Austin Smith



Mark Wegener



John Paul Grabowski

Thank you for your continued support of the Vocations Fund. As most of you know we are making annual donations to three seminarians. Austin and Mark are located at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, while John Paul is located at St. Joseph Seminary College. Austin Smith is from Nativity parish in Brandon. Mark Wegener is from St. Anthony the Abbot, Brooksville. John Paul Grabowski is from Catholic Student Center, USF Tampa.

Please get your name on the list by giving \$5.00, \$10.00 or whatever you can in support of this worthy endeavor! We need to continue to support these young men and vocations, but it will take everyone's help. Thank You!

Edward & Violet Amador, Mark Barrett, Donald Borbath, James & Jean Burris, William Cullen Jr, Joseph & Betty D'Amelio, Douglas & Carol De Wolfe, Peter Demzak, Frederick & Suzanne Di Masi, Sean Donahoo, Robert & Zoe Dufour, Michael & Sue Engelmann, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Michael & Lisa Furman, Joel & Karen Gray, Robert & Catherine Gwinner IV, James & Anna Haitz, Thomas & Anne Harkins, Timothy & Ann Hartle, James Hayes, David & Donna Heezen, Joseph & Sandra Hoherl, George & Claire Inderwies, Steven & Anne Ippolito, Robert & M. A. Justiana Sr, Michael & Katherine King, Dan & Donna Kistel, Mark & Renee Kraf, William & Katherine Krajewski, Frank Laffey, Stephen & Ellen Leger, Milton Levine, Amaro Lionheart, Jerry Maratea, Frank & Cindy McEwen, Charles McEwen Sr, Kenneth (Ken) Miller, John Morgan, Adel Nammour, Chris & Leah Nesci, Thomas & Carolyn O'Rourke, John & Susanne Papa, Paul & Virginia Pappas, Mark & Christine Peterman, Robert & Vickie Pickard, Richard Roberto Jr, Kenneth & Gabriella Seguin Sr, Jason Seguin, Morgan Sheafer Sr, James & Karin Smith, Thomas Stanko, John & Kay Strehle III, Matthew Sunski, Roy & Linda Vanderveer, Steven & Jaclyn Verba, Paul & Josefina Vilchez, Mario & Judy Zaccaria, Dennis & Joyce Ayril, Jonathan & Marianne Boyce, Sean Casey, John Coyne, Gerald Custin Jr, James & Sylvia O'Neill, Michael & Mary Kathleen Dixon, Philip & Jane Farney, Mark & Elaine Feldman, Charles & Raquel Friesema, John & Peggy Gohman II, Michael Gutknecht, Thomas Hart Jr, Paul & Rose Marie Harvey, Eugene & Karen Jajuga, Shawn & Pattie Jajuga, Christopher & Celise Jones, Gregory & Kim Juedes, Richard Kembal-Cook Jr, Timothy Kielich, Matthew Killeen, Tom & Margaret Krivchenia, Jack Kuczej, Christian Kuczej, Thomas Kukulski, James & Maria Lankford, Brian & Christina Lapointe, Brian & Angela Lawandus, Santo Loparo Jr, Patrick Mackin, Michael & Maria McCarthy, James & Patricia Nolf, Brian & Lisa O'Connor, Gerald & Holly Pappa, Frank Pensabene, Daniel & T Peterson, Donald & Alexis Reed, Andrew Rodnite, Juan & Rosemary Romero, Peter & Susan Salesses, Daniel & Paula Saracki, William & Mary Scott, Jim & Nancy Shirer, Michael & Melissa Short, Massimo & Valeria Simeoni, Chuck & Elizabeth Sullivan, Keith & Griselda Taylor Sr, Thomas & Jean Wozniak, Patrick & Joan Alix, Patrick & Beatrice Boland, Sal & Ingrid Burriesci, Ryan Burriesci, Patrick Carroll, Joseph Celic III, Terrell & Victoria Clampitt, Joseph Cortese, Joseph Culmone, Hoyt Decker, Frank & Angela Di Mattei, Jonathan Di Mattei, Terry & Shirley Drake, Richard & Joan Ducheny, Frederick & Christi Elflein, Zach Faraone, Joseph & Megan Gajewski, Ward & Kathleen Griffin, Mark Gurley, Irving Hernandez, Kenton & Sue Heuertz, Jarret & Lesley Ann Honahan, Mark & Maryann Kapinos, William & Elizabeth Kasak, Brian & Christine Kearns, Robert Kenny, Raymond Kraker, Dennis Lentz, Francis & Carol Mahoney, Frank & Juliann Marsalek, Edward Martinenko, Kevin McMullen, Clifford & Michelle Merz, Anthony Metty, Darryl & Mary Miller, Thomas Myers, Javier & Xiomara Ortega, Todd & Margaret Owers, Edmund & Diane Pagnott, Donald & Carol Palacheck, Robert Papariella, Thomas Penders, Glen Pettersen, James & Suzanne Preston Jr, Christopher Purcell, Edward & Sandra Riley, James & Drema Servoss Rooney, John Ruckart, Kurt & Mary Lynn Salac, Julius & Minnie Silva, Thomas Smith, Bryan & Krista Snyder, Gregory & Carolina Sohn, James & Darlene Stanley, Jugdesh & Sucheta Sujanani, Alvah & Margaret Vankleeck, Walberto & Ramona Vazquez, Margaret Watson, Vincent Baldwin, Fred & Caroline Bennett, Thomas Bergevin, Victor Berggren, Jacob & Mary Burnett, Mark & Janet Busing, Jerome Dewberry, Timothy & Marcy Dolan, Eric & Maria Flores, Gerald & Lorraine Grubba, Lawrence & Nancy Harkins, Robert Kelly, James Kleinsorge, Stanley Lipiarz, Gerald & Renee Lubig Jr, John Malone, Will & Jennifer Maxwell Jr, Christopher Mazzone, James & Phyllis Montali, Michael O'Neill, Miguel & Sammantha Perez I, Guillermo Romero, John J Liu, John T Liu, Albert Masselli, Peter & Susan Salesses

