



# Knights of Columbus

Msgr. Martin B. Power Council 14573



December 2025

## Council Officers

Grand Knight  
SK Rich Passarella  
(321) 431-0982

Chaplain  
SK Fr. John Bosco Maison  
(321) 254-1595

Deputy Grand Knight  
SK John Pechar  
(724) 263-0273

Chancellor  
SK Dwight Collins  
(321) 960-6540

Warden  
SK Bobby Sullivan  
(321) 223-2473

Recorder  
SK Bob Richmond  
(321) 298-3884

Financial Secretary  
Brother Richard Becker  
(561) 523-0499

Treasurer  
SK Randy Lascody  
(321) 626-0804

Inside Guard  
SK Joe Ameigh  
(321) 242-0694

Outside Guard  
SK Ralph Carestia  
(321) 432-8439

Advocate  
SK Mike Marzec  
(321) 5431404

Lecturer  
SK Deacon Chris Meehan  
(321) 242-8003

Membership Director  
SK John Miller  
(321) 794-6620

Trustee (1 year)  
SK Bill Quinn  
(954) 917-8413

Trustee (2 year)  
SK Dave AmRhein  
(321) 591-6697

Trustee (3 year)  
SK Jose Montes  
(321) 795-8171



## From the Grand Knight



### Worthy Brothers and Sisters,

We started our November activities with the Council and Ladies Auxiliary members attending and helping with the All Souls Day Commemorative Service after November 1st Saturday Vigil Mass. Laurie Chatman and Rich Passarella read the names of all the parishioners and brother knights who passed away this past year, and special thanks to those Knights and Ladies who assisted parishioners in lighting candles when their deceased loved ones' names were called.

I want to thank SK Mike Marzec and his team of 17 Knights and Ladies Auxiliary members for reviewing 36 essays for the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest. Eighth-grade students from Ascension Catholic School answered this question in their essays: "Out of the 267 popes that have led the Catholic Church, who are your three favorite popes and why?" The essays were coordinated with ACS leaders and submitted for the team's evaluation. Scores were given based on contest guidelines and averaged to choose the winners. On November 12th, after the School Mass at Ascension Church, Mike Marzec awarded the top 3 winners with certificates and prizes of \$125, \$75, and \$50, respectively.

On Saturday, November 8th, our council and assembly members, along with Knights from sister Councils and Assemblies, participated in the Palm Bay Veterans' Day Parade. Many Palm Bay residents lined the boulevard to honor our veterans and show appreciation for their service to our country. Special thanks to St. Joseph's Council for bringing their Knights of Columbus "Santa Maria" float and to Assembly 3482 Color Corps Sir Knights Joe Ameigh and Ed Barry as flag bearers, and Elmer Rivera and Rich Passarella, who carried our Council/Assembly banner.

This month, we continued supporting seminarians by assisting two individuals: Michael Anctil, who is studying at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, and Gavin Foreman, an Ascension parishioner, at St. Joseph Seminary College in Louisiana. Since receiving our charter, our council has supported seminarians in their vocation pursuit through the Knights of Columbus's Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP), including letters of encouragement, prayers, and a \$500 check to each seminarian. Please continue praying for our seminarians.

The next monthly Council meeting will be held on December 18 at 7PM in the Knights Room. Power Rosary at 6:15 in the Ministry Building, Room 313.



## **GK Rich Passarella (continued)**

Next month, on Saturday, December 13th, at 4:30 pm, our council will celebrate our quarterly Corporate Communion during the Vigil Mass. "Corporate" refers to acting as a single entity, and "Communion"—the Eucharist—is a Thanksgiving and a sacrament initiated by Jesus as a covenant between Him and His believers, fostering a sense of community and spiritual nourishment among participants. Knights of Columbus and their families - coming together to pray and worship during Mass. The Corporate Communion Mass offers us an opportunity to gather once a quarter, share in the Eucharist, and strengthen fraternity and unity. Even if you serve in ministry at another Mass, as many of us do, we invite you to make a special effort to join us for this fraternal Eucharist celebration.

Big kudos to the Soccer Challenge coordinators Bob Richmond and Jose Montes for leading their team of Knights: Dwight Collins, Eddy Merlet, Nick Cavano, and Jose Rodriguez at the District and Regional Soccer Challenges held at Melbourne Central Catholic High School on Saturday, November 15th, and 22nd, respectively. Two Ascension Catholic School girls advanced to the State competition scheduled for Saturday, December 13th.

To close out November activities, our council launched its annual Keep Christ In Christmas Magnets fundraiser at all Masses during the weekend of the First Sunday of Advent. This year, we have several beautiful car magnet styles available, including one in Spanish, and we added a Keep Christ in Christmas 18" x24" yard sign with metal stakes. Thanks to brother Richard Becker for leading this activity, and to the brothers who signed up as Mass captains, and to the Knights and Ladies Auxiliary who volunteered to help with sales.

Looking forward to December, there are many opportunities for Knights to participate in council activities; please visit the council website's Upcoming Events page. These include: Keep Christ in Christmas Magnets/Lawn Signs before and after the December 6 & 7 weekend Masses; serving coffee and donuts after one of the Sunday morning Masses on Sunday, December 7th and 21<sup>st</sup>, judging Keep Christ in Christmas Posters made by Ascension students on Friday December 12<sup>th</sup> and participating in the Wreaths Across America ceremony including laying of wreaths on veterans' graves on Saturday December 13th, 10 AM at J.N. Tucker/Shady Oaks Cemetery on US1.

Finally, join us in celebrating a wonderful year at the Christmas Party on Saturday, December 13th, at the Buescher Center at 6 pm, following the 4:30 pm Corporate Communion Vigil Mass.

Our next Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 18th, at 7 PM in the Knights Room, with a Power Rosary taking place at 6:15 PM.

MERRY CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO YOU - May the light of God's love shine upon you and your family this Christmas and guide you to a New Year filled with peace, joy, and prosperity. KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS. GOD BLESS YOU.

