

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249
March 2026 Volume 4 Issue 6



St. Patrick's Day March 17, 2026

St. Patrick's Day was originally celebrated in Ireland with religious services and feasts in honor of St. Patrick. When Irish immigrants brought St. Patrick's Day traditions to the United States, the day evolved into a secular celebration of Irish culture.

It was emigrants, particularly to the United States, who transformed St. Patrick's Day into a largely secular holiday and a celebration of things Irish. Cities with large numbers of Irish immigrants who often wielded political power, staged the most celebrations which included elaborate parades.

Boston held its first St. Patrick's Day parade in 1737, followed by New York City in 1762.

Since 1962 Chicago has colored its river green to mark the holiday. Residents of Chicago also drink green beer.



Headlines of Interest to Catholics

The population of China is the lowest it's ever been in the history of the world.

Greenland's only Catholic priest said, "We're not a military position."

A meeting with Pope IV Leo marks a new chapter for the church in Africa.

Nigerian government urged to secure the release of 167 worshippers abducted from churches.

Health-spending bill would keep a tax on all tax-funded abortions.

10,000 pro-lifers march in ports for annual March for Life.

New York backs off trying to get religious groups to pay for abortions.



FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Rocco Totino

Brothers:
Before you know it, we'll be having elections again. At the March General meeting we will be starting the election process. To that end, we'll be taking nominations for all officer positions. I have asked the trustees to be the nomination committee. You might get a call from them asking whether you are interested in any of the officer positions. I encourage you to seriously consider helping out the council and become an officer. Please ask

any of the current officers about their position. You will find that they enjoy contributing to the council. Nominations will continue in April and May with the election taking place at the May general meeting. The new officers will start in July.

Our recorder Brother Bob Jodal will be out of town on March 11. A volunteer is needed to record General meeting minutes.

A women's Retreat will be held on Saturday, March 14. We are waiting for info from the organizers as to what help they will need from us.

Our monthly Knight's breakfast will be on March 15th. If you are able, please join us to host our monthly breakfast. March and April are our remaining breakfasts, since the Parish Center will be closed till the end of September.

March 17th is St. Patrick's Day. This is the day brother Knights unite to be Irish for one day. Next year, I encourage that we organize a social event for St. Patty's Day.

The Parish Center renovation begins the first week of May to the end of September. The kitchen and Parish Center will be off limits till renovation is done. This will affect our monthly Knights' breakfasts as well as Bingo. The following adjustments will be made:

- 1) We are working with the Parish office to schedule coffee and donuts in the place of the Knights' breakfast at ECC building.
- 2) Bingo will be held in the Early Childhood Center. The main hall accommodates about 60 Bingo players. There is a conflict with 6 dates, but all other 11 Thursdays are available for us to have Bingo. Our PKG and Bingo Capitan Pete McCabe is working with Chris McBride to have a smooth transition from PC to ECC. We need Knights help to make it work. Additional information will be provided by the end of March.

Brothers, your help is needed to set up Bingo and store all Bingo equipment after every Thursday game.

Vivit Jesus

Rocco



LAUGHTER
is the best
MEDICINE

I get enough exercise pushing my luck.

Alcohol does not solve any problems, but then again, neither does milk.

All my life I thought air was free. That was until I bought a bag of potato chips.

I think the worst time to have a heart attack is during a game of charades.

I used to think that you were a pain in the neck. My opinion of you has dropped significantly lower since then.

If a man said he'll fix it, he'll fix it. There is no need to nag him every 6 months about it.

I would like to apologize to anyone whom I haven't offended yet. Please be patient, I will get to you shortly.

I would like to thank my arms for always being by my side, my legs for always supporting me, and my fingers, because I can always count on them.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine..

Confessions may be great for your soul, but they are hell for your reputation.

Once you have your mouth open, dentists lose the ability to ask questions with a simple yes or no answer.

I wouldn't exactly say I'm lazy, but it's a good thing that breathing is a reflex.

Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.

Do you remember when I asked you to give me your opinion? That's right, me neither.

Doesn't expecting the unexpected make the unexpected expected?

Dogs have beloved masters. Cats have waiting staff.

Knight of the Month



Joe Ghezzi

Pope Leo XIV considers the relationship between scripture and tradition a close connection because both of them, flowing from the same wellspring, merge in a unity and tend toward the same end.

"Throughout history," he said, "the church has preserved, interpreted, and embodied God's revelations."

Pope Leo IV Reflects on Scripture and Tradition.

For this reason, he noted, the Catechism of the Catholic church says that the church fathers believed that sacred scripture is written in the church's heart rather than in

documents and records."

"Sacred Tradition," he continued, "is guided by the Holy Spirit. It grows each time it is experienced."

He concluded his comments by saying, "All Catholics have a duty to preserve Scripture and Tradition for our journey through history and existence."

The True Meaning of Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit

The Church is crystal clear that there are no limits to the mercy of God. Jesus Christ died for everyone's sins, and anyone who repents of his sins and follows Christ can receive forgiveness and a new life. So then why does Jesus say in the Gospels that "...whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"? Is this some sort of exception that we must be wary of? Yes, but not in the way you might expect. And here's why. But first, let's look at what Christ says exactly. Our Lord's teaching on "blasphemy of the Holy Spirit" is recorded in all three of the Gospels.

In Mark, Jesus says, "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man and whatever blas-

phemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin."

The Catechism addresses this teaching directly. "There are no limits to the mercy of God, but anyone who deliberately refuses to accept his mercy by repenting rejects the forgiveness of sins and the salvation offered by the Holy Spirit. Such hardness of heart can lead to final impenitence and eternal loss."

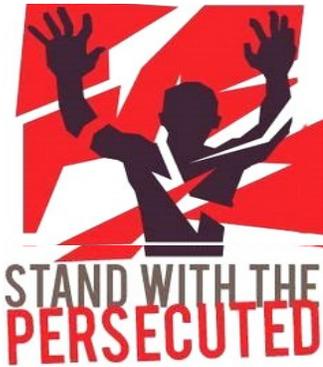
"Why is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit unforgivable? St. Thomas Aquinas replies that it is a question of a sin that is 'unforgivable by its very nature, insofar as it excludes the elements through which the forgiveness of sin takes place.'

Blasphemy does not properly consist in offending the Holy Spirit in words; it consists rather in the refusal to accept the salvation which God offers to man through the Holy Spirit, working through the power of the Cross.

So, should we all be wary of committing the sin of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit? Not in the sense that we should be worried about committing a sin so bad that God can't forgive it if we repent. No such sin exists.

But we should be wary about refusing God's forgiveness. After we die, there will be no second chances. In his loving kindness, God has offered us a chance for salvation. We should humbly, and speedily, repent of our sins and accept God's gratuitous gift of grace.

For Christians, 2025 Was the Deadliest Year Ever



Open Doors, a global network, released the following report.

Roughly 4,800 people were killed for their faith, and millions more have faced violence, abuse, displacement, or disorientation worldwide.

Over 388 million Christians have faced violence, abuse, and religious hostility.

Despite these sobering numbers, Christian persecution will never tear down the kingdom of God.

Against all odds, in refugee camps, prison cells, houses, and apartments, faith will find a way, because with humans things might be impossible, but with God, all things are possible.

Pope Leo's Favorite Movies

"It's a Wonderful Life," "The Sound of Music," "Ordinary People," and the Italian film "Life is Beautiful"



15 Catholic Traditions That Often Puzzle Non-Catholics

1. Confessing sins to a priest instead of God.
2. Saying the Rosary.
3. Carrying a Rosary with you.
4. Fasting before a Mass.
5. Wearing scapulars.
6. Using epiphany chalk.
7. Venerating relics.
8. Processing in public.
9. Priests wearing special clothing for Mass.
10. Genuflecting.
11. Naming children after saints.
12. Going on pilgrimages.
13. Using holy water.
14. Not eating meat on Fridays.
15. Regularly making the sign of the cross.

Thank God and bless your friends who love you and share their wisdom with you.

Today make time for the people you love. That will make this day unforgettable.

Doubt is a killer. You have to know who you are and what you stand for.

BITS AND PIECES

Some people argue Catholic school uniforms are restrictive. A woman named Mary Rose wrote that she experienced the opposite. "Spared the early pressure to dress for attention, I was given space to grow inwardly, to become myself. And in that sense, the uniform was not about hiding who I was, but about protecting whom I was becoming."

A heroic 13-year-old boy from Australia last week swam 2.4 miles in rough waters and ran for 1.2 miles to get rescue services to find his family, who were stranded in the ocean.

Experts warn that organ donations could help increase assisted suicide rates.

St. Thomas Aquinas is widely regarded as one of the most influential thinkers in history. He's revered not only as a saint by Catholics, but respected as a deep thinker by all.

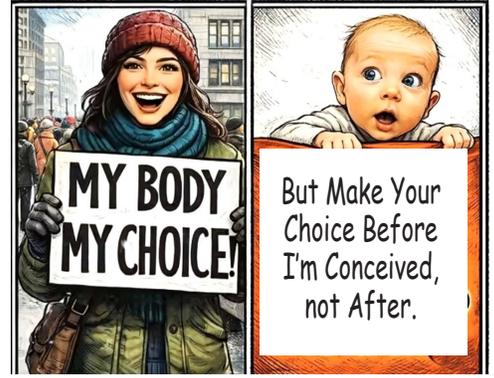
The site of Jesus' birth to undergo major restoration for the first time in 600 years.

St. John Bosco was an Italian priest who devoted his life to educating and caring for poor and working-class youth during the Industrial Revolution.

In an unprecedented decision, a New York jury Jan. 30 awarded a detransitioner \$2 million in damages after she sued her medical care providers for malpractice, alleging that they pressured her into "transitioning" during her teens.

The bones St. Francis of Assisi are on display for the first time

In 1869, farm workers digging a well in Cardiff, New York, uncovered what appeared to be a fossilized man. The man was nearly 10 feet (3 meters) tall. Some believed this was proof of the giants mentioned in the Bible.



Students ask Notre Dame to remove pro-abortion professor.

U.S. population growth slows to a near standstill.

Priest celebrates Mass in front of a Planned Parenthood Clinic.

Colombia celebrates 120th anniversary of Eucharist miracle that stopped a tsunami.

The 'Lost Chapter of the Acts of the Apostles,' also known as the 'Son-nini Manuscript,' was a text first published in London in 1871. It was supposedly a translation of a Greek manuscript of the end of the Book of Acts.

Can Believers Lose Their Salvation?

A theological question that gets debated regularly is whether or not believers do believe, but what about unbelievers? Can they lose their damnation?

Believers are able to enjoy the assurance of salvation as they trust Jesus to be forgiven of their sins and earnestly seek to say "no" to temptation. Unbelievers, on the other hand, are on the path to damnation, rather than salvation.

The worst possible outcome for an individual is to end up in Hell. Jesus often spoke about this horrific place. When the Lord described those who lose their soul, He was essentially

speaking about people who refuse to lose their damnation (see Mark 8:36). I am very glad that "Christ died for sins once for all," (1 Peter 3:18) and that "God wants everyone to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4).

Jesus spoke regularly about Hell in order to warn people about its existence, while explaining how to stay out of it. Unbelievers lose their damnation by repenting of their sins and believing in Jesus as Savior.

Many people have a hard time accepting the fact that Hell is a real place. And yet personal opinions do

not change the reality that Heaven and Hell are actual places.



Jesus described Hell as a place "where

the fire never goes out ... where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' Everyone will be salted with fire.

No one in their right mind would ever want to end up there.

A strong friendship doesn't need daily conversation. As long as the relationship lives in the heart, true friends will never part.

To change the world, we must be kind to those who cannot repay us.

"Don't forget to give thanks for all of the blessings you receive each day."

The Ministry of Exorcism in the Roman Catholic Church

Exorcism is a ministry that has been part of the Roman Catholic Church for centuries, yet it is often misunderstood and sometimes even trivialized in popular culture.

Contrary to sensationalized portrayals, exorcism is a serious, life-saving ministry that demands extensive study, training, and a deep commitment to the spiritual welfare of individuals.

Exorcism is not performed by just any priest. According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, a diocesan bishop must appoint a priest to the role of exorcist, either permanently or for a specific occasion. The chosen priest must be distinguished for his piety, knowledge, prudence, and integrity of life.

The ritual of exorcism involves specific prayers and rites aimed at expelling evil spirits from afflicted individuals. The exorcist works under the direction of the diocesan bishop, ensuring that the ministry is conducted within the bounds of Church authority and doctrine. The process can be spiritually and emotionally taxing, often involving intense prayer and fasting.

Exorcists must be prepared for the challenging and sometimes dangerous nature of this ministry. Exorcists could encounter violent responses as they attempt to bring light into the darkness. Therefore, the Church emphasizes the importance of ongoing spiritual support



and the guidance of a skilled spiritual director for those engaged in this ministry.

The Education Department Releases New Guidance Affirming Prayer Rights in Public Schools

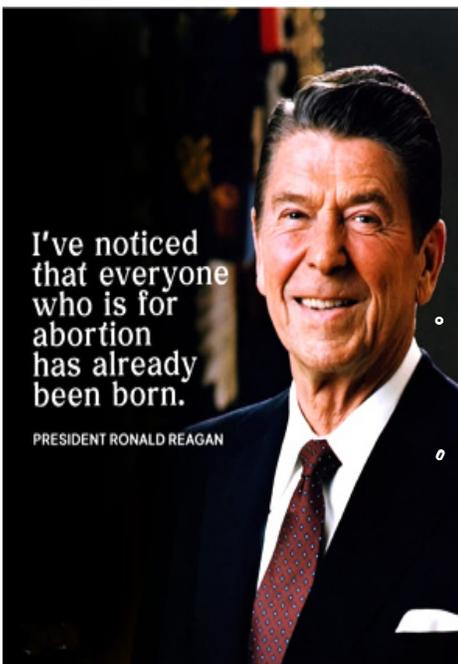
The U.S. Department of Education released updated guidance clarifying when prayer and religious expression are constitutionally protected in public schools.

President Donald Trump announced the release during his remarks at the 74th annual National Prayer Breakfast.

According to the department, focuses on the right of free speech,

the right to freely exercise religion, and the obligation of public schools to avoid establishing or endorsing a religion.

Under the new guidance, schools must allow religious expression as long as they respect the rights of others, does not involve the school itself engaging in religious activity, and does not favor secular views over religious activity, and does not favor secular views over religious ones or one religion over another.



A Prayer for Those Who Live Alone

I live alone, dear Lord, stay by my side.
In all my daily needs, be my guide.
Grant me good health, I pray,
To carry on with life from day to day.
Keep pure my thoughts, my deeds.
Let me be kind when others have needs
Spare me from fire, floods, malicious tongues,
From thieves and fears, and evil ones.
If sicknesses and/or accidents befall
Then humbly I pray that you hear my call.
And when I'm feeling low or in despair,
Lift me up and help me in my prayer.
I live alone, yet have no fear,
because I feel your presence near.

Statue of Blessed Mother Vandalized

A statue of the Blessed Mother was found smashed and lying face down in the snow at a New York Catholic church. The police and parishioners said it is another act of vandalism that has plagued the area recently. According to a report parishioners and clergy arrived at St. Gertrude's Church in Far Rockaway, New York, to find the outdoor statue removed from its pedestal, with the back of its head shattered. The parish's pastor, Rev. Francis Shannon, reported the damage to police. No surveillance footage captured the incident, but authorities believe it occurred

around 6 p.m. In a message published in the church's bulletin, Fr. Shannon shared the photo in this article of the damaged statue and wrote that the statue of the Blessed Mother was desecrated and toppled during the night while a snowstorm covered the earth with God's beauty. "May God have mercy on the sick person or persons who did this. We are hoping to restore the magnificent symbol of love," he wrote. "Until then, stay strong. True love will always be attacked, Jesus said so. May Mary protect us."



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



Council 17249 Divine Mercy of Jesus Officers for 2025-2026

Officers for fraternal year. 2025/2026

Chaplain:	Fr Mike O'Brien
Grand Knight:	Rocco Totino
Deputy Grand Knight:	Rick Hendrickson
Chancellor:	Joe Coyne
Recorder:	Bob Jodal
Financial Secretary:	Fred Belzel
Treasurer:	Rich Pettit
Advocate:	Pete Nunes
Warden:	Joe Ghezzi
Inside Guard:	Wayne Nunez
	Clint Walker
Outside Guard:	Joe Moore
1- Year Trustee:	Jerry Kleber
2- Year Trustee:	Bill Bannon PDGK
3- Year Trustee:	Pete McCabe PGK
Lecturer:	Tim Kunish
Program Director:	Rick Hendrickson
Membership Director:	Jim Cullinan
Faith Director:	Pete Nunes
Family Director:	Mike Keeser
Community Director:	Pete Ganio
Life Director:	Kevin Manning
District Deputy:	Bill McClelland PGK
Field Agent	Tony Crevello
Newsletter Editor	Jim Hand