

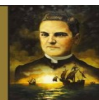
Knights of Columbus

Council #12196 & Bishop Greco Assembly #2160



“Love the Madonna and pray the Rosary, for her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother.” St. Padre Pio

“Vivat Jesus”





Knights' Messenger

2757 Alderman Rd., Palm Harbor, Fl 34684-1239
Charity - Unity - Fraternity - Patriotism



Volume 15 Number 05 Saint Luke's Council #12196 May 2026

COUNCIL OFFICERS 2025- 2026

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Pastor | Rev. Timothy Sherwood |
| Chaplain | Fr. Camilo |
| Assoc. Ch. | OPEN |
| Grand Knight | Efrain Valles |
| Dep. G. K. | Mike Breton |
| Chancellor | Steve Putnam |
| Recorder | Jim Jurco |
| Fin. Sec. | Joe Cilento |
| Treasurer | Bill Gargiulo |
| Advocate | Khanh Mai |
| Warden | John Abernethy |
| I/G | Freddy Restrepo |
| O/G | Jim Kurzdorfer |

Trustees

| | |
|-------|----------------|
| 1 Yr. | OPEN |
| 2 Yr. | Dennis Deperto |
| 3Yr. | Bob Azbell |

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Program Dir. | Bill Gargiulo |
| Vocations | Andrew Carpenter |
| Community | OPEN |
| Culture of Life | Steve Taylor |
| Membership | OPEN |
| Youth | OPEN |

Bishop Greco Assembly

Faithful Navigator Mike Breton

Newsletter

kofccouncil12196@gmail.com

Supreme Council K of C

www.kofc.org

Grand Knight's Message



May Newsletter Message

Dear Brother Knights and Parish Family,

As we enter the beautiful month of **May**, we are past the halfway mark for our Easter season. The Church dedicates this month to **Our Blessed Mother**, we are invited to grow deeper in our devotion through the **Holy Rosary**. I warmly encourage all of you to join us as a parish in **praying the Rosary every Wednesday** throughout this month. Together, let us place our intentions in the loving hands of Mary, asking her to guide and protect our families and our parish.

This month also brings a moment of both gratitude and transition as we prepare for the **farewell of our Chaplain, Fr. Pedro Camilo Simoes**. We give heartfelt thanks for his faithful service, spiritual guidance, and dedication to our council. His presence has been a true blessing to us all. As he begins this new chapter in his priesthood, we ask you to keep him in your prayers, that the Lord may continue to bless his ministry in his new parish.

At the same time, our council continues its journey forward. With our **officer elections ongoing**, I encourage each of you to prayerfully consider stepping forward in service. Many positions remain open, and your willingness to lead is essential as we continue our mission of **Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism**.

Let us move through this month united in prayer, grateful for the blessings we have received, and ready to answer the call to serve with generous hearts.

Vivat Jesus!

Efrain Valles GK





COUNCIL No. 12196
MEETS 1st Tuesday of Month

Officers meet 3rd. Tuesday of Month

Prayer for First-Responders

Dear Lord, we pray for our first-responders and essential workers.
Please protect them and keep them safe, bless them and draw
them near to your heart. In Jesus name, Amen

Things to Do In: May 2026

- May 1st to the 3rd: Emmaus Retreat Franciscan Center
- May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th: Eucharistic Adoration after 8am Mass
- May 3rd: Coffee & Donuts after the 8am and 10am Masses
- May 5th: Knights & Ladies Business Mtg. 7PM followed by a Pizza Party
- May 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th Praying the Rosary in church 7 pm
- May 16th: Fr. Camilo's Thank You Dinner 5PM-7PM Parish Hall
- May 19th: Knights Officers Mtg. 7pm Parish Hall
- May 23rd & 24th: 4th degree knights flag and prayer distribution
- May 25th: Memorial Day: Coffee and Donuts after 8am Mass in Parish Hall

SICK and DISTRESSED

Please keep in your prayers our Brother Knights & Ladies. Pray for the repose of the souls of all brother Knights, those who are having medical problems and for those who have lost a loved one.