Total Collected to Date: \$3363.13



Father Michael W. Cooper, SJ
Chaplain

Chaplain's Corner

Brothers and Sisters,

The revision of the opening prayer [Collect] for ASH WEDNESDAY dropped what I consider a very healthy theological and pastoral perspective: "Loving God, you have given us the joyful into the Pastoral Mystery with minds and hearts renewed." Lent - a joyful season? I thought we were to focus on how bad we are and the need to fear God! I find this too negative. Did God create us only to fear him? We can examine our sins and the need to improve but not out of fear but out of love for God and for ourselves.

God created each of us out of love and wants our friendship. We can grow and reform but out of love for and gratitude for our gracious God. Moreover, the major focus during Lent is the Paschal Mystery - the Death and Resurrection of Jesus and our own deaths and resurrection in our everyday life: when one door gets slammed in my face and will not open again, God opens a new door! More on the Paschal Mystery next month. Enjoy Lent and the gifts and blessings it brings.

Michael Cooper, SJ
Chaplain

Altar Server of the Year 2026



WGK Tom Krivchenia presents
Altar Server of the Year Award
to Emily Morgan

Service Program Directors 2025-2026

Program Director	Mark Feldman	727.366.5959
Membership Director	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Faith Director	Wally Vazquez	727.542.5376
Community Director	Mike King	727.453.8843
Family Director	Matt Sunski	
Public Relations Director	Amaro Lionheart	305.761.3419
Life Director	Jack Strehle	
Vocations	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687
Retention Coordinator	Ken Seguin, PGK, PFN	727.331.7278



Mark Feldman
Deputy Grand Knight
dgk7109@gmail.com

Deputy Grand Knight's Report

Worthy Brother Knights,

We are into our Lenten Journey. If you have not started your journey, it is not too late to get started. We are two weeks into our Fish Fry season. With four more Fish Fry's to go, this would be an excellent opportunity to throw in a helping hand. There are plenty of jobs that need help. We also will be conducting our monthly Pinellas Hope Food Prep on the 19th at 8am in the Parish Center Kitchen.

The Rosary will be said in the John Bosco Center at 6:15pm on the 12th before our membership meeting. Please join us at the meeting. It's an excellent opportunity to see what the Knights are doing. The Program Directors have nothing to report this month.

March Liturgical Calendar

- Mar 03 – St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin, optional memorial
- Mar 04 - St. Casimir, optional memorial
- Mar 07 – Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs, optional memorial
- Mar 09 – St. Frances of Rome, religious, optional memorial
- Mar 15 – Laetare Sunday, Fourth Sunday of Lent
- Mar 17 – St. Patrick, Bishop, optional memorial
- Mar 18 – St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, optional memorial
- Mar 19 – St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity
- Mar 23 – St. Toribio de Mogrovejo, Bishop, optional memorial
- Mar 25 – The Annunciation of the Lord, Solemnity
- Mar 29 – Passion (Palm) Sunday

Saint Katharine Drexel

Katharine Drexel was born in Philadelphia on November 26, 1858. She came from a very rich family. Her Uncle Anthony Drexel was founder of Drexel University. Katharine's mother, Hannah died five weeks after her birth. Katharine was awakened to the plight of indigenous American people during a family

trip to the western United States and was inspired.

