



Knights of Columbus®

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826

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“For unto you is born this day a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; you will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger”

Luke 2:11-12

Grand Knights Report

The Holy Family as depicted in the Nativity scene shows a young family in awe of their first-born son, Jesus. Perhaps Mary, the new mother of the Christ-child and our patron, provides the first Christmas miracle with the Virgin birth. With God as His Father and Mary as His mother, Jesus came into this world as the God-Man, fully God and fully man. The church adds to the joy and celebration of Christmas this month with the feast of the Immaculate Conception on Friday, December 8th. This feast day celebrates the Blessed Virgin Mary as she was conceived without any stain of sin both at her conception and throughout her life in preparation for her becoming the Mother of God. When we consider this miracle in her life culminating with the birth of Jesus; it does make you wonder if she knew his divinity from the beginning. This mystery is probably best expressed in the last lyric of a popular Christmas song written by Mark Lowry. . . *“Mary did you know?”*

. . . “Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Is Lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Would one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy

Is heaven's perfect Lamb?

That sleeping child you're holding is the great, I Am”

My Christmas wish to each of you this year is to make the time to celebrate your accomplishments, recognize your many blessings and be thankful, and renew your commitment as a Knight of Columbus. For us the Christmas season is all about acts of Charity and Faith. It is also a time for Christmas miracles.

Merry Christmas!

Ralph

December marks the middle of our '23-'24 fraternal year. It's filled with a busy schedule of activities and a time for many members and their wives to volunteer for such activities as the Parish Christmas Party, the Coats for Kids, and the Cruise Raffle. This past month the COVID virus had a significant impact on our Council with many members and their wives sick and unable to participate. It is a testament to our Council in living our core values of Fraternity and Unity that so many stepped in to fill the volunteer vacancies during this challenging time.

It's also a time to celebrate the many blessings we've shared as a Council through our work with, and our charitable contributions to, Habitat for Humanity, the Community Pregnancy Center, the Food Pantry and our STM Parish CFA just to list a few. As I look back over the past 6 months it is important to recognize the efforts of so many in our Council who have given both time and treasure to make STM Council #7826 the “STAR” in our district.

- Frank & Imelda Moeslein and all the volunteers who helped to set a new record of contributions to the CPC with the Baby Bottle Campaign.
- Fr. Daniel, our Chaplain, and DGK Charlie Culkin for their leadership and guidance with our inaugural “Spiritual Day of Reflection”.
- Corey DeVito and Dan Flynn and their spouses and the volunteers who made our Coffee & Donuts event a sharing of fraternity in our parish.
- PGK Jim Meyd and the Christmas volunteers with the set up and decorations, the cooking and serving of Christmas dinner to our parish.
- Brian Harkins and Neal Corrado and their passion and inspiration in leading the “40 Days for Life” campaign.
- Dave & Sue Bracy for their organization and venue choices with our monthly socials.
- To all the many volunteers and committee leaders over the past 6 months. THANK YOU!!!

Grand Knights Report

KNIGHT’S MASS - On November 8th we had our monthly “Knight’s Mass” at the 8:00 a.m. Mass with almost 35 Knights and wives in attendance (*the largest attendance so far*). Fr. Daniel was the celebrant and the rosary was prayed before the Mass starting at 7:30 a.m. with Adoration following the Mass. Both the rosary and the Mass were dedicated to those on the Good of the Order list with a special intention for our departed Brother Jim Beck. Please join your Brother Knights and the wives for the “Knight’s Mass” this month on Wednesday, December 13th.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY OPENING - Our Council is looking to fill the Officer position of Financial Secretary as Brother Larry Hall’s term expires in February of ‘24. If you have financial or accounting experience and are interested in serving as an Officer in our Council, please contact FS, Larry Hall, at hallorhall@gmail.com or GK, Ralph Neller, at rneller65@outlook.com to discuss this key position.