Also, remember the men and women of our armed forces, first responders, fire and police!

Publication Deadline

Before the 1st of Every Month



St Luke Catholic Church Palm Harbor Mass:

Click for: [Bulletin & Mass Times](#)

Chaplain's Message



Dear Brother Knights,

By now, you are aware of my transfer to Gulfport, where I will serve as pastor of Most Holy Name of Jesus Church. I will share more about this transition in my June message, which will effectively be my final contribution to the Knights of Columbus newsletter of our parish.

I humbly ask you to keep me in your prayers as I prepare for this new responsibility. Before assuming my new duties on July 1, I plan to make a brief trip to India later this month for a time of renewal. This visit will also allow me to spend time with my brother, Domnic, who is currently facing health challenges. I kindly ask you to remember him and his family in your prayers as well.

The month of May invites us to reflect on faith that is lived both in devotion and in daily responsibility. We begin the month with the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, a powerful reminder that work, when done with integrity and offered to God, becomes a path to holiness. St. Joseph teaches us that quiet faithfulness, perseverance, and responsibility—especially toward one's family—are noble virtues. As Knights, many of you live this witness daily through your labor, sacrifice, and care for those entrusted to you.

May is also traditionally dedicated to Our Blessed Mother. Mary's "yes" to God continues to inspire the Church to trust, to serve, and to remain faithful even when the road is uncertain. I encourage you to deepen your Marian devotion by participating in the weekly Rosary. Praying the Rosary together strengthens not only our personal relationship with Christ through Mary, but also our fraternity as brothers united in prayer.

This month, we also joyfully celebrate Mother's Day, a time to honor and thank the women who have given us life, nurtured our faith, and supported our vocations. Mothers—living and deceased—hold a sacred place in God's plan. Let us remember them in our prayers, express our gratitude, and recognize their immeasurable influence in forming strong families and faithful communities.

As Knights of Columbus, you are called to build a culture rooted in faith, service, and love—at work, in prayer, in your families and within the parish community. May St. Joseph inspire your labor, may Mary guide your faith, and may our appreciation for mothers renew our commitment to serve with generous hearts.

Assuring you of my prayers and gratitude for your continued dedication.

Fr. Camilo Simoes SAC
Chaplain

Why the Rosary, Why Now?

A case for why this devotion matters now more than ever

By [Gretchen R. Crowe](#) July 23, 2024

It's easy for Catholics to take the Rosary for granted. We tend to purchase them as souvenirs, or carry them around with us, or even wear them — but we forget the immense power that they have when we actually pray them. And that's really too bad, because a devotion to the Rosary can be the answer to so many struggles in our 21st-century world.

Our society today faces growing secularism and the disappearance of faith from the public square. We find ourselves confronting a world awash in the spread of evil and terrorism, war and violence. We are plagued by broken families, abounding distractions and a general lack of drive for holiness.

But the Rosary can help. And we know this because Mary herself told us this 100 years ago in Fátima, Portugal, when she appeared six times to three shepherd children once a month from May to October 1917. She told them repeatedly: "Recite the Rosary every day to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war."

We also know the great value of the Rosary because it has manifested its power time and time again in the lives of men and women of faith throughout history. This, of course, isn't because the Rosary is magical; it's because it brings us to Jesus. As the late Cardinal Francis E. George, archbishop of Chicago, said at the conclusion of the Year of the Rosary in 2003: The Rosary "brings us to the heart of the Gospel." Here's how.



Break through the Noise

In today's typical lifestyle, it is easy to become distracted and overwhelmed by all of the "noise." Technology is constantly demanding our attention. We sit in front of screens and, at the same time, look at smaller screens. We are drawn in by the lure of social-media alerts and use texting as a primary form of communication. We have developed an "always on" or "always available" mentality, and noise no longer knows any boundaries. A Nielson report issued in June 2016 said that Americans, on average, spend more than 10 hours a day looking at some type of screen. It's easy for us to tell ourselves we're being productive and that this abundance of "screen time" is necessary, but the reality is that all that noise is damaging to our relationship with God.

