



# Knights of Columbus®

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826

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## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

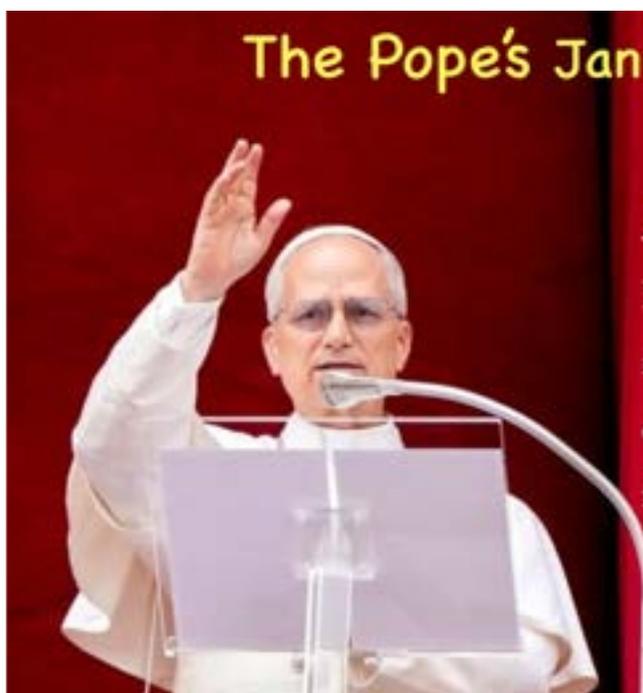
*The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the world and the beginning of his mission on earth.*

## Chaplains Message

Dear Brother Knights,  
Happy New Year! I hope this newsletter finds you well. We are now entering into a new year, and a time to consider new beginnings and new resolutions. We always begin the New Year celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Have you ever considered why we begin every year with this celebration? I believe one important reason is this: only women can give birth. Another way to put it: without a mother, there can be no true birth. We always entrust the beginning of the Year honoring her in a special way because it is our way as the Church to call upon her most holy and maternal intercession to help us, guide us, and renew us. And how does she do this? By gently pointing us back to Jesus. Her last words in scripture and her last words to us at the Wedding Feast of Cana: "Do whatever he tells you."

Brother Knights, let us begin this new year calling upon our mother Mary for the help, the strength and the guidance to live the mission that God has for each one of us now, wherever we are at, and in all the current circumstances of our lives. Let us make new resolutions, not trusting in our own strength but upon God's strength. Let us be those little children, holding our mother Mary's hand, always turning and looking up to her when confronted by any and every sort of obstacle. And as the angel Gabriel said to the Blessed Virgin, "With God, nothing is impossible." Know that you all remain in my prayers. God Bless you and I pray you have a most blessed and happy New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Fr. Daniel Scanlan



### The Pope's January Prayer Intention

*For prayer with the Word of God*

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

## Grand Knights Report

...I know their works and their thoughts, and I am coming to gather all nations...

Isaiah 66:18

### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD -

The Epiphany marks the arrival of visitors, identified in Scripture as the magi, to the place where Jesus was born. Although we know virtually nothing about them, we do know they brought three gifts:

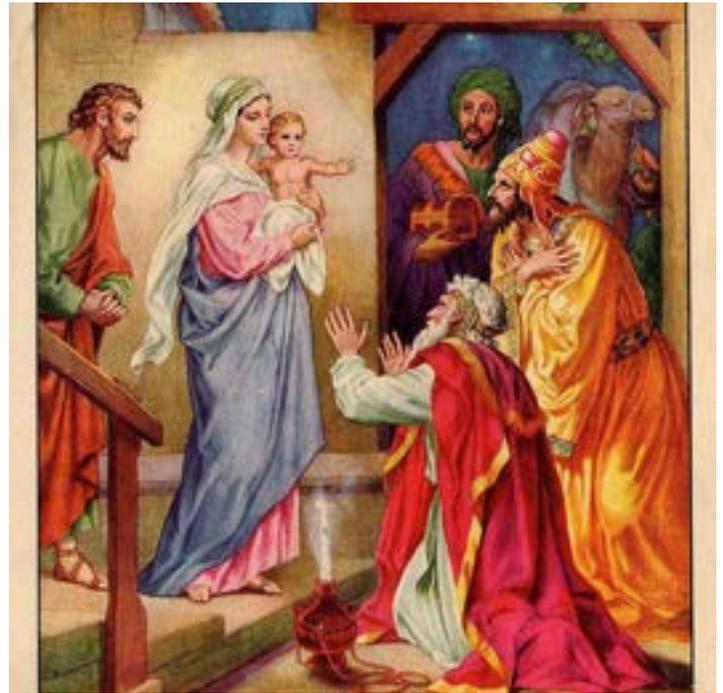
Gold — a symbol of wealth and power, identifies the recipient as a king.

