



# Grand Knight's Message to the Council

By Grand Knight, George Meyer



## Worthy Brother Knights,

Every year is a blur. Did that already go by? I guess it's time again for New Year's resolutions... How about one resolution that can be done without difficulty: participate in a new area of the council that could use your talents or time.

When Worthy Deputy Grand Knight Joe Pocius takes over in July, he will need a supportive Deputy Grand Knight. Is that you? We have several committees that could probably use your input and support. What about officer positions? Come to a meeting and talk to our officers and learn a few things.

Tom Poppell covers a lot of ground leading Helping Hands and No Brother Left Behind. Join his small band of volunteers! If you have a ministry idea that you want to lead and possibly be added to one of the four Programs: Faith (Tom Przybyla), Family (Les Philip), Community (Ed Gallagher), or Life (Jamie Taglia); talk to one of the Program Directors!

In fact, we need a new Family Director, which will be vacated the first of the year. There are lots of opportunities, so don't be shy.

I look forward to a great 2026 with you, my Worthy Brother Knights!

Happy New Year and Vivat Jesus,

Vivat Jesus,  
**George Meyer,**  
**Grand Knight**



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### Important Dates - Looking Ahead:

- **Fri /Sat Jan 23 & 24-** SMM Winter Fest - All day
- **Fri Jan 30**— Pinta Log Content Deadline
- **Sat Jan 31**— FL KOFC 4th Degree Exemplification Ceremonies 9:00 am
- **Tue Feb 3**— Officer's Planning Meeting 7:00 pm
- **Wed Feb 4**— Clean the World 1:00 pm
- **Tue Feb 10**— Council Meeting 6:30 pm
- **Sat Feb 14**— Sharing Center Saturday 9:00 am
- **Tue Jan 6**— Officer's Planning Meeting 7:00 pm
- **Wed Jan 7**— Clean the World 1:00 pm
- **Sat Jan 10**— Sharing Center Saturday 9:00 am
- **Tue Jan 13**— Council Meeting 6:30 pm
- **Wed Jan 14**— Essay Mass 10:00 am
- **Sat Jan 17**— Monthly Rosary 4 Life, Free Throw Basketball & Hockey Challenge - All day
- **Tue Jan 20**— In person 3rd Degree Exemplification Ceremony 6:30 pm

Photo Contributors: Roger Copeland, Tom Poppell, Tom Weninger & Tom Przybyla

Editor: **Nick Leon**

Council website:

[www.bishopgradykofc.org](http://www.bishopgradykofc.org)

View pictures from Council events from our [Facebook group page](#)



## Dear brothers, Happy New Year!

May Emmanuel, God with us, be present in your homes filling them with his light and may the thanksgiving for the New Year be an open door to the Holy Family, inspiring our own families to advance on the path of holiness.

As we stand on the threshold of 2026, let us burst forth with unshakable joy and fervent hope! The ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" has renewed us in the grace of recognizing that God's mercy is always near and has also given impetus to our ongoing mission. Pope Leo XIV reminds us of this in his Christmas blessing: In a few days' time, the Jubilee

Year will come to an end.

The Holy Doors will close, but Christ our hope remains with us always! He is the Door that is always open, leading us into divine life. This is the joyful proclamation of this day: the Child who was born is God made man; he comes not to condemn but to save; his is not a fleeting appearance, for he comes to stay and to give himself. In him, every wound is healed and every heart finds rest and peace. "The Lord's birth is the birth of peace". 1 On the first day of the Year, the church is summoned on the World Day of Peace. In our pursuit of holiness, as faithful men, we know that working tirelessly for peace identifies us as children of God: "blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5,9). There are many ways in which we can become true agents of peace, but for our actions to be effective, we need to act moved by the transformative power of faith. In this year's message the church encourages us with these words: Peace is more than just a goal; it is a presence and a journey.

Even when it is endangered within us and around us, like a small flame threatened by a storm, we must protect it, never forgetting the names and stories of those who have borne witness to it. Peace is a principle that guides and defines our choices. Even in places where only rubble remains, and despair seems inevitable, we still find people who have not forgotten peace. Just as on the evening of Easter Jesus entered the place where his disciples were gathered in fear and discouragement, so too the peace of the risen Christ continues to pass through doors and barriers in the voices and faces of his witnesses. This gift enables us to remember goodness, to recognize it as victorious, to choose it again, and to do so together. 2 Brother Knights, we are called to be unrelenting signs of hope. This is a mandate inherent to our Order's charism. The Knights have always been tangible signs of hope for those who experience hardships: supporting families in need, defending the unborn, welcoming migrants, protecting creation, and fostering universal fraternity amid wars. Thanks be to God for choosing us to be part of His work.