New ”Sir Knights - Congratulations to our new 4th Degree, Sir Knights. On November 25th the following STM Knights were exemplified as 4th Degree Sir Knights: Scott Deahna, Jeff Noccioli, and Derek Noll. (Jeff and Derek are not pictured below.)



OUR LADY OF CHARITY ASSEMBLY 3089

The next Assembly meeting is scheduled for December 11th at 7:00 p.m. at Incarnation Parish. If you’re interested in becoming a 4th Degree “Sir Knight” please contact Dr. Steve, Charlie Culkin, Joe Tiffany or the GK for details.

Faith In Action

DAY OF SPIRITUAL REFLECTION - On Saturday, November 18th, our Council held its first annual “Day of Spiritual Reflection.” The session’s focus was “Eucharistic Revival”. The Eucharistic Revival is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharistic.

The main presenter was Mr. Jim Gontis - Director, Dept. of Evangelization for the Diocese of Venice, assisted by our Chaplain, Fr. Daniel. After the presentation, there were breakout sessions where each group discussed the “Holy Eucharistic: Sacrifice, Real Presence and Holy Communion” and “The Power of Confession and the Holy Eucharist.”

Special thanks to Chaplain Father Daniel Scanlan, and Deputy Grand Knight Charlie Culkin for organizing the program. Also thanks to Charlie Ballschmieder and Hank Peppard for preparing breakfast and lunch for all the participants.



Faith In Action

Baby Bottle Checks Presented to CPC -



Brother Frank and wife, Imelda, presented the parish “Baby Bottle” donations to Patty Madsen and Scott Baier, CEO of the Community Pregnancy Center. The entire Sarasota staff was there for the presentation and expressed their appreciation for exceeding all expectations with donations of over \$11k. Frank and Imelda did an outstanding job of leading this campaign for our Council!



Food Pantry - Thank you to all the Food Bank volunteers and their spouses for your in-person participation and your monetary support. As you may know, the supply chain remains a challenge, and food supplies are in still in short supply. Given today’s economy, we still have 75-100 families in need every week.

The weekly bulletin lists the items we critically need. Your donations are greatly appreciated by the pantry and those families we serve.

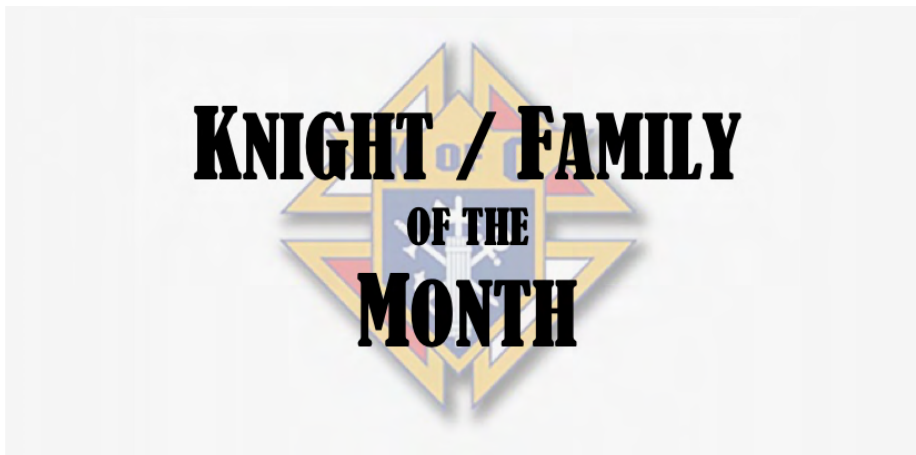


Keep Christ in Christmas - This year the “Keep Christ in Christmas” magnets were a grand success! With PGK Dan Bulinski sidelined with Covid, Brother Steve McElroy and his wife, Carol, stepped up to lead this year’s campaign.

Thanks to their hard work and those of the volunteers, we were able to raise \$700 for our Council. Thanks to all!



Faith In Action



Knight of the Month - PGK Johnnie Turner -

Our Previous Grand Knight (PGK) Brother Johnnie Turner has served in several positions as PGK and Spring Training



Baseball.