Frankincense — the crystalized resinous sap of a tree used as incense and as an offering, is symbolic of prayer.

Myrrh — another resinous tree sap, was used in healing liniments and as an embalming ointment. Myrrh is an odd gift for a child—so, even at the beginning of Jesus' life on earth, this gift foreshadows his death.

From a Catholic perspective, the Epiphany of the Lord celebrates the manifestation (appearance) of Jesus Christ to the whole world, primarily symbolized by the visit of the Magi from the East, signifying that Jesus is the Savior for all nations, not just the Jews. This feast, observed on January 4 this year, highlights Jesus' divinity revealed through the Magi's adoration.

In essence, the Catholic Epiphany celebrates the moment the divine Son of God became visibly known and adored by representatives of the entire world.



### Key Aspects of the Epiphany

Meaning of "Epiphany": From the Greek epiphainein, meaning "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to reveal".

The Magi (Three Kings): Their journey, guided by a star, represents the Gentile (non-Jewish) peoples seeking and finding the Messiah, bringing symbolic gifts (gold, frankincense, myrrh) that foreshadow His kingship, divinity, and future Passion.

Universal Salvation: The Epiphany emphasizes that Christ's coming is for all humanity, breaking down barriers between peoples and calling everyone to recognize Him.

Significance: It's a "world feast," showing Jesus as King of the Universe, fulfilling Advent's longing for the promised Messiah, and inviting everyone to acknowledge Him.

## Grand Knights Report



### Brother Knights,

#### Council Meeting Attendance -

Five members of Council #7826 demonstrated exemplary commitment by attending all twelve Council meetings in 2025: Ken Berberich, Joe Dean, Steve McElroy, Hank Peppard, and Jack Rodman.

In addition, nine members attended eleven of the twelve meetings: Phil Arsenault, Kevin Deady, Scott Deahna, Corey DeVito, Gary Ellis, Ken Gaasch, Ed Plankey, Lynn Quartermaine, and Joe Sommer.

Congratulations to all on this outstanding level of participation and dedication.

At the same time, more than sixty current members did not attend any Council meetings this year. As we look ahead to 2026, let us make a renewed and collective effort to become more engaged. The strength, health, and vibrancy of our Council depend on active involvement.

Our mission remains clear: to serve our parish and our community through service to others, while living and strengthening our faith through Charity, Unity, and Fraternity.



Community  
Pregnancy  
Clinics

#### COMMUNITY PREGNANCY CLINIC PRESENTATION -

On December 23, Phil Arsenault received a \$5,000 check from his business client, Linda Smith, designated for the Community Pregnancy Clinics. Ms. Smith indicated that her decision to contribute was influenced by hearing Mr. Arsenault speak about the life-saving services provided by the organization. Rather than sending the donation directly to the Community Pregnancy Clinics, Mr. Arsenault requested that the check be made payable to Council #7826 so the Council would receive credit for the donation.

This donation has been processed as a donation through our baby bottle campaign bringing our total contribution to **\$18,359**.



## Grand Knights Report

In addition to the outstanding donation to the Community Pregnancy Clinic, our Council has recently made the following charitable donations:

- \$2,000 donation to the Parish CFA.
- \$2,240 donation to the Parish CFA from the Christmas Party Raffles.
- \$2,000 donation to the Diocese of Venice for Seminarian support.
- \$1,000 donated to Arcadia Catholic Charities and \$500 donated to Arcadia St. Paul's Parish.
- Coats for Kids distribution at the Stillpoint Mission.
- The council has purchased a new range for the Chelsea Center kitchen.

We also donated \$600 for Wreaths Across America.



To support the council's charitable contributions, several fund raisers are in progress or being planned.

A 7-day Caribbean Cruise Raffle is in progress. This fund raiser is being led by brother Dan Flynn.

The Citizens with Disabilities Fund Raiser is being planned. We will be collecting proceeds at four Publix stores over two weekends beginning at the end of January. This fund raiser is being led by council trustee Cory DeVito. Many volunteers are needed for this fund raiser. Please contact Carol McElroy to volunteer for a two-hour shift. The Citizens with Disabilities Fund Raiser directly support St. Mary's Academy and the Oak Park School. Both schools cater to handicapped children.

Worthy Charlie Culkin is planning the Spring Baseball Fund Raiser for February and March. This fund raiser also requires a significant number of volunteers. Please complete a game schedule selection form and return to Charlie.

PGK Ken Berberich leads the Golf Tournament Committee. The Golf Tournament will be held in May at the Seranoa Golf Club.

God Bless,  
Scott Deahna,  
Grand Knight

## Grand Knights Report

### NEW COUNCIL TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM -

The council has been working on a new technology “platform” to enhance the council business processes and to provide a repository for council records.