**SK Rich Passarella**  
**Grand Knight**  
**Council 14573**

**Prayer Requests** – Prayer requests can be sent via email to [ascension14573@gmail.com](mailto:ascension14573@gmail.com), and can now also be submitted from the [council's website](#). Just [click here for Prayer Requests](#) on the home page and you will be directed to a form where you can enter your request. An email will be sent to the Council and The Ladies Auxiliary to ask them to unite in prayer with you and your request will be also included in the monthly Power Rosary

**Council Website.** We continue to add new features to our Council and Assembly website — the place to find the latest information and activities — [HERE](#)

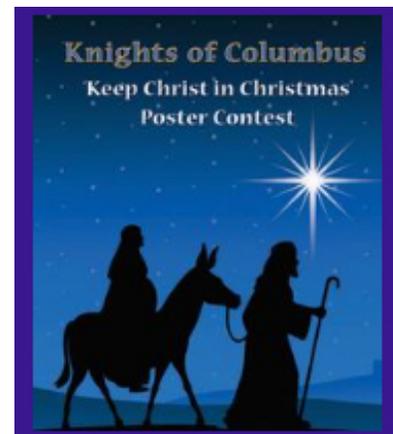


## Council Notes

- **Coffee and Donuts.** The Knights of Columbus were asked to serve coffee and donuts after the Sunday morning masses in December. Due to scheduling, we were asked to cover just two Sundays in December, the 7th and 21st. If you are free to serve for just 30 minutes after a mass you normally attend, please signup by selecting this [LINK](#).
- **Science Fair.** Ascension Catholic School will be conducting its annual science fair on Thursday, January 22nd, 2026 from 8:15 AM to 2:00 PM on the Ascension campus. The school administration requested judges for the event. If you are familiar with the Scientific Method and available that day, please consider volunteering. You will provide an important opportunity for students to practice their presentation skills. If you can't judge for the entire school day, just a few hours of participation is welcome. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up [HERE](#) and include your preferred science discipline (e.g. physical, biological, environmental, Any)
- **Annual Knights of Columbus Christmas Party** will be held on Saturday, December 13th from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM in the Buescher Center, Room 411.
  - Highlights:
    - Italian dinner, dessert, coffee, lemonade, water, BYOB
    - Music, fun, and games
    - Recognition and appreciation of Ascension clergy
    - The cost per person is \$20
    - You are welcome to bring a guest
    - This is an adults-only event
    - Dress code: holiday dress up / festive casual
  - To get an accurate headcount, we are requesting that you make reservations and provide payment at the time you make the reservation. We are not planning to have ticket sales at the door the day of the event. The last day to make your reservation was Friday December 5th.
  - If you have any questions or comments please reach out to Richard Becker or Ginny Reeder. We hope you can join us. Their contact information is:
    - Richard Becker – [\(561\) 523-0499](tel:5615230499) - [rit3722@gmail.com](mailto:rit3722@gmail.com)
    - Ginny Reeder - [\(978\) 460-1972](tel:9784601972) - [ginnyr1952@gmail.com](mailto:ginnyr1952@gmail.com)
- **Wreaths Across America** is scheduled for December 13. This is part of the National Wreaths Across America program where individuals sponsor wreaths to be placed on Veterans gravesites. As in years past, we plan to do that at JN Tucker Cemetery on December 13.
  - [Wreaths Across America](#) Program where you can sponsor a wreath — [HERE](#)
  - The Assembly and Council will be placing Christmas wreaths at Tucker Memorial Cemetery gravesites on Saturday, December 13th at 10:00 AM. If you are available to participate, please signup by selecting this [LINK](#).
- **Fishers of Men.** A proposal to the Council from Brother Brian Ellerhorst. This ministry has been approved by Fr. John for the development of men's individual relationship with Our Lord and Savior. That is the main purpose. What Brian is proposing is that we utilize this as an opportunity for the Knights to serve men in large numbers providing a "live" witness to our faith by cooking and service the breakfast. All costs will be reimbursed by collections at the breakfast, therefore, this opportunity to attract men to the Knights will be at no financial cost to our council.

## Council Notes

**Poster Contest.** Ascension Catholic School kindergarten through 8th grade students were invited to participate in the 2025 Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest.



- There were 167 entries last year and we expect more this year. We are looking for judges from the Council and Ladies Auxiliary. Over the years, many posters have been entertaining and as a judge you should have fun scoring them.
- Judging is scheduled for Friday, December 12th from 9AM to 11AM in the Buescher Center Room 411 (large room). Refreshments will be provided.
- The contest has five divisions: Kindergarten, Grades 1-2, Grades 3-4, Grades 5-6 and Grades 7-8. Our goal is to have a minimum of two, and ideally three, judges per division. Scores will be averaged to select a winner in each.
- If you would like to be a judge, please sign up by selecting this [LINK](#) (Note: SignUp Genius seems to be easier to use from a smart phone than from a desktop/laptop computer).

**Free Throw Championship.** We are a month away from the Ascension Free Throw Championship. The local competition is scheduled for Monday, January 12 and Tuesday, January 13 in the Ascension School gym.



- There are 12 age divisions of boys and girls age 9-14. To compete, at the follow-on competitions, students must be 9yo as of December 1. We allow all students to compete at the local level.
- We have a group of regular volunteers but are looking for a few more who would like to score the students. This is a great opportunity to work with the school staff and students but it does come with a special requirement — all volunteers must be Safe Environment Background Checked and fingerprinted. So if you qualify or would like to qualify, consider volunteering. We have set up a [SignUp Genius](#) option for volunteers to sign up to help score the students.
- SK Mike Marzec and SK Bob Richmond are co-chairs for the 2026 Free Throw. Please let me know if you have any questions about how to volunteer or get your Safe Environment Training. We look forward to another great event with the Ascension students.
- Local Ascension Free Throw at Ascension School Gym — January 12 and 13
- All follow on competitions at MCC:

District Free Throw  
Regional Free Throw  
State Free Throw

January 24  
February 28  
March 7

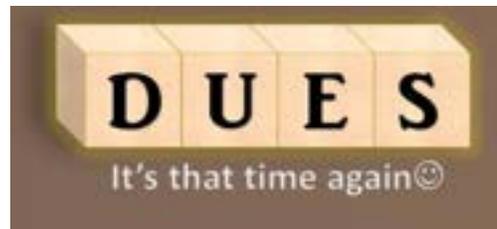




## Council Notes

- **Renew Your Dues Now.** July 1st marks the start of a new Fraternal Year. Our membership dues for the K of C Council 14573 are due at the beginning of the Fraternal Year. Regular dues are \$40 per year. If you have any questions about your dues, email Richard Becker at [rit3722@gmail.com](mailto:rit3722@gmail.com). Below are two options to pay our dues:

1. Pay by check payable to “K of C Council 14573” and hand the check to Richard Becker (Financial Secretary) or Randy Lascody (Treasurer) at the next council meeting or mail it to: “K of C Council 14573, Attention: Richard Becker, 4825 Tiverton Court, Melbourne, FL 32934



2. Pay electronically using a Credit Card, Debit Card, PayPal, or Venmo. This can be done from the Council’s website Dues page by [clicking on this link](#). If that URL link does not take you to the dues page, visit the main page here — [Council Website](#).
3. Please remember that your membership dues support Council sponsored charitable contributions, operations, and per-capita assessments from Supreme and the Florida State Council. The combined annual Supreme and Florida State Council assessments must be paid by the Council for all members on the roster, even if the member did not pay his dues. Paying your dues avoids the Council from having to use someone else's dues or funds targeted towards charitable contributions to cover members who do not pay, therefore we ask that you please stay current with your membership dues.