The Drexel's traveled extensively both in their home country and abroad. In 1886, during an audience with Pope Leo XIII, she was urged to become a missionary and to realize her desire to assist the Native American and African American population in the country. In 1891, Katharine fulfilled that wish by entering a convent of the Sisters of Mercy and in February 1891 she founded the Congregation of the sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indian and Colored people. She decided to establish the congregation to address the needs of these people in the Southern and Western United States. She served as the first Superior General of the Congregation and held that position until 1937, when illness forced her to retire.

She financed more than 60 missions and schools around the United States, as well as founding Xavier University of Louisiana, the only historically Black and catholic University in the United States. She passed away on March 3, 1955. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II on November 20, 1988, when her first miracle through prayer, healing the severe ear infection of teenager Robert Gutherman in 1974.



The 2026 Lenten Fish Fry Season has kicked off with a bang! Thank you for all our volunteers!



John Ruckart
Field Agent
John.Ruckart@kofc.org



Fraternal Benefits Advisor Report

Tax season is here! Whether you're ahead of the game and done filing, or you're putting it off for another month, this time of year is a good opportunity to consider whether your tax rate or bracket has changed. If so, do you know the implications for your long-term financial strategy?

People can end up in a higher tax bracket than they anticipate when their income fluctuates — for example, if your salary changed, or if you retired and are drawing on different income sources. Paying a higher tax rate may mean less disposable income or less money to leave to your family as you planned.

You can protect yourself against these potential losses and build dependable cash value through permanent life insurance with the Knights of Columbus.

Permanent life insurance allows you to build cash value that you can access tax-free while you're alive. You can also create an income tax-free inheritance for your loved ones after you pass allowing permanent life insurance to be useful in a range of situations.

Of course, we always recommend that you work with a qualified tax advisor or CPA in addition.

This might also be a good time to review your investment portfolio with me, as I am also a financial advisor with Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors. Investments have tax implications, especially with dividends, capital gains or losses, and required minimum distributions. By carefully understanding how your investments are taxed, you can work to reduce your overall tax burden while pursuing your long-term financial goals.

By helping to secure your financial future and legacy with the Knights of Columbus, you're living out the vision of Blessed Michael McGivney, who founded our Order 144 years ago this month. His mission of protecting Catholic families is as important today as it was for the first members who gathered all those years ago.

I'd love to sit down with you and conduct a complimentary needs analysis.

Vivat Jesus!
John D Ruckart, FICF
813.855.5111

Book an appt with me here:

<https://bookRuckart.flkofc.com/>

Learn about our investments:

<https://info.kofcassetadvisors.org/meet-john-ruckart>



Once again, the Ladies Auxiliary members helped make the Valentines Day Dinner Dance a success! Thanks to all who were able to help in any way, from planning the making up of baskets, setting up, serving the delicious meal, and taking donations for the beautiful baskets. The start of the KofC Lenten Fish Fry's was February 20th, also was a record success with ladies assisting the Knights in their most sold meals on the first Friday offered. The Ladies will continue their support through the whole month of March in many capacities. Please when attending the Fish Fry's, support our Ladies group with a donation for a scrumptious dessert. We also have the most charitable funds through the Lenten season. Come May our funds will be distributed to those charities of most need. God bless you with an open heart during this Lenten season!



JJ Coyne
Faithful Navigator
johnjjcoyne@gmail.com
901.832.7332 (m)

Faithful Navigator's Log

Worthy Sir Knights,

As we enter the sacred season of Lent, I want to thank each of you for the tremendous support you have shown thus far. Our Lenten Fish Fry Fridays have been a wonderful success, not only financially, but fraternally. The fellowship in the kitchen, on the serving line, and in the dining area truly reflects the spirit of charity and unity that defines our Order. Your hard work and cheerful service have created a welcoming environment for our parish and community.

We look forward to the remaining Fish Fry Fridays throughout March. If you have not yet had an opportunity to volunteer, I encourage you to sign up. These evenings are more than fundraisers - they are visible expressions of our faith in action. Thank you in advance for continuing to step up wherever needed, whether frying fish, serving guests, selling desserts, or simply greeting those who walk through the doors.

This past month, in lieu of our regular business meeting, we gathered for a very special program at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Tampa, entitled 'No Greater Love: Stories of Service & Sacrifice, presented by Brother Knight Butch Gilbert, a retired USAF and FedEx pilot. The presentation paid tribute to the lives of the five Military Chaplains – all Catholic Priests – that have been awarded the Medal of Honor since the Civil War including, Fr Joseph T. O'Callahan (WWII), Fr Emil J. Kapaun (Korea), and Frs Angelo J Liteky, Charles J. Watters, and Vincent R. Capodanno (Vietnam). The Medal of Honor represents the highest expression of courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty. Taking time to reflect on the valor and selflessness embodied by its recipients is particularly meaningful for us as Fourth Degree Knights committed to patriotism. I was delighted by the number of Knights from our Council and Assembly that made the trip into Tampa to attend this inspiring and educational event.