In Christ,

**Fr. Duberney Rodas G,  
Chaplain**

*May the God of hope fill you with  
all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by  
the power of the Holy Spirit.  
(Romans 15:13)*



1 Urbi et Orbi, Message of Pope Leo XIV, Christmas 2025

2 Message of Pope Leo XIV, for the LIX World Day of Peace.

# Officer Planning Meeting - Tuesday January 6

By Nick Leon



Our Council's next Officer's Planning meeting will occur on **Tuesday, January 6**. It will be held virtually using [Microsoft Teams from 7:00 - 8:00 pm](#). An email with the meeting link will be distributed a few days before the meeting.

The primary purpose of this meeting is to take care of details that don't interest members, entertain new ideas, programs and initiatives, and agree upon agenda details for the next Council meeting.

All Knights are invited to participate with this meeting. All council officers, directors and chairpersons are expected to participate with these meetings to fulfill the responsibilities of their position.

Financial reports will be presented and all new business requests must be presented at this meeting, discussed and if needed, voted on at the monthly Council meeting.

Please read last month's Council meeting minutes before this meeting at this link: [Meeting Minutes](#) (if you need the password to the Council's minutes page, send an email to Nick Leon at [nick.a.leon96@gmail.com](mailto:nick.a.leon96@gmail.com)).

## Clean the World Event - January 7



Our Council participates with a volunteer event at Clean the World every 1st Wednesday of the month, from 1 pm – 3 pm. **The next event will occur on Wednesday, January 7.**

You will be sorting out the soap bars and plastic bottle amenities that Clean the World collects from the hospitality industry and recycles. You may also pack the recycled soap into boxes that are then distributed via global NGOs, such as The WASH Foundation.

Bring your family, especially teenagers who need service hours. Clean the World is located near the Orlando International Airport at: [2544 E Landstreet Rd Ste 600, Orlando, FL 32824](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2544+E+Landstreet+Rd+Ste+600,+Orlando,+FL+32824) (click to open a map). For more information: <https://cleantheworld.org/doing-good/#volunteer>



## Serve Saturday at the Sharing Center - Sat January 10



Join us for a Saturday of service helping our community in need!

Our Council participates with **Serve Saturday** at the Sharing center every 2nd Saturday of the month, serving from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Noon. **Our next event will occur on January 10.** If you can attend, please email Tom Przybyla at [tomprzybyla3@gmail.com](mailto:tomprzybyla3@gmail.com). There were 6 volunteers at the December event. Bring your family, especially teenagers who need service hours. The Sharing center is located at: [600 North Highway 17-92, Suite 130 Longwood, FL 32750](https://www.google.com/maps/place/600+North+Highway+17-92,+Suite+130+Longwood,+FL+32750) (click to open a map)



## Council Meeting - Tuesday January 13

By Nick Leon



Our Council's next Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 13** at 6:30 pm in the Cafeteria. A Rosary will be recited starting at 6:00 pm in the Cafeteria. Our Lecturer Lou Elrose will be providing a delicious meal after the meeting and there will be time to socialize and get to know each other. If you are relatively new in the Council and haven't quite found a part to play, this is a fine time to figure that out. Please attend this meeting and support and participate in our many activities. Read last month's Council meeting minutes before this meeting at this [LINK](#) (if you need the password to the Council's minutes page, send an email to Nick Leon at [nick.a.leon96@gmail.com](mailto:nick.a.leon96@gmail.com)).

## Essay Awards Mass - Wednesday January 14

By Ed Gallagher

Brothers,

I encourage you to attend the SMM School Citizenship Essays Awards Mass on Wednesday, January 14 at 10:00 am. I hope Brother Knights can join me in presenting the awards. Come and show your support for this Knights of Columbus citizenship essay contest program which encourages today's youth to be more connected to their community and their Catholic faith through creative writing.

# Monthly Rosary 4 Life - Saturday January 17

By James Taglia

On Saturday, January 17, our monthly rosary for LIFE will be held in front of [All Women's Abortion Clinic, 431 Maitland Ave, Altamonte Springs](#). It will commence after the 8 am Mass. We calculate that we should begin about 8:45 am. Please join us Saturday. These rosaries will repeat monthly on the third Saturday (mark your calendars accordingly) at 8:45 am.