- **Assembly Dues** are due on January 1. Please pay your annual dues of \$25 at your earliest convenience. Followup notices will sent to all members who have not paid their dues — you can pay in person or through the mail. Dues are the main funding for the Assembly so please pay promptly.

- **Ascension Thrift Store.** The store continues to fall short in having enough volunteers to support all the hours necessary to bring in the revenue needed to support the Social Concerns Ministry and the Ascension Catholic School. The store is a key source of revenue for these ministries. If you can spare a few hours, please consider volunteering. The Thrift Store is also looking for a number two person to help out John Casco. You can contact the Thrift Store to [volunteer here](#).

**ASCENSION THRIFT STORE  
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Below are QR code links to sign up to volunteer. Please consider joining this amazing group of people, for it is in giving that we receive. Feel free to pass this along to anyone who may be interested in helping out. Thank you for your time and consideration. May the peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.



WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEER



SATURDAY WAREHOUSE

**Ascension Thrift Shop is in need of  
TENTS AND SLEEPING BAGS**

Please bring donations to the Thrift Shop during hours of operation.  
Thank you for your generosity.

For more information on volunteering, please call: 321-610-8742 or email: [info@AscensionThriftShop.com](mailto:info@AscensionThriftShop.com)



## Council Notes

- **Daily Bread.** In the past, the Knights have supported the Daily Bread facility on the fourth Sunday of the month with volunteers who served the noon meal. This is no longer provided at the Melbourne location. The future plans are to build Providence Place — a permanent, affordable multi-family apartment community with on-site resident services and amenities, prioritized for individuals and families facing homelessness in Melbourne. Currently, the staff at Daily Bread are organizing a mobile outreach program which we hope to support in the future. POC: SK Ric Robinson

- [Daily Bread Mobile Outreach](#)
- [When is Daily Bread closing, and why?](#)
- For more information on Daily Bread or to volunteer — [click here](#)



- **Council and Assembly Shirts.** We now have a new project officer who is our single point of contact for all things shirts and hats for the The Council and Assembly — SK Bill Quinn. We also have a new patriotic hat for \$20 that is available for both the Council or Assembly. Contact Bill for all of your Council and Assembly attire needs.

- SK Bill now has both Council and Assembly hats for sale — \$20. Contact Bill if you want a hat.



- **Bartman.** We will continue to use Bartman as a source for Council and Assembly attire. This company is owned and operated by a brother Knight and has proven to be very reliable in the past. Any Knight shirt, hat, or other item or clothing can be ordered from Bartman and can also be embroidered to your specifications. You can order the shirt to your specifications yourself by visiting their website, calling, or visiting their shop — or just see Bill.

### **Bartman Enterprises**

2735 Center Place  
Suite 101  
Melbourne, FL 32940  
Phone: (321) 259-4898  
Cellphone : (321) 324-9212  
Fax: (321) 259-4424

**Email : [papanole@aol.com](mailto:papanole@aol.com)**

Business Hours :  
Monday through Thursdays : 8:30am - 5:30pm  
Friday : 8:30am - 3:00pm  
[Visit Bartman here](#)



**DEC  
2025**

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

Monsignor Martin B. Power Council #14573  
Council Email: [ascension14573@gmail.com](mailto:ascension14573@gmail.com)



Council #14573 – 2009/10/11/12/19 Florida State Council of the Year

DATE	TIME	EVENT	CHAIR
Thu 4 <sup>th</sup>	1830	Chaplet of the Divine Mercy	SK R. Carestia
	1900	Assembly Meeting (Knight's Room - 312)	FN Rob Light
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	0900	Highway Cleanup (Knight's House)	SK R. Lascody
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	1400	Bible on Parade (Start at Melbourne Auditorium)	CCC Eddy Merlet
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Outside All Masses	Keep Christ in Christmas Magnet & Yard Signs	Richard Becker
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	All Masses	Food for the Poor Red/Assembly Shirt	SK J. Kelly
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	1345	Life Chain (North Wickham Road and Pineda Causeway)	SK B. Sullivan
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> & Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	All Morning Masses	Knights of Columbus serving coffee and donuts	SK John Miller
Thu 11 <sup>th</sup>	1830	Council Officers Meeting (Knight's Room – 312)	GK Rich Passarella
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	0900	Keep Christ in Christmas Poster judging (Buescher Center Rm 411)	SK Dave AmRhein
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	1000	Wreaths Across America (JN Tucker Cemetery at Shady Oaks)	SK John Autio FN Rob Light

DATE	TIME	EVENT	CHAIR
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	1000	State Soccer Challenge (MCC Football Field)	SK Jose Montes SK Bob Richmond
	1630	Quarterly Council/ Assembly Corporate Communion	GK Rich Passarella FN Rob Light
	1800	Council and Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Party (Buescher Center RM 411)	Richard Becker
Thu 18 <sup>th</sup>	1815	Power Rosary (Ministry Building – Room 313)	SK B. Sullivan
	1900	Council Meeting (Ministry Building – Room 312)	GK Rich Passarella

**LOOK AHEAD - January 2026**

DATE	TIME	EVENT	CHAIR
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	1700	Annual Retreat at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center (North Palm Beach)	GK Rich Passarella
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> - Tue 13 <sup>th</sup>	0800 - 1500	Council Free Throw Championship (ACS Gym)	SK Mike Marzec
Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup>	0815 1400	ACS Science Fair Judging	SK Dave AmRhein
Tue 27 <sup>th</sup>	1700	Deployed Service Member Appreciation Dinner (84 Harrier Ave. Satellite Beach)	SK Ralph Carestia

[Click here](#) to subscribe to the Council and Assembly Calendar.