In observance of Presidents' Day, actually the weekend following, the Assembly held our second and final Coffee & Donuts of the fraternal year. It turned out to be well-attended and couldn't have been accomplished with the following Sir Knights and Ladies:

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| Tom Harkins | Paul Harvey | Tom Krivchenia |
| Jack Strehle | Kay Strehle | Doug deWolfe |
| Carol deWolfe | Matt Sunski | Frank McEwen |

We will once again support the Homeless Veterans Stand Down at the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System on Saturday, March 28. This important outreach provides food, clothing, medical screenings, and essential services to veterans in need. It is a powerful reminder that our duty to those who served does not end when they hang up the uniform. If you are able to volunteer or contribute in any way, your participation would be greatly appreciated.

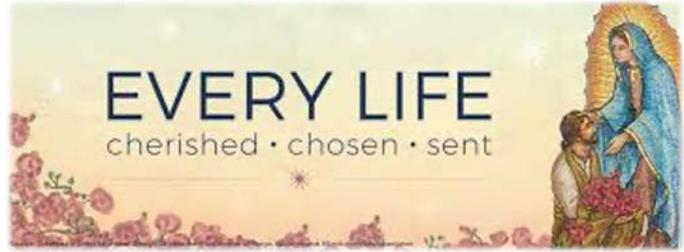
As always, thank you for your continued dedication to our Assembly and to the principles of Charity, Unity, and Patriotism. May this Lenten season be one of reflection, service, and spiritual renewal for you and your families.

Vivat Jesus!
JJ Coyne
Faithful Navigator





Njällssen Amaro Lionheart
 realamarolionheart@gmail.com
 305.761.3419



The Road Into the Desert and the Guardian of the Redeemer

March arrives like a wind that clears the soul, a summons carried on the cold breath of late winter, bidding the faithful to rise and follow Christ into the desert. It is the month when the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church enters the great fast of Lent, withdrawing from noise and comfort so that the voice of God may be heard again in the wilderness of the heart. Lent is not punishment but pilgrimage. It is the journey from slavery to freedom, from ashes to resurrection, from sin to sanctity. In March, the desert becomes our teacher, its silence revealing how much we depend upon distractions to avoid the truth. The fasting reveals our attachments. The prayer reveals our emptiness. The almsgiving reveals our calling. And yet beneath the severity of Lent lies the tenderness of a God who invites us not to suffer for suffering's sake, but to be healed, purified, and made whole by the love that drove Christ to hunger, thirst, and temptation so that we might learn obedience through Him.

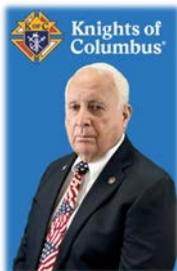
March is also the month of St. Joseph, the silent giant of the Gospel, honored on March 19 as Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Guardian of the Redeemer. In the midst of Lent's desert, Joseph stands like a sturdy oak tree whose roots reach deep into the soil of faith. He is the protector of the Christ Child, the guardian of the Holy Family, the man whose authority was crowned not by power but by purity. Scripture gives us no recorded words from him, yet his silence speaks with the strength of mountains. His humility shields. His obedience guides. His courage shelters. In Joseph, the Church finds a father who teaches us that holiness is born in the quiet fulfillment of daily duty, in the unseen sacrifices, in the steadfast resolve to place God's will above one's own. His feast falls like a well of living water in the middle of Lent's dryness, reminding us that sanctity is possible in ordinary life, and that the desert blooms when a righteous man walks within it.

To live March rightly is to enter the desert with Christ and to stand beside Joseph with fidelity. It is to take up the Cross not as a burden but as a banner, to let Lent carve away the stone that hides the beating heart of discipleship, and to allow the grace of repentance to reshape our soul's landscape. And to my brother Knights, this month calls us to lead by example, to show our families and our parish what it means to live Lent with authenticity. Let us fast with purpose, pray with intensity, and give with generosity. Let us imitate Joseph's protective strength by safeguarding the dignity of the vulnerable, by defending the Church with loyalty, and by serving our communities with humility and resolve. Let us be men who do not fear the desert but who embrace it, because we know the desert is the road that leads to Easter. March is the month of purification, of discipline, of renewal. Let us meet it with courage, for the Cross awaits us, and beyond the Cross, the empty tomb.

Ad Jesum per Mariam.