## Attendance Drawing



The winner of the last month's \$25 pot was **Mark Beauchamp**, and he was not present. Congratulations! The Attendance Drawing is a program that encourages our Council Knights to come to our Council meetings. The pot for our next month's meeting will contain **\$50**. You could be the next winner! But, **you need to be present at the meeting to win!** If there is no winner, the pot increases by \$25 each month to a maximum of \$150. **Don Holzemer won the 50/50 drawing! — \$18! It was Don's lucky day! Congratulations!**

## The Pinta Log Calendar

From the Editor

2025 - 2026 Annual Calendar Schedule of Events: [Annual Calendar](#)

Upcoming Council Events: Click on the link to view more details: [Upcoming Events](#)

 <span style="font-size: 2em; color: green;">JANUARY 2026</span> <span style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">THE PINTA LOG Calendar</span>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1  HAPPY NEW YEAR Solemnity of Mary	2	3
4	5	6  Virtual Officer's Planning Meeting	7  Clean the World	8	9	10  Sharing Center Serve Saturday
11	12	13  Council Meeting	14  Catholic Citizenship Essay Awards Mass	15	16	17  Monthly Rosary 4 Life, Basketball Free Throw & Hockey Shootout
18	19  Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20  In-person Exemplification Ceremony	21	22	23  WINTER FESTA FL MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH	24  WINTER FESTA FL MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH
25	26	27	28	29	30  Pinta Log Content Deadline	31  FL KOFC Exemplification Ceremony

- Check our Council's website for up-to-the-minute information on new events or changes to scheduled events. Add the site to your browser's 'Favorites' for quick access.

- If you have a story you would like to be considered for inclusion in *The Pinta Log*, please submit the article by email to: [nick.a.leon96@gmail.com](mailto:nick.a.leon96@gmail.com)

The content deadline for the **February** edition is **Friday January 30**.

Submission does not guarantee your article will be published.

# Brothers Celebrating January Birthdays



Jan 8	Michael P Mckee Joseph M Pocius	Jan 18	Gonzalo I Padilla James D Pandolfi	Jan 28	John M Zawistowski
Jan 10	Eugene D Herman	Jan 19	Joseph A Osisek	Jan 29	Silvio Infante
Jan 13	Marc French	Jan 20	Rev Patrick H O'Neill Richard R Hosler		
Jan 14	Gary W Hopkins William H Wilson	Jan 22	Dominick Fiorentino		
Jan 15	Edward J Slebodnik	Jan 26	Christopher P Kane		



## Council Basketball Free Throw Competition & Hockey Challenge - Sat January 17



The tentative date for our Council's Annual Basketball Free Throw Competition is Saturday, January 17 in the SMM Gymnasium with registration starting at 1:30 pm and the competition starting at 2:00 pm. Our Youth Chairman, Ed Gallagher will be coordinating the competition and needs help from 6 brother Knights.

This is a fun event; your help is needed to help count and track the number of baskets made by each of the participants. Help our Council support the youth of our SMM parish!



The tentative date for our Council's Hockey Shoot-Out Challenge is Saturday, January 17 in the SMM Gymnasium immediately following our Council's Free Throw competition in the SMM Gymnasium. Registration should start around 3:00 pm with the challenge starting at 3:30 pm.

This event provides an athletic outlet for young people through shooting accuracy on goal competition designed for players to demonstrate their skills. Please invite the youth of our parish to attend this Hockey Challenge event.

## In-Person Exemplification Ceremony – Tue January 20

Bishop Thomas J Grady Council 5618 has **tentatively** scheduled an in-person Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity on Tuesday, January 20 in the St Mary Magdalen Cafeteria– 6:30 pm report, 7 pm start. Candidates, their Proposers and any other Knights who will participate in the exemplification should wear a coat and tie. The half-hour ceremony is open to families and guests. In addition, 1st and 2nd degree Knights may attend to become 3rd Degree Knights!

All Knights are invited to come to this exemplification ceremony to welcome the new Knights to our Council. If possible, please wear a coat and tie or your Knight's shirt if you have one; no shorts.

Please let Grand Knight George Meyer [gmeyer@m-m-media.com](mailto:gmeyer@m-m-media.com) 407-221-7076 know of names of candidates, and provide kits (rosary, lapel pin, etc. – Item 531-G from [kofc.org](http://kofc.org) Officers Online->Supplies Online) for your candidates.