**Get ready for Florida State Council Charity Raffle**

- Ticket Sales proceeds - 60% to State and 40% to Council
- Donation is \$3.00 per ticket, or \$10 per book (4 Tickets)
- Council 14573 required to sell 112 raffle books
- Solicitors/Sellers Prizes:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> prize winning ticket gets \$500
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> prize winning ticket gets \$250
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winning ticket wins \$100



- One ticket solicitor wins:
  - \$250 in the **Quick Start**, drawing to be December 16
  - \$400 in the **Early Bird** drawing on March 13, 2026.
- All raffle ticket distribution ends May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026
- All tickets and donations in by **May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.
- **Final drawing** at the FSC-Annual Convention May 23<sup>rd</sup>, '26
- Prizes:
  - 1st Prize \$25,000
  - 2nd Prize \$5,000
  - 3rd Prizes (2) \$1,000 each

**Near Term Important Dates at Ascension Parish:**

- Each Wednesday: Holy Hour (1700-1800)
- Sat 12/27 4:30 PM: SK Dan Brinkmann Memorial Mass
- Sat 01/10 4:30 PM: SK Dan Brinkmann Memorial Mass
- Sat 01/10 4:30 PM: SK John Loft Memorial Mass

**Activity Chairmen Phone Numbers:**

- WGK Rich Passarella 321-431-0982
- WFN Rob Light 321-626-9641
- DGK John Pechar 724-263-0273
- CCC Eddy Merlet 954-882-3687
- SK Ralph Carestia 321-432-8439
- SK Jerry Kelly 321-258-7477
- SK Randy Lascody 321-626-0804
- PGK Jose Montes 321-795-8171
- SK Bobby Sullivan 321-223-2473
- SK Mike Marzec 321-543-1404
- Richard Becker 561-523-0499
- SK John Autio 321-312-7117

**Ladies Auxiliary**

- President Becky Richard 412-779-9970
- Vice President Lyn Becker 561-531-3173



+ THE 4TH DEGREE +



+ PATRIOTISM +

# BISHOP NORBERT M. DORSEY CP ASSEMBLY #3482



## Assembly Officers

Faithful Navigator  
SK Rob Light  
(321) 626-9641

Faithful Friar  
SK Fr. John Bosco Maison  
(321) 254-1595

Spiritual Advisor  
SK Deacon Tom Stauffacher  
(321) 242-4504

Faithful Captain  
SK Ralph Carestia  
(321) 432-8439

Faithful Pilot  
SK Malachy McGuinness  
(321)213-0923

Faithful Admiral  
SK Bill Quinn  
(321) 917-8413

Faithful Comptroller  
SK Lacy Beanblossom  
318-230-0393

Faithful Purser  
SK Elmer Rivera  
(787) 619-7684

Faithful Scribe  
SK Bob Richmond  
(321) 298-3884

Faithful Inner Sentinel  
SK Bobby Sullivan  
(321) 223-2473

Faithful Outer Sentinel  
SK Joe Ameigh  
(321) 242-0694

Trustee (One Year)  
SK Jim Chatman  
(321) 223-8963

Trustee (Two Year)  
SK Rich Passarella  
(321) 431-0982

Trustee (Three Year)  
SK John Pechar  
(724) 263-0273

Color Corps Commander  
SK Eddy Merlet  
(954) 882-3687



## From the Faithful Navigator

### Sir Knights

History of the Pledge of Allegiance – Part II (excerpt from *The Knights of Columbus: An Illustrated History*, pg. 139, by Andrew T. and Maureen H. Walther, SquareOne, 2020):

[(Continued from October’s article) ... The movement to amend the pledge was initiated in 1948 by Louis Bowman, a seventy-six-year-old Illinois attorney and member of the Sons of the American Revolution. After the words “one nation,” Bowman began to include the words “under God” as he led his organization in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at meetings. He credited Abraham Lincoln’s words in the Gettysburg Address, which described America as “this nation under God,” for giving him the idea. The Knights also began including “under God” as they recited the pledge. In 1951, motivated by a combination of patriotism and a desire to highlight God’s important role in American society, the Knights formalized the practice. First, the board of directors passed a resolution stating that the amended pledge was to be recited by all of the country’s Fourth Degree assemblies. Soon the Knights began pushing for its use even more widely. (To be Continued)]

A huge thank you to SK John Autio, SK Bobby Sullivan, SK John Pechar, and all those who were able to attend, for their wonderful efforts at the 11 November Veterans Ceremony at Shady Oaks Cemetery! Also, a big thanks to the Color Corps for their participation in the Veterans’ Day Parade on 8 November – looking sharp! SK John Autio also led a flag folding event with the Cub Scouts Pack 3373 at the Ascension Parish Hall on 17 November with Cubmaster/Webelos Den Master Meghan Gerrish – 30-40 flags folded ... Thank You, John!

As a reminder, the next Assembly meeting will be held on Thursday, **8 Jan**, at 7pm in Rm 312 of the Ministry Center which is preceded by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 6:30pm and led by Faithful Captain SK Ralph Carestia (thank you, SK Paul Klein for leading the Chaplet while our Faithful Captain recovers!). Some other upcoming activities include:

- Flag Retirement Ceremonies with the Trail Life Boys (TBD)
- Wreaths Across America, JN Tucker (Shady Oaks) Cemetery, 13 December @ 1000
- Corporate Communion Mass, 13 December @ 1630
- Deployed Services Member Appreciation Dinner, 27 January 2026, @ 1700



If you are not already a member of the Assembly or Color Corps and interested in learning more, please contact Membership Director, SK John Miller, Color Corps Commander, SK Eddy Merlet, or myself about joining (contact info listed on the KofC newsletter front page and Assembly page). Please keep an eye out for upcoming events in the monthly activity sheet and God Bless!

Vivat Jesus

**SK Rob Light  
Faithful Navigator**

2025-2026 ASSEMBLY 3482 PLAN OF ACTIVITIES

Next meeting is January 8 at 7PM in the Knights Room. Moved one week due to New Years Day.

Date/Time	Event	Chairman
July 15 1500	Roundtable with Fr. John Bosco	Parish Office, WGK, FN, MP
August 10	Veteran Presentation Purple Heart Recognition	FC Ralph Carestia CCC Eddie Merlet
August 10 1130	Quarterly Council/Assembly Corporate Communion, Color Corps CCC Eddie Merlet	WGK/PFN Rich Passarella FN Rob Light
Sept 11 1200	911 Patriotic Rosary Ascension Catholic Church	WDGK/PFN John Pechar SK John Autio
Sept 11 1800	911 Ceremony at Veteran's Center Merritt Island	SK Bobby Sullivan
Sep 18	Vietnam Disabled Veterans Fundraiser Dinner	SK Be Duong SK Bobby Sullivan
Oct 30 1500	Roundtable with Fr. John Bosco	Parish Office, WGK, FN, MP
Nov 1 Sun Mass	All Souls' Day Service	WGK/PFN Rich Passarella CCC Eddie Merlet
Nov 8 1000	Veterans' Day Parade – Color Corps Assembly / Council / LA	CCC Eddie Merlet SK Bobby Sullivan
Nov 11	Veterans Flag Ceremony at Shady Oaks Cemetery following Veterans' Day Parade	SK John Autio SK Bobby Sullivan
Nov 17	Flag Folding Event with Cub Scouts	SK John Autio
Dec 13 1630	Quarterly Council/Assembly Corporate Communion, Color Corps CCC Eddie Merlet	WGK/PFN Rich Passarella FN Rob Light
Dec 13 0930	Wreaths Across America at Shady Oaks and JS Sloan Cemeteries	FN Rob Light WDGK/PFN John Pechar CCC Eddie Merlet
Jan 3-14	Prepare Form 1728 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities Report – Due Jan 31	FN Rob Light FC Ralph Carestia
Jan 12-18	Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon w/Color Corps	WGN/PFN Rich Passarella CCC Eddie Merlet
Jan 21 1500	Roundtable with Fr. John Bosco	Parish Office, WGK, FN, MP