WFn JJ Coyne presents new Sir Knight Jacob Bandy with his Fourth-Degree card

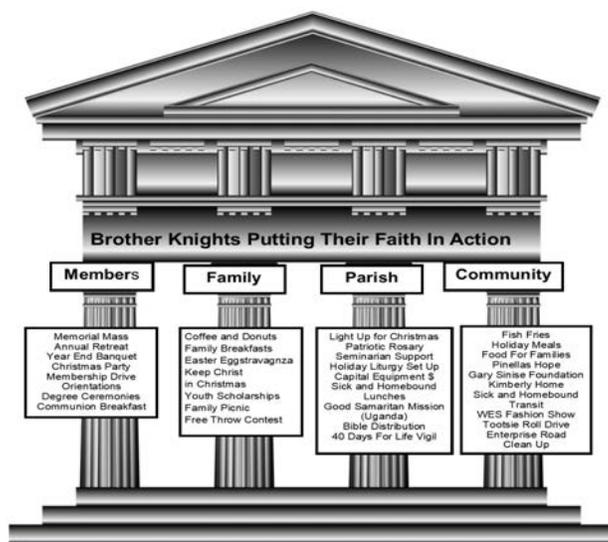


Jerry Custin
 PGK, PFN
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Special Olympics

A wonderful Psalm for Lent. It touches on different aspects of Lent and our order. This Psalm is attributed to Asaph, a Levite prophet during the reign of David. His writings emphasize worship and the importance of remembering God's deeds. In this case, he uses a parable to unfold the "puzzling events of the past". He tells us that we have "to recount to our children the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord and the wonders he has performed". What can be more wonderful or puzzling than Christ's sacrifice for us as our Savior, opening the gates of Heaven? Is there anything more special than the special children of God whom we so faithfully serve. Spread God's amazing words!!!



Psalm 78

Attend, my people, to my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable, unfold the puzzling events of the past. What we have heard and know, things our ancestors have recounted to us. We do not keep them from our children; we recount them to the next generation, the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD and his strength, the wonders that he performed. God made a decree in Jacob, established a law in Israel: Which he commanded our ancestors, they were to teach their children, that the next generation might come to know, children yet to be born. In turn, they were to recount them to their children, that they too might put their confidence in God, and not forget God's deeds, but keep his commandments. They were not to be like their ancestors, a rebellious and defiant generation, A generation whose heart was not constant, and whose spirit was not faithful to God. The ranks of Ephraimite archers retreated on the day of battle. They did not keep God's covenant; they refused to walk according to his law. They forgot his deeds, the wonders that he had shown them.

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In Memoriam

Edward J Fucillo
August 15, 1957 ~ February 10, 2026



Edward J. Fucillo, Esq. 68, of Oldsmar, passed away on February 10, 2026. Born in Brookville, NY on Long Island, he was a resident of Pinellas County since 1978. Ed earned a BS in Business at USF and was a 1995 graduate of University of Miami School of Law. Ed worked for the UAW and a couple of local law firms before opening Fucillo Law Firm, P.L. in 2013. Ed successfully litigated and served his clients for thirteen years. Ed and his wife, Anne, enjoyed 28 years of marriage and were blessed with three amazing children, who were the center of their lives, only second to their love and faith in God.

Ed loved taking his family camping, boating, fishing, biking, flying, white-water rafting, scuba diving, shooting, and traveling anywhere from FL to PA. Ed also eager to share his knowledge and learn as much as he could about different topics: from inventions to historical events; nutrition and medical research.

Faith was a huge part of Ed's life. He met Anne at a Catholic church dance; he volunteered at Pinellas Hope and the Kimberly Home with his youngest son, Joseph; he was a member of the Knights of Columbus at St. Michael's the Archangel Catholic Church; and lastly, he served as lector for over 15 years.

Ed survived by his wife, Anne Fucillo, his children Edward Fucillo, Elizabeth Fucillo, and Joseph Fucillo. As well as six Siblings: Kathy (Mike) Kollen, Mary Anne (Jim) Boone, John Fucillo, Meg (Chip) Vaughan, Sharon Earley, and Carolyn Fucillo and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his father Edward A. Fucillo, his mother Margaret Dineen Fucillo, and his niece Jessica Lynn Earley.

A viewing was held at St Michael the Archangel Catholic Church on Friday, February 20th, 2026, followed by a Mass. Burial took place at the Calvary Catholic Cemetery.

in loving memory



Letter to the Editor

Into The Breach

Welcome to Lent. Did you know that KofC has produced a series of excellent videos and a study guide addressing key aspects of our faith journey? More on that later. Getting that and jumping into the breach a little bit caused me to reflect on Lent. What are my plans? What are your plans? What is expected of us by the Church? Is it a time where we give things up and hang our heads so everyone knows we're suffering in some way? What is Lent? Where did the word come from? What does it mean? What about Advent, our other major season? Advent seems to be a season of anticipation and rejoicing. Lent has a different vibe.