This is not just a 21st-century problem, although it has become more pronounced in recent decades. In 1973, Cardinal Albino Luciani — then-archbishop of Venice who would go on to become Pope John Paul I — gave a homily that identified a "crisis of prayer" in the world — adding that part of the reason was due to the fact that "noise has invaded our existence."

If he thought that life was noisy in 1973, what would Papa Luciani think of 2017?

We also face an abundance of internal noise. We are distracted by interior barriers to prayer that often manifest themselves in the form of pride and self-centeredness. In all of these moments of difficulty, we can turn to the Rosary. The meditative quality of the devotion can help focus us and break through the external noise. At the same time, by praying this simple prayer frequently, faithfully and with humility, we can break down our internal barriers.

read more here: [Simply Catholic](#)

Bishop Greco Assembly #2160 Announcements

Fourth Degree



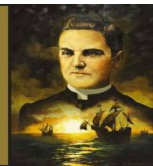
The Fourth Degree is the Patriotic Degree of the Knights of Columbus, and it comprises of 17% of the membership of the Order. The distinctive uniform of Sir Knights make them the most visible arm of the Order to the public.

Purpose

As Fourth Degree Knights, our purpose is to:

- Promote and strengthen the patriotic spirit of the civic community,
- Educate its members and others, both in the teachings of Holy Mother Church, and the history of the USA,
- Promote by example the highest type of citizenship so necessary for the preservation and perpetuation of the Republic form of government and its democratic institutions,
- Oppose dissemination and spread of doctrine dangerous and contrary to our form of government, and to the Divine law of faith and morality; and,
- Support by word and deed, the duly constituted authorities of local, state, and national government, and to recognize excellence in public life.
- The Fourth Degree, both collectively and individually, supports those religious, civic, and charitable causes which are designed to implement one or more of these five objectives.

“Vivat Jesus”



Knights of Columbus
F O U R T H
D E G R E E
Patriotic degree of the Order.



**Knights of
Columbus®**

District Deputy Report

Brother Knights,

As the fraternal calendar year comes to a close, it is important not to lose focus on the good works that we have accomplished this past year and to make plans of doing even better tasks next year. Our presence in our parishes has been shown and admired by many as we show the true nature of being a Knight which is to be charitable to others as would Christ be if He were here, expanding His presence to those who need it the most. Charitable gifts may not just be physical ones, but may include someone feeling that they have someone who is willing to help them out when they are at their lowest points. That feeling of comfort may get them through a dark episode of their life and is more important than a handout. Always be ready to help others and this willingness is what sets us apart from others and makes it attractive for others to join our ranks. Make being a Knight a thing that we are proud of and that we want to continue throughout our lives.

May God continue to bless us all.

Vivat Jesus!