Over the past 2 months we have evaluated a new system that will automate event management and volunteer assignments. This is currently a manual and time consuming process. This system will also be the home of our new website. Dan Martin has done a great job moving our content from the old web site to the new adding some new visual components. If you would like to see the new site, navigate to <https://kofc7826.wildapricot.org/>.

There is a private secure part of the site that requires a login. Once logged in you will see additional content only available to council members. This includes a member directory, event and news. There will also be secure document storage with permissions based access. You will be receiving an email soon with directions on how to set up your account and use the site. The first sign up will be our social at Fin and Tonic January 18th. If you have any questions or problems please reach out to Ed Powers at [epowersgds@gmail.com](mailto:epowersgds@gmail.com)

# Faith in Action

## PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY -

This year’s Parish Christmas Party was a resounding success, made possible through the outstanding efforts of our volunteers. More than ninety Knights and parish volunteers contributed their time and talents to support the event, assisting with the Christmas tree and decorations, Chelsea Center setup, meal preparation, cooking, and serving of the Christmas dinner.

I extend my sincere gratitude to PGK Jim Meyd, Chairman of the Christmas Committee; Jack Rodman, whose contributions were invaluable throughout the planning and execution; Hank Peppard; John Cesare; Marcia Voorhees; Sue Bracy; Judy Deady; Steve and Carol McElroy; Santa Al Ferrigno; and John Koitsch. Your leadership, dedication, and behind-the-scenes guidance were instrumental in making this event such a memorable and meaningful celebration.



# Faith in Action



# Faith in Action



Thank you to ALL the many volunteers from the set-up of the Christmas tree and the table decorations, to the kitchen crew, the servers, the bussers, the runners and the clean-up crew. To the ladies who made the raffle baskets and to those who sold the tickets.

## Faith in Action

### Coats for Kids -

This year our STM Council was joined by the Incarnation and St. Patrick's Councils to hand out over 600 new coats at Stillpoint Mission in Bradenton as part of their special "Holiday Give Away" for families in need this winter.



**PGK Ralph Neller, PGK Ken Berberich and GK Scott Deahna and Lili Bourgeois represented Council #7826 during the distribution of Coats for Kids**

**Faith in Action**



**COMMUNITY PREGNANCY CLINIC PRESENTATION -**

On 12/04/25, the Knights of Columbus Council #7826 presented a donation of \$13,359 to the Sarasota Community Pregnancy Clinics.

To all those volunteers and the parishioners at STM who gave of their time and treasure during the Baby Bottle Campaigns THANK YOU !



Representatives from the council included Joe and Ann Dean, Brian and Maureen Harkins, and GK Scott Deahna and Lili Bourgeois.



**STM CHRISTMAS CONCERT SETUP -**

Members of the Council showed up in force on Wednesday, December 10th, to completely rearrange the seating in the Chelsea Center. The able bodiied Knights switched from the forty table setup for the Christmas Party to a 300-chair setup for the STM Christmas Concert that was held on December 12th & 13th.



## Faith in Action

### ALL ABOARD FOR THE 2026 CRUISE RAFFLE!

Ahoy, friends! Your ticket to sunshine, sea breezes, and island adventure could be just one raffle ticket away!

The Knights of Columbus are setting sail with their 2026 Cruise Raffle, offering you the chance to win a 7-night Caribbean cruise for two aboard the beautiful *Celebrity Summit*. This unforgettable voyage departs from Tampa, Florida, October 18–25, 2026, with stops in Key West, Bimini, and Nassau — the perfect tropical escape!

Tickets are just \$10 each, giving you a chance to win a Port Balcony Stateroom for Two, complete with a Classic Drink Package, Wi-Fi, and \$50 in onboard credit. Prefer dry land? You may choose \$2,500 in cash instead!