Family of the Month - Chris and Paula Pariseau -

Our November Family of the Month is Chris and Paula Pariseau. Chris is our Chancellor and Paula is very active with the Prayer Shawl Ministry group at STM.



Parish News



Construction Update - Hallelujah! The repair and asphalt coating have now been completed. The parish does not have any major construction planned through the end of the year!

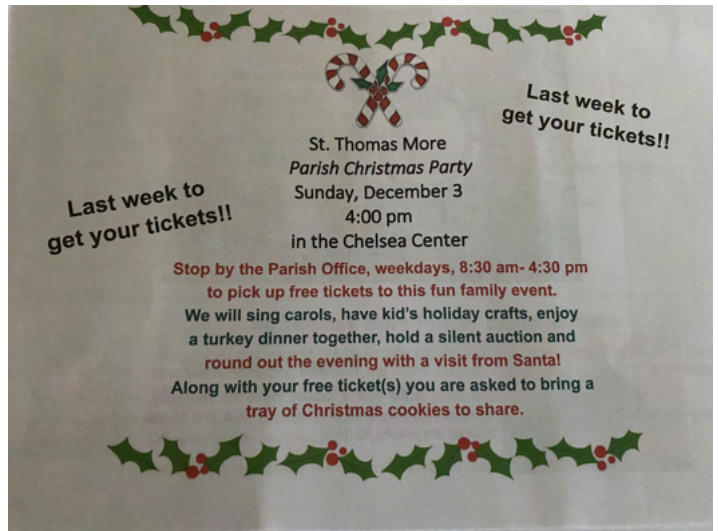
Advent Begins -



The season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 3rd and ends on Christmas Eve. The first day of Advent is the first day of a new Liturgical (or church) calendar and begins a four week period of preparation for the nativity of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today. Each candle in the Advent wreath represents the 4 Sundays of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy (pink), and Love.

Parish Christmas Party -



The Parish Christmas Party is here! Be sure to get your FREE Tickets at the Parish Office and attend with family and friends.

Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) - Our Council continues to contribute to the St. Thomas More CFA goal from the Diocese of Venice. At this point in the campaign we are very close to our goal with only a few weeks left. To all those Knights and their families who have contributed to the CFA - "Thank You!". If you have not yet contributed to the CFA please consider a donation to support our parish before the end of this year.

Ministries - St. Thomas More is in need of Hospitality Ministers. There is a need for Hospitality Ministers for Sunday 12:00 Mass. If you are a current Minister, please consider changing to assist in covering these masses. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you to those who have responded to this call.

Committee Corner



RIGHT TO LIFE - December Update:

The season of Advent always begs the question - what can I do to best prepare for the coming of the Christ Child? The Savior of the world arrived as a baby! We never try to lose sight of that amazing miracle when we Knights pray at Planned Parenthood each month for the most innocent and defenseless among us. We also reflect on the pain and confusion that the Holy Family must have felt and how their suffering must be similar to the women and families who visit PP and think there ONLY choice is to end the life of their baby.

RIGHT TO LIFE - (continued . . .)

As we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child this Advent season, let us continue our commitment to stand together at Planned Parenthood on the 4th Thursday of every month for one hour between the 9-1 and pray for these unborn children and their families. If you haven't joined your Brother Knights (and Spouses) before - Please join us on Thursday, December 28th! We always enjoy the genuine fellowship as we privately and peacefully gather to pray. In 2023, we already know from the nurses at CPC (the Community Pregnancy Center) that 44 babies have NOT been aborted due to Our Lord's intercession buoyed by the prayers, presence and sacrifices that all prayer warriors that witness at PP. Think about that - 44 Lives Saved! You never know when God will intercede and change hearts of abortion-minded people so let's make this Advent and Christmas a gift back to our Lord with your presence on December 28th for one hour.