David Creamer

District Deputy 37



★ ★ HONORING OUR HEROES ★ ★ ★

MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 25TH, 2026



Bishop Greco Assembly
#2160

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree

★ *Handing Out* ★

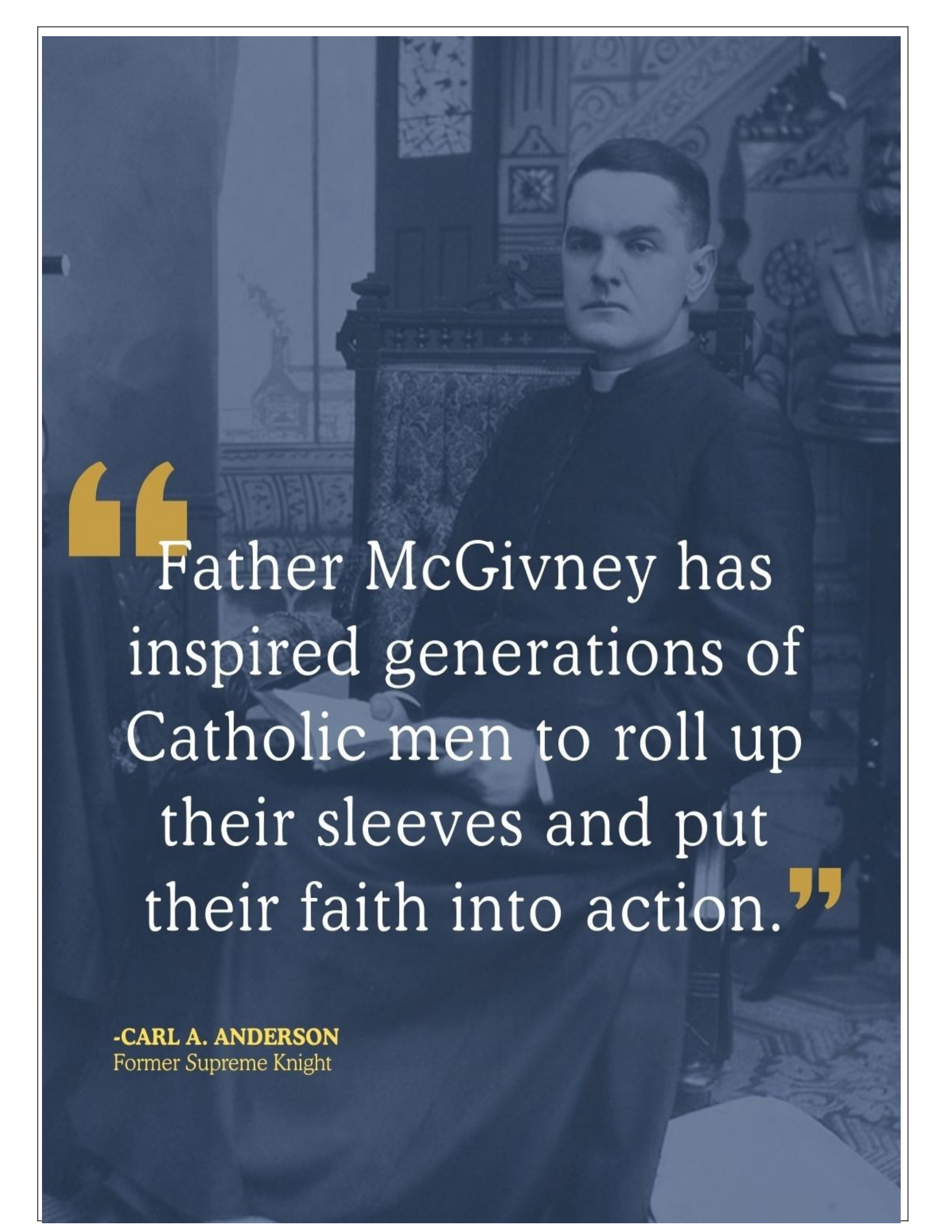
★ **SMALL AMERICAN FLAGS** ★

WITH A PRAYER FOR DECEASED VETERANS



★ ★ **AFTER ALL MASSES** ★ ★

MAY 23RD, 24TH & 25TH



“ Father McGivney has inspired generations of Catholic men to roll up their sleeves and put their faith into action. ”

-CARL A. ANDERSON
Former Supreme Knight



COLLECTION DRIVE

Help Others In Need!

Donations for Pinellas Hope

- Men's Clothing and Toiletries
- Shampoo, Deodorant, Shaving Cream and Razors
- Perfume, Soap



Donations for Feast Food Pantry

- Non-Perishable, Cans of Food
- Canned Goods: Beans, Vegetables, Meats
- Dry Staples: Rice, Pasta, Oats



We Will Collect These In Our Meetings All Year Round
See The Knights with the black plastic totes!