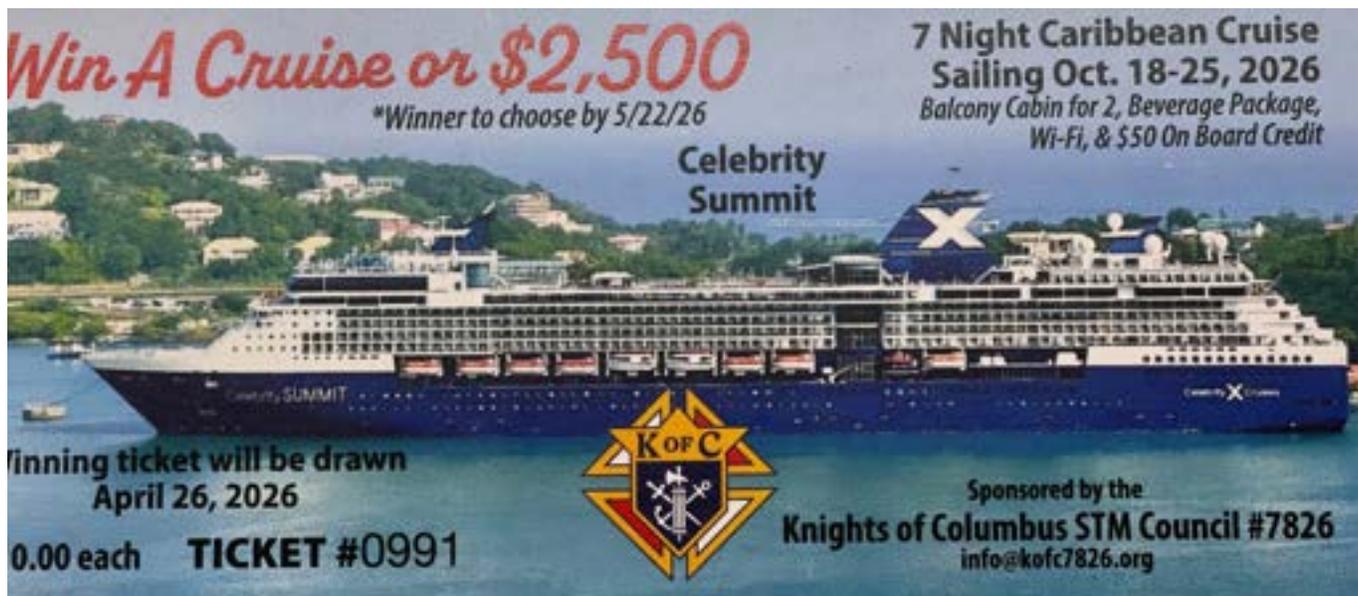
The winning ticket will be drawn Sunday, April 26, 2026, after the Noon Mass — so grab your tickets early and start dreaming of warm waters and starry nights at sea.

At the January Council Meeting, the Cruise Raffle Team will circulate a sign-up sheet. We invite all members to consider volunteering just 15 minutes after your regular Mass during the weekend of January 17–18. A small gift of your time and enthusiasm will help this effort sail smoothly to success!

At the January meeting, the Cruise Raffle Team will continue collecting sold ticket stubs and proceeds. Having trouble remembering to return your stubs? Try placing everything in an envelope and attaching your name tag. Still think you might forget? Put the envelope and name tag in your car’s glove box or center console — a simple reminder that works!

Finally, a note for our returning January snowbirds: Your book of 10 raffle tickets will be ready for pickup at the January Council meeting.

So, get ready to chart a course for fun — and maybe win the vacation of a lifetime!



# Faith in Action



## December Christmas Social -

Our Council December Christmas social was held at Stoneybrook CC on December 18th with 75 Knights, their wives and significant others in attendance to celebrate Christmas.



# Faith in Action



Faith in Action



**December Christmas Social (continued) -**

At the Parish Christmas Party, Council #7826 organized all the activities for the 50/50 drawing and the raffles for the Christmas baskets. Together, we raised over \$2000, with all proceeds going toward our STM CFA 2025 Goal.



**Grand Knight Scott Deahna and Sue Bracy present the \$2,240+ check to Fr. Nick.**

# Faith in Action



**Faith in Action**



Pictured above DD Jon Engel presented the “Star Council” award to STM Council #7826 for the fraternal year of 2024-’25. Pictured left to right are PGK Ralph Neller, Grand Knight Scott Deahna, DD Jon Engel, and Chancellor Kevin Deady.

Congratulations to everyone on achieving this award in recognition of outstanding performance for a K of C Council in 2024-’25!

To achieve "Star Council" status in the Knights of Columbus, a council must excel in multiple areas, primarily by earning the "Father McGivney Award" for membership growth, the "Founders Award" for insurance growth, and the "Columbian Award" for outstanding service programs across categories like Faith, Family, Community, and Life, while also maintaining compliance with training and background check requirements; essentially demonstrating excellence in both membership development and charitable outreach.

**JANUARY COUNCIL SOCIAL -**

Our next Council Social will be held at the Fin & Tonic on January 22<sup>nd</sup> The Fin & Tonic Restaurant is located at 6747 S Tamiami Trail.

A separate announcement will be made regarding registrating for this event. We are planning to use our new council digital platform for registering and paying for this event.

Arrival begins at 5:00 PM Dinner served at 6:00 PM. We will be seated and served in their private room. Cost is approximately \$45.00 per person which includes tax & Gratuity must be prepaid. Soft drinks, coffee & tea are included. 60 guests maximum. Final count needed by Sunday 1-18-26.

**Menu:**

Appetizers Family Style , Choice of salad.