## In-Person 4th Degree Exemplification Ceremony – Saturday January 31



This is an invitation for any 3rd degree brother who wishes to join the fourth degree. For research about what the 4th Degree is all about please [click here](#). For the forms please [click here](#).

For more Information please contact the following:  
[Pete Ramondetta, FN](#)  
[James Taglia, FC](#)

**CLICK HERE TO VIEW FLYER**

**Msgr. Ed Thompson Assembly 1667  
Sanford, Florida**



**Knights of Columbus  
FOURTH DEGREE  
EXEMPLIFICATION**

**REACH YOUR HIGHEST POTENTIAL**

The Fourth Degree is a group of outstanding Knights, dedicated to promoting patriotism engendered by their Catholic faith. These Knights, distinguished by exemplary deeds for God, for country, and the Order, are united by the Fourth Degree to support religious, civic, and charitable causes.

Fourth Degree members belong to local units called assemblies. Each assembly is involved in a wide range of public patriotic activities.

Each assembly maintains a Fourth Degree Color Corps and Honor Guard, uniformed members wearing the Official Uniform, and swords participate in special civic and religious ceremonies. For this reason, the Fourth Degree is often called the visible arm of the Knights of Columbus.

**CHARITY • UNITY • FRATERNITY • PATRIOTISM**

For Further Information Contact:  
Robert Simpson, PMS, Master  
Florida Jurisdiction  
813-480-9833  
Robert.S.Simpson4@gmail.com  
https://www.kofcusa.org/central/florida/central

**Jan. 31, 2026**

St. Mark the Evangelist Church  
1726 Criss Circle  
Tampa, FL 33607  
Registration at 8:00 AM  
Exemplification at 11:00 AM  
Banquet at 2:00 PM  
Mass at 4:00 PM



# 2025 Annual Survey of Fraternal Reports - Mon January 12

Please complete and submit your 2025 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity - Individual Member Worksheet form **by Monday, January 12**. This is the report where you log all your fraternal hours and activities during the 2024 calendar year. **Please give or send your completed Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity form to Deputy Grand Knight Joe Pocius** at the January 14 Council meeting or by **Monday, January 12 at the latest**. If your family members participated in an event with you, you can include their hours in with your hours on the report.

You can report your fraternal activity numbers for 2024 in one of two different formats:

1. You can use the [Individual\\_survey1728a.pdf form](#). The link to open this PDF document is:

[Individual\\_survey1728a.pdf](#)

You can enter your hours in one of two different ways into this form:

- Print the form and hand write in your hours and give it to **Deputy Grand Knight Joe Pocius** ; or
- Open the pdf document and type in your hours into the form. The hours will automatically total in the Totals box on the bottom of the form. You can then print it or you can save it and attach it to an email and send it to [Joe Pocius](#) (click on his name to open an email) on or before **Monday, January 12**.

NOTE: Enter your hours on the left side of the form – within the **Council Hours** column. Sum the hours manually or if you are completing the form electronically, the hours will automatically sum at the bottom. There is no place to enter your name on the form. If you are completing it manually, please print your name on the bottom of the form. If you are completing it online, save the form and change the file name so that it contains your name, for example, individual\_survey1728a **Tom Simpson**.pdf. Send or provide your form to [Joe Pocius](#) (click on his name to open an email) on or before **Monday, January 12**.

2. You can open the [2025 annual survey of fraternal activities](#) Excel document. Click on the document name to open the Excel document.

There are two worksheets in this document (when the document is open, see the bottom of your screen for the Individual Membership Worksheet and the Monthly Details Worksheet). This Excel document can be used to type in your hours by month in the Monthly Details Worksheet and the totals will automatically calculate and be inserted into the Individual Membership Worksheet in the proper reporting categories for the year (this worksheet is the same as the Supreme form Individual\_survey1728a). Enter your name and membership number into the fields on the Individual Membership Worksheet. Print or save and send this document in an email to [Joe Pocius](#) (click on his name to open an email) on or before **Monday, January 12**.

If you have any questions, please send an email to [Joe Pocius](#) or call 407-697-4618 .

## Meet Our New Webmaster/ Pinta Log Editor!

Dear Brothers,

We are excited to announce that Nick Leon will be taking on the role of Webmaster and Pinta Log Editor, effective January 2026. We also want thank Tom Przybyla for all his many years being our Pinta Log Editor.