Coffee & Donuts



share Christ &
fellowship
with other
Parishioners

May 3rd & May 25th

(and every 1st Sunday of the month)

In the Parish Hall

Available after the 8am and 10am Masses

Sponsored by the

Knights of Columbus Saint Luke Council #12196



FIELD AGENTS



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

John Ruckart

Field Agent

john.ruckart@kofc.org

813-855-5111 - Oldsmar, Florida

[Lawandus Agency](#)

John Ruckart

Councils: 08095, 00667, 03580, 05092, 05635, 07109, 08612, 09916, 10950, 11138, 11211, 11295, **12196**, 14456, 15798

[Book an Appointment](#) | [Catholic Investments](#)



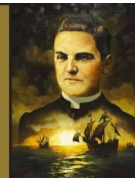
John and his wife Kathleen were married on Valentine's Day in 1997 and are blessed with 4 wonderful children, Matthew, Haley, Johnny and Allison. They are also proud grandparents to 3 awesome grandkids, Clay, Bentley and Annabelle.

John lives in Oldsmar in the same house he was raised in since the age of 4. Along with having proudly served, and recently retired, as an officer in the US Army Signal Corps after 29 years, he also volunteered in the BSA as Cub Scout leader and Scoutmaster for over 13 years. John also currently serves as the Chair of the Oldsmar Veteran's Advisory Board.

John has many favorite pastimes but spending quality time with the family is always top of his list. His family enjoys going to Disney, family get-togethers, visiting their son in Savannah, boating, cruising and traveling to fun and different places. John's hobbies include computers, 3-D printing, drone flying, and playing with the latest tech gadgets.

John is driven by his deep Catholic beliefs and by the love and support of his family. John has been a Knight since 1992 and is dedicated to the mission of the Knights of Columbus and feels honored to serve in this wonderful organization. In following his desire to help others, he is grateful to have the opportunity to serve his brother knights and their families, helping them achieve the financial security they strive for.

"Vivat Jesus"



Field Agent Message

Brothers,

A consistent income brings financial stability and well-being to your family. If it were to vanish unexpectedly — whether because of death or disability — consider what might happen next:

Would your loved ones need to sell or downsize their home? Would your children need to change schools? Would it impact retirement savings?

Insurance from the Knights of Columbus can help replace that crucial income, protect savings and prevent major lifestyle disruptions.

Depending on your stage of life, there are products designed to fit your needs.

If you're a young man, you may be working hard to pay rent or cover basic living expenses. As you age into your prime working years, there may be mouths to feed, a mortgage and a car payment. Then finally as you approach or enter retirement, you might be looking for supplemental income or to protect what you've built.

If you're supporting a family, term or permanent life insurance can help give you peace of mind that they will be financially protected if you or your wife should pass away. Even amid tragedy, it helps give the people you love stability and time to adjust without the added weight of financial hardship.

Term life insurance, which gives you coverage for a specified time period, can be a great option if you have a young family with temporary needs. It's an affordable choice that typically provides coverage for 10, 15 or 20 years.

Later, you could choose to convert your policy to whole life, which can provide coverage for your entire lifespan and accrue cash value. This can be helpful if you want a potential way to supplement retirement income or if you're interested in using insurance as part of your estate plan.

Not sure what coverage is right for you?

I would be glad to schedule a time to sit down and talk about your needs. I'm here to help you protect your family and the life you've built.

Vivat Jesus!

John D Ruckart, FICF, 813-855-5111

Book an appt with me here: <https://bookRuckart.flkofc.com/>



John Ruckart
Financial Advisor
Lawandus Agency
M: 813-855-5111
203 Shore D E, Oldsmar, FL 34677
john.ruckart@kofc.org
<https://info.kofcassetadvisors.org/Meet-John-Ruckart.html>

Catholic Investing
Let your faith guide
your financial decisions
[LEARN MORE](#)

Learn about our investments: <https://info.kofcassetadvisors.org/meet-john-ruckart>