**Entrees:**

Parmesan Chicken: Bruschetta Tomato, Lemon Beurre Blanc, Mashed Potatoes and Brussel Sprouts

Beef Short Ribs: Slow cooked short ribs, served with mashed potatoes, broccoli and garnished with pinot noir demi-glace

Salmon: 7oz salmon filet, served with parmesan risotto and Asparagus over Citrus Remoulade Sauce.



**Faith In Action**



**KNIGHT OF MONTH - PGK JIM MEYD**

PGK Jim Meyd was presented with the Knight of the Month Award. The Grand Knight thanked Jim for leading various activities both within our Council and our parish. Most recently, we thank Jim for his work on coordinating the Parish Christmas Party.

Congratulations Jim!



**FAMILY OF MONTH - JOHN & CONNIE REGAN**

John and Connie were selected Family of the Month. John and Connie volunteer weekly at the parish food pantry, where they help serve more than 100 families each week.

Congratulations John & Connie!



Faith In Action

OUR LADY OF CHARITY ASSEMBLY -



Brothers, If you are interested in becoming a member of the 4th Degree, please contact me before January 9th. Steven.m.wyer@gmail.com 941-330-3168 Cell God Bless!



# Knights of Columbus

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# 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>

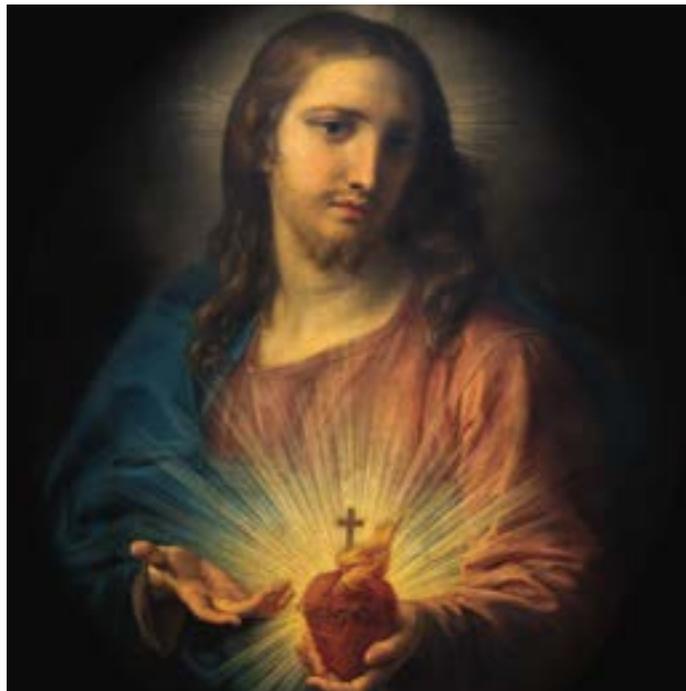
**Jan.  
 31,  
 2026**

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

**Parish News**



**BACKGROUND OF THE ICON -**

The icon depicts the most famous image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, painted in 1767 by Pompeo Batoni and now venerated in the Church of the Gesù in Rome. The reproduction bears the blessing of Pope Francis, through the Papal Almoner, and is one of more than 300 icons traveling across the world, from council to council, for veneration and use in prayer services.

**PILGRIM ICON PROGRAM -**

STM Council #7826 will be participating in the KofC Pilgrim Icon Program. The Sacred Heart of Jesus icon will be displayed in the Chapel following daily and weekend Masses.

The Knights bring this icon to share with parishioners the hope that we will invite our families to consecrate their homes and themselves to the Sacred Heart.

That in the heart of Christ, we see the heart of the Father, and that we ask Our Lord to help us make his heart our own, so that we may see and love in others what he sees and loves in us.



**The Sacred Heart Icon displayed in the Chapel**



# Committee Corner

## CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES-

Brothers All,

As you heard at the December Council meeting, our Citizens with Disabilities (aka Tootsie Roll Drive) fund raiser is just around the corner, starting at the end of January. To make this year’s campaign successful in raising funds for the Oak Park School and St. Mary’s Academy, we need you!

Last year, through the dedicated efforts of our store captains, volunteers, and money collectors & counters, we were able to present each school with a check for \$8,500.00!

Our 2026 Citizens with Disabilities campaign kicks off at 4 local Publix stores the weekend of January 30th - February 1st. The next weekend (February 7th - 8th) we will be soliciting donations at STM after all Masses. The following weekend (February 13th - 15th) we return to Publix.



The campaign will require volunteers to fill 2-hour time slots at each store from Friday thru Sunday beginning at 11:00 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m. Your wife or significant other is more than welcome to participate and volunteer to fill the time slots.

An updated schedule of volunteers and available time slots for the Publix stores weekends is being sent out in email blasts. To volunteer you can call or text Carol McElroy at (941) 302-4337. A sign-up list for the STM weekend will be sent out in January. With your help, this year’s campaign will once again be a major success!