Nick transferred from Deltona Council #6584 several months ago and brings a strong background in leadership and communication. He had served previously in various roles, including Deputy Grand Knight, Chancellor, Inside Guard, Program Director, Family Director, and Interim Membership Director.

During his time at his previous council, he was instrumental in them achieving Star Council status, driving significant membership growth, and securing a 3rd place win in the KofC Florida State Convention's Publicity Activities Award. His extensive experience managing all council communications—including their Facebook page, newsletters, and email—makes him exceptionally qualified for this role.

We are grateful for his commitment and confident that he will elevate our council website and the Pinta Log newsletter, ensuring they remain engaging and informative resources for our membership. On a personal note, Nick is married to Chloe, and they recently welcomed their new son, Alexander Everett Leon.

Please join us in welcoming Nick and his family to our council.



## Knights/Men's Club Christmas Party - Saturday December 13

We wish to thank everyone who attended the joint Knights and Men's Club Christmas party. It was exciting to see a large turnout of around 53 people. We especially want to thank George, GK, and Art for co-chairing the event and making it such a great success. Our gratitude also goes out to all the volunteers who helped with setup, decorating, serving, and cleanup.

You can view all the photos from the party on our [homepage](#).



## Sign-up for Winter Fest Frosty Grill Booth Jan 23 and 24



We are still seeking volunteers for the Frosty Grill Booth at Winter Fest on Friday, Jan 23, and Saturday, Jan 24. Hosted by the Knights of Columbus and Men's Club, the booth will serve burgers, hot dogs, and smoked pork prepared by parishioner Justin Hernandez. We also want to thank those who have already signed up to help.

Each shift requires two grillers, two order-takers, and one person for assembly. Even if shifts appear full, please join us for the camaraderie. You can sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/festhamburger>

Additionally, I am looking for three more booth co-captains to join Alan Blackmon, Oscar Arechavala, and myself. Co-captains coordinate supplies, manage volunteers, and handle issues to reduce the individual time commitment for everyone. If interested, please call or email me directly instead of using the SignUpGenius link.

Please let [Tom Przybyla](#) know if you have any questions.

## Leave No Neighbor Behind - Helping Hands Program



If you know of a brother Knight, Men's Club member or SMM parishioner who needs the labor to help with a small project, such as yard work, pressure washing, or small repairs, and they have purchased the needed supplies, please contact our Helping Hands program chair Tom Poppell at [tompopl@aol.com](mailto:tompopl@aol.com) or 407-920-2497 or Tom Przybyla at [tomprzybyla3@gmail.com](mailto:tomprzybyla3@gmail.com) or 407-460-8109. We need 2 weeks of lead time to make arrangements for the project.

**Project:** Tom Poppell received a call from the SMM office, requesting help for a local woman who experienced flood damage in her home. Her FEMA money ran out but she still had kitchen work that needed to be completed, requiring new countertops and appliances that needed to be installed. She is a visually impaired senior citizen on a tightly fixed income. Tom Poppell and Tom Weninger installed a temporary wash tub in her kitchen in November. Just before Christmas, John Felter, Angelo Chiodo, Mike Dodane and John's brother-in-law, Dan Hale purchased and installed countertops, a sink, and the other appliances into her kitchen.

These Christmas angels brought a joyous Christmas present to this woman, allowing her to live in a functioning kitchen again. A small group of men donated the money to purchase the supplies for this project.

## From our Faith Director

By Tom Przybyla



### My Brothers in Faith,

From the December 21 Word Among Us meditation. St. Joseph is a role model for many of us men, especially us Knights.

He is a powerful person in the bible, yet as we all know, he never speaks a word. He is especially important to me as I chose his name as my Confirmation name.

I pray to St. Joseph daily and I'm thankful for his example of what it means to live as a faithful man; especially when he believed in the Angel of God and obeyed the messages he received regardless of the difficulties that he had to go through.

When we hear a message from God that is pulling or pushing us to follow God's will, we need to obey and say yes, just as Joseph and Mary did when they were called into a deeper relationship with Him.

**Tom Przybyla,**  
Faith Director

**Matthew 1:18-24** He was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame. (Matthew 1:19) What an interesting thing to say about Joseph: he was "righteous" yet "unwilling to expose" Mary "to shame" (Matthew 1:19).