For Life,
Brothers Neil and Brian

CRUISE RAFFLE - December begins the sale of Cruise Raffle tickets as one of our major fund raisers. Brother Gary Ellis and his team will be distributing tickets to all Council members and selling raffle tickets after the Sunday masses this month. Please volunteer to help to sell these raffle tickets with Gary which allows us to contribute to many of our community charities.



Committee Corner

Special Olympics - Volunteers are the backbone of the Special Olympics organization. Volunteers range from coaches, unified partners, mentors, officials, and event coordinators. Volunteers are needed for bowling, swimming and Fall Classic competitions. We are in search of incredible individuals who are willing to volunteer as Coaches.

Sports:

- Basketball, Tennis, Athletics, Cycling, Soccer (January - May)
- Stand Up Paddle (May - August)
- Bowling (May - September)
- Swimming (May - October)
- Flag Football, Pickleball, Powerlifting, Softball (July - November) - [Register for upcoming sports season](#)
- Golf (August - December) - [Register for upcoming sports season](#)
- Equestrian (January - April)

If you are interested in becoming involved in Special Olympics please reach out to Brother John Cesare for details.



Membership - Our New Member Goal this fraternal year is ten New Members. We currently have five new members. We have 6 more months to recruit five more members to make Star Council again this year -with YOUR help!!

New Members must be a practicing Catholic, 18+ years of age. We need your help to reach out to K of C “prospects”. You can contact Chancellor Chris Pariseau, at his email pariseau314@outlook.com or his telephone # 443-994-7397. Membership growth is essential to the success of our Council.

Social Media - Our Council provides several internet opportunities to stay in touch with our Members via Facebook, #7826 K of C website, the STM K of C Parish website, Emails, Telephone contact and the “Good of the Order”.

Facebook - “KofC Council 7826”

Many thanks to Brother Steve McElroy and his wife, Carol, in managing our FACEBOOK account. if you need assistance to sign up on our FACEBOOK account or to post information - contact Steve and Carol at his email address: mcelroyfs@verizon.net

STM K of C Websites - The STM parish web page and our STM Council 7826 website have been updated to ensure current information and events are available in a timely manner to all members. Many thanks to Brother Dan Martin for taking on the administration of these important social media platforms for our Council. Our Council website address is www.kofc7826.org. Please use this website and pass it along to your friends, relatives and associates that may have an interest in the Knights of Columbus and our St Thomas More Council.

Baltimore Orioles Spring Training Season -

The 2023 World Series may have just ended last month, but preparations are underway for the Baltimore Orioles 2024 Spring Training Season. The Orioles will play a 16-game schedule at Ed Smith Stadium. The season begins on Saturday, February 24th and ends on Saturday, March 23rd. The schedule includes three games against the Pittsburgh Pirates; two games with the Atlanta Braves, Boston Red Sox, Detroit Tigers, Tampa Bay Rays and Toronto Blue Jays; and single games with the Minnesota Twins, New York Yankees and Philadelphia Phillies. There will be 10 afternoon games starting 1:05 pm and 6 night games starting at 6:05 pm – two more games than last season

For the 13th consecutive year, the St. Thomas More and Incarnation Councils will be working a concession stand together. Charlie Culkin will continue as the Team Director. The Councils will operate the Outdoor Patio Grill, where they have worked the past three years. As of now, the menu will be hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs and sausage peppers & onions; peanuts, popcorn and chips; and bottled soda and water, Gatorade and draft beer.



Like last year, it will take 12 volunteers to operate the concession stand – an average of six volunteers from each Council per game. And like last year, volunteers must make a two-game commitment. Last year, a number of volunteers stepped forward to work multiple jobs. To provide more staffing flexibility, it would be beneficial if a few more volunteers step forward to learn multiple jobs, such as working as a grill assistant or a cashier. There are Brothers who can train you.

In a few weeks, you will be receiving an email with the “2024 Spring Training Baseball Sign-Up Sheet. You will be asked to indicate what position you would like to work. There is no guarantee that you will work the same position every game. My first scheduling priority is ensuring that I have required volunteers to cover all the positions for every game. For newcomers, you will receive a Baltimore Orioles tee shirt and a Council ball cap.