Thank you,

Corey DeVito, Chairman  
 Steve McElroy, Volunteer List

# Committee Corner



## BALTIMORE ORIOLES SPRING TRAINING SEASON BEGINS NEXT MONTH -

For the 15th consecutive year, the St. Thomas More and Incarnation Councils will operate a concession stand at Ed Smith Stadium for the Baltimore Orioles Spring Training Season. Like the past few years, the “Concession Stand Team” will be working the Outdoor Patio Grill. The Orioles open their 2026 Spring Training Season on Friday, February 20th against the New York Yankees – and it should be a sellout. They will play a 17-game home schedule.

Thank you to the forty-five Brothers and Sisters from both Councils who volunteered to work the concession stand for the upcoming Spring Training Season. These volunteers have filled all the concession stand positions, and such, no more volunteers are needed.

Because there was such great interest in working the 2026 Spring Training Season, all 17 games were overbooked. As a result, many volunteers will not be assigned all the games that they requested. My goal is that each volunteer will work about 50 percent of the games that they requested. During the first two weeks of January, I will be making games assignments. Also, I will be ordering hats and shirts for volunteers who requested them and parking passes for all volunteers.

If you have any questions, please email (cinandchas@verizon.net) or call me (941-504-5490).

Let’s have a great 2026 Spring Training Baseball Season!! See you at the Ball Park!

Charlie Culkin,  
Spring Training Baseball



## Committee Corner

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### RIGHT TO LIFE MINISTRY -

Brother Knights & Defenders of Life,

Happy New Year! As we approach the new year with hope, it's always important to thank God ahead of time for great blessings for those of us involved with the Respect Life ministry. In 2025, we know that 26 babies were saved from abortion in Sarasota. We know this from our friends at the Community Pregnancy Clinic and fellow prayer warriors at Planned Parenthood.

In a few weeks, we have an opportunity to celebrate this blessing and to fortify ourselves in the new year ahead by attending annual CPCI's thank you gathering and free will dinner with your fellow Knights and spouses/significant others on Saturday, Jan 24th at the Grove in Lakewood Ranch.

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**RIGHT TO LIFE**



As many of you can attest to, It's is always a very uplifting evening with inspiring speakers for an organization that the STM Knights are very supportive of through the baby bottle campaign, our monthly prayer walk, and our personal involvement with CPCI. We hope to fill two tables of eight and if we need more, we can certainly make that happen, but I'd like to get us registered with as many names as possible as soon as possible! To keep things simple, I will be submitting your names so you don't have to sign up online. Maureen and I will be table sponsors along with Frank and Imelda Moeslein. If you haven't done this before, this is a terrific opportunity and a very pleasant evening with friendship and fellowship.

Also, we will be gathering for our fourth Thursday of the month prayer work from 9 to 1 on Thursday, January 22nd. The holidays are over now and many of you are back now and we warmly invite you to spend an hour with us! We are always looking for more people to join us for this noble cause, Even if we can save one Life and change one Heart, how powerful is that? So please consider joining us on the 4th Thursday of each month for one hour between the hours of 9-1 by signing up on the Monthly Knights meeting or calling Brian Harkins and Neil Corrado at 908-451-7454

For Life,  
Neil & Brian

## Committee Corner

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS -

Special Olympics Florida provides year-round sports training and athletic competitions in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. We rely on more than 38,000 volunteers each year, who serve as coaches, help with events, assist on committees, and so much more. Help athletes achieve their dreams -- get involved today!

#### **2026 Torch Icon Campaign at Publix**

Sign up for the 2026 Torch Icon Campaign at Publix January 9-16

With the 2026 Torch Icon Campaign at Publix approaching in January, it's all hands-on deck to show gratitude to our Publix stores for supporting Special Olympics Florida. There are many stores to cover, so feel free to sign up for more than one. Once you select a store, you'll complete up to two store visits for the campaign.

#### Store Visit Requirements:

- 1st Visit: Visit the store or table for at least two hours to help sell torches. Must take place on the Friday, Saturday, or Sunday of the campaign.
- 2nd Visit: Visit or table at the store for at least two more hours to continue selling torches.

Register for the 2026 Torch Icon Campaign



**Special Olympics Florida still has 10 Publix stores in Sarasota County that need Champions for the upcoming Publix Torch Icon Campaign, running January 9th–16th, 2026.**

The Publix Torch Icon Campaign is the largest fundraiser of the year, supporting sports, health programs, and leadership opportunities for more than 80,000 athletes across Florida.

Please support the upcoming Torch Campaign and show support from our council by stopping in the Publix store in their immediate area and show our support for their campaign, which runs January 9th through January 16th.

Please mention our support of Sarasota Special Olympics at the checkout counter or if time permits mention our support to the management of the store.

Thank You,  
John.