It seemed as if there were two different impulses in Joseph as he struggled to decide how to respond to Mary's pregnancy.

Today's Gospel tells us that Joseph was a righteous man and a devout observer of the Mosaic law. He was just in his intention to break his union with Mary—she seemed to have violated their betrothal, after all. But still, he didn't want Mary to become an object of ridicule and shame. So, he was merciful in his desire to find a quiet solution that avoided public scandal.

Justice and mercy: these two noble instincts revealed the depth of Joseph's holiness. And yet God had something better in mind. He wanted to bring Joseph even further along the path of righteousness. When the angel appeared to him in a dream, he reassured Joseph that he didn't need to divorce Mary. The child she carried was part of God's plan to redeem the world.

He was Emmanuel, God-with-us, who would fulfill both justice and mercy in himself. Joseph accepted the angel's words. He came to see that God's plans were bigger and better than his own, righteous though they were. So, Joseph let the Lord redirect his ideas and strategies. This is a lesson for us. God is always calling us into a deeper relationship with him. He might ask us to set aside our plans or take a step in a direction we don't understand.

But he leads the way for us. Joseph's yes to the Lord not only protected Mary and Jesus, but it also transformed his own life. Even though Joseph didn't understand, he was willing to obey. It made all the difference for Joseph, and it can do the same for you! "Lord, help me to trust in the goodness of your plan so that I can grow closer to you!"

## From our Life Director

By James Taglia



**Brothers**, as I write this I reflect on the past year. You helped in raising over 100,000 through Laps4Life. That is the good news. The GREAT news is that we spent it all on 8 ultrasound machines (replacement cost is over 800,000). Now for the EXCITING NEWS.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3kRtnrLLY0>  
(407) 492-0329

This year we repeat the event at Bishop Moore on 7-MAR. 9AM-1PM. <https://cflaps4life.org>

**TEAM EASY ED is up and running with donations already rolling in** in <https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrysync/event/website/home/?e=31158>.

The overall goal for Laps this year is \$125,000. As of this writing, we are budgeting for another 8-10 ultrasound machines with a replacement already requested for JMJ.

On Friday, 23-JAN, we will celebrate the Annual Mass for Life at the Basilica. The event begins with speakers at 10AM, followed by a rosary, and a Mass with Bishop Noonan at noon. Central Florida Laps4Life will host a table in the exhibit hall. Come and celebrate LIFE with the priests of the Diocese and the rest of us.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Vivat Jesus,  
**James J. Taglia**  
March 7, 2026  
13th Annual Walk for Life  
Central Florida Laps4Life, Inc.  
A 501(c)3 charity  
Bishop Moore Catholic High School  
<http://www.cflaps4life.org>

# MASS for LIFE

Join us for a prayerful gathering celebrating the sanctity and dignity of every human life.



**JAN 23 2026**  
Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe  
8300 Vineland Ave, Orlando, FL 32821

### Event Schedule

**10:00 A.M.** Special Guest Speaker, Christopher Ice: *Living the Gospel of Life in Today's World*  
**11:15 A.M.** Bilingual Rosary with Adoration  
**12:00 P.M.** Holy Mass with Bishop Noonan

After Mass, enjoy a time of fellowship with food trucks and exhibitor tables available on site!

### Diaper Drive

As an offering in the mission to build a Culture of Life, we invite you to take part in a special Diaper Drive during the event. Your generous donations will support *Walking With Moms In Need* ministries throughout the diocese that provide monthly diaper assistance to families in need.

Diaper sizes needed: 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7



Brothers, Happy New Year! The Knights of Columbus has very exciting news to share as we begin 2026! Beginning January 1, 2026, a dividend increase took effect for eligible participating insurance policies, for the second year in a row. What does an increased dividend rate mean for you?

<sup>1</sup>Dividends are not guaranteed. <sup>2</sup>This option is not available on all policies, and not available if policy is paying premiums via a monthly EFT. 20518 1/26

Dividends are amounts that may be paid annually from the surplus funds of the Knights of Columbus and are paid on an equitable basis by class as determined by the Board of Directors. <sup>1</sup>

These dividends can be used in various ways, including to:

- Purchase paid up additions, which is the default option.
- Place the dividends on deposit and earn additional interest.
- Receive the dividends in cash.
- Reduce billed premium. <sup>2</sup>
- Reduce an existing loan.