Let’s have a great 2024 Spring Training Baseball Season!! See you at the Ball Park!

Charlie Culkin,
Director, Spring Training Baseball

SARASOTA BALTIMORE ORIOLES SPRING TRAINING 2024 SCHEDULE

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
							BOS
	PIT	TB ATL	DET	MIN	PIT	ATL	NYN
	PIT	MIN	PHI	PIT		DET	ATL
	TOR TOR	NYN	TB	ATL	PIT	TB	BOS
	ATL DET		TOR	PHI	BOS	PIT	TOR TB
	MIN						

■ HOME ■ AWAY

Council Good of the Order

Please pray for the following individuals:

- John Baldelli (son of Charles Baldelli)
- Alec & Shirley Berardinelli
- Shirley Berardinelli (wife of Alec Berardinelli)
- Ted Bogusz
- Dan Borgmeyer
- Dave Bracy
- Erin McAlonie Brady (daughter of John McAlonie)
- Jerry Hayes
- Steve Wyr
- Johnnie Turner
- Don Leonard
- Pat Cesare
- Gary Ellis
- Janek Jakubiuk
- Don & Jeanne Leonard
- Sheree Levanti (wife of Ken Levanti)
- John & Kay Maier
- Jon McAlonie
- Ron McCluskey
- Judy Moore (wife of Joe Sommer)
- Christopher Peppard (son of Hank Peppard)
- Nancy Risbano (wife of George Risbano)
- John & Craig Spinale (John’s son)
- David and Donna Woodford (wife of David Woodford)
- Fr. Gordon Zanetti
- Charlie Ballschmieder’s sister-in-law



Please keep our recently departed Brothers and their families in your prayers: Jim Beck, George Risbano, Leon Leroux, Jack Shaw, and Lee Dusoe,

Lord, grant healing to those in pain. Through Your grace, bring peace to their hearts, body, and soul. May Your love restore and renew them. Amen



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 (Ralph Neller, Grand Knight) at his email address rneller65@outlook.com or my mobile 513-708-0528.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

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

Council Birthdays

December Birthday Celebrations



December 2 - Jerry Zaback

December 3 - Russell Ritirato

December 5 - John McAlonie

December 5 - J. Richard Hull

December 7 - Jonathan Genz

December 8 - Kenneth Gaasch

December 9 - Ted Bogusz

December 14 - William Huber

December 17 - Aniello Corrado

December 19 - Edward Wolfe

December 19 - Chris Pariseau

K of C #7826 Officers

Fr. Daniel Scanlan - Chaplain

frdaniel@stthomsmoresrq.org

Ralph Neller - Grand Knight

rneller65@outlook.com

Charlie Culkin - Deputy GK

cinandchas@verizon.net

Larry Hall - Financial Sec.