Let's dig a little deeper. The Latin term for Lent is quadragesima (fortieth), which speaks to the 40 days to mirror the time Jesus spent fasting, praying, and resisting temptation in the desert before beginning his public ministry. It serves as a penitential preparation for Easter, spanning from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday. The word "Lent" has Germanic roots, "lencten", referring to the "lengthening" of days, or springtime. The number 40 has deep significance in the Bible, tied to numerous themes. The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years as a time of testing and trial. Rain fell for 40 days during the great flood, a time of judgment and purification. Moses remained on Mount Sinai for 40 days to receive the law, and Jesus appeared for 40 days after His resurrection as signs of preparation and revelation. Finally, 40 years often relates to a period of generational leadership – the reigns of Saul, David, and Solomon – allowing for the old to pass away and the new to begin. In sum, 40 connects to themes of repentance, spiritual renewal, and the fulfillment of God's promises.

So, Lent is the preparation for the spring celebration of Easter, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Yes, fasting, praying, and repentance are involved, but the end game is the joy of our salvation. The vestments for four of the six Sundays of Lent are Violet/Purple symbolizing repentance and anticipation. The fourth Sunday of Lent is Laetare Sunday, "Rejoice". Rose is usually worn as a sign of joy, marking the midpoint of the season. Red is worn on Palm Sunday to represent the Passion of Christ.

On the other hand, Advent originates from a Latin word "Adventus" which means "coming" or "arrival." Advent Season is focused on preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ in all ways, from His birth in the past to His Second Coming in the future as the Messiah. This covers the entire gamut of Christ's life, including His passion and resurrection. Advent is more than just Christmas Day. Interestingly, Violet/Purple are worn on three of the four Sundays of Advent, while Rose is worn on the third Sunday, Gaudete (also meaning rejoice). The difference between Gaudete and Laetare is that Gaudete is an outward expression of joy while Laetare, during Lent, is a more internal experience of joy.

Both Advent and Lent are expressions of our knowledge of Christ coming to us in a form both fully human and fully Divine to save us from our brokenness and sins. That's a good thing!

Now go Into The Breach and check out these [six brief promotional videos](#) and [devotional study guide](#) to use on your journey through Lent. Make them part of your preparation, repentance and joy for the revelation that comes on Easter Sunday.

From the Desk of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly...

Terror of Demons

*Through humble obedience and spiritual fatherhood,
St. Joseph stands as a guardian against the forces of darkness*

On March 19, we celebrate the solemnity of St. Joseph, husband of Mary, who for many centuries has been honored as one of the Church's greatest saints and most powerful intercessors.

St. Joseph has been given many titles that describe his virtues and reflect the graces sought through his intercession. Various litanies attribute more than 30 different titles to him. One of the most striking is *Terror of Demons*.

This formidable title invites reflection on what makes St. Joseph such a strong protector in spiritual warfare - and why his help is so needed today.

The Gospels tell us little about St. Joseph. Scripture simply calls him "a just man" (Mt 1:19), and not a single word of his is recorded. His actions, however, speak volumes - and help us understand why demons would fear him.

Joseph was a man of deep humility. He never sought his own will but made every sacrifice to follow the will of God. When he learned that Mary was with child, he resolved to divorce her quietly rather than expose her to shame. But then an angel appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her" (Mt 1:19-20).

This humble carpenter set aside his fear and took a leap of faith. Not knowing what lay ahead, he trusted completely in God's providence and accepted the call to be the earthly father of the Son of God.

St. Joseph's "yes" had enormous consequences - he protected the Holy Family from all manner of evil and helped raise the Christ Child to manhood under his and Our Lady's watchful care. In this hidden yet essential role, he made possible the unfolding of Christ's saving mission.

St. Joseph was also a man of unwavering obedience. Each time he received a message from the Lord, he responded without hesitation. He didn't argue or delay; he acted immediately to protect those entrusted to him. When warned that Herod sought to kill the child, "he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt" (Mt 2:14).

Joseph's humility and obedience stand in stark contrast to the pride and rebellion of Satan. This is what makes him such a powerful spiritual ally in the fight against evil.

A priest affiliated with the St. Michael Center for Spiritual Renewal - a Catholic ministry that serves people seeking deliverance from demonic influence - recently shared with me a compelling testimony. During the exorcism of a woman eventually delivered from possession, the Litany of St. Joseph was prayed aloud. At the invocation "St. Joseph, Terror of Demons," the demons reacted violently. Afterward, the woman explained that it was clear the demons were shaken by the saint's intercession and by the prayers offered in his name. She even described a vivid sense of St. Joseph's spiritual presence in the room - a moment she said she would never forget.