In Memorandum

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Mike Giacalone 08/18/20

Brian McParland 5/10/21

Ken Listle 8/18/21

Eugene Wittman 11/20/21

Richard Sweeney 8/27/21

“Ted” Kostanski 11/07/21

Thomas Riggio 05/02/22

Charles Viaud 04/22/22

Rich Barbaro 01/31/23

Armand Iannone 7/29/23

Walter Schwacke 09/02/23

Deacon Joe Reid 09/16/23

Nunzio Quagliana 03/14/24

Robert Kurtz, 08/01/24

Fr. Matteo Rizzo 03/20/25

Fr. Richard Rosin 12/01/24

William “Bill” Kelly 04/03/25

Henry J. Schum 09/27/25

Victor Huff 01/19/26

Terry Biondi 8/19/21

Mary Cabano 11/22/21

Molly Garofolo 02/22/21

Myra Grayem 11/18/21

Nancy Giacalone 01/30/22

Nancy Lay 07/02/22

Peggy Caufield 10/5/22

Carol Murray 09/10/23

Muriel Crane 12/2/23

Lucille Matejka 12/10/23

Teresa Schum 02/13/24

Marilyn Breton 02/15/24

Barbara Chicano 03/04/25

Kathryn Batassa 12/24/25



As we enter heaven, we will see them, so many of them, coming towards us, and thanking us. We will ask who they are, and they will say ‘a poor soul you prayed for in purgatory.’
Ven. Fulton Sheen

PINELLAS CATHOLIC MEN'S EMMAUS RETREAT

Franciscan Center – May 1 - 3, 2026

What is an Emmaus Retreat?

Emmaus is a passive retreat weekend designed for men who would like to explore their own relationship with Jesus. It is hosted by men who are called to share parts of their own Emmaus Journey. The weekend consists of a series of talks by speakers who share their very personal life experiences along with their personal relationship with God and with their family. It may prove to be a Journey you may not soon forget. Come join us for the next step in
Your Journey!

Cost: Double \$250 / Single \$350

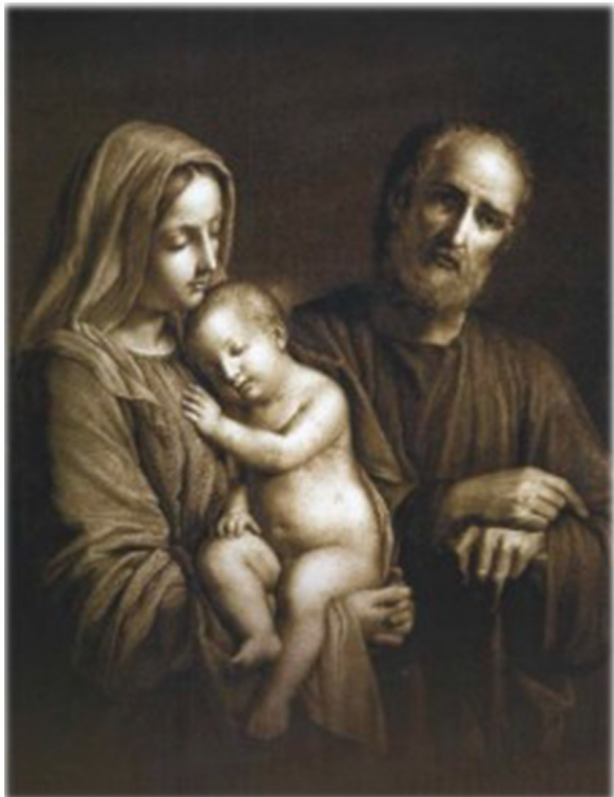
Partial Scholarships Available

Contact: Chuck Warrington (727) 224-7055



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 continue his work of caring for the needy and the out-cast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of Your Holy Will. Through his inter-session, grant the favor I now present (here make your request) through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Please report all favors received:
The Michael McGivney Guild
1 Columbus Plaza
New Haven, Ct 06510-3326 USA
www.fathermcgivney.org
Painting by: Chas Fagan Knight of Columbus



A Family Prayer

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

In our daily life and work, may we reflect the self-giving love which You, Our Father, eternally show with Your Son and the Holy Spirit.

May our family always be a place of generosity, understanding, forgiveness, and joy. Kindly, give us the wisdom and courage to be witnesses to Your eternal design for the family; and grant that the Holy Family of Nazareth may always guide our path to holiness as a family.