		FC Ralph Carestia
March	Prepare Form 2321 Civic Award Application	FN Rob Light FC Ralph Carestia
April ???	Ascension School Flag Retirement Ceremony	SK Bob Richmond
Mid-April 1500	Roundtable with Fr. John Bosco	Parish Office, WGK, FN, MP
May 4	Color Corps Marching of the Colors	FP Malachy MaGuinness
May 4 TBD	Quarterly Council/Assembly Corporate Communion, Color Corps CCC Eddie Merlet	WGK/PFN Rich Passarella FN Rob Light
May TBD	Vietnam Travelling Wall & Laying of Wreaths (Assembly/Council/LA) – Color Corps	CCC Eddie Merlet
May TBD	May Crowning (ACCW) Color Corps	CCC Eddie Merlet
May 25 TBD	Memorial Day Ceremony at Shady Oaks	SK Bobby Sullivan
June 27 1800	Flags for Heroes Flag Display Knight's House Lawn Area	WDGK/PFN John Pechar PGK Dave AmRhein
July 4 1000	Independence Day Parade Assembly / Council / LA	CCC Eddie Merlet SK Bobby Sullivan



## December Birthdays

Heavenly Father, We praise You for all Your gifts to us. In a special way,, we thank You for our brothers as they celebrate their birthday. Bless them always in Your love. Bless us too, Holy Father, Help us all to praise You and give You glory Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

John De Stefon	December, 4
Glenn Paternoster	December, 7
Robert Sullivan	December, 12
Patrick Sullivan	December, 12
John Casko	December, 13
Le Roy Hennessey	December, 13
Robert Franco	December, 15
Harry Merlet	December, 15
Gregory Mockensturm	December, 18
Benton Cortes	December, 19
Dean Fitzgerald	December, 21
Albert Odorizzi	December, 23
Reynaldo Sepulveda	December, 25
Juan Palacios	December, 27
John Harter	December, 28
Edward Barry	December, 30
Douglas Blair	December, 31

\*\*Be sure to [let us know](#) if we miss any monthly birthdays\*\*

[You can find the Ascension 14573 Monthly Newsletters -- HERE](#)



## Chaplain's Corner

### SK Deacon Chris Meehan

1. Sunday (23<sup>rd</sup> November) was the Solemn Feast of Christ the King. It marks the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year Cycle C which features Luke's gospel. The following weekdays up through Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November will complete the daily readings from Cycle I.

The following Sunday (30<sup>th</sup> November) marks the First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of Liturgical Year A for the Sunday readings. That means we will primarily listen to Matthew's Gospel at Sunday Mass and the priest and deacon will wear violet/purple vestments at Mass. It also marks the beginning of Cycle II for the daily Mass readings.

Note that the Sunday readings follow a three-year cycle whereas the daily readings follow a two-year cycle. If you attend Mass daily and on Sunday, over the course of three years you will have heard from every book of the Bible.

2. Then two weeks later on Monday December 8<sup>th</sup> the Church celebrates the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It is a Holy Day of Obligation.

3. Important to note that our Advent parish mission, featuring Fr. Lane Briese, will take place at 7pm on 15/16 December (Monday/Tuesday). He is a professor of Sacred Scripture at the St Vincent de Paul Seminary, where Frs. Zach and Triolo were trained.

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## Advent

What is Advent?

When we think of the season of Advent, we usually think of ourselves waiting on God. And that really isn't surprising since the themes of the readings speak of waiting; and the songs we sing and prayers we speak feature our pleading with God to come; and we have an Advent wreath that helps us to visualize the countdown as we wait. It is true that we are waiting—waiting for the grace that God will pour out on us as we celebrate the great miracle that is the Incarnation; waiting for the grace that God will pour out on us as we reconcile with Him through the sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation; ...

But Fr Mark Thibodeaux, S.J. suggests that there is another waiting. What if Advent is also about God waiting on us? "What is he waiting for us to do? He's waiting for us to follow in Mary's footsteps—to give our 'yes' to God so that his grace can be enfolded in our lives. God is waiting for us to say, "Let it be done. I will bring Christ into the world. I will bear Christ for God in the world today" (*Word Among Us*, Advent 2025, p.18).

As St Paul wrote to the Galatians: "It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me" (2 Galatians 2:20).

We say yes to God and allow Christ to be born in us so that we can take him into the world.

Why do we celebrate it?

How do we celebrate it?

Prayers

Mass

Subdued music and environment (no organ; no flowers, subdued color—violet, except 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday is Rose.)



## Advent Wreath

“What is an Advent wreath and why do you need one?

Why do you need an Advent wreath?” By Get Fed

Nov 15, 2025

While the exact origin of the Advent wreath is uncertain, one thing is undeniable: the use of this symbol is a longstanding tradition in our Catholic Faith, dating back to at least the 17th century.

As we progressively light the candles throughout the Advent season, we acknowledge God’s coming through reflection, prayer, and hope. We make our own private vigil while awaiting the Light of the World.

Not only do we recall His first coming, we also await His second coming, when He will judge the living and the dead.

### Significance of the Advent Wreath’s Shape and Color

Since circles have no beginning and no end, the circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes eternal life in Christ. The wreath holds four candles, which are lit one-by-one over the four weeks of the Advent season. Generally, three are violet (purple) and one is rose-colored, each representing 1,000 years. Added together, the four candles symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the Savior.

Violet is a liturgical color symbolizing penance, sacrifice, and prayer. During the first, second, and fourth weeks of Advent, we light violet candles as a reminder of the preparation of heart and mind undertaken during this season, which was traditionally known as a “little Lent.”

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day, we celebrate that our wait is almost over. Since rose is the liturgical color used to signify joy, we light the rose candle on the Third Sunday of Advent as we rejoice in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah.

### **Materials Used in the Advent Wreath**

Advent wreaths were traditionally made of evergreen branches, which have long been a symbol of the constancy and faithfulness we aspire to as Christians. Evergreens flourish during every season, remaining unchanged through the harshness of winter. We are called to live our Faith this same way—with holy confidence and fortitude.