St. Josemaría Escrivá once observed, "The greatest male saint in the history of the Church is not a pope, cardinal, bishop, priest or friar. The greatest male saint in the history of the Church is a layman, a husband, a father and a worker."

As we strive to live our vocations faithfully and confront the forces of evil in our own time - in our homes, our parishes, and our society - let us look to St. Joseph as a model of authentic masculinity: humble, obedient, courageous. He is the *Terror of Demons*, and his quiet strength remains an enduring source of protection and inspiration for us today.

Vivat Jesus!



From the Florida State Council Chamber...

February: Short but Powerful

February not as a short month, but as a powerful one. February arrives with a quiet but powerful invitation for the Knights of Columbus of the Florida State Council: to rediscover love, renew our commitment to family, and reignite our spiritual momentum after the slower pace of December and January. As the world turns its attention to Valentine's Day, we are reminded that love is not merely a sentiment or a fleeting emotion, but a vocation rooted in sacrifice, faithfulness, and service. This is a month that calls us, as Catholic men, husbands, fathers, and brother Knights, to lead with hearts anchored in Christ and hands ready for action.

The celebration of Valentine's Day gives us a natural opportunity to reflect on the importance of family. The family is the first domestic church, the place where faith is planted, nurtured, and lived daily. It is within the home that children first learn what love looks like, not through words alone, but through example. The Knights of Columbus has always understood that strengthening families strengthens the Church, and strengthening the Church transforms society. In Florida, our councils have long embraced this mission, supporting marriages, uplifting widows, mentoring young men, and standing beside families in moments of joy and moments of trial. Love, when lived authentically, becomes a witness to the Gospel itself.

Florida is a great and unique state, rich in cultural diversity, vibrant parishes, and a rapidly growing Catholic population. From the Panhandle to the Keys, our State Council reflects this diversity while remaining united in charity, unity, and fraternity. We serve in urban centers and rural communities, along coastal cities and inland towns, always guided by the same mission: to bring men and their families closer to Christ. The strength of Florida lies not only in its size or growth, but in the willingness of its Knights to answer the call wherever the need arises.

This year is especially significant as we welcome new bishops and newly ordained priests within several dioceses across the state. These shepherds are gifts from God, entrusted with guiding His people in faith and truth. As Knights of Columbus, we have a solemn duty to support them through prayer, collaboration, and active engagement in parish life. Our priests and bishops rely on strong, faithful laity to help carry the mission of the Church forward. When Knights step up in humility and service, we become true partners in evangelization. Let us take this moment to recommit ourselves to praying for vocations and encouraging young men to listen courageously to God's call.

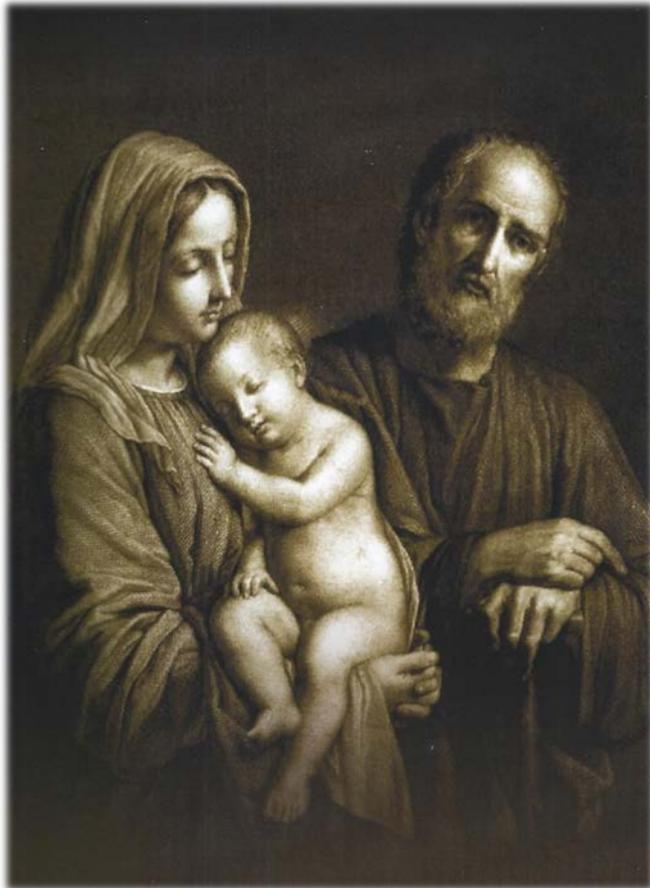
The months of December and January often bring a natural slowdown. The holidays, family gatherings, and the beginning of a new calendar year can shift our focus and energy. While these seasons are important, February reminds us that the fraternal year continues and the work of Christ never pauses. Now is the time to pick up our spiritual pace, to refocus our councils, and to reengage with renewed purpose. Spiritual growth does not happen by accident; it requires intention, discipline, and community. This is the moment to return to prayer, the sacraments, and active participation in council and parish life.