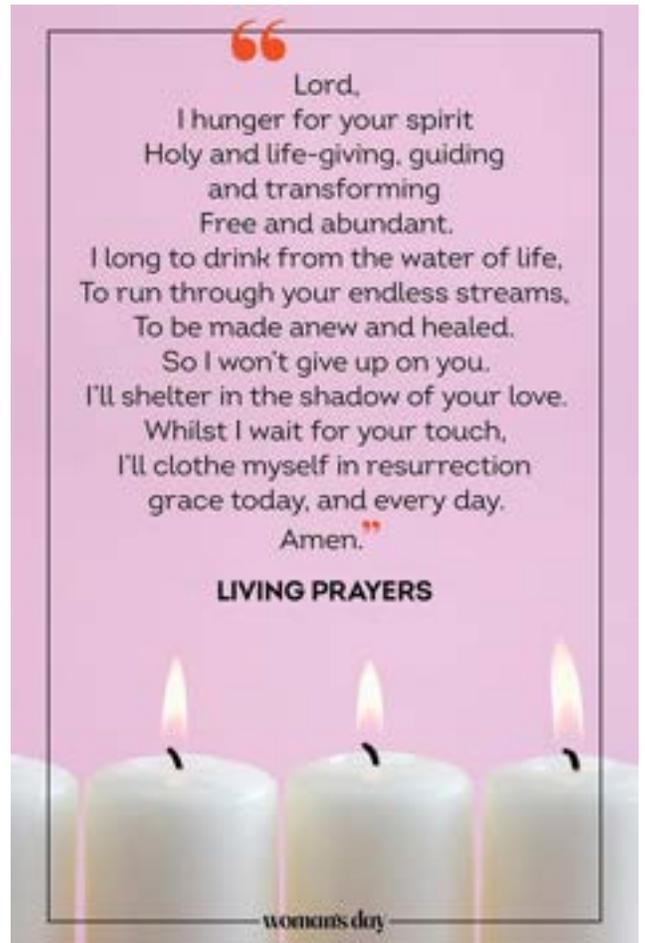
If you have any questions regarding the Torch Campaign or have any Special Olympics questions, please contact John Cesare.



**Council Good of the Order**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:**

- Charley Baldelli
- Ken Berberich
- Sabina Bogner (wife of Josef )
- Ted Bogusz
- Dave Bracy
- Joyce Bulinski
- Pat Cesare (wife of John)
- Fred Cooper
- Neil Corrado
- Ed Cox
- Joan Crowley
- Cindi Culkin (wife of Charlie)
- Ann Dean (wife of Joe)
- Susan DeBlauw (wife of Brian)
- Jean DeVito (wife of Corey)
- Ken Gaasch
- Madeleine Garvey (wife of Gary)
- Jerry and Annie Hayes
- Jan Jakubiuk
- John Koitsch
- Ted Kovacic
- Richard Lamb and daughter Megan Brown
- Don Leonard
- Roy MacGillis
- John & Kay Maier
- Ron McCluskey
- Carol McElroy (wife of Steve)
- Michael Mercandetti
- Thomas Nate
- Carol Neller (wife of Ralph)
- Margie Noll
- Hank Peppard
- Christopher Peppard (son of Hank Peppard)
- Ed Plankey
- Rosemary Quartermain (wife of Lynn)
- John Regan
- Nancy Risbano
- John & Craig Spinale (John's son)
- Cheryl Vignola (wife of Michael)
- Kim Wojtyna (daughter of Carol)
- Donna Woodford (wife of David Woodford)



Please keep our recently departed Brothers and their surviving spouses in your prayers: Stephen Fenner, John McAlonie, Tony Picozzi, Victor Ferrulli, James McNamara, Johnnie Turner, Thomas Reed, James Bonfiglio and Bill Huber.

If you know of any Brother Knight in need, let us know, and we will make sure that he is contacted. If you have any questions or needs, please contact (Scott Deahna, Grand Knight) at his email address [scott34465@yahoo.com](mailto:scott34465@yahoo.com) or my mobile 352-464-7487.



**SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Brothers James Alexander and Dan Martin for their kind assistance with this Newsletter!

**Council Birthdays**

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**



- January 1 - Roy Rasmussen
- January 1 - Jan Jakubiuk
- January 2 - Robert Sorge
- January 4 - Derek Noll
- January 5 - Kirby Falkenberg
- January 5 - Dan L Niblack
- January 8 - Paul Hudale
- January 14 - Ken Keating
- January 17 - Theodore Kovacic
- January 19 - John Cesare
- January 19 - Richard Stauffer
- January 20 - Dave Bracy
- January 22 - Philip DeCarlo Jr.
- January 22 - Jeffery Pick
- January 25 - Rev James Simko
- January 27 - Ralph Neller