Holly, with its prickly leaves, represents the Crown of Thorns. Pinecones represent the Resurrection, because they contain the seeds of a new tree and therefore of new life. And yet there are other types of Advent wreaths, such as one depicting the Holy Family!

When do we celebrate it?

Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup> 2025 and up thru Morning Mass on 24 December. Exceptions during Advent include Feast of the Immaculate Conception (8<sup>th</sup> Dec)

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### Works Cited

Get Fed, “What is an Advent Wreath and Why Do You Need One?” source: <<https://www.catholiccompany.com/blogs/get-fed/what-is-an-advent-wreath>>

Accessed 19 Nov 2025

*Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and Celebration of the Eucharist 2026*. Book 21. Paulist Press, 2025. p.1.



## Support for Seminarians

One of the ways that the Knights of Columbus serve the church is by providing moral, financial, and prayerful support to our future priests and religious during all the stages of their formation. The Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP) is a featured program that encourages councils and parish families to support seminarians in their area. Each year before the Christmas season, our council sends letters of encouragement and a check for financial support to two seminarians. This year a support letter and a check for \$500 were sent to Michael Anctil, who is studying at Pontifical North American College and Gavin Foreman, who recently started at the Saint Joseph Seminary College in Louisiana.

### **Michael Anctil**



Michael Anctil is the nephew of SK Doug Blair and Lady Susan Blair. He was raised in Omaha, Nebraska and is a graduate of Iowa State University. His home parish is Saint Thomas Aquinas in Charlottesville, which corresponds to the Diocese of Richmond, VA. Driven by a passion to help others and a desire know more about Jesus and His Church, and with the example and support of his home parish, Michael realized that Jesus was calling him towards his priesthood and started his formation and discernment in the seminary. Michael is currently in his Third Theology Year at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

### **Gavin Foreman**



Gavin Foreman's home parish is Ascension, in Melbourne, FL where as a teen and young adult he was very active in multiple ministries. After deciding to pursue the priestly vocation, Gavin started his seminary formation in the Summer of 2024 at the Saint Joseph Seminary College in Louisiana. He is one of several Seminarians of the Diocese of Orlando and is currently in the Discipleship stage. Gavin spent this past Summer in residence at Annunciation Parish in Orlando, working with Catholic Charities of Central Florida, and is now back in Louisiana.



## Honor Flight

- The Assembly shares some duties with another very important ministry here at Ascension — the Military Ministry. One of the most important events that fall under those duties is the Honor Flight. While we are not responsible for managing that program, we do contribute to its success. We have a very special veteran who traveled to Washington on a recent Honor Flight — Joe Tocco. Joe is very proud of his service in the Air Force and was very much looking forward to seeing the memorials in our Nation's Capital up front and personal. His flight was Saturday, November 8. All Honor Flight honorees have a guardian that travels with them. They can be anyone in that person's life but they must have a guardian — Joe is very fortunate to have his son as his guardian. Veterans from WWII, the Korean Conflict and Vietnam Conflict make up the honorees on most flights — we had one honoree from WWII who was 95. In the end all that matters is that this is their time to be welcomed home!





## Monthly Council Meeting



**Knight of the Month — September**  
**SK Felix Rodriguez**  
**With PGK Jose Montes**



**Knight of the Month — October**  
**SK Paul Klein**  
**With PGK Jose Montes**



## Essay Contest

Our Advocate, Mike Marzac, led a team of knights and ladies for the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest with Ascension 8th graders. Our field of judges evaluated 36 essays. This event encourages young people to become citizens grounded in their faith through creative writing. Essay details were included in the school newsletter. The essay topic is "Out of the 267 popes that have led the Catholic Church, who are your three favorite popes and why?" and the required word count was 500 to 750. We asked judges to review and score the entries — as many of the entries as they could read. Judges met on November 4 to compile scores and select winners.

Due to the generosity of our Knights, we are able to increase the cash awards for the competition this year. The Council budgeted for \$50 for the best essay. We now have an additional \$200 in awards thanks to individual donations and are now able to have these awards:

- Certificates and checks were presented to winners at the school mass on November 12th.
  - First Place — Emma Tecson - \$125
  - Second Place — Emily Zhang - \$75
  - Third Place — Kylee Langham - \$50



Dr Claudia Stokes, SK Mike Marzac, Kylee Langham, Emily Zhang, Emma Tecson



[READ EMMA'S ESSAY HERE](#)



[READ EMILY'S ESSAY HERE](#)



[READ KYLEE'S ESSAY HERE](#)



## Soccer Challenge

**Soccer Challenge.** We held the Council Soccer Challenge on October 6, 7, and 8, at the Ascension School gym, with about 300 students participating during their PE classes. Eight students advanced to compete against other councils in our district. These are our eight winners who will be competing at the District Level:

- 9 Year-Old Girls      Addison Henry
- 9 Year-Old Boys      Quinn Casey
- 10 Year-Old Girls      Emily Casaletto
- 10 Year-Old Boys      Andrew Hellmann
- 11 Year-Old Girls      Isabella Walters
- 11 Year-Old Boys      Finn Cusimano
- 12 Year-Old Girls      Liana Roeder
- 12 Year-Old Boys      Emmanuel Montoya

• The District 30 competition was held on Saturday, November 15 at Melbourne Central Catholic High School (MCC). District Winners from Ascension were:

- First Place      10 Year-Old Boys      Andrew Hellmann
- First Place      11 Year-Old Girls      Isabella Walters
- First Place      11 Year-Old Boys      Finn Cusimano
- First Place      12 Year-Old Girls      Liana Roeder
- Second Place      9 Year-Old Girls      Addison Henry
- Second Place      9 Year-Old Boys      Quinn Casey

• The Regional Soccer Challenge also at MCC was held on Saturday, November 22. Regional winners from Ascension were:

- First Place      11 Year-Old Girls      Isabella Walters
- First Place      12 Year-Old Girls      Liana Roeder
- Third Place      10 Year-Old Boys      Andrew Hellmann

• Next up for our first place winners Isabella Walters and Liana Roeder is the State Soccer Challenge, also at MCC, to be held on Saturday, December 13, at 10AM. Best of luck to our Eagle competitors!