February challenges us to lead with love that is visible and transformative. Love that reaches out to the lonely, the struggling, and the forgotten. Love that defends life, supports vocations, and strengthens marriages. Love that reflects Christ's self-giving sacrifice. When Knights live this love authentically, our families grow stronger, our parishes become more vibrant, and our councils become beacons of hope within their communities.

As we move forward into the heart of the fraternal year, let us embrace February not as a short month, but as a powerful one. A month to recommit to our families, to our faith, and to one another. A month to support our new bishops and priests, to renew our councils spiritually, and to live out the mission of the Knights of Columbus with renewed passion. Together, as brothers in Christ, we can transform love into action and ensure that the Florida State Council continues to be a strong and faithful witness to the Gospel now and for generations to come.

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Veterans Liaison	Bill Gallant	727.251.6300



A Family Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of our family. Enlighten our hearts and minds that we may live more fully this vocation to love.

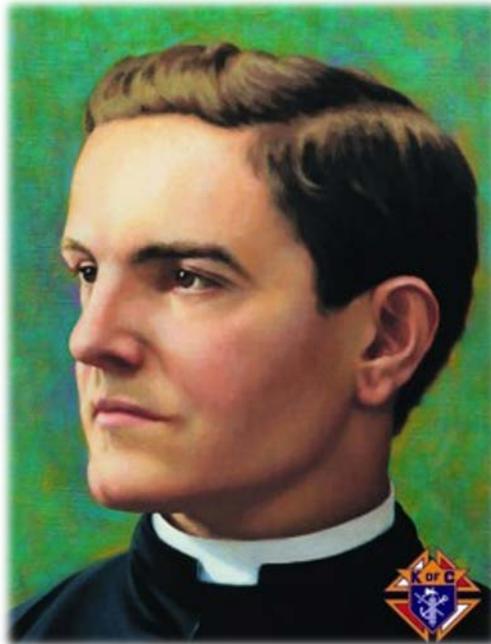
In our daily life and work,
 May we reflect the self-giving love which you,
 O Father, eternally show with your Son
 and the Holy Spirit.

Let your love be evident in the peace that reigns in our home and in the faith, we profess and live. May our family always be a place of generosity, understanding, forgiveness and joy.

Kindly give us the wisdom and courage to be witnesses to your eternal design for the family; and grant that the Holy Family of Nazareth may always guide our path to holiness as a family.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.



*Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney
Founder of the Knights of Columbus*

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request).

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

What's Happening?



Council Calendar of Events...

March 2026

- 03/06 | Fri 4:00p Fish Fry FryDay #3 – Veterans
- 03/12 | Thu 6:15p Rosary
- 03/12 | Thu 7:00p Council 7109 & Ladies Auxiliary Monthly Meetings
- 03/13 | Fri 4:00p Fish Fry FryDay #4 – St Patrick's Day
- 03/19 | Thu 8:00a Pinellas Hope Meal Prep & Delivery
- 03/20 | Fri 4:00p Fish Fry FryDay #5 – Good Samaritan Mission School of Uganda
- 03/21 | Sat 8:00a Kimberly Home WorkDay
- 03/27 | Fri 4:00p Fish Fry FryDay #6 – KofC Founders Day



Assembly Calendar of Events...

March 2026

- 03/21 | Sat 9:00a Patriotic Exemplification
St Mary CC, 111 St Mary Ave SW, Ft Walton Beach
- 03/26 | Thu 7:00p Monthly Business Meeting
- 03/28 | Sat 9:00a Bay Pines VA Homeless Veterans' StandDown

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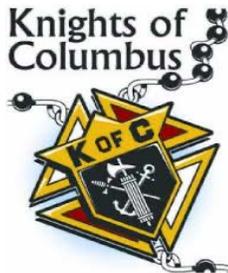
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God our Father, Giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to
Your loving care.

You are the rock on which this nation was founded.

You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and
the pursuit of happiness.

Reclaim this land for Your glory and dwell among Your people.

Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders.

Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities
that accompany human freedom.

Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing
Your will.

Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land,
grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death."

Lead us into a new millennium of life.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