**K of C #7826 OFFICERS 2025 - 2026**

- Fr. Daniel J Scanlan – Chaplain
- Scott T Deahna – Grand Knight
- Francis S McElroy - Financial Secretary
- John T Spinale - Deputy Grand Knight
- Kevin G Deady – Chancellor
- Ed J Powers – Recorder
- Kenneth H Berberich – Treasurer
- Daniel J Bulinski – Advocate
- Stephen M Melchiorre – Warden
- Lynn A Quartermaine - Inside Guard
- Joe Pelletier Jr - Outside Guard
- Corey M Devito - One Year Trustee
- Ernest J Dean - Two Year Trustee
- Lawrence S Hall - Three Year Trustee
- Derek J Noll – Lecturer

- FRDANIEL@STTHOMASMORESRQ.ORG
- SCOTT34465@YAHOO.COM
- mcelroyfs@verizon.net
- jtspin912@gmail.com
- KEVINGDEADY@GMAIL.COM
- EPOWERS@GDSCONNECT.COM
- berberichken@yahoo.com
- danb6002@comcast.net
- STEVE MELCH@VERIZON.NET
- LynnQuartermaine@yahoo.com
- JOPELLETIERJR@GMAIL.COM
- CMDEVITO@KAIGHNCO.COM
- EJDEAN99@VERIZON.NET
- hallorhall@gmail.com
- DEREKJNOLL@GMAIL.COM

## Council Upcoming Events



- Our monthly “Knight’s Mass will be on Wednesday, January 7th, at the 8:00 a.m. Mass. A Rosary prayer at 7:30 am precedes the Mass.
- The Officers’ Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- The Council Business Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 8th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- Our Lady of Charity Assembly Meeting (4th Degree) will be held on Monday, January 12th, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Patrick.
- A Cruise Raffle fund raiser will take place at the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, January 17th, and at all Masses on Sunday, January 18st.
- On Sunday, January 18th, the 10:00 a.m. Mass will be dedicated to the memory of all our departed Brother Knights. Please plan to attend and pray for all of the Brothers in our Council who have passed.
- Our Exemplification Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- The monthly Right to Life Prayer Walk will be on Thursday, January 22th, between 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in front of Planned Parenthood.
- The Council social will be at Fin & Tonic at 6747 S Tamiami Trl. on Thursday, January 22nd, ar 5:00 p.m.
- The Community Pregnancy Clinics dinner will be held on Saturday, 24th, at 5:00 p.m. at the GROVE Event Venue, 10670 Boardwalk Loop, Lakewood Ranch, FL
- The Our Citizens with Disabilities Campaign will begin on Friday, January 30th, through Sunday, February 1st, between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the 4 Publix stores assigned.



## Insurance Advisor

### NEWS FROM OUR FRATERNAL FINANCIAL ADVISOR

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?

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. 1

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 than \$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 and God bless!

Dividends are not guaranteed.

This option is not available on all policies, and not available if policy is paying premiums via a monthly EFT. 20518 1/26

Yours in Christ,

Brian DeBlauw

Cell: 440-669-8957

Email: [brian.deblauw@kofc.org](mailto:brian.deblauw@kofc.org)

Client Meeting for Insurance or Investments:

[https://outlook.office.com/book/BrianDeBlauw@kofc.onmicrosoft.com/s/QPGWnCZ\\_20-rbGWcK4zq\\_w2](https://outlook.office.com/book/BrianDeBlauw@kofc.onmicrosoft.com/s/QPGWnCZ_20-rbGWcK4zq_w2)

Annual Investment Review Calendar booking:

<https://outlook.office.com/book/BrianDeBlauw@kofc.onmicrosoft.com/s/0taiZ0-xIE2mtfl817iUJA2>



# Council Calendar



# Knights of Columbus®

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826

**Calendar**

Today < > January 2026 - [Month]

SUN 28	MON 29	TUE 30	WED 31	THU Jan 1	FRI 2	SAT 3
			/	New Year's Day		
4	5	6	7 Early Rosary @ 7:30A KofC Mass @ 8:00AM Officers Mtg @ 7:00P	8 Council Mtg @ 7:00P	9	10
11	12 Assembly Mtg @ St.	13	14	15	16	17 Cruise Raffle Ticket @ District Mid-Year Mtg
18 Cruise Raffle Ticket @ Knight's Memorial M	19 Martin Luther King J	20 Degree Exemplificati	21	22 Council Social @ Fin Prayer Walk at Plann	23	24 CPC Dinner
25 Pancake Breakfast	26	27	28	29	30 Tootsie Roll Drive @	31 4th Degree Exemplif Tootsie Roll Drive @

St Thomas Council #7826

FOR MORE DETAILS ON CALENDAR EVENTS PLEASE VISIT THE COUNCIL WEBSITE: [HTTPS://KOF7826.ORG/CALENDAR/](https://kofc7826.org/calendar/)