Guided by the vision of our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, we are dedicated to supporting the financial security of our members. Over the past 30 years, Knights of Columbus has paid more \$8 billion in dividends to those we serve. I would love to sit down with you in the coming year to discuss how this dividend increase may help you achieve your financial security goals. If you have any questions about this, or any of the benefits of having a Knights of Columbus insurance policy, please come chat with me, and we'll schedule a time to meet.

Thank you!

**Eric M. Monte**  
Field Agent  
Office: 855-563-2467  
Mobile: 407-852-8563  
eric.monte@kofc.org  
5840 Red Bug Lake Rd #400  
Winter Springs, FL 32708

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Protecting Catholic families since 1882.

**Eric M. Monte**  
Field Agent  
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Web: [financialsecurityforcatholics.com](http://financialsecurityforcatholics.com)  
The Urrutia Agency - Guided by faith and integrity - growing through service

# Florida State Council Charity Raffle

By Don Holzemer



Click on the image to open a flyer.

At our last council meeting, District Deputy Shaw presented us with an opportunity to raise funds for our council. Florida State KOFC Charites (with assistance from Florida State Council) is holding a raffle with the drawing to be held May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Florida State Convention.

Each raffle book contains four tickets. Suggested donation is 3.00/ ticket or 10.00 per book. There is also a solicitor ticket at the end of each book (Solicitor must be an individual so you cannot name the Council as a solicitor). This allows the solicitor of the tickets to

be eligible for a couple of early bird drawings. The first one is in December of this year (\$250) and the second one is in March of next year (\$400).

The benefit to our council is that the council needs to only submit 6.00 per book and can retain the balance for our council projects.

I have over 100 books of tickets so I would like to get them into your hands as soon as possible. Please [email](#) / text me with how many books you would like and we can work out how to get them to you (click on email link; phone number below.) Checks should be made payable to KC 5618 and sent to me at 636 Mariner Way, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

Don Holzemer  
Financial Secretary Emeritus  
Bishop Thomas J Grady Council 5618  
407-461-6446

# Congratulations Council 5618 Knights of Columbus!

1



2



**Congratulations  
Council 5618  
Knights on your  
achievements!!**

**Picture #1:** Worthy Grand Knight George Meyer presented the Knight of the Month award for November to John Byrnes. John Byrnes is one of our Council's quiet Knights who serves behind the scenes. He is a frequent volunteer at our Council events, usually washing pots and utensils in the kitchen. He has participated with several Helping Hands projects, most recently helping to move a family back to Pennsylvania. John offered to perform House Cleanup/Repair jobs for the last two Vocation Fundraisers. In 2024 he completed 2 jobs. In this year's fundraiser, John will be performing 4 jobs, helping to raise \$750! Through John's selfless actions, he shows his commitment to our principle of Charity by actively seeking those in need and shining the light of Christ's love upon them.

**Picture #2:** Worthy Grand Knight George Meyer presented the Family of the Month award for November to the Bill and Chris O'Brien family. Deacon Bill and Chris O'Brien have been parishioners of St Mary Magdalen Church for 53 years! All of their children still practice the Catholic Faith (they now boast 16 grandchildren). Bill and Chris have a long list of leadership and service accomplishments: Cursillo, COR Retreats, Youth Group, Renew, CROC, Confirmation, SMM School, Parish Council, Liturgy Commission, Eucharistic Ministers, Community Fest, Bell Choir. As a Deacon, Bill has performed countless hours of ministry with the devoted support of Chris. Their faithful service is immeasurable and we are exceedingly blessed to call them our own!



## Knights of Columbus Council 5618 Facebook By Roger Copeland

For all the newer Knights who are not aware of our Council's Facebook page. Below is the link to the site. Please feel free to share your Knight pictures on this site. That was the main reason it was created.

### [K of C Council 5618 Pictures & etc.](#)

## Exemplification Ceremony on Demand!



On-Demand Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity

**The Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity is now available on-demand.**

Any current 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Knights can advance to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree at any time of the day or night, 24/7, at your convenience. **To participate in the ceremony immediately, use the**

**"On Demand" link and the 30-minute ceremony will start upon completion of your registration.**

**If you know of any Brother Knight who would like to advance to the Third Degree, please pass this information on to that Brother!**

- Provide the required information including your council number (5618).
- Please note that your family and friends are welcome to observe the ceremony.

We look forward to you becoming a third-degree Knight of Columbus!