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

Amen



May 2026

Dear Members of the Ladies Auxiliary,

THE FINAL LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING OF THE YEAR is TUESDAY, MAY 5, 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. It will be a short meeting followed by a **pizza dinner** with the Knights of Columbus. Be sure to attend to celebrate a successful 2025-26 year, vote on the 2026-27 Slate of Officers, hear the report on donation amounts and organizations confirmed by the Board of Directors, celebrate our member service award recipients, and hear from our own Fr. Camilo.

PRAYING THE ROSARY IN THE MONTH OF MAY: To honor Mary, Mother of God, we will pray the Rosary at 7:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 6, 13, 20 and 27** in the church. Please mark your calendars and join us on these dates.

FR. CAMILO THANK YOU RECEPTION: As you may know, Fr. Camilo has been appointed pastor of Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Gulfport. A Thank You Reception will be held on Saturday, May 16, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Tickets are \$5 and will be sold after all Masses on May 2–3 and May 9–10 as well as at our May 5 meeting.

ANNUAL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS-LADIES AUXILIARY PICNIC: Nearly 80 members and guests enjoyed a beautiful day on April 18, a wonderful meal, friendship and fellowship. Thanks to all who attended, and special thanks to those who helped shop, set up, clean up, cook and bake.

LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR 2026–27 YEAR: With the changes our church renovation will bring and adjustments to our meeting space and how meetings are held, we are reminded that our strength lies not in a building, but in our unity as Catholic women called to serve. Next year may look different, but our mission remains the same – and through every transition, we trust that God is guiding our path, strengthening our bonds, and leading us to grow in faith, friendship, and service.

God Bless You.

Jean Gaspar,
President

President
Jean Gaspar

Vice President
Alice Ennis

Secretary
Karen Kurzdorfer

Treasurer
Christine Bailiff

Sergeant of Arms
Carol Abresch



ST. LUKE'S PARISH

PRAYING THE ROSARY

TO HONOR MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AND THE
LADIES AUXILIARY WILL LEAD
PRAYING OF THE ROSARY

WEDNESDAYS, MAY 6, 13, 20 AND 27
7:00 P.M. IN THE CHURCH.

ALL ARE WELCOME.



May 2026

May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|----------------------------------|--|-----------|--|---|---|
| <u>Saints Feast Days for May (Click)</u> | | | | | 1 Eucharistic Adoration after 8AM Mass 8:30 AM -9:00 AM | 2 |
| 3 Coffee & Donuts after 8am & 10am Masses | 4 | 5 KofC Business Meeting & Lds. Aux Mtg. 7 PM Parish Hall | 6 | 7 | 8 Eucharistic Adoration after 8AM Mass 8:30 AM -9:00 AM | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Eucharistic Adoration after 8AM Mass 8:30 AM -9:00 AM | 16 Fr. Camilo's Thank You Dinner 5 to 7PM Parish Hall |
| 17 | 18 | 19 K of C Officers Mtg. 7PM Parish Hall | 20 | 21 | 22 Eucharistic Adoration after 8AM Mass 8:30 AM -9:00 AM | 23 |
| 24 | 25 Memorial Day | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | May 1 - 3rd Emmaus Retreat Franciscan Center (See Flyer) | | |

**Overview for the Month

The world is resplendent with Spring's increased light and new growth. It is Mary's month in the Easter season, and all of nature rejoices with the Queen of heaven at the Resurrection of the Son she was worthy to bear. During the remainder of Easter time, let us endeavor through the prayers of the Holy Liturgy and the Holy Rosary to deepen our gratitude for the mystery of our Baptismal rebirth in Christ.

"The month of May, with its profusion of blooms was adopted by the Church in the eighteenth century as a celebration of the flowering of Mary's maidenly spirituality...With its origins in Isaiah's prophecy of the Virgin birth of the Messiah under the figure of the Blossoming Rod or Root of Jesse, the flower symbolism of Mary was extended by the Church Fathers, and in the liturgy, by applying to her the flower figures of the Sapiential Books- Canticles, Wisdom, Proverbs and Sirach.