hallorhall@gmail.com

Ken Berberich - Treasurer

berberichken@yahoo.com

Chris Pariseau - Chancellor

pariseau314@outlook.com

Dan Bulinski - Recorder

danb6002@comcast.net

Dave Bracy - Warden

dsbracy@comcast.net

Joe Tiffany - Advocate

iav82@yahoo.com

Derek Noll - Lecturer

derekjnoll@msn.com

Corey Devito -3yr Trustee

cmdevito@kaighnco.com

Al Ferrigno - 2yr Trustee

A7342@gmail.com

Scott Deahna - 1 yr Trustee

scott34465@yahoo.com

Charlie Ballschmieder - Inside Guard

cjball01@verizon.net

Hank Peppard - Outside Guard

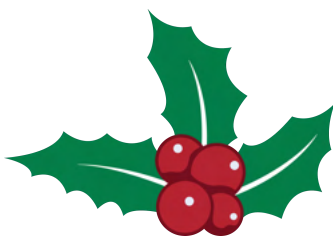
hakp7916@gmail.com

Council Upcoming Events

Thank you for your support of these future events!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The Parish Christmas Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 3rd beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Chelsea Center.
- The Officers' Meeting is scheduled for December 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- Our Lady of Charity Assembly Meeting (4th Degree) will be held on Monday, December 11th at Incarnation starting at 7:00 p.m.
- Our monthly "Knight's Mass will be on December 13th at the 8:00 a.m. Mass. We will pray the rosary prior to the Mass beginning at 7:30 a.m. with Adoration to follow the Mass.
- Our next Council Business Meeting will be on December 14th at 7:00 in the Spirit Center.
- Our next Corporate Communion Mass will be at the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 16th followed by our Christmas Social at the Stoneybrook CC.
- Our Christmas Social will be held on Saturday, December 16th beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Stoneybrook CC.
- The monthly Exemplification Ceremony is scheduled for December 19th beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- The monthly Right to Life Prayer Walk will be on December 28th between 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. in front of Planned Parenthood.
- The "Consecration to the Holy Family" prayer will be recited during the weekend of December 30-31st at each Mass with the prayer cards available in the Narthex before and after mass.



Insurance Advisor

NEWS FROM OUR FRATERNAL BENEFITS ADVISOR

December 2023 Council Meeting Message

As we approach the end of the year and our thoughts turn to the angelic declaration of “Peace on Earth” and “Goodwill to Men!” We remember Pope Francis’ Prayer for Peace where he prays “Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!...

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last...”

In our lives there is much going on: scurrying around buying a Christmas tree, getting it decorated; looking for that perfect gift for our spouse, our kids and maybe grandkids. There are parties and school Christmas shows. Seems like we’re busier than ever.

But let me ask you to slow down for just a few minutes and consider some financial issues that come up at the end of the calendar year.

1. Because we’re so late in the year, you may have met your individual or family deductible on your health insurance plan. Financially this may be the opportune time for some minor procedure to be scheduled; or that visit to a specialist you may have put off. The same is true about dental insurance and sometimes even for vision coverage. Check with your Human Resource office or your health insurance carrier for details.

2. When it comes to health insurance, do you have a Health Savings Account? Do you have to spend the money that’s in there by year end? Some plans have a “use it or lose it” feature. Do you have to make a decision about how much to contribute next year? These are a couple of time sensitive issues. Again, make sure you check with your HR office or health insurance carrier.

3. If you have earned income for the year, will you contribute to a traditional IRA, Roth IRA, or 401k? Are you eligible to contribute more based on the “catch up” provision? Now is the time to start making plans.

4. Speaking of IRAs, have you received your required minimum distribution for this year? If not, the Internal Revenue Service penalty is a hefty 50% of the amount you should have received!

All of these issues come with rules and regulations, and each individual situation is different. I’d be happy to discuss them with you.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let us be thankful for all the graces God has showered on us, especially the gift of his Son, our Savior

Vivat Jesus!

Brian DeBlauw



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Financial Advisor
M: 440-569-8957
8209 Natures Way, Unit 221
Lakewood Ranch, FL
<https://info.kofcassetadvisors.org/Meet-BRIAN-DEBLAUW.html>



Calendar - December, 2023



Knights of Columbus[®]

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826

SC – Spirit Center

CC – Chelsea Center

C - Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29		31	1	2
3 Parish Christmas Party 4:00 pm	4	5	6 Officers' Mtg. 7:00 pm SC	7	8	9 Coats for Kids Stillpoint Mission
10	11 Assembly Mtg. 7:00 pm Incarnation	12	13 Knights Mass 8:00 am (rosary at 7:30 am) C	14 Council Mtg. 7:00 pm SC	15	16 4:00 pm Mass Corporate Comm. Christmas Social Stoneybrook CC
17	18	19 Exemplification 6:30 pm SC	20	21	22	23
24	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26	27	28 Prayer Walk: 9-1:00 pm Planned Parent	29	30 Consecration to the Holy Family
31	2	3	4	5	6	7