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)

## Weekly Exemplification Ceremonies

The Florida State Council presents weekly Exemplifications of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. Click the links below to register new candidates or to have your 1st and 2nd Degree members to advance to the 3rd Degree.

The English Exemplifications are held weeks 1-4 on Thursday and the 4th Monday at 7:00 pm. The Spanish Exemplifications are held the 3rd Wednesday and the 5th Thursday at 8:00 pm.

[English Exemplifications](#)

[Spanish Exemplifications](#)

## Donations for Needful Council Knights

By Tom Poppell



Brothers, we are assisting 3 families who are in need of food assistance by providing food and or gift cards from Publix, Winn Dixie or Aldi markets on a weekly basis.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Donations may be dropped off at Tom's Auto Repair (Proprietor is Tom Galaida) located at 151 Obrien Road. The telephone number is 407.831.8484. The food and or gift cards will be picked up and distributed weekly. Your gifts are greatly appreciated by the recipients.

Vivat Jesus, Brother Tom Poppell [tompopl@aol.com](mailto:tompopl@aol.com) 407-920-2497

## Shirt/Apron Embroidering

By Tom Przybyla

Gyslaine Brasil, one of the mothers of a basketball free throw and hockey shoot-out participant told me that she can embroider shirts and aprons with your name and logo (or whatever else you want) for a small fee:

- Name: \$5
- First time Logo setup charge: \$50
- Logo (after initial setup) and name: \$15
- Logo only (after initial setup): \$10

Gyslaine's contact information is: [gyslainebrasil@gmail.com](mailto:gyslainebrasil@gmail.com) and 321-420-3544

# Council Officers 2025 - 2026

Website Link: [Officers](#)

<b>Chaplain</b>	Fr. Duberney Rodas	<b>Advocate:</b>	Ed Gallagher
<b>Grand Knight:</b>	George Meyer	<b>Lecturer:</b>	Lou Elrose
<b>Deputy Grand Knight:</b>	Joe Pocius	<b>Trustee 1 Year:</b>	Roger Copeland
<b>Chancellor:</b>	Ricardo Diaz	<b>Trustee 2 Year:</b>	Tom Przybyla
<b>Financial Secretary:</b>	Richard Hosler	<b>Trustee 3 Year:</b>	Tom Galaida
<b>Recorder:</b>	Tom Weninger	<b>Fraternal Benefits Advisor:</b>	Eric Monte
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Les Philip	<b>District Deputy, District 24:</b>	Robert Shaw
<b>Warden:</b>	Tom Poppell	<b>District Warden, District 24:</b>	
<b>Inside Guard:</b>	David Henriquez (DJ)	<b>Outside Guard:</b>	Alan Blackmon

# Faith In Action Program Directors & Chairmen 2025 - 2026

<b>Faith Director:</b>	Tom Przybyla	<b>Community Director:</b>	Ed Gallagher
<b>Family Director:</b>	Les Philip	<b>Life Director:</b>	James Taglia Jr
<b>Membership Chairman:</b>	Art Wright	<b>Youth Chairman:</b>	Ed Gallagher
<b>Program Director</b>	Joe Pocius	<b>Lenten Fish Fry Dinners Chairman:</b>	Tom Przybyla
<b>Seminarian Chairman:</b>	Emilio Regala	<b>Card Ministry Chairman:</b>	Wayne Fricker

Want to order your wife a Knight of Columbus name tag? You can order a name tag from **Don Holzemer** at our next business meeting or by sending him an email at [amidon49@cfl.rr.com](mailto:amidon49@cfl.rr.com).

Wayne Fricker, our Council's chairman of the Card Ministry will send out cards of hope, sympathy, or condolence in our Council's name to brothers and families who are in distress, such as when we lose a brother, or we want to cheer up a brother or their loved one who might be homebound or who is in the hospital. If you would like Wayne to send out a card, please notify him via email: [wayne.fricker@gmail.com](mailto:wayne.fricker@gmail.com) or by phone: 407-745-9247 (cell).

If you know of a Brother, or relative of a Brother in distress, contact any of your Council officers. We have many people who need your prayers as they suffer severe medical challenges. They know your prayers are a blessing. Please continue to pray all the Knights and their loved ones who are in need of prayers, especially those people on our [Council's Prayer List](#), which is found on our website.



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Council 5618



"Sir Knight"

*Roger J. Copeland* P-GK  
P-DGK, P-Chan., P-Trust., P-MSD  
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