District Deputy SK Eddy Merlet With Liana Roeder and Mom



DD Eddy Merlet With Isabella Walters and her Parents



DD Eddy Merlet With Andrew Hellmann and Dad and Brother



## Flag Folding from SK John Autio with Meghan Gerrish with her Cub Scouts





## From the Ladies Auxiliary



Where does the time go?! It feels like I was just getting back in October from my summer away, and here we are already in Advent! I remember my Mamaw telling me many years ago, when she was in her 90's, that if I thought the time was flying by in my 30's, to just wait, because the older you get, the faster it flies! I couldn't imagine at that time. My kids were young and our family was actively involved in many things. But, here I am "retired", and life is oddly just as busy now. Our parish community offers so many wonderful opportunities to be involved and to serve, which is a true blessing. There is never a dull moment, and time does fly when one is having fun and enjoying life. Speaking of the many ways to get involved, let's take a look at how our November wound up, and our December birthdays, anniversaries, and upcoming activities...

Thank you to all of the Ladies who collected at all of the Masses for our Annual Ladies Auxiliary Thanksgiving Collection for Social Concerns, and for all who contributed financially to the collection those two weekends. Our parish is so very generous. I think everyone understands what a difficult time people are having in our current economic climate, because people really stepped up! We were able to surpass last year's record high collection of \$7,000, and present Social Concerns with checks, cash (via one large check), and gift cards in the amount of \$10,050!!! There were even still a few checks coming in after the presentation was made. Thanks to your hard work and generosity, Social Concerns was able to help 50 families have a wonderful Thanksgiving.





Our October Lady of the Month was presented with with her certificate at the November meeting. Congratulations to Kathy Harris, and a great big “Thank you” for all that she tirelessly does in and around our parish community! (Due to her absence at the November meeting, our November LOM presentation will take place in 2026!)



**"Happy Birthday" to:**

- Dec 1 Sharon Hunton
- Dec 4 Doreen Boudreau
- Dec 15 Laurie Chatman
- Dec 15 Carol Gaeta
- Dec 18 Helen Buckley
- Dec 31 Kathy Ameigh

**"Happy Anniversary" to:**

- Dec 18 Janet and Earl Miller
- Dec 12 Regina and Richard Wilson

Along with our recurring monthly activities, there will be the Annual Bible on Parade in December, and Ascension always takes part in this awesome tradition. All are invited to participate! We will also be having our Council and Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Party, co-chaired by SK Richard Becker and Lady Ginny Reeder! We know that this event will be fabulous, as always, and I hope you all have your tickets in hand. See you there!

Remember, there will not be a Ladies Auxiliary Meeting in December. Our next meeting will be a New Year’s celebration in January. Details to follow!

Your Sister in Christ,

**Becky Richard**  
**President, Ladies Auxiliary**



Highway Cleanup — November 7



Knight of the Month — June  
 Phil Mathey



# INSURANCE FIELD AGENT



## Knights of Columbus®



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Protecting Catholic families since 1882.

## Advent – The Gift of Protection

A Blessed Advent to you all!

As we anticipate the coming of Christ at Christmas, it’s undoubtedly a busy time of year for so many of us. There are meals to prepare, gatherings to attend and gifts to buy, but we know these are labors of love. We love our families and want this holy time of year to be special for them.

These moments we share with our families are precious, and they should cause us to reflect on what it is we cherish in our lives and strive to protect. What would life look like if the unexpected were to happen?

I invite you this season to consider protecting what matters most through the gift of life insurance.

The right life insurance coverage can mean financial security for your family. It can mean the ability for them to have income to help minimize the impact of an untimely death on their level of financial comfort. It can shield against debt or remaining mortgage payments, so your family is protected if you or your spouse dies unexpectedly.

Depending on your policy, it could also be the seeds of a growing financial legacy — a foundation to give your loved ones so they can continue to build upon what you’ve worked for.

Simply put, life insurance is the gift of protection and stability for the most important people in our lives.

Let’s schedule time to connect before the end of the year so we can explore affordable options together that can help make a big difference for your peace of mind in 2026 and for years to come.

**Vivat Jesus!**

**John Barfield FICF, MDRT**  
1900 S. Harbor City Blvd.  
Suite 321  
Melbourne, FL 32901



[Appointment Booking Page](#)

Email: [john.barfield@kofc.org](mailto:john.barfield@kofc.org)  
Office Ph#: 321-294-3086  
Personal Ph#: 407-433-5421



## SAVE THE DATE — January 9-11 2026

### Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center Men's Weekend Retreat 2026



Brothers, our annual retreat at OLFSC is scheduled earlier in January than in previous years; it begins on Friday evening, January 9th, and continues through Sunday, January 11th, 2026. The retreat theme is “Prayer Is The Answer! - Encounter The Divine.” The Retreat Team includes Fr. Curtis Kiddy, Deanna Bartalin, and Deacon Jim Parrilli.

About 50 men attend the weekend retreat, where Ascension is one of roughly twelve parishes and other Councils, mainly from South Florida, that participate in this annual event. Car pools are arranged to travel to the retreat center; we arrived late Friday afternoon to check in, pick up our retreat packages, and receive our room assignments. Afterwards, we enjoyed a light dinner in the dining room before the opening session of the retreat. The retreat is not a silent retreat; however, there is designated time for personal reflection and quiet on a beautifully landscaped campus on the western edge of the

northern end of Lake Worth Lagoon. The program offers morning, afternoon, and evening theme presentations by Spiritual Center staff, along with an option to attend 2 of 4 workshops on Saturday afternoon. During free time, there are also several 20-minute slots to meet privately with Spiritual Center staff. The days begin with Morning Prayer in the chapel before breakfast and include evening prayers, adoration, and benediction on Saturday night. On Saturday, there is a mid-morning Reconciliation service and Mass Saturday evening before dinner, as well as on Sunday morning. There is no fasting unless you choose to fast, which may be difficult because they serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner generously, along with fresh fruit and homemade cookies for snacks.

You can register at [Men's Events | The Passionist Spiritual Places](#)

When you register, select NEXT for 2026 Retreats, then choose Fri, January 09, 2026:View Details. Then click REGISTER and select Room.

Rooms are available in the St. Gabriel Building on the Lower and Upper Levels, as well as in the St. Paul Building on the Lower and Upper Levels and along the Back Wall. The Retreat Center is located at 1300 U.S. Highway 1, North, Palm Beach, Florida 33408.

We have several brothers who carpool to the retreat. If you're interested in carpooling, please contact SK Rich Passarella at 321-431-0982.



# Knights of Columbus

# FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION

## REACH YOUR HIGHEST POTENTIAL

The Fourth Degree is a group of outstanding Knights, dedicated to promoting patriotism enlightened 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.

### ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for the Fourth Degree, one must:

1. Be over 18 years of age.
2. Be a member in good standing with your Council.
3. Be a practical Catholic.

## CHARITY★UNITY★FRATERNITY★PATRIOTISM

For Further Information Contact:  
 Robert Urrutia PSD, Master  
 Florida Jurisdiction  
 407-486-7883  
 Robert.S.Urrutia84@gmail.com  
<https://www.floridakofc.org/Fourth-degree-Forms>

**Jan.  
31,  
2026**

St. Mark the Evangelist Church  
 9724 Cross Creek Blvd  
 Tampa, FL 33647

Registration at 9:00 AM  
 Exemplification at 11:00 AM  
 Banquet at 2:00 PM  
 Mass at 4:00 PM

\*\*\*All applications for membership for the Fourth Degree and banquet reservations must be received by January 17



**🙏 Prayer Requests 🙏**

**Recently Deceased**

Eden Flores — Mom of Lady Lyn Becker

Healthcare Providers and First Responders Worldwide

Service Men and Women serving our Country Worldwide

Victims of Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Fires and other Natural Disasters

All those suffering from terrorist attacks, invasions by foreign governments, and loss of life and oppression in all war-torn areas

**All those in need of prayers for health issues**

ARA SK Gerry Grillo

SK Doug Blair

SK John Miller

SK Marc Worchel

SK Werner Schulz

SK Allen Allebach

SK John Kisiel

SK Chris Kelly

PGK David Sullivan

SK Ralph Carestia

Brother Bill and Betsy Hampton

Brother Geoff Schmits

Brother Bob Caldo

Lady Jan O'Bryan-Wilson

Rowena Carenen, Niece of SK Mike Marzec

Genevieve Harris, granddaughter of Lady Kathy Harris and SK Jack Duggan

**All Those Men in Formation for the Sacrament of Holy Orders — Priest and Deacon**

Michael Anctil

Jonathan Amgott

Gavin Foreman

SK Rob Light

**Prayer for Blessed Michael McGivney**

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.



# Ascension Catholic School





## Addressing Young Catholics, Pope Leo Spoke to All of Us [Click Here to Read Article](#)

EDITORIAL: In his National Catholic Youth Conference encounter, the Holy Father eloquently articulated fundamentals of faith that should guide every Catholic.



### [Florida State Council November Newsletter](#)





Christians in Germany inaugurate the Advent Season at a traditional Christmas Market (AFP or licensors)

## Lord's Day Reflection: Advent is a time for praying for reconciliation and peace

Read Full Story — [HERE](#)

As the Church marks the First Sunday of Advent, Fr Luke Gregory reflects on why Advent is a supreme time for praying for reconciliation and world peace.

By Father Luke Gregory, OFM

As the world enters the sacred season of Advent, a period of preparation and reflection for many Christians, we find ourselves standing at the intersection of hope and longing. This time invites us to consider not just the anticipation of Christ's coming but also the deep desire for reconciliation and peace within our fractured world.

Today's Gospel, profoundly articulating the themes of readiness and awareness in the face of the coming of the Son of Man, gives us a framework to explore these vital concepts.



## Wishing Everyone a Blessed Advent and Christmas Season

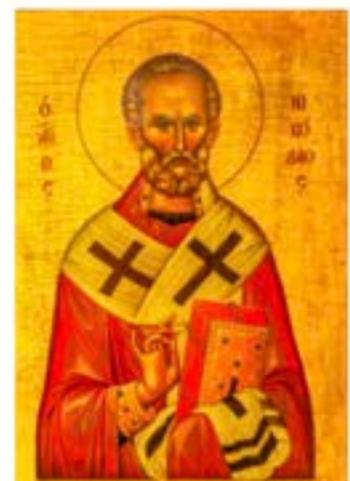


by *Father Dwight Longenecker*

*Part of the magic of Christmas is giving and receiving gifts. The presents might be simple, homemade, and practical or expensive and luxurious, but they represent the love we have for one another. To put it simply, we give treasures to the ones we treasure.*

For Catholics, giving Christmas gifts connects us with the traditions of St. Nicholas. The name Santa Claus comes from the Dutch version of the saint's name, Sint Nikolaas. Rather than the Coca Cola-swilling chubby elf of American Christmas, the true "St. Nick" was a fourth-century bishop from present-day Turkey who rescued children sold into slavery and gave gold to a poor man who was worried that he would have to sell his children.

St. Nicholas' feast day is Dec. 6, so the celebrations soon merged with Christmas, and children and gifts became a deeply rooted part of the Yuletide season. The tradition of gift giving at Christmas goes back even further, however. It connects to the story of the Magi who saw a sign in the heavens and traveled to Bethlehem to offer gifts of tribute to the newborn King of the Jews. The gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh symbolized Jesus' status as a king, priest, and suffering servant. The tradition of giving gifts is therefore much more than a pleasant motivation to do yet more shopping. As we give gifts, we should remember these deeper roots of the gift-giving tradition, but we should also be aware that the tradition of giving gifts takes us back even further than St. Nicholas and the Magi.



*Gold icon of St. Nicholas at St. George's Greek Orthodox Church in Madaba, Jordan.  
Photo: bpperri/iStock*

[Click here to read the entire article](#)



**The Father Leo Show**  
**Father Leo Patalinghug**





## Bishop Robert Barron





## Power Rosary



The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)

My Brothers and Sisters,

Monthly Power Rosary — Power Rosary every 3rd Thursday with SK Bobby Sullivan and SK Ralph Carestia — immediately before the membership meeting in the Ministry Building, Room 313 — 6:15 PM. Contact Brothers Bobby or Ralph if you want to lead one of the decades.

They sought strength in solidarity, and security through unity of purpose and devotion to a holy cause: they vowed to be defenders of their country, their families and their faith.

These men were bound together by the ideal of Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of the Americas, the one whose hand brought Christianity to the New World. Their efforts came to fruition with the incorporation of the Knights of Columbus on March 29, 1882

### We are the Knights of Columbus

***Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity! (Psalm 133:1)***





**Knights of Columbus  
Council 14573  
Ascension Catholic Community  
2950 N. Harbor City Blvd  
Melbourne, Florida 32935**



**Newsletter Editor  
SK Bob Richmond  
bobr52@gmail.com**

**!!!PLEASE BE AWARE!!! EMAIL AND TEXT SCAMS CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE!!!** Please spread the word among your fellow Knights.

If you receive an email or text that appears to be from any Council or Assembly Officers, Church clergy or staff member requesting a moment of your time, need your help, asking for a favor, etc. **DO NOT REPLY!!** These scam emails continue to circulate and parishioners, out of the goodness of their hearts in trying to help, are falling victim.

We will NEVER request special favors, ask for your time, ask you to buy gift cards or make any such request via email or text, nor will any clergy or staff. PLEASE DELETE IMMEDIATELY AND DO NOT CLICK ANY LINKS. No matter how authentic it looks, it is a scam.