

Blessed Are the Protectors

A Blue Mass of Gratitude & Tribute



On Sunday, September 13, the members of Knights of Columbus Council 9924 proudly hosted the Blue Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. With thoughtful preparation and generous service, the Council helped create a deeply meaningful annual tribute honoring the brave men and women who serve our community as first responders.

The church was filled with representatives from every corner of public safety, including Fire, Police, EMS, the Sheriff's Office, Dispatch, and other first responders. Service dogs sat faithfully beside their handlers. The Knights on Bikes arrived in proud formation, and members of Council 9924 and Fourth-Degree Assembly 1818 joined in dignified solidarity. The members of Assembly 1818 and the Fourth-Degree Color Corps brought a powerful sense of reverence, patriotism, and ceremonial honor to the Mass. The Color Corps marched solemnly and proudly, swords in hand, standing tall on each side of the center aisle as the Fire Department Color Guard led the solemn procession of honored guests. Their disciplined presence

added both beauty and dignity to the tribute. The choir and musicians led the congregation beautifully in song.

Celebrant Monsignor Patrick Dubois of Epiphany Cathedral, assisted prayerfully by Father Jay and Father JJ, delivered a homily that touched every heart in the church. He reminded all present of the courage, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication shown daily by those who protect and serve.

We were blessed by the presence of Venice Mayor Nick Pachota and his wife, who graciously brought forward the gifts at the offertory. Their participation symbolized the unity among civic leadership, the parish community, and those who safeguard our city.

A particularly touching moment came during the reading of the names of first responders who passed away this year. With deep respect, the Fire Department Color Guard recognized their service by ringing the bell for each name, its sound resonating throughout the church.

Following the Mass, the Knights of Columbus Council 9924 hosted a light luncheon that offered fellowship, gratitude, and an opportunity for parishioners and first responders to share stories, smiles, and appreciation.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all first responders, their families, the Knights, and our honored guests. We especially recognize Knights of Columbus Council 9924, whose members devoted countless hours to planning, organizing, welcoming guests, supporting the liturgy, and hosting the luncheon that followed. Their dedication, teamwork, and quiet service helped make this Blue Mass a memorable tribute to those who protect and serve. The annual Blue Mass is a powerful testament to faith, community, and the noble calling of service. May God bless and protect all who dedicate their lives to the safety and well-being of